

2 Peter Outline

- I. Remember the Greatness of Salvation (1:1-11)
- II. Trust the Certainty of Scripture (1:12-21)
- III. Beware of Deceptive False Teachers (2:1-22)
- IV. Hope in the Promised Future (3:1-16)

“We don't seek to escape this life by dreaming of heaven. But we do find we can endure this life because of the certainty of heaven. Heaven is eternal. Earth is temporal. Those who fix all their affections of the fleeting things of this world are the real escapists, because they are vainly attempting to avoid facing eternity - by hiding in the fleeting shadows of things that are only transient.” *John MacArthur*

“To go to heaven, fully to enjoy God, is infinitely better than the most pleasant accommodations here.” *Jonathan Edwards*

“Soon the battle will be over. It will not be long now before the day will come when Satan will no longer trouble us. There will be no more domination, temptation, accusation, or confrontation. Our warfare will be over and our commander, Jesus Christ, will call us away from the battlefield to receive the victor's crown.” *Thomas Watson (English Puritan Pastor and Author)*

2 Peter 3:1-13

3 *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, ² that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, ³ knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. 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.” ⁵ 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. ⁷ 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. ⁸ 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. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ Since all these things are thus to 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.*

- IV. Hope in the Promised Future (3:1-16)
 - A. Remember the Promised Hope (vs 1-2)
 - B. Scoffers Attack our Hope (vs 3-4)
 - C. Hope is Secured in a Cosmic Plan (vs 5-7)
 - D. Hope is Timeless (vs 8-10)
 - 1. God is Infinite
 - 2. Mercy is Longsuffering
 - 3. The End is Near

Clarification to “The Day of the Lord” in vs 10

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (*The Coming of the Lord*)

¹³ But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁵ For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the **coming of the Lord**, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ **Therefore encourage one another with these words.**

The expectation of the early church was for Jesus' return in the Day of Redemption, when we are glorified and receive our eternal bodies

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 (*The Day of the Lord*)

5 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. ² For 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. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. ⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹ **For God has not destined us for wrath**, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

Peter’s inspired Word here looks all the way past the rapture, the Tribulation & the Millennium to the final act in the Day of the Lord, the destruction of the entire cursed and sin-stained universe to usher in the Eternal State

- E. The Inevitable Transformation of Hope (vs. 11-13)
 - 1. **Hope Leads the Way to Holiness (vs 11)**
 - 2. Hope Accelerates the Journey (vs 12)
 - 3. Hope Attains Heaven (vs 13)

¹¹ Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness

“Dissolved” - Gr. λύω (*luō*) - destroy, ruin by tearing down, do away with, remove, eliminate, put an end to

- Vs 7 - “stored up for fire”
- Vs 10 - “pass away with a roar”, “burned up and dissolved”

Peter’s making an emphatic point - it’s gone, it’s all gone, completely vanished. This isn’t just realization of how it’s going to end but the consequences of it. Everything physical that we have here on earth, all that we own, all that we treasure will be incinerated one day. Think about that - let that be perspective for you today.

- House, car, clothing, furniture, electronics, land, bank account, investments, present & future - everything is temporary

That’s why Peter follows it with a rhetorical question:

“what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness”

“Holiness” - Gr. ἅγιος (*hagios*) - pure, dedicated, consecrated

- “Holy conduct” (NAS, HCSB, NKJV)
- Points to our **Actions**

“Godliness” - Gr. εὐσέβεια (*eusebeia*) - devout practice and appropriate beliefs, piety, how you think about God

- Points to our **Attitude**

2 Peter 1:3-6

³ His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and **godliness**, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, ⁴ by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, ⁶ and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with **godliness**

If we’re living in the hope of the light of eternity, do our Actions and Attitude line up with that. If we’re so ready to see and be in the presence of Jesus, are we living in a way that Jesus would want to see us and be in our presence.

Hebrews 6:11-12 (*Hope Inherits the Promises*)

¹¹ And we desire each one of you to show the same **earnestness** to have the full assurance of hope until the end, ¹² so that you may **not be sluggish**, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises

1 John 2:28

²⁸ And now, little children, **abide in him**, so that when he appears we may have confidence and **not shrink from him in shame** at his coming.

