



7 | 2 PETER 3:1-7

THE LAST DAYS

The Last Days, there is a reckless world that is getting worse and worse until Jesus comes. To not be dragged into the world, you need to stay in God's Word and be ready for Christ to come at anytime.

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Call to Worship

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever. ² Give thanks to the God of gods, for his steadfast love endures forever. ³ Give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his steadfast love endures forever; ⁴ to him who alone does great wonders, for his steadfast love endures forever. —Psalm 136:1-4

Songs

Is He Worthy?
All is Well
Holy, Holy, Holy
More Love to Thee O Christ
Lord, I Need You

Announcements

WELCOME: We are glad you are here! Be sure to grab a Welcome Packet if you are visiting with us.

Introduction

As the **menacing clouds of confusion and rebellion** envelope our culture, we as believers have a sure hope. We desire to live “a peaceable and quiet life” (1 Tim 2:2) as we await his soon return, but it seems that the **trials and troubles of life** are so distracting. **Peter tells us** that we are living in the “**last days**” of planet earth as we know it. The new creation is on the horizon. Things are getting worse and worse, so how do we live life with the love, joy, and peace of the Spirit in such distracting and confusing times? We must live by the book. Peter tells us that the key to living a contented life in our confusing world is to live by the promises of God’s infallible word.

When a **plane is suffering a serious emergency**, the pilot activates the radio and communicates “**mayday**” **three times**. Such a day arrived for Air Sweden, Flight 294 crashed January 8, 2016, but it was **entirely preventable**. The plane had been flying along just as it should and all appeared normal when suddenly it began to experience all kinds of strange problems. It gyrated across the sky, plummeting thousands of feet at a time and turning violently to one side. One and then two of the four engines stalled and failed, leaving the plane without the power it needed to maintain level flight. The pilot and copilot responded instinctually, doing their best to right the course of the aircraft. Meanwhile hundreds of passengers sat, strapped in their seats, in abject terror, not knowing if they would live or die. The pilots fought valiantly but to no avail.

In the aftermath, investigators found that almost everything that had occurred **had been the fault of the pilots**. When the plane encountered some turbulence the plane’s flight manual told the pilots how to react. But they relied on instinct rather than the book. And then, when the plane began to experience further complications, they ignored the instruments that should have directed them to the source and solution of their problem. They swung the plane violently from side to side attempting to right it **because they ignored the aircraft’s instrument** that told them where the horizon was and how to keep the plane level. They ignored the instruments that told them that their engine problem was not as serious as they thought. Blinded by the stress of the situation, they **ignored the manual** and did things their own way. Thankfully, **no one perished in the flight**, but it was pilot error, not relying on the instruments, that caused the disaster in the first place.

Peter speaks of the “last days” (3:3) and says they will be days that are difficult with scoffers tempting the saints to doubt the promise of Christ’s return. When Peter speaks of the “**last days**” **he is referring to the time between the first and second comings of Christ**. How do we stay strong in these trying times? Peter tells us in the first seven verses.

2 Peter 3:1-7 | This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, ²that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, ³knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. ⁴They will say, “Where is the promise of his coming?

For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.” ⁵For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, ⁶and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. ⁷But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

We need to listen to the vital advice the apostle Peter gives or we will be tossed around and disillusioned in these last days before Christ returns.

Key Thought: The Last Days, there is a reckless world that is getting worse and worse until Jesus comes. To not be dragged into the world, you need to stay in God's Word and be ready for Christ to come at anytime.

1. STUDY THE WORD (3:1-2)

Peter is getting ready to die. He tells them: if you want to be ready for the suffering during the time between Christ's first and second comings, then you need to study the word of God.

2 Peter 3:1-2 | This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, ²that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles,

Peter is months if not days away from dying. He and Paul are said to have been put to death the same day: Paul by beheading and Peter by being crucified upside down.¹ Remember what he said in the first chapter?

2 Peter 1:13-15 | I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder, ¹⁴since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. ¹⁵And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.

Now think about it. This is the worst possible circumstance. Before when Jesus was going to be crucified, Peter denied the Lord three times. Now he says, if you want to avoid the temptation to give up, or stay stuck, then read and study the prophecies of God's word. Listen to the commandments and instructions of our Lord Jesus in the word. Study the word. Soak in the word. Be saturated in the word.

