

Messiah's Return

El regreso del Mesías

How can we prepare for the return of Christ?

¿Cómo podemos prepararnos para el regreso de Cristo?

1. Let's follow the words of _____.

Sigamos las palabras de las _____.

2 Peter 3:1-2 (2 Pedro 3:1-2)

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (2 Timoteo 3:16-17)

Jude 1:17-19 (Judas 1:17-19)

2. Let's remember the warnings of _____.

Recordemos las advertencias del _____.

2 Peter 3:5-7 (2 Pedro 3:5-7)

Romans 14:10-12 (Romanos 14:10-12)

2 Corinthians 5:9-10 (2 Corintios 5:9-10)

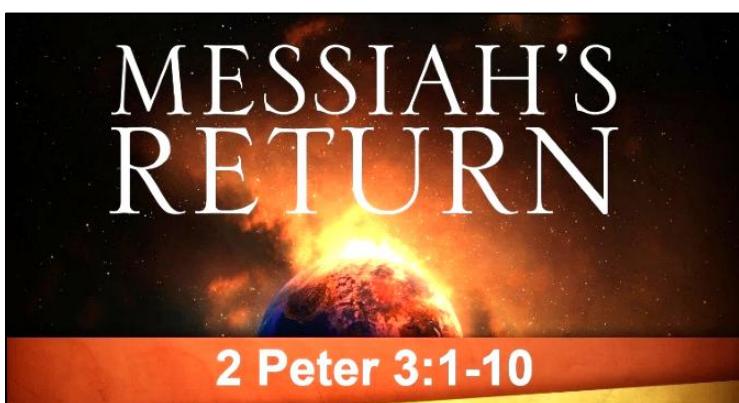
3. Let's trust the promises of _____.

Confiamos en las promesas de _____.

2 Peter 3:9-10 (2 Pedro 3:9-10)

Matthew 24:43-44 (Mateo 24:43-44)

Acts 2:38-39 (Hechos 2:38-39)



Life Group Discussion Questions

Week 16: January 18-25

2 Peter 3:1-10

Throughout the second letter of Peter, he reminds us to follow God's word (1:19-21; 2:21; 3:2). He also warns us not to follow the false teachers who were denying the sovereign Lord (2:1-3). In chapter three, he writes about the return of Christ and the Day of Judgment. These were some of the biblical doctrines that the false teachers were rejecting. The false teachers scoffed at these doctrines because they wanted to live according to their sinful desires without being held accountable by God. We see the same thing in our world today. Many people, if they believe in God at all, they believe in a God who is always forgiving, and they reject what the Bible says about God's wrath and judgment against sin. But the Bible clearly teaches us that there will be a Day of Judgment (Rom. 14:10; 2 Cor. 5:10). In 2 Peter 3:9 we see that God does not want anyone to perish. Rather, He wants everyone to repent of their sins and come to Jesus Christ for salvation.

Read 2 Peter 3:1-10

1. Why did Peter write this letter as well as his first letter? (3:1)
2. What did Peter want his readers to recall in verse 2?

Charles Swindoll observes,

Peter's brief statement in 3:2 encompasses the entire canon of the Old and New Testaments—the prophets, Jesus, and the apostles. No other source of truth has the power to give us lasting stability and constant assurance. After this strong reminder for the godly to stand firm on the teachings of Scripture as the foundation for their faith, Peter offers a series of sober warnings to the ungodly. (Swindoll, 346)

3. What did Peter say would occur in the last days? (3:3)
4. Instead of following the Bible, what do scoffers follow? (3:3)

Allen Black writes,

Throughout the Bible, “scoffers” are those who ridicule the teachings of God. They tend to discount the spiritual world, making their judgments based on worldly wisdom. In this case

they are ridiculing the idea of the Second Coming. Peter ties their scoffing to their sinful lifestyles—they scoff at God’s ways and follow “their own evil desires.” (Black, 208)

5. What do scoffers say about the return of Christ? (3:4)
6. What do scoffers deliberately forget in verse 5?
7. What global event of divine judgment did Peter describe in verse 6?

This is the third time Peter refers to the global flood in the days of Noah (1 Peter 3:19-20; 2 Peter 2:5; 3:6). The Greek word for “flooded” or “deluged” in verse 6 is the verb *katakluso* (κατακλύζω), from which we get our word cataclysm. Whenever the Bible refers to the flood in Noah’s time it uses a unique word that means a catastrophic event. Peter said that people will scoff at the idea of a final judgment just like they scoffed at the preaching of Noah. When God warned Noah about the flood, Noah responded with faith and action. He followed God’s instructions about how to be saved from the coming judgment. Noah prepared for God’s judgment, not just by building an ark, but also by seeking God’s favor and warning other people about sin and judgment. Unfortunately, even after 100 years of warning people about God’s judgment, the only people who believed Noah were his wife, his three sons and their wives. Everyone else scoffed at Noah and made fun of his crazy ideas. But that didn’t stop Noah. He continued to follow God’s word and warn people about God’s judgment.

8. How did Peter describe the Day of Judgment in verse 7?
9. What did Peter tell his readers not to forget in verse 8?

Raymond Kelcy notes,

Peter’s statement is based on Psalm 90:4. He is insisting that the relationship of God to time is not the same as that of man. God lives in eternity and is not limited by time-space concepts. His plan does not therefore depend upon finite methods of reckoning time. The lapse of time between God’s making a promise and his fulfilling of that promise is no valid argument against the certainty of its fulfillment. (Kelcy, 156)

10. Why is the Lord patient in verse 9?

Michael Green comments,

The plain meaning is that, although God wants all men to be saved, and although he has made provision for all to be accepted, some will exercise their God-given free will to exclude God. And this he cannot prevent unless he is to take away the very freedom of choice that marks us out as men. Some will indeed perish (v. 7), but this is not because God wills it. The logical corollary of this verse is that Christians should use the time before the advent for preaching the gospel. (Green, 160)

11. Verse 9 says that God is “patient with you.” Peter was writing to Christians who were already saved. So, in this context, what is God patiently waiting for Christians to do?

12. Why did Peter compare the day of the Lord to the coming of a thief? (3:10; see also Matt. 24:44; Luke 12:39; 2 Thess. 5:2; Rev. 3:3; 16:15)

13. What will happen to the physical heavens and earth on the day of the Lord? (3:10)

14. What distracts you from wholesome thinking?

15. About what biblical truths have you heard people scoff, and why were they scoffing?

16. Why is it important for us to remember and believe what the Bible says about the Day of Judgment?

17. What helps you to trust in God’s timing?

18. What will you do to stimulate wholesome thinking?

19. How will you help someone to be prepared for the return of Christ?

Sources cited:

Black, Allen, and Mark Black. *1 & 2 Peter*. Joplin, MO: College Press, 1998.
Green, Michael. *2 Peter and Jude*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2009.
Kelcy, Raymond. *The Letters of Peter and Jude*. Austin, TX: Sweet, 1972.
Swindoll, Charles. *Insights on James, 1 & 2 Peter*. Tyndale, 2014.