

## **A Day Is as a Thousand Years (2 Peter 3:3-9)**

The Psalmist writes, “Better is one day in your courts than thousands elsewhere” (Psalm 84:10a). The book of Revelation describes a time when Christ will reign for a thousand years (Rev. 20:2-7).

For God, time is His tool, and this passage demonstrates His patience with those who resist His grace. We can divide the current unsaved population into three categories: The scoffers, the skeptics, and the seekers.

### 1. The scoffers.

These are those who cannot see God at work because of their own hurts, disappointments and unrealistic expectations, perhaps with the church or Christians in general. They are not ready to surrender all to Christ and want to come to God on their own terms. Peter describes them as “scoffers.”

### 2. The skeptics

These are ones who see the evidence for God and yet refuse to believe. Peter says “They deliberately forget that God made the heavens long ago by the word of his command, and he brought the earth out from the water and surrounded it with water” (v. 5).

### 3. The Seekers.

These are those for whom God has almost unlimited patience. Here, Peter uses the familiar analogy of “A day as a thousand years” to describes God’s patience toward the unsaved and His desire that “none should perish but that all should come to repentance.”

## **The Lord’s Return**

The main theme of Peter’s letter here is Christ’s return. One of the absolute certainties of the First Advent is that there will be a second one. As we await the Lord’s return, what should be our posture?

### 1. Be ready.

The Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids in Matthew 25:1-13 reveals the one thing necessary to be prepared for the Lord’s return. Is there oil in your lamp?

### 2. Be resourceful.

The Parable of the Three Servants, also known as the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30) reveals that the number one quality that God desires in His servants is faithfulness.

### 3. Be resolute.

Paul’s words to Timothy ring true today. “Everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution” (2 Timothy 3:13). Nicky Gumbel, leader of the Alpha Discipleship Program writes, *“When you look at all the evil in the world you might wonder why Jesus does not come back now and sort it all out. Why does God delay? Peter warns us that people will mock us and say, ‘So what’s happened to the promise of his Coming?’ He says there is a very good reason for the delay. The reason that the Lord has not come already is to give people more time to repent.”*