We have to **look at our instruments or we will most certainly crash**. Look to the word of God. Whatever you see with your eyes or feel with your emotions can be deceitful, so don't trust your instincts. Trust God's word.

Peter knows he is dying soon, and he wants to stir up their remembrance of the word of God. He implies three things to remember: God's love, God's promises, and God's commands.

GOD'S WORD IS A LOVE LETTER

Peter writes his letter to the saints scattered in today's northern Turkey, in order to stir them up and help them remember. We are so prone to forget. He calls them "beloved." How vital it is to remember God's love.

2 Peter 3:1a | This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, **beloved**.

The special ingredient to an incredibly satisfying life is God's love. We must never look to our spouse if we are married or a friendship, or even to another believer to satisfy us. **You are loved by God**, and the supernatural love that will overflow and more than satisfy comes from God and not from man. Are you experiencing and contemplating the love of God for you on a daily basis?

¹ Eusebius, *The Ecclesiastical History* (313 A.D.), 3.1; Jerome, *De Viris Illustribus (On Illustrious Men)*, 1.

Jeremiah 31:3 | I have loved you, my people, with an everlasting love. With unfailing love I have drawn you to myself.

It is right that many call **God's word "a love letter"** written to his children. Finding "beloved" in the opening verse of chapter 3 brings a measure of comfort. At long last Peter has come back to the "beloved." **Gone, for the moment at least, are the belligerent preachers** of the last chapter.² He takes refuge in the beloved of God, the church of Jesus Christ. **He writes to them God's love letter.**

Are you suffering? Are you hurting? Do the hard work of loving one another and experiencing the love of God displayed in true born again believers who are temples of the Holy Spirit.

As the world grows uglier and more bold in its rebellion, you'll need to **take shelter in God's love letter!** "Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ" (Rom 8:38-39). The Puritan Richard Baxter stated this truth well.

Richard Baxter | Is it a small thing in your eyes to be loved by God – to be the son, the spouse, the love, the delight of the King of glory? Christian, believe this, and think about it: you will be eternally embraced in the arms of the love which was from everlasting, and will extend to everlasting – of the love which brought the Son of God's love from heaven to earth, from earth to the cross, from the cross to the grave, from the grave to glory – that love which was weary, hungry, tempted, scorned, scourged, buffeted, spat upon, crucified, pierced – which fasted, prayed, taught, healed, wept, sweated, bled, died. That love will eternally embrace you.³

The great God not only loves his saints, but he loves to love them.⁴ You cannot grow in your relationship with God until you truly learn to love the saints. I am learning this lesson. It can

GOD'S WORD STIRS US

2 Peter 3:1b | In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder.

In both Peter's letters, he is reminding us that transformation comes through the mind and heart. The Peter says he writes to "stir up" the humble, sincere mind by reminding them what they are already familiar with.

We must change from the inside out. We must sincerely stir up our minds with the promises of God's word. So often I can be stirred up by fear that comes from my sinful flesh. **In my flesh there is no good thing** (Rom 7:18). Instead, we need to be "stirred up" reminding ourselves of the word of God. Peter is present what we would call in modern day: self-counsel with the word.

Flesh is constantly lying to us. We need to word to counsel us. We need to listen to God instead of self. I remind you of the words of **Martin Lloyd-Jones the London preacher** of a generation ago.

Martyn Lloyd-Jones | Have you realized that most of your unhappiness in life is due to the fact that you are listening to yourself instead of talking to yourself?

We are called to remind ourselves of God's way of thinking, feeling, and living. Our flesh will give us bitterness, or anxiety, or despair, or foolishness which are **all manifestations of self-worship and self-love and entitlement.** That's the flesh. We need God's love. Without love we are just clanging gongs. We are called to love, joy, peace, patience, and wisdom. How do we stir ourselves up? Here are a few disciplines that come to mind: daily read and study Scripture

² Helm, *1 & 2 Peter and Jude*, 243.

³ Richard Baxter, *The Saints Everlasting Rest* (Leeds, England: Davies and Booth Publishing, 1814), 27.

