



The Return Series

Part 2

September 11, 2022

2 Peter 3:1-13, “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.” May Lord add His blessing to the Reading and the Hearing of His Word Today, in Jesus Name, Amen...

Why should the Christian be concerned about End Time Bible Prophecy and the Return of Christ? Because the Disciples themselves were concerned about this worrisome topic in Matthew chapter 24. We discussed verses 1 through 14 regarding the expectations of the Church leading up to the Rapture and the beginning of the Tribulation Period. But in all of this calamity that we see, where do we take refuge in Hope? Where do we find encouragement for our Faith? We should take comfort in the fact that Christ is coming for His Church! But just because He is going to return does not mean that we sit in our padded pews and do nothing until He returns!

In the first-century Church, they looked earnestly towards the Return of the Christ and believed strongly in the Saviors return. They would have been silly to greet each other with the word “maranatha” which means “Our Lord, Comes!” if they did not believe in His imminent return. They lived nearly 2,000 years ago, and yet they seem to have had a deeper awareness of Imminency of Christ’s Return than many of today’s Christians. In 2 Peter 3:1-7, the Apostle Peter addresses those who scoff at the teachings of the Lord’s Return.

Notice the quote that the Apostle Peter provides for context of those who scoff, “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.” Scoffers are lifting up their voice against the Return of Christ in our present day in the same way they did against Noah before the rain began to fall. “There’s no judgment coming!” They cried against Noah! “You are just trying to scare us! It’s never rained on the Earth like you are prophesying; you are a false prophet. A kook! Why are you building a boat in the middle of a field with no water in sight?”

Everyone thought Noah was insane until rain began to fall from the sky and one hundred years of preaching and prophesying began to ring in the ears of those who had listened to Noah preach and prophesy of a coming destruction upon the Earth; all the while never giving up on building the Ark. Many may ask, “Pastor, why are you striving to build a church? Why are you so willing to spend your life building something such as this? Are you expecting something to happen?”

And here is my answer... Like Noah, I am building an Ark of Safety! I am building something that will save the lives of those who will hear my words today because it is the Lord who commissioned that His Church be built and established in the Earth.

And like the hearers of Noah's preaching, they did not realize just how necessary the Ark was until the rain came.

And like many of you, you did not realize just how important being a part of a church was until all of the calamity that broke loose in our world in the last 6 months and the last 100 years of Bible Prophecy preaching began to ring in our all of our ears! The rain is coming!

Jesus declared in Matthew 24:36-39, "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.³⁷ But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.³⁸ For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,³⁹ and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be."

Signs are everywhere! Like Peter wrote in 2 Peter chapter 3, you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles!

Like a pregnant woman beginning to experience birth pains which signals to the mother that the day is ever more approaching that she will give birth, we are experiencing birth pains in the earth and even the non-believer can sense that something is going on; things are not normal; all is not well in the world.

1. The Return of the Lord was predicted by the prophets!

a. “you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles!”

b. Jude - Jude 1:14-15, “¹⁴It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, “Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his holy ones, ¹⁵to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”

c. Daniel - Daniel 7:13-14, “¹³“I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. ¹⁴And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.”

d. Jesus Himself - Matthew 24:27-31, “²⁷ For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ²⁸ Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather. ²⁹ “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ³⁰ Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹ And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”

e. Church family, the belief and teaching of the Return of Christ is not a new teaching nor a new belief but rather was a prophetic declaration that spans all the way back to Genesis chapter 3...

f. Soon shall come a man from a woman's seed, you shall strike his heel but he shall bust your head...

g. Church, The Return of the Lord was predicted by the prophets!

h. Point #2...

2. The Return of the Lord will be scoffed against by the World and even by those who are a part of the Church!

- a. 2 Peter 3:1-9, “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.

- b. Church family, according to verse 9, His delay is His Grace; not His punishment! 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.”
- c. And the scoffers that Peter spoke of have gone beyond their scoffing and began to create Doctrines out of their unbelief.
- d. The Rise of Preterism and the infiltration of the Preterist!
- e. Preterism defined is simply this: Preterism is the Eschatological View of the Book of the Revelation has already taken place but there is one verse the disarms the entire view of this theological perspective...
- f. Revelation 1:17-19, ¹⁷“When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, “Fear not, I am the first and the last,¹⁸ and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades. ¹⁹Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this.”

- g. Church family, there are things still yet to come that Daniel, Isaiah, Ezekiel, and the Apostle John spoke of that are still yet to come; as John wrote, things you have seen, those that are, and those things that are to take place. And there are things still yet to come to pass and we are watching it on main stream news media in our present hour.
- h. Church, The Return of the Lord will be scoffed against by the World and even by those who are a part of the Church! But not in this house...
- i. In closing, Point #3...

3. The Return of the Lord is Imminent and is sooner than any of us can imagine!

- a. Hebrews 10:23-25, “²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

- b. Note the words used here, encourage one another as you see the day drawing near... Church that day is drawing near... It's time to wake up...
- c. Remember, if Jesus prophesied the destruction of the temple and it happened just as He said it would when Titus marched on Jerusalem in 70AD, then the words that follow that text picking up in Matthew 24:15 forward lends to the fact that if His previous words came to pass as He said then His following words will come to pass as He said!
- d. The King is Coming!