

## 2 Peter

Dr. Charles "Buddy" Parrish  
December 16, 2020



### 2 Peter 3:10-18

#### Vs. 10

- The Day of the Lord is the Old Testament title given to the God's final day of Judgement. Beginning with the teachings of Jesus, New Testament Christians began to equate the Second Coming of Christ with the Day of the Lord.
- See Matthew 24:43-44
- The Old Testament teaches that the first time the world was destroyed was by water, but the final time would be by fire (Is. 33:14; Mal.3:2). The day of the Lord would be a day of terror (Is. 13:9-13; Joel 2:1-2, 30-31; Zeph. 1:14-18). He says the heavens will pass away with a roar. The word here for roar is **roizedon**, meaning the crackling sound that a forest fire would make.

#### Vss. 11-14

- Given that Christ will return unexpectedly like a thief in the night, bringing terror and fiery judgement to all Creation, what kind of life should we be living day to day? Jesus told many parables with the same message: at all times BE READY! (see the parable of the Foolish Virgins, Matthew 25:1-13)
- Not only does Peter want to reaffirm the absolute certainty of the Second Coming, but also its moral implications. If we are to be judged not by what we say but by what we do, not by what we profess to believe but by how we live out that belief, (Rev. 21:12), then living the holiness of a Christ-like life is imperative. If we are going to live in a new heaven and a new earth, then we must learn to live in the manner and custom of the new world to come.

- However, if there is no second coming, as Peter's enemies alleged, that also has moral implications. If we have been forgiven everything and there is no judgement to come, then we live in something of an amoral universe at the very least, if not a nihilistic universe of nothingness. If the world were to go on spinning forever, if life had no goal it was moving toward, then why not just grab all of life's pleasures while you can? If there is no further expectation of us, then we may as well live utterly indifferent lives. What does anything really matter anyway? But a type of lostness creeps in. The world has no direction and neither do we in our day to day lives. We find ourselves in a depressive treadmill existence. There is no journey for there is no destination.
- How do we hasten the coming of the Day of the Lord? Its in the Lord's Prayer – "Thy Kingdom come; thy will be done..." (Matt. 6:10). As we earnestly pray this *our* hearts open to the coming of the Kingdom. Second, it is in our missions and evangelism. Matthew 24:14 tells us that the "gospel of the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, as a testimony to all the nations, then the end will come." All people everywhere must have the opportunity to hear the Good News before God will bring His Creation to an end. Third, and dear to Peter's heart, is the idea of living daily with Christian ethics. "...be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless" thereby opening up our hearts to the coming of the Kingdom and allowing the Kingdom to be manifested in our day to day lives.

#### Vss. 15-16

- Peter returns to the idea that Christ's delayed return is an example of His loving patience toward us and is to be seen as an opportunity for our salvation. Again, every day that God delays the day of Judgement is another opportunity to be saved and see others saved.
- Peter cites Paul's writing as support for this idea. In Romans, Paul speaks repeatedly of God's patience (2:4, 3:25, 9:22) and says that such patience

should never be seen as being indulgent of our sin, but rather as an opportunity for repentance and salvation.

- This also show how widely read Paul's letters were. We mentioned Paul's letter to the Romans, but Peter is writing to churches in northern Turkey. Clearly Paul's writing were accepted as being authoritative. Peter hear says that Paul writes "according to the wisdom that was given him." Paul tells the Galatians that his wisdom did not come from "flesh and blood", but suggests that he was taught by Christ when alone in the deserts of Arabia. It seems that Peter knows of and accepts this testimony of Paul having been instructed by the Risen Christ and leans on Paul's writings as being authoritative. Even in his light criticism of Paul as being sometimes "hard to understand", Peter uses the Greek word for the pronouncements of an oracle, divine words from the gods to humans. Even Peter here is raising Paul's writings to the level of scripture.
- But even with that, Peter is concerned at how some people twist Paul's word and Christian truth in general for their own purpose but to their own destruction. Paul's doctrine of grace was being twisted into an excuse to sin (Romans 6). His doctrine of freedom was being twisted into license for all kinds of immorality Gal. 5:13). His doctrine of salvation by faith was being twisted into an argument that Christian service and action was unimportant (James 2:14-26). Heresy begins when people take God's Truth and flip it to create a justification to do what THEY want to do rather than a guideline to do what God wants them to do.

Vss. 17-18

- Peter tells them they have now heard from him twice and they have the letters of Paul, therefore they know the truth and they know falsehood, so they are well equipped to be on their guard against destructive lies and heresy.
- In light of all the information and teaching they have been given, the church cannot plead ignorance. So often Jesus and the writers of the New Testament used metaphors of stone and rock. Once something is well

anchored in a strong rock it will not be moved. Once something is carved or etched into hard stone it cannot be erased. Christian truth is the same. It is not remade, replaced, or rewritten on someone's whim.

- The Christian then is to only grow, strengthen themselves in the grace and **knowledge** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. If you have strong roots, sink them deeper, make them stronger. Build your house anchored on the solid rock of Christ, so when the storms come and the winds blow, come what may you will still be standing firm with Jesus.