

Are We There Yet?

2 Peter 3:1-10

June 19, 2022

2 Peter 3:1-10

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, that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. 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." 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, and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. But 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. But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But 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.

I. Christian, you must remember the Word as you live in this world.

"Last days" – term for the time between the first and second coming of Christ.

2 Peter 3:4-7

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stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

II. Scoffer, your mask of ridicule doesn't disguise your denial.

A. The scoffer's strategy is to undermine God's Word. (v. 4)

B. The scoffer's tragedy is to overlook God's warning. (vv. 5-7)

2 Peter 3:8-10

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III. Beloved, your Savior's restraint is for your redemption.

A. He isn't slow. (vv. 8-9a)

B. He is patient. (v. 9b)

Exodus 34:6

The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness...

Ezekiel 33:11

Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

Ezekiel 18:32

“For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live.”

Ephesians 1:4-5

even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will...

HI: The Lord is only waiting to judge because he's willing to save.

C. He will return. (v. 10)

Isaiah 34:4

“All the stars of the heavens will be dissolved and the sky rolled up like a scroll; all the starry host will fall like withered leaves from the vine, like shriveled figs from the fig-tree.”

“Luther used to say that the world is now in its working clothes, and that eventually it will be arrayed in its Easter garments of joy. One likes to think that the trail of the old serpent will not always remain upon the globe. It is a cheering thought that where sin has abounded, God's glory will abound more.” - Charles Spurgeon

Revelation 21:1-4

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”