

2 Peter 3:1-13

Remember, Christ is Coming

Pt.4

Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in *both of* which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder),

2 that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior,

3 knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts,

4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of creation."

5 For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water,

6 by which the world *that* then existed perished, being flooded with water.

7 But the heavens and the earth *which* are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day *is* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

9 The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

- 10** But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.
- 11** Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,
- 12** looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?
- 13** Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

The New King James Version. (1982). (2 Pe 3:1–13). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Introduction

It is now two minutes to midnight

Editor's note: Founded in 1945 by University of Chicago scientists who had helped develop the first atomic weapons in the Manhattan Project, the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists created the Doomsday Clock two years later, using the imagery of apocalypse (midnight) and the contemporary idiom of nuclear explosion (countdown to zero) to convey threats to humanity and the planet. The decision to move (or to leave in place) the minute hand of the Doomsday Clock

is made every year by the Bulletin's Science and Security Board in consultation with its Board of Sponsors, which includes 15 Nobel laureates. The Clock has become a universally recognized indicator of the world's vulnerability to catastrophe from nuclear weapons, climate change, and new technologies emerging in other domains.

To: Leaders and citizens of the world

Re: Two minutes to midnight

Date: January 25, 2018

In 2017, world leaders failed to respond effectively to the looming threats of nuclear war and climate change, making the world security situation more dangerous than it was a year ago—and as dangerous as it has been since World War II.

The greatest risks last year arose in the nuclear realm. North Korea's nuclear weapons program made remarkable progress in 2017, increasing risks to North Korea itself, other countries in the region, and the United States.

Hyperbolic rhetoric and provocative actions by both sides have increased the possibility of nuclear war by accident or miscalculation.

But the dangers brewing on the Korean Peninsula were not the only nuclear risks evident in 2017: The United States and Russia remained at odds, continuing military exercises along the borders of NATO,

undermining the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF), upgrading their nuclear arsenals, and eschewing arms control negotiations.

In the Asia-Pacific region, tensions over the South China Sea have increased, with relations between the United States and China insufficient to re-establish a stable security situation.

In South Asia, Pakistan and India have continued to build ever-larger arsenals of nuclear weapons.

And in the Middle East, uncertainty about continued US support for the landmark Iranian nuclear deal adds to a bleak overall picture.

To call the world nuclear situation dire is to understate the danger—and its immediacy.

On the climate change front, the danger may seem less immediate, but avoiding catastrophic temperature increases in the long run requires urgent attention now.

Global carbon dioxide emissions have not yet shown the beginnings of the sustained decline towards zero that must occur if ever-greater warming is to be avoided. The nations of the world will have to significantly decrease their greenhouse gas emissions to keep climate risks manageable, and so far, the global response has fallen far short of meeting this challenge.

Beyond the nuclear and climate domains, technological change is disrupting democracies around the world as states seek and exploit opportunities to use information

technologies as weapons, among them internet-based deception campaigns aimed at undermining elections and popular confidence in institutions essential to free thought and global security.

Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists

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Review

- 1. *Believers Remember it***
- 2. *Unbelievers Reject it***
- 3. *God Guarantees it***
- 4. *Peter Describes it***
- 5. *Behavior is changed by it.***

I. Believers Remember it

1. Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder),
- 2 that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the

commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior,

II. Unbelievers reject it

- 3** knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts,
- 4** and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of creation.”
- 5** For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water,
- 6** by which the world *that* then existed perished, being flooded with water.

3 Things to know about there Mockery

- 1. The Reason for their Mockery**
- 2. The Reasoning for their Mockery**
- 3. The Rejection of their Mockery**

1. The Reason for their Mockery

3 knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days,
walking according to their own lusts,

4 and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming?”

2. The Reasoning for their Mockery

4 and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? **For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.**”

3. The Rejection of their Mockery

5 For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water,

6 by which the world *that* then existed perished, being flooded with water.

1. The Creation

2. The Cataclysm

1. The Creation

v. 5.....that by the word of God the heavens were of old,
and the earth standing out of water and in the water,

2. The Cataclysm == Flood

- 6 by which the world *that* then existed perished, being flooded with water.

III. God Guarantees it

- 7 But the heavens and the earth *which* are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.
- 8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day *is* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.
- 9 The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Lesson

IV. Peter Describes it

10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

I. The Entrance

II. The Elements

III. The Extent

I. The Entrance

10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night,

But the day of the Lord

Isaiah 13:6–13 (NKJV)

- 6 Wail, for the day of the Lord *is* at hand!
It will come as destruction from the Almighty.
- 7 Therefore all hands will be limp,
Every man's heart will melt,
- 8 And they will be afraid.
Pangs and sorrows will take hold of *them*;

They will be in pain as a woman in childbirth;
They will be amazed at one another;
Their faces *will be like* flames.