⁴ Jerry Bridges, *Trusting God: Even When Life Hurts* (Colorado Springs, CO: Nav Press, 1988), 142.

until you are stirred up in the Spirit. It's not enough to read. You must be stirred up and moved by the Spirit. Here are some more: use rich Christian fellowship to discuss Scripture with other believers, pray through Scripture, counsel yourself, including your emotions, with Scripture, act quickly in obedience to Scripture, plan ahead what you will do in temptation according to Scripture, talk to yourself instead of listening to yourself, fight lies with truth from Scripture.

If you are not continually connected to Scripture, counseling yourself with Scripture, you will **lose the sense of God's presence**. God's love is the most real thing in the universe. If you don't sense it, it means you are allowing your heart to be hardened. Let Scripture wake you up to his love. Renew your mind with God's peace. Truly, we say with Isaiah, "You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you" (Isa 26:3).

GOD'S WORD REMINDS US

2 Peter 3:2a | That you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets.

Peter tells us to remember the prophecies and promises of the Old Testament. Remember. Get stirred up and remember. Remember what? Jesus is coming again. He's coming to destroy everything you see. Everything that is not under the authority of his kingdom is going to be set on fire. We will learn that the "elements will melt with fervent heat." Peter's referring to **the end of history, that final day of judgment** and salvation.⁵

We are not just following Christ in order to "live our best life now." We are living for another world, the new creation. The consummation of all things is at hand saints. Don't covet this world's goods because it's all going to burn up! Remember! Don't value the things of this life. Value the people and the souls. Don't have your goals set on the things of this world, but "

This world will most certainly come to an end. It won't be the result of the exhaustion of physical resources. Many nonbelieving scientists also hold that the world will come to an end—for instance, when the **physical properties that fuel the sun are completely used up**. In one sense, then, a simple belief that the world will end is nothing special. It is shared by Christians and non-Christians alike. What is unique to the apostolic gospel is that the end will come by the intentional command and word of God—**in the very hour he so decides**—to give final supremacy to his Son and draw the curtain down in judgment on that which he began.⁶ The weary, worn out, sin-cursed earth will be burnt down and remade. A new creation of everlasting joy will give way to the sad and miserable state of our present world. Keep that in mind when you see the instability of this life.

Let me repeat that **Peter's primary source** of what happens at the end of time with the second coming of Christ is found in the prophecies of the Hebrew Scriptures. Throughout the Old Testament, the prophets continually predict God's final eschatological judgment. For example, Isaiah proclaims:

Isaiah 66:15-16 | For behold, the Lord will come in fire and his chariots like the whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. For the Lord will execute judgment by fire and by his sword on all flesh, and those slain by the Lord will be many (cf Isa 13:10-13; 24:19-23; 34:1-4; 51:6).

As New Testament saints, we also have the incredible privilege of hearing **exactly what the apostles looked for** concerning the end of the world.

2 Peter 3:10-13 | The day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. ¹¹ Since all these things are thus to

⁵ Schreiner, *1, 2 Peter, Jude*, 370.

⁶ Helm, *1 & 2 Peter and Jude*, 246.

be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹² waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³ But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Our values reflect what we really believe. We are soon going to meet the Lord in the air. That's the next event on God's prophetic calendar. It could be any moment.

1 Corinthians 15:52 | In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.

How should our lives and attitudes be as we await his coming? We should not love earthly things.

Colossians 3:2-4 | Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³ For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

We should always be thinking about the sudden, sovereign coming of the Lord (cf Mt 24:30-31). Thinking about the end helps us lower the value of anything earthly and live with a kingdom mindset (cf Phil 3:8; Mt 6:33). As you read God's word, it's preparing you for the world to come, **and that's quite the motivation!**

GOD'S WORD RULES US

Now Peter reminds us that living this kind of life where we apply God's word continually to our lives is **not optional**. It's a command! Jesus is not the Savior who says, "follow me, but live however you want." He's Savior and Lord. And if he's not your Lord, then he's not your Savior and Redeemer. Remember you are under the command of Jesus.