1 John 3:2-3

² Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears (*Rapture*) we shall be like him (*Glorification*), because we shall see him as he is. ³ And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.**

“Without holiness on earth we shall never be prepared to enjoy heaven. Heaven is a holy place. The Lord of heaven is a holy Being. The angels are holy creatures. Holiness is written on everything in heaven... How shall we ever be at home and happy in heaven if we die unholy?” J.C. Ryle

- E. The Inevitable Transformation of Hope (vs. 11-13)
1. Hope Leads the Way to Holiness (vs 11)
 2. **Hope Accelerates the Journey (vs 12)**
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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!

“Waiting for” - Gr. προσδοκᾶω (*prosdokaō*) - wait with anxiety or apprehension, expect, look forward to the future

Vs 12, 13, 14

Luke 3:15 (*Birth of John the Baptist*)

¹⁵ As the people were in **expectation**, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ

“Hastening” - Gr. σπεύδω (*speudō*) - do quickly, suddenness, cause to happen soon, be eager

Luke 2:16 (*Shepherds after the angels announce Jesus' birth*)

¹⁶ And they went with **haste** and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

“Endurance of Hope” - *John Calvin*

“Coming (*parousia*) of the day of God”

- Distinct from the Day of the Lord (Judgment)
- Day of God = Day of Christ (Philippians 1:10, 2:16) = Day of the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 1:8, Philippians 1:6)
 - Day of Redemption, Day of Glorification
 - Rapture, Resurrection of the Saints, Final Day of Eternity

Philippians 2:15-16

¹⁵ that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶ holding fast to the word of life, so that in the **day of Christ** I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain

Titus 2:13-14

¹³ **waiting for our blessed hope**, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

2 Timothy 4:7-8

⁸ Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have **loved his appearing**.

To make room for the final Day of God, we need the Day of the Lord first

To bring in the brilliance of the final eternal state, the current sin cursed creation must be removed

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!

We can't save the planet, we don't want to save the planet

All of the Climate Change, Save Mother Earth, Give Animals Personhood Status, etc are all carnal ideologies fabricated by Satan to distract from and distort the perfect plan and purposes of God.

- Do not follow, endorse, believe or give any credence to these things
- Now Adam was given the task to rule over creation and be steward of it. We are not to trash our planet but respect and honor the gift God has given us for a time. Whatever piece of property you own is yours to manage and “bring under submission”. But this planet is not our god and we do not worship it.
- Fully trust the Word of God and allow it to guide and change your life

As John MacArthur famously said

“Step on the grass, Shoot the deer, Drill for oil, It's a disposable planet”

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¹³ But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Once again, Peter appeals to the steadfast & immovable Promises of God -> “we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells” - hear the beauty of that statement

- It's a promise, a guarantee that God has mentioned before

Isaiah 65:17

¹⁷ “For behold, **I create new heavens and a new earth,** and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.

Isaiah 66:22

²² “For as the new heavens and the new earth that I make **shall remain** before me, says the Lord, so shall your offspring and your name remain.

Isaiah 51:6 (*current heavens and earth in contrast to the new heavens and earth*)

⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath;
for **the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment,**

Hebrews 11:8-10, 13-16 (*Hall of Faith*)

⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ **By faith** he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, **whose designer and builder is God.**

¹³ These all died in **faith**, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were **strangers and exiles on the earth.** ¹⁴ For people who speak thus make it clear that they are **seeking a homeland.** ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, **they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one.** Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for **he has prepared for them a city.**

Rapture, Tribulation, Second Coming (Armageddon), Millennium, Great White Throne

Revelation 20:11-15 (*Great White Throne*)

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. **From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them.** (2 Peter 3:10) ¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. ¹³ And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. ¹⁴ **Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire.** This is the second death, the lake of fire. ¹⁵ And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Revelation 21:1-4 (*Final Day of God*)

²¹ 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. ² And **I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God**, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband (*does not mean that the New Jerusalem is just another name for the church*). ³ 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. ⁴ 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."

Revelation 21:9-11 (*The New Jerusalem*)

⁹ Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, "Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb." ¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me **the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God**, ¹¹ having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.