- ⁹ Behold, the day of the Lord comes,
Cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger,
To lay the land desolate;
And He will destroy its sinners from it.
- ¹⁰ For the stars of heaven and their constellations
Will not give their light;
The sun will be darkened in its going forth,
And the moon will not cause its light to shine.
- ¹¹ “I will punish the world for *its* evil,
And the wicked for their iniquity;
I will halt the arrogance of the proud,
And will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.
- ¹² I will make a mortal more rare than fine gold,
A man more than the golden wedge of Ophir.
- ¹³ Therefore I will shake the heavens,
And the earth will move out of her place,
In the wrath of the Lord of hosts
And in the day of His fierce anger.

Isaiah 2:10–12 (NKJV)

- ¹⁰ Enter into the rock, and hide in the dust,
From the terror of the Lord
And the glory of His majesty.

11 The lofty looks of man shall be humbled,
The haughtiness of men shall be bowed down,
And the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day.

12 For the day of the Lord of hosts
Shall come upon everything proud and lofty,
Upon everything lifted up—
And it shall be brought low—

Amos 5:18–20 (NKJV)

18 Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord!
For what good *is* the day of the Lord to you?
It *will be* darkness, and not light.

19 It *will be* as though a man fled from a lion,
And a bear met him!
Or *as though* he went into the house,
Leaned his hand on the wall,
And a serpent bit him!

20 *Is not* the day of the Lord darkness, and not light?
Is it not very dark, with no brightness in it?

Zephaniah 1:14–18 (NKJV)

14 The great day of the Lord *is* near;
It is near and hastens quickly.
The noise of the day of the Lord is bitter;
There the mighty men shall cry out.

15 That day *is* a day of wrath,
A day of trouble and distress,
A day of devastation and desolation,

- A day of darkness and gloominess,
A day of clouds and thick darkness,
16 A day of trumpet and alarm
Against the fortified cities
And against the high towers.
- 17 “I will bring distress upon men,
And they shall walk like blind men,
Because they have sinned against the Lord;
Their blood shall be poured out like dust,
And their flesh like refuse.”
- 18 Neither their silver nor their gold
Shall be able to deliver them
In the day of the Lord’s wrath;
But the whole land shall be devoured
By the fire of His jealousy,
For He will make speedy riddance
Of all those who dwell in the land.

Joel 2:31 (NKJV)

- 31 The sun shall be turned into darkness,
And the moon into blood,
Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the
Lord.

Joel 2:1–6 (NKJV)

- 2 Blow the trumpet in Zion,
And sound an alarm in My holy mountain!

Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble;
 For the day of the Lord is coming,
 For it is at hand:

- 2 A day of darkness and gloominess,
 A day of clouds and thick darkness,
 Like the morning *clouds* spread over the mountains.
 A people *come*, great and strong,
 The like of whom has never been;
 Nor will there ever be any *such* after them,
 Even for many successive generations.
- 3 A fire devours before them,
 And behind them a flame burns;
 The land *is* like the Garden of Eden before them,
 And behind them a desolate wilderness;
 Surely nothing shall escape them.
- 4 Their appearance is like the appearance of horses;
 And like swift steeds, so they run.
- 5 With a noise like chariots
 Over mountaintops they leap,
 Like the noise of a flaming fire that devours the stubble,
 Like a strong people set in battle array.
- 6 Before them the people writhe in pain;
 All faces are drained of color.

2 Thessalonians 2:1–5 (NKJV)

2 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, ² not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or

by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. ³ Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

⁵ Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?

will come as a thief in the night,

will come

This great day will certainly come (ἥξει [*hēxeī*]). Future active of ἦκω [*hēkō*], old verb, to arrive, but in God's own time.

Robertson, A. T. (1933). *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (2 Pe 3:10). Nashville, TN: Broadman Press.

as a thief in the night,

1 Thessalonians 5:1–11 (NKJV)

5 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. ² For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. ³ For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. ⁴ But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that

this Day should overtake you as a thief. ⁵ You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. ⁶ Therefore let us not sleep, as others *do*, but let us watch and be sober. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. ⁸ But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and *as* a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹ For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.

¹¹ Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

II. The Elements

v. 10b in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat;

12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise,

in which the heavens = universe

will pass away

parerchomai: to pass by, to come to

Original Word: παρέρχομαι

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: parerchomai

Phonetic Spelling: (par-er'-khom-ahee)

Definition: I pass by, pass away, pass out of sight; I am rendered void, become vain, neglect, disregard.

