

Second Peter: Courageous Living in Chaotic Days
Our Hope in Christ's Return – Part 2
2 Peter 3:8-13

ONE THING

Hope is the confident expectancy of a certain and favorable future.

3. UNDERSTAND the PATIENCE in Christ's Return

2 Peter 3:8–10 (ESV) — 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.

Here, Peter gives three clear reasons to the question of why Jesus is delayed...

Reason #1 – The Lord is NOT like us

2 Peter 3:8 (ESV) — 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.

Psalm 90:2–4 (ESV) — Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. You return man to dust and say, “Return, O children of man!” For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.

There is a massive contrast between our temporal existence and God's eternal existence!

It is a matter of perspective!

To a child waiting for Christmas a month seems like a year...

To a parent in a frantic rush before Christmas a month seems like a day!

Reason #2 – The Lord is PATIENT towards us

2 Peter 3:9 (ESV) — 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.

“Wishing”...

Βούλομαι - Boulomai

To desire to have or experience something, with the implication of some reasoned planning or will to accomplish the goal—‘to desire, to want, to will.’

The heart of God longs that all would be saved, but knows that many reject Him.

1 Timothy 2:3–4 (ESV) — This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Reason #3 – The Lord JUDGES us

2 Peter 3:10 (ESV) — 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.

“The Day of the Lord” is the time of JUDGMENT!

It will be sudden and it will be certain!

Let me attempt to help you move into better understanding regarding the Return of Christ and God’s patience...

The Lord Purpose

Ephesians 1:3–4 (ESV) — Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.

→ Pic



The Lord Plan

Galatians 4:4–5 (ESV) — But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

The Lord Patience

2 Peter 3:8–10 (ESV) — 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.

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1. **REMEMBER** the **PROMISES** of Christ's Return

2. **ANTICIPATE** the **PROTESTS** against Christ's Return

3. **UNDERSTAND** the **PATIENCE** in Christ's Return

4. **EXPECTANTLY PRAY** for Christ's Return

2 Peter 3:11–13 (ESV) — Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, 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! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

➤ **The ASSUMPTION** of our **POSITION**

2 Peter 3:11 (ESV) — Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness

1 Peter 1:14–15 (ESV) — 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

It is important for us to see that the early church were taught to live with an eye on Jesus' return ...

But how are we to live?

➤ **The ACTIVATION** of our **PURPOSE**

2 Peter 3:12 (ESV) — 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...”

To expect something to happen, whether good or bad—‘to expect, to anticipate, expectation.’

This is ACTIVE WAITING!

Matthew 25:1–13 (ESV) — “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. 3 For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, 4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. 5 As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. 6 But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ 7 Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. 8 And the foolish

said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ 9 But the wise answered, saying, ‘Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’ 10 And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. 11 Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ 12 But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ 13 Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

The second word Peter uses here to address the activation of our purpose is ...

“HASTENING”

To cause something to happen soon—‘to cause to happen soon, to hurry up.’

→ **Pray for God’s Kingdom to come!**

Matthew 6:9–10 (ESV) — Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

→ **Proclaim God’s coming Kingdom!**

Matthew 28:19–20 (ESV) — Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 24:14 (ESV) — And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

→ **Plead for God’s Kingdom to Come!**

Revelation 22:20 (ESV) — He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

1 Corinthians 16:22 (ESV) — If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come!

“Our Lord, come!” is two Aramaic words ...

When combined together we get, “MARANATHA”

➤ **The ANTICIPATION of our PLACE**

2 Peter 3:13 (ESV) — But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Revelation 21:1–8 (ESV) — 1 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. 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.” 5 And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” 6 And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. 7

April 14, 2021

Crossgates – Sermon

David Jett

The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. 8 But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”