

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)

2 Peter 3:1-10 IV. Hope in the Promised Future (3:1-16)

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,*

- A. Remember the Promised Hope (vs 1-2)
 - 1. Wake up to Wholesome Thinking (vs 1)
 - 2. Hope from the Past, Hope for the Future (vs 2)

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."

- B. Scoffers Attack our Hope (vs 3-4)
 - 1. By Mocking (vs 3a)
 - 2. Because of Sensual Pleasures (vs 3b)
 - 3. From Uniformity (vs 4)

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.

- C. Hope is Secured in a Cosmic Plan (vs 5-7)
 - 1. Creation
 - 2. Catastrophe
 - 3. Consummation

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.

- D. Hope is Timeless (vs 8-10)
 - 1. God is Infinite
 - 2. Mercy is Longsuffering
 - 3. The End is Near

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.

“Do not overlook this one fact” - i.e. stir you up by way of reminder

Psalm 90:2-4

- ² Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, **from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**
- ⁴ For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.

Psalm 93:2

- ² Your throne is established from of old; **you are from everlasting.**

Psalm 102:12, 24, 27

- ¹² But **you, O Lord, are enthroned forever;** you are remembered throughout all generations.
- ²⁴ “O my God,” I say, “take me not away in the midst of my days—
you whose years endure throughout all generations!”
- ²⁷ but you are the same, and **your years have no end.**

Isaiah 40:28

- ²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

Isaiah 57:15a

- ¹⁵ For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, **who inhabits eternity,** whose name is Holy:

Hebrews 13:8

- ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

God's character:

Eternality
Aseity - independent self-existence, uncaused Cause, uncreated Creator
Omniscience - All-knowing
Omnipresence - Everywhere at all times
Immutability
Sovereignty

What this DOESN'T mean

- That the number '1000' doesn't ever mean 1000 so the Millennium isn't really 1000 years
- This is a way to stuff 'Evolution' into the Bible
- The Six Days of Creation represent 6000 years

This does mean that Peter wants to give us a clear answer for the scoffer who mocks because Jesus has not returned yet.

The timing of the Second Coming is both imminent & veiled and we should be content to be in midst of it.

- D. Hope is Timeless (vs 8-10)
1. God is Infinite
 2. **Mercy is Longsuffering**
 3. The End is Near

⁹The 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.

“The Lord does not delay His promise, as some understand delay, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance.” (HCSB)

“*Slow*” - Gr. βραδύνω (*bradynō*) - delay, hesitate, to extend a period of time, to loiter, be slack

- Only used in 1 Timothy 3:15

“*Promise*” - Gr. ἐπαγγελία (*epangelia*) - agreement, consent approval, an announcement, summons

- Specifically here - the promise of the Second Coming
- Why is God slow? Is God’s character in question? Is God uncertain, impotent, tired?
- Is God good on His promises?

2 Samuel 22:31 (*God’s Ways are Perfect*)

- ³¹ This God—**his way is perfect**; the word of the Lord proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.

Psalms 111:5-8 (*God is Trustworthy*)

- ⁵ He provides food for those who fear him; **he remembers his covenant forever.**
- ⁶ He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations.
- ⁷ The works of his hands are faithful and just; **all his precepts are trustworthy;**
- ⁸ **they are established forever and ever,** to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

Isaiah 25:1 (*God’s plans are from eternity past*)

- 25** O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things, **plans formed of old**, faithful and sure.

Habakkuk 2:3 (*God’s plan is certain*)

- ³ For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end—it will not lie. **If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay.**

2 Corinthians 1:20 (*Promises are secured in Jesus*)

- ²⁰ **For all the promises of God find their Yes in him.** That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.

Galatians 4:4 (*God’s plan executes in perfect time*)

- ⁴ **But when the fullness of time had come**, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law

James 5:7-8 (*Show patience in Jesus’ Second Coming*)

- ⁷ Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains.
- ⁸ **You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.**

God is Eternal, His Promises are Sure, Do not waver in unbelief, Stand Firm

Peter gives an exact and powerful explanation...