2 Peter 3:2b | You should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles.

I really like this—we often say that you should apply the word of God to your life and live it out. When I say *should*, I could be misleading you. It's not an option. We *must* do it. God demands it. In other words, the very definition of a Christian is that we live under the authority, the commandments, the great rule and sovereignty of our divine King, Jesus Christ. He left his throne and bled and died for me, so he is worthy of my full devotion.

In Adam, I had rejected the authority of God, but in Jesus, who is the last Adam, I receive again, God's authority over my life to do with me whatever he pleases.

What would it be like to be taught by Jesus? Peter is saying you need to read the New Testament, because the commands of the apostles' writings actually represented the words of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.⁷ What Peter is saying is that all the words that the apostles write in the New Testament are from what Jesus has taught. **They are not just to be understood in theory but applied and obeyed in our lives.** God demands it!

God's word is not just a suggestion, but a command. God designed life to be lived in a certain way. That's why sin brings misery. The entire New Testament is not just to be contemplated but obeyed. This is Peter's point. Remember the words of James.

James 1:22-25 | But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who

⁷ Schreiner, *1, 2 Peter, Jude.*, 371.

looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. ²⁵But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

Examine your own life as Peter said. We are to apply the word of God on a daily basis. In every aspect of life, we are to learn to **consider God's demands on us**. We are his children, his creation. He designed how to live life and we disobey it to our peril and misery. Be sure you are not just an information gatherer but an obedient follower of the Lord.

2. SHUN THE WORLD (3:3-6)

One of the things that gets us off course is the world's attack against the way of life Christ designed for us to live. We get a bit dizzy with all the trials, discouragements, and tribulations we face each day. We must never get our hope and joy and purpose from the world. In fact, Peter tells us to **shun all the doubters** and scoffers in the world.

What are some ways that the world scoffs at Christianity? We see it in morality with their **promiscuity, immorality, and gender blending**. We see it in science with their far-fetched idea of **evolution** informing their understanding for how the world began. We are going to see that people are much more willing to believe myths than to trust the living God.

We have to be **careful not to be taken into the world's thinking**. We are called to live a life separate from the world. Remember John's warning.

1 John 2:15-17 | Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. ¹⁷And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

What are some ways that we are easily drawn away by the world? Often, we think of **movies and media**, but our **emotions** are just as prone to draw us away from Christ. Every temptation and lie of Satan can be defeated if we “put on the whole armor of God” which is a metaphor for trusting God, putting on the word and walking in the Spirit. We've got to live a life that is not influenced by the scoffers around us (*cf* Psa 1:1-2).

THE DANGER OF SCOFFERS

Why do we need to **stay under the lordship of Jesus Christ**? Because there are wolves that will destroy you. Leave the door to the pen open, and the wolf will most certainly enter.

2 Peter 3:3a | Knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing.

The time they appear. The appearance of scoffers should not be a surprise to us. They will try to infiltrate the church in the “**last days**.” Peter now introduces the timing and paradigm of this **age of grace**, which he calls the “last days.” The “last days” is a way of describing the **time on earth between the first and second comings of Christ**. The idea is that the Christian having citizenship on earth, should live life through his or her citizenship in heaven. **Your body is on earth, in Ephesus, or Chicago, or wherever you live, but your spirit is with Christ “seated in the heavenly realm”** (Eph 2:6). Our hearts are in heaven, but Peter says that scoffers, those who reject God and his word, are all around us on earth in these last days. We should not be surprised by scoffers, but know they will be among us, always attacking, mocking, and tearing down the glory of the gospel in very sophisticated way.

The activity they promote. Peter says that scoffers will come “with **scoffing**.” It’s what they are good at. Peter was getting ready to pass off the scene, and he wanted the believers to be able to protect themselves from the dangerous influence of scoffers when he was gone. Scoffers live a life of **scoffing Jesus and his coming**. They teach people that there is no ultimate

The danger they present. It’s hard to avoid scoffers since they are everywhere. They are dangerous, so they are to be avoided at all costs. They may even try to deceive you “having a form of godliness but denying its power.” Turn away from them.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 | But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ² For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴ traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. And **from such people turn away!**

God is at the center of everything (and he is), then the scoffers are revealed to be those who are cosmically and *deliberately* ignorant (cf 3:5).