Word Origin

from **para** and **erchomai**

Definition

With the culmination of the final phase of the day of the Lord, **the heavens will pass away with a roar**—a universal upheaval that Jesus Himself predicted in the Olivet Discourse: “Heaven and earth will pass away” (Matt. 24:35). **Heavens** refers to the visible, physical universe of interstellar and intergalactic space. Like Christ, Peter foresaw the disintegration of the entire universe in an instant “uncreation,” not by any naturalistic scenario, but solely by God’s omnipotent intervention.

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2005). *2 Peter and Jude* (p. 124). Chicago: Moody Publishers.

with a great noise — — — only used by Peter

rhoizédon: with a rushing sound

Original Word: ροιζηδόν

Part of Speech: Adverb

Transliteration: rhoizédon

Phonetic Spelling: (hroyd-zay-don')

Short Definition: with a great noise

Definition: with a great noise, with a rushing sound.

The term **roar** (*rhoizēdon*) is an onomatopoeia—a word that sounds like what it means. It speaks of “a rushing sound,” or “a loud noise,” and also connotes the whizzing, crackling sounds that objects emit as fire consumes them. On that future day, the noise from the disintegrating atoms of the universe will be deafening, unlike anything mortals have ever heard before.

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2005). *2 Peter and Jude* (p. 124). Chicago: Moody Publishers.

With a great noise (ροιζηδον [*roizēdon*]). Late and rare adverb (from ροιζεω, ροιζος [*roizeō, roizos*])—Lycophron, Nicander, here only in N. T., onomatopoetic, whizzing sound of rapid motion through the air like the flight of a bird, thunder, fierce flame

Robertson, A. T. (1933). *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (2 Pe 3:10). Nashville, TN: Broadman Press.

and the elements will melt with fervent heat;

elements

element n. — any of the substances that constitute the most basic components of the material universe.

stoicheion: one of a row, hence a letter (of the alphabet), by ext. the elements (of knowledge)

Original Word: στοιχείον, ου, τό

Part of Speech: Noun, Neuter

Transliteration: stoicheion

Phonetic Spelling: (stoy-khi'-on)

Short Definition: a heavenly body, an element

Definition: (a) plur: the heavenly bodies, (b) a rudiment, an element, a rudimentary principle, an elementary rule.

4747 *stoixeíon*— properly, *fundamentals*, like with the *basic components* of a philosophy, structure, etc.; (figuratively) "*first principles*," like the basic fundamentals of Christianity.

[**4747** (*stoixeíon*) refers to "the *rudiments* with which mankind . . . were *indoctrinated* (before the time of Christ), i.e. the elements of religious training or the ceremonial precepts common alike to the worship of Jews and of Gentiles" (J. Thayer).

Hebrews 5:12 (NKJV)

¹² For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need *someone* to teach you again the **first principles** of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

Stoicheion, elements refers to orderly fundamental, foundational building blocks of the universes (literally to the atoms)

Just like an alphabet and its orderly letters, make up the words and sentences that we speak that bring about language and communication.

These elements

will melt with fervent heat;

will melt

λυό: to loose, to release, to dissolve

Original Word: λύω

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: luó

Phonetic Spelling: (loo'-o)

Short Definition: I loose, untie, release, destroy

Definition: (a) I loose, untie, release, (b) met: I break, destroy, set at naught, contravene; I break up a meeting, annul.

HELPS Word-studies

3089 *lýō* – properly, loose (unleash) let go; release (unbind) so something no longer holds together; (figuratively) release what has been held back

with fervent heat;

Original Word: καυσόω

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: kausoo

Phonetic Spelling: (kow-so'-o)

Short Definition: I burn up

Definition: I burn with great heat.

καυσώ, καύσω: (καῦσος); to burn up, set fire to;
 present participle passive **καυσομενος**, [2 Peter 3:10, 12](#)
 (A. V. **with fervent heat**). (Elsewhere only (chiefly; see
 Sophocles Lexicon, under the word) in Dioscorides (?) and
 Galen: **to suffer from feverish burning, be parched
 with fever.**)

† **καυσόμαι.**

Strictly “to be beset by burning or fever heat,” “to suffer
 from great heat.” In the doctors (Diosc., Gal.) it is a tt. for “to
 burn with fever.” It does not occur in the LXX.

It is rare in the NT We find it in an apocalyptic sense at 2
 Pt. 3:10, 12. Consumed by heat, the elements of the world will
 melt and dissolve (v. 10: λυθήσεται; v. 12: τήκεται). In the
 background stands the idea of a cosmic conflagration
 commonly found in the history of religion.