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.***

“Patient” - Gr, μακροθυμέω (makrothymeō) - exhibit internal and external control in difficult circumstance, long-suffering

Romans 2:4

⁴ Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that **God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?**

Exodus 34:6 (*The Lord is merciful & patient*)

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,

Joel 2:13 (*The Lord is merciful & patient*)

¹³ ... Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.

Also, Numbers 14:18, Nehemiah 9:17, Psalm 86:15, 103:8, 145:8, Jonah 4:2

“patient with you” - the beloved, the believers in Peter’s day and all who would come to Jesus

“Wishing” - Gr. βούλομαι (*boulomai*) - desire, purpose, plan, intention

- Translated “will, choose, intend, would, desire, wish, want”

“Perish” - Gr. ἀπόλλυμαι (*apollymai*) - to destroy, destruction

- Same as verse 7, those who died in the flood

Ezekiel 18:32 (*No pleasure in the death of the wicked*)

³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord God; so turn, and live.”

Matthew 23:37 (*Jesus weeps over lost Jerusalem*)

³⁷ “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!

What this DOESN'T mean

- This is NOT calling for universal salvation but for all elect for all ages
 - Vs 7 just got done talking about the judgment and destruction of the ungodly
- This does NOT negate God’s Sovereign Election nor is it a proof text for Free Will

The Bible is the perfect & complete council of God. Every Word is true and is given to us for our instruction and sanctification. It does not contradict, it does not err, but it is fully comprehensive in the truths that we are to believe and embrace.

Desired Will vs Determined/Decreed Will General Call vs Effectual Call

Desired Will & General Call

Isaiah 55:1 (*Offer to all to come to God*)

⁵⁵ “Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and he who has no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

2 Peter 3:8-10

John 3:16 (*The Whosoever Gospel Call*)

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

1 Timothy 2:3-4 (*God’s desired will is for all to be saved*)

³ This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who **desires all people to be saved** and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Revelation 22:17 (*Bible ends with a universal gospel call*)

¹⁷ The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

Decreed Will & Effectual Call

John 6:37 (*Sovereign choice*)

³⁷ All that the Father gives me (*Election*) will come to me (*Effectual Call*), and whoever comes to me I will never cast out (*Eternal Security*)

John 6:44 (*Sovereign choice*)

⁴⁴ No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day

John 6:65 (*Sovereign Choice*)

⁶⁵ And he said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.”

Acts 13:48 (*Sovereign Election*)

⁴⁸ And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and **as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.**

Romans 8:29-30 (*God’s foreknowledge & predestination*)

²⁹ For those whom he **foreknew** he also **predestined** to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Ephesians 1:4-5, 11 (*Predestination*)

⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will

¹¹ In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,

Matthew 11:27-28 (*Balance of Sovereignty and Man’s Responsibility*)

²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸ Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

D. Hope is Timeless (vs 8-10)

1. God is Infinite
2. Mercy is Longsuffering
- 3. The End is Near**

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.

Verse 10 starts off with a “**BUT**” - an initial contrast with verse 9 regarding the timing of end things

- This acts as a “balancer” for every believer
- Don't be discouraged and doubt the Second Coming, the Lord is patient and has his perfect timing
- **AT THE SAME TIME**, don't fall into the ditch of apathy because He's coming back “like a thief”, at any moment, without announcement.
- In fact, in the greek “will come” is the first word in the sentence indicating priority
 - Word for word equivalence = “**WILL COME** the day of the Lord like a thief”
- **AGAIN** - The timing of the Second Coming is both imminent & veiled and we should be content to be in midst of it

1 Thessalonians 5:2 (*Day of the Lord like a thief*)

² For you yourselves are fully aware that the **day of the Lord** will come like a thief in the night

“Day of the Lord” - supernatural, divine, unquestionable judgment of God on the wicked

- From Old Testament times, prophets foretold times of God's judgment on the ungodly
 - These referred to **near** events of God's wrath on nations and kingdoms
 - Babylon - Isaiah 13:6-22
 - Egypt - Ezekiel 30:2-19
 - These referred to **far** off events, future judgments that pointed to the end of the ages
 - Joel 2:30-32, Malachi 4:1-5
- God gave His prophets exactly what He wanted to give them at the time of their revelation. Sometimes it was very clear and distinct language and sometimes shrouded in mystery, slowly unveiled over long periods of time.
- The secret things belong to God but what is revealed teaches us the character and plan of God. Absolutely, we are to **TRUST** what has been given to us.