THE DEPRAVITY OF SCOFFERS

Whether or not they admit it, immorality is the real reason that scoffers mock and deny the second coming. They love the pleasure of sin for a season. These scoffers are enslaved to their sinful and selfish desires. They are controlled by the universe’s most depraved psychopath, the devil, and he uses their flesh to control them.

2 Peter 3:3b-7 | Following their own sinful desires.

They follow, or literally “travel,” after their God-rejecting sinful desires. This denotes a pattern of long-term behavior, faithfully following themselves instead of God. They scoff at God, determined to **fashion a god in their own image**.⁸ They “love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil” (Jn 3:19).

In contrast, believers embrace the fact that the Lord will return (Acts 1:10–11), that they will give account for their lives (Rom 14:12; 2 Cor 5:10), and that he will bestow rewards based on faithfulness (1 Cor 3:12–15). They also believe that when Christ comes, he will reveal the secret things of the heart (1 Cor 4:5). Those who truly hope in his return have an incentive for holy living (Phil 3:20–21; 4:1; 1 Jn 3:2–3) because they realize that “each one of us will give an account of himself to God” (Rom 14:12).⁹

THE DOUBTS OF SCOFFERS

The same doubt people had for the flood of Noah’s day, they have with the consummation.

2 Peter 3:4 | They will say, “Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.”

“A flood is not really coming!” said everyone in Noah’s day. And they perished. So today people say, “Don’t judge me. Only God can judge me.” That’s true, but you definitely don’t want his judgment. People are denying the second coming of Jesus. They scoff at Christ’s return because years have passed, and it has not happened— the laws of science continue as they have from the beginning of creation. In modern times, that view is known as uniformitarianism. It is good and true enough that the laws of God continue as they are. Yet, unbelievers maintain that God’s

⁸ Helm, *1 & 2 Peter and Jude*, 244.

⁹ MacArthur, *2 Peter and Jude*, 113.

promise is unreliable, and that God’s universe is a stable, unchanging system where events like the second coming just do not happen.¹⁰ It categorically denies divine intervention throughout world history, most notably opposing both six-day creation and the global Flood.

To be sure, if the natural laws and universal processes did not normally function in a consistent manner, chaos would ensue. Yet a biblical view of the universe, sees creation as an *open* system—in which God has ordained a uniform operation of natural causes, but also a universe in which he has intervened and still does intervene.¹¹ Indeed **Christ can come at any moment and interrupt the normal stability of creation, and indeed, he will!**

THE DENIAL OF SCOFFERS

They can live thinking the earth will go on as it is, because they purposefully deny that the earth was formed miraculously.

2 Peter 3:5-7 | For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God,⁶ and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished.

The world was formed through supernatural means, it was judged by supernatural means, and one day it will be recreated through supernatural means.

Science will always confirm the Scriptures, I found it fascinating that the story of Genesis can be seen in modern science. I read an article from the New York Times dated March 9, 2008, that seemed to agree with the Biblical account. Kenneth Chang writes that scientists now believe that the universe began as an instantaneous event. He says a “cosmic inflation, a rapid expansion of the universe in the first trillionth of a trillionth of a second of its existence.”¹²

This discovery corresponds exactly with what the Scriptures have taught us all along: that in the beginning, the Lord stretched out the universe (*cf* Isa 40:22). **The universe began by supernatural means.** Scientists can’t explain how order came from chaos. They theorize that all began when a black hole reversed. They can depersonalize God, but he is not a black hole. He is the infinite Creator of all things. And if you accept that premise, it is not difficult to understand how God will judge the earth. He gave us a dress rehearsal with the worldwide flood.

Peter links the global judgment of the flood with the coming judgment at Christ’s coming. If you want to understand how God will judge the world, look to Noah. **In the days before the flood, the people mocked.** And just as then, they are mocking now. But they will not mock when Jesus returns. Consider the prophecy of Revelation and fear. Fear will keep you from scoffing if you are lost here today. Begin to fear God.

Revelation 6:12-17 | I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood,¹³ and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale.¹⁴ The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.

¹⁵ Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains,¹⁶ calling to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb,¹⁷ for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?”

¹⁰ Green, *2 Peter and Jude*, 150.

