

Subject: *This World Is Not Our Home*

Scripture: *2 Peter 3:1-14*

We hear a lot about global warming and some say it is the greatest threat to our world. The Bible takes that a step further and says the real threat is a global meltdown, a time in the future when God will judge and destroy everything by fire. In the days of Noah God destroyed the world by flood, and He promised never to send a flood like that again. In the future God will destroy the world by fire. To understand this Scripture we need to see three worlds that are spoken of:

- The pre-flood world (vs. 6)
- The present world (vs. 7)
- The perfect world (vs. 13)

This coming judgment by fire and creation of new heavens and a new earth is linked to the Lord's coming. This is not the rapture of the church, but the revelation when Christ comes in judgment. The Bible calls it "the promise of his coming" (vs. 4, 9, 13), "the day of the Lord" (vs. 10), and "the coming of the day of God" (vs. 12).

THE PROMISE IS DOUBTED BY SCOFFERS (vs. 3-6)

- They live in sin (vs. 3)
- They don't know the Scriptures (vs. 4-6)

They have a theology that supports their lifestyle. They assume that all things will continue as they have always been, but the world is not the same today as it has always been. They think that since there has not been a judgment in the past there won't be a judgment in the future. But they are wrong, and they are ignorant of the great flood in the days of Noah.

THE PROMISE IS DESCRIBED IN SCRIPTURE (vs. 7, 10)

- Judgment will be sudden and unexpected (vs. 10)

The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night. ***1 Thessalonians 5:2*** *For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.*

- Judgment will be by fire (vs. 7, 10, 11, 12)

When God judges this world in the future it won't be flood, but by fire. It will be fire like the world has never known. Fire will be unleashed and there will be a total meltdown of everything. The earth's core is red hot (about 12,400 degrees Fahrenheit). Our planet Earth is a flaming liquid ball of fire covered by a thin outer crust only 10 miles thick. When a volcano erupts somewhere we are reminded what is under the earth. Everything is made up of atomic particles (protons, electrons, and neutrons). There is tremendous energy locked up inside these atoms. All that energy will be released and everything will burn up or dissolve. As with the flood that happened in Noah's day, God has built into creation the seeds of its own destruction.

THE PROMISE IS DELAYED FOR SALVATION (vs. 8-9)

Two things account for what seems like a long delay in God's plan:

- God's perspective on time (vs. 8)

God doesn't operate on our time schedule. The amount of time that passes has no bearing on God's timing. He is the God who inhabits eternity (Isaiah 57:15).

- God's patience with sinners (vs. 9, 15)

The only thing that separates this world from God's judgment is His patience, and the reason for His patience is the salvation of sinners. We must not think that God is indifferent or forgetful or powerless or lenient. God is not willing that any should perish (go to eternal hell), but all should come to repentance. This is the only place where Peter used "repentance" in either of his two letters. Repentance is a change of mind that leads to a change of heart and will. If a person truly changes his mind about sin, he will turn from it. If a person truly changes his mind about Jesus Christ, he will turn to Him and serve Him. What does it mean to "come to repentance?" It has the idea of making room for. We must make room for repentance by putting away our pride and our own ideas of how things work.

THE PROMISE IS DESIRED BY SAINTS (vs. 11-14)

The new heavens and new earth will not only be new in time. They will be new in kind. There is one word that describes the future world: righteousness (vs. 13).

- Everything we know now will pass away
- Everything we know then will be perfect and permanent