Schneider, J. (1964–). καῦσις, καύσων, καυσόμαι, καυστηριάζομαι. G. Kittel, G. W. Bromiley, & G. Friedrich (Eds.),
Theological dictionary of the New Testament (electronic ed., Vol. 3, p. 644). Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.

With fervent heat (καυσομενα [*kausoumena*]). Present
 passive participle of καυσω [*kausōō*], late verb (from
 καυσος [*kausos*], usually medical term for fever) and
 nearly always employed for fever temperature. Mayor
 suggests a conflagration from internal heat

Robertson, A. T. (1933). *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (2 Pe 3:10). Nashville, TN:
 Broadman Press.

The word *melt* in 2 Peter 3:10 means “to disintegrate, to
 be dissolved.” It carries the idea of something being
 broken down into its basic elements, and that is what

happens when atomic energy is released. “Heaven and earth shall pass away,” said our Lord (Matt. 24:35), and it appears that this may happen by the release of the atomic power stored in the elements that make up the world. The heavens and earth are “stored with fire” (2 Peter 3:7, wuest), and only God can release it.

For this reason, I do not personally believe that God will permit sinful men to engage in an earth-destroying atomic war. He will, I believe, overrule the ignorance and foolishness of men including well-meaning but unbelieving diplomats and politicians, so that He alone will have the privilege of “pushing the button” and dissolving the elements to make way for a new heaven and a new earth.

Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *The Bible exposition commentary* (Vol. 2, p. 466). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

verse 12 adds

2 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?

being on fire,

puroó: to set on fire, i.e. to burn (pass.)

Original Word: πυρόω

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: puroó

Phonetic Spelling: (poo-ro'-o)

Short Definition: I burn, am purified by fire

Definition: pass: I burn, am set on fire, am inflamed; glow with heat, am purified by fire.

will melt

tékó: to melt (down), to melt away

Original Word: τήκω

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: tékó

Phonetic Spelling: (tay'-ko)

Short Definition: I make liquid, melt

Definition: I make liquid; pass: I melt (away).

it is important to note that
dissolved
being on fire,
Melt
fervent heat
are all Passive verbs

it could be rendered

2 The heavens being set on fire and continuing to burn, will be dissolved and the elements continuing to burn with intense heat are turning to liquid

Micah 1:3–4 (NKJV)

³ For behold, the Lord is coming out of His place;
He will come down

- And tread on the high places of the earth.
- 4 The mountains will melt under Him,
And the valleys will split
Like wax before the fire,
Like waters poured down a steep place.

Isaiah 34:1–4 (NKJV)

- 34** Come near, you nations, to hear;
And heed, you people!
Let the earth hear, and all that is in it,
The world and all things that come forth from it.
- 2 For the indignation of the Lord *is* against all nations,
And *His* fury against all their armies;
He has utterly destroyed them,
He has given them over to the slaughter.
- 3 Also their slain shall be thrown out;
Their stench shall rise from their corpses,
And the mountains shall be melted with their blood.
- 4 All the host of heaven shall be dissolved,
And the heavens shall be rolled up like a scroll;
All their host shall fall down
As the leaf falls from the vine,
And as *fruit* falling from a fig tree.

III. The Extent

v 10b both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

works that are in it will be burned up.

Shall be burned up (κατακαησεται [*katakaēsetai*]). Repeated in verse 12. Second future passive of the compound verb κατακαιω [*katakaiō*], to burn down (up), according to A L. But Aleph B K P read εύρεθησεται [*heurethēsetai*] (future passive of εύρισκω [*heuriskō*], to find) “shall be found.” There are various other readings here. 2 Peter 3:11

Robertson, A. T. (1933). *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (2 Pe 3:10–11). Nashville, TN: Broadman Press.

The **intense heat** will be so powerful that **the earth and its works will be burned up**. God’s power will consume everything in the material realm—the entire physical earth—with its civilizations, ecosystems, and natural resources—and the surrounding celestial universe. Yet even in the midst of that mind-boggling destruction, the Lord will protect His sheep.

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2005). *2 Peter and Jude* (pp. 124–125). Chicago: Moody Publishers.

Man's great works will also be burned up! All of the things that man boasts about—his great cities, his great buildings, his inventions, his achievements—will be destroyed in a moment of time. When sinners stand before the throne of God, they will have nothing to point to as evidence of their greatness. It will all be gone.

Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *The Bible exposition commentary* (Vol. 2, p. 466). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

Matthew 6:19–21 (NKJV)

¹⁹ “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:33 (NKJV)

³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

IV. Behavior is changed by it

- 11** Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,
- 12** looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?
- 13** Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

2 Peter 3:14–15 (NKJV)

¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;

¹⁵ and consider *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you,