Kingdom Timeline - Explanation of events still to come in the future as detailed in Scripture

- **Rapture** - Next event on God's eschatological schedule (fulfilling prophecy)
- **Tribulation** - Second Years of God's Wrath “Day of the Lord” as detailed in Revelation 6-19 (fulfilling prophecy)
- **The Second Coming** - Jesus returns at the Battle of Armageddon, defeats His enemies, saves Jerusalem, judges the nations “Day of the Lord” and sets up his earthly millennial kingdom as detailed Revelation 19:11-21 (fulfilling prophecy)
- **Millennium** - 1000yr reign of Jesus on earth from Jerusalem in Revelation 20:1-6 and **MANY** verses from Old Testament (fulfilling prophecy)
- **Great White Throne Judgment** - Revelation 20:11-15 where God's final judgment on all sin and the ungodly happens “Day of the Lord” ushering in Eternity for all (fulfilling prophecy)
- **New Heavens and New Earth** - Revelation 21-22 revealed out of heaven to be inhabited by God's children forever and forever (fulfilling prophecy)

Revelation 20:11

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. (i.e. 2 Peter 3:10)**

Isaiah 51:6

- 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,**
and they who dwell in it will die in like manner;
but my salvation will be forever, and my righteousness will never be dismayed.

2 Peter 3:8-10

Psalms 102:24-27

24 “O my God,” I say, “take me not away in the midst of my days—
you whose years endure throughout all generations!”

25 Of old you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands.

26 **They will perish, but you will remain; they will all wear out like a garment.
You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away,**

27 but you are the same, and your years have no end.

Zephaniah 3:8

8 “Therefore wait for me,” declares the Lord, “for the day when I rise up to seize the prey.
For my decision is to gather nations, to assemble kingdoms, to pour out upon them my
indignation, all my burning anger; for in the fire of my jealousy **all the earth shall be
consumed.**

“Heavens” - Gr. οὐρανός (*ouranos*)

“Will pass away” - Gr. παρέρχομαι (*parerchomai*) - cease to exist, duration of time to end, come to
an end

Matthew 5:18

18 For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth **pass away**, not an iota, not a dot, will pass
from the Law until all is accomplished

Matthew 24:35

35 **Heaven and earth will pass away**, but my words will not pass away.

“Roar” - Gr. ροιζηδόν (*rhoizēdon*) - with a shrill noise, sudden noise made by a swift movement,
quickly and with a lot of noise, with thunderous crash

“Heavenly bodies” - Gr. στοιχείον (*stoicheion*) - natural substances, elements

- Also used as “supernatural powers” (Colossians 2:20) & “basic principles” (Galatians 4:3, 9,
Colossians 2:8, 20)

“Will be burned up” - Gr. καυσόομαι (*kausoomai*) - be consumed by fire, to burn with great heat

- Vs 10 & vs 12

- Hebrews 6:8 “⁸ But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed,
and its end is to be **burned.** “

“Dissolved” - Gr. λύω (*luō*) - to ruin by tearing or breaking (Acts 27:41, Ephesians 2:14), to destroy,
do away with, eliminate

“the elements will be destroyed with intense heat” (NAS)

“Will be exposed”/“disclosed” (ESV, HCSB, LSB)

“will be burned up” (NAS, NKJ)

2 Peter 3:12

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!

Colossians 1:17

17 And he is before all things, and **in him all things hold together.**

At this point in God’s Timeline, He’s going to NOT hold all things together

**This is when the justice of God will bring a final end to sin & death, and that’s something for
the believer to hope for. For the unbeliever, this is terrifying.**

**Illustration of God holding out both hands - one is holding back divine wrath and the other is
calling people to come, but one day soon, both will drop**