John 14:1-3 (*Jesus promised the New Jerusalem*)

¹⁴ "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that **I go to prepare a place for you?** ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come again and will take you to myself**, that where I am you may be also

Revelation 21:12-21 (*The New Jerusalem*)

¹² It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed— ¹³ on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. ¹⁴ And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

¹⁵ And the one who spoke with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city and its gates and walls. ¹⁶ The city lies foursquare, its length the same as its width. And he measured the city with his rod, 12,000 stadia. Its length and width and height are equal. ¹⁷ He also measured its wall, 144 cubits by human measurement, which is also an angel's measurement. ¹⁸ The wall was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold, like clear glass. ¹⁹ The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every kind of jewel. The first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate (*chalcedony*), the fourth emerald, ²⁰ the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst. ²¹ And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

Revelation 21:22-27 (*The New Jerusalem*)

²² And I saw no temple in the city, for **its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb**. ²³ And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴ By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, ²⁵ and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶ They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷ But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

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Additional Resources:

2 Peter 3:11

1 Peter 1:13-16

¹³ Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, ¹⁵ but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶ since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

Heaven and earth, he says, shall pass away for our sakes; is it meet, then, for us to be engrossed with the things of earth, and not, on the contrary, to attend to a holy and godly life? The corruptions of heaven and earth will be purged by fire, while yet as the creatures of God they are pure; what then ought to be done by us who are full of so many pollutions?

Calvin, J., & Owen, J. (2010). [Commentaries on the Catholic Epistles](#) (p. 420). Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software.

3:11. Peter sees all this as a strong motivational expectation which should provoke holy living. The question, **What kind of people ought you to be?** is rhetorical. But in case someone should miss the point, Peter answered it: **You ought to live holy and godly lives.** “Holy lives” (*en hagiis anastrophais*, lit., “in holy conduct”) refers to Christian separation and sanctification—apart from the world, apart toward God. “Godly” (*eusebeiais*; also in 1:3, 6–7) refers to piety before God. The word “live” (*hyparchein*) is in the present tense, indicating that these qualities are to be constantly present in light of the Lord’s return. Scoffers, questioning the Lord’s coming with its ensuing judgment on them, lead ungodly lives (2:7, 10, 12–15, 18–20; 3:3). By contrast, Jesus

Gangel, K. O. (1985). [2 Peter](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 877). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

2 Peter 3:12

Romans 8:18-23

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

Philippians 1:10-11

¹⁰ so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the **day of Christ**, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

12. *Looking for and hasting unto*, or, waiting for by hastening; so I render the words, though they are two participles; for what we had before separately he gathers now into one sentence, that is, that we ought hastily to wait. Now this contrarious hope possesses no small elegance, like the proverb, “Hasten slowly,” (*festina lentè*.) When he says, “Waiting for,” he refers to the endurance of hope;

Calvin, J., & Owen, J. (2010). [Commentaries on the Catholic Epistles](#) (p. 421). Logos Bible Software.

2 Peter 3:11-13

3:12. Holiness and piety (v. 11) not only cause God's people to **look forward to** (from *prosdokaō*, "expect and anticipate"; cf. vv. 13–14) the Lord's return but also to **speed its coming**. How do believers hasten it? The godly lives of the Lord's people, their praying, and their witnessing help bring others to repentance. Peter then repeated for emphasis the fact that at the commencement of eternity (here called **the day of God**) **the heavens will be destroyed by fire and the elements will melt** (cf. comments on v. 10). That event concludes "the day of the Lord" (v. 10) and commences "the day of God."

Gangel, K. O. (1985). [2 Peter](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 877). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

2 Peter 3:13

Following the final destruction of the universe, the day of God will arrive, and this corrupted world system will be forever abolished (Rom. 8:18–23; 1 John 2:16). **According to His promise**, that new day will showcase a **new heavens and a new earth**, meaning that God will create an entirely new universe (cf. Ps. 102:25–26; Isa. 65:17; 66:22).

The word rendered **new** (*kainos*) means "new in quality," "different," or "unlike anything previously known." Thus the new heavens and earth will be far more than merely new in time or chronology; they will also be new in character—a realm **in which righteousness dwells**. **Dwells** (*katoikeō*) means "to settle down and be at home," or "to take up permanent, comfortable residence." In God's new order, righteousness will enjoy a permanent, perfect existence.

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2005). [2 Peter and Jude](#) (p. 131). Moody Publishers.