

**2 Peter**  
**A Warning**  
2 Peter 3:1-7

10-27-24

HDBC

Warnings can be annoying. Warning about road construction ahead.

Warnings can seem unnecessary. *Falling rocks.* (I've never seen one)

Warnings can be humorous and even ridiculous. *Especially on labels.*

Hair Dryer – Do not use while sleeping

Blow Torch – Contents may catch fire.

Cartoon of eggs – May contain eggs

Dremel – This is not intended to be used for dental purposes

Superman Costume – Does not enable flight or super powers.

Warnings are often ignored.

*It takes 8 warnings for Gen-Xer or Millennial to take car to shop.*

*Guys were fishing in everglades. Man bent over to wash his hands in the water. Friend warned him not to do that. He ignored the warning.*

*Almost as soon as his hands were in the water a shark bit his right hand and pulled him into the water. He survived, but learned about warnings.*

**Warnings** are intended to protect us from danger. In chapter 3, Peter offers a warning. It is neither humorous nor frivolous. It should not be dismissed or ignored. The consequences are monumental.

**Most of this letter** has warned us about the danger of false teachers and preachers. Quite frankly, it's been pretty gloomy. But now, as Peter moves toward the conclusion of his letter it's as if the dark clouds are breaking open to reveal a bright future. Here, Peter focuses on the return of Jesus.

The New Testament likens our relationship with Jesus to that of marriage. Collectively we are the bride and He is the groom. When He comes it will be like the groom coming for His bride. We will forever enter an unbroken fellowship with Him.

**A mom asked her young daughter** what her favorite Bible story was. She was surprised when she said it was the story of Jesus turning water into wine while at the wedding. When asked what she learned from that story the little girl responded, ***well, I think I have learned that when you have a wedding, it's a good idea for Jesus to be there.*** There is coming a wedding feast between Christ and his people.

**However, between now and then** there are some other things that will happen. Not all will be pleasant. Some will involve pain and suffering because of the judgment of God. In this final chapter of 2 Peter we find hints about the coming of Jesus. It will be a time of great celebration for some, but a time of great anguish for others.

**Peter** addressed those who discounted the reality of the second coming of Christ. He makes a case that they are foolish to assume there will be no second coming or judgment. In the first seven verses, he offers a compelling warning to skeptics. But first, he begins with . . .

### **1. A Foundation of Truth (1-2)**

First, note the use of the word, ***beloved***. It was used in 1:17, and will be used four more times in this final chapter. It is a word of endearment. He really does love those to whom he is writing and appeals to his relationship with them as a foundation for the challenges that he has included in this letter. However, he does not rely only on that foundation. More important than his love for them, was a foundation of truth that undergirds all that