

Therefore beloved since you are waiting for these (2 Peter 3:14)

2 Peter 3:9-13 “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.

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, 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.”

- The Bible consistently warns us that this world will not last forever:
Matthew 24:35 “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.”
- Jesus also refers to the passing away of heaven and earth:
Matthew 5:18 “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.”

In **Revelation 21:1**, John writes of a new heaven and a new earth in the eternal state, having seen that “the first heaven and the first earth had passed away.” (cf. Isaiah 65:17 and 2 Peter 3:13)

To “pass away- **parerchomai**” is to disappear or be no more. This refers to the *physical* heaven and earth—the material world and all it contains—but not to the spirits/souls of the inhabitants of those places. Scripture is clear that people will outlast the current material universe, some in a state of eternal bliss and some in a state of eternal misery, and that the current universe will be replaced by another that will never know the contamination of sin.

- The method of this world's destruction is revealed in [2 Peter 3:10-12](#):
"The day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire. . . . That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat."
In Noah's day, the world was destroyed with water, but God promised to send no more global floods (Genesis 9:11). In the Day of the Lord, the universe will be destroyed by fire.
- The prophet Isaiah foretold the passing away of heaven and earth, too:
"All the stars in the sky will be dissolved and the heavens rolled up like a scroll; all the starry host will fall like withered leaves from the vine, like shriveled figs from the fig tree." [Isaiah 34:4](#)
- The Lord assures His people that, even as the heaven and earth are passing away, His salvation is secure: "The heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment and its inhabitants die like flies. But my salvation will last forever, my righteousness will never fail." [Isaiah 51:6](#)

[2 Peter 3:14-18](#) "Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. ¹⁵ And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, ¹⁶ as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. ¹⁷ You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. ¹⁸ But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen."

- Knowing that heaven and earth will pass away gives us perspective in life. This world is not our home. “We are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.” **2 Peter 3:13**
- Jesus tells us to have the proper priorities: “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth. . . . But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven.” **Matthew 6:19–20**
- And Peter, after reminding us of the temporary nature of this world, says, “Dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.” **2 Peter 3:14**

Points to consider

- Salvation is not a formula.
- The scriptures can be distorted and twisted to say what you want them to say.
- Don't be carried away and lose your own footing.
- They do it to their own destruction.
- But you grow in His grace.

Different translations of 2 Peter 3:17

NET – “and fall from your firm grasp on the truth.”

NIV – “fall from your secure position.”

NASB – “fall from your own steadfastness.”

NLT – “lose your own secure footing.”

ESV – “lose your own stability.”

BBE – “falling from your true faith.”

NRSV – “and lose your own stability.”

NKJV – “lest you also fall from your own steadfastness.”

Peter wants his audience to know beyond the shadow of a doubt that:

- God wants our transformation.
- We need to be aware that His promises are true.
- We have been given everything necessary to live Godly in Christ!

Michael 6:8 “He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you

1. But to do justice,
2. To love kindness,
3. Walk humbly with your God?”