¹¹ MacArthur., *Acts*, 114.

¹² Kenneth Chang, *Gauging Age of Universe Becomes More Precise* (New York: New York Times Newspaper, March 9, 2008). Retrieved May 4, 2022, from <https://www.nytimes.com/2008/03/09/science/space/09cosmos.html>

3. ANTICIPATE JESUS' COMING (3:7)

We are called to live in light of the Lord's coming. Have you ever had a moment, where you thought—this is it! Jesus must be coming again! Perhaps it was a dream. Maybe you awoke in the night thinking Christ's return had begun. Many times, I've seen the sun shining so brightly through the clouds, I thought, he could return right now! The truth is, we don't know when Christ will return.

THE CONSUMMATION IS SUDDEN

2 Peter 3:10 | The day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar.

We have to be ready at all times. The second coming take place “in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye” (1 Cor 15:52). That means the second coming of Christ will happen suddenly. It will happen instantaneously. We can't know when exactly it will occur. I can't wait, what about you?

Matthew 24:30, 36 | They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³⁶ “But concerning that day and hour no one knows...”

No one can know the timing of the second coming, but we know it is imminent. That means like the early Christians, we should be looking for Jesus to come at any moment. This is the way the apostles lived and taught. At any moment, Christ could come. Those early Christians 2000 years ago were waiting for Jesus. Our gaze must ever be set to heaven, looking for the return of the one who rose from the dead.

Titus 2:13 | Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.

Dear saints, what am I saying? I am saying that Jesus may come before you finish this sentence. All Christians have always had this hope.

THE CONSUMMATION IS SOVEREIGN

God alone directs when and how the consummation will occur.

2 Peter 3:7a | But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire.

The first judgment was one of water, but at the second coming, the earth will be consumed through fire. God is not going to utterly destroy the earth, but recreate it as a new heaven and earth, where there is no wickedness.

Don't put your trust in anything on earth since you can't take any of it with you. Lay up treasure in heaven. Set your eyes on things above, not on things on the earth (Col 3:1-3).

THE CONSUMMATION IS SHOCKING

The day is coming, and when the heavens and earth will dissolve with fire, **and it will shock the ungodly**. Many believe if there is a God, they are definitely going to heaven, because they are relatively good. What a shock all the ungodly will have when they are brought to hell.

2 Peter 3:7b | Being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

The lost will be shocked when Jesus comes again, be we as saints are comforted. The heavens and earth are being kept going until the day of judgment, which means “destruction for the

ungodly.” Imagine as a lost person you have put all your stock in this world. You have ignored God and lived the way you want. Suddenly the sky opens up with a glorious sight. There he is! Jesus! But you’ve denied him. So what happens?

Revelation 6:15-16 | Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, ¹⁶ calling to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, ¹⁷ for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?”

Without Christ, the lost world has no hope. They hope the mountains and the rocks will fall on them to save them from the wrath of the Lamb. Without the gospel, this lost world has no hope. **Let’s not be sleeping saints.** We need to let our light shine before men. Give the gospel. “How shall they hear without a preacher?” Who will tell them if you don’t? And we must not participate in the unfruitful works of darkness. Have nothing to do with the ungodly’s way of life. Be ready, for Christ’s return is completely unexpected for the lost, like a thief in the night. We believers on the other hand are not sleeping but awake, waiting and expecting the surprise.

1 Thessalonians 5:2-6 | You yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴ But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵ For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. ⁶ So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.

Dear saints, we must not allow the propaganda of the news media to guide our lives. Nor should we follow our emotions or the unstable circumstances of this world. Rather, we need to keep our eyes on the instrument panel God gave us: his inspired, infallible, everlasting, forever settled in heaven, word of God!

Conclusion

MOTHER EXPLAINING DEATH OF FATHER

A mother was explaining to her little girl, the death of her father. The mother said: “**God has sent for your father** and will send for us, but I do not know just when.”

Finally, the little girl said: “If we do not know just when God is going to send for us, do you not think we had **better pack up and get ready** to go? God might send when we are not ready.”

Let’s always remain ready for Christ’s coming and live godly lives as we point people to a kingdom that will never fade away.

BENEDICTION

Romans 5:5-6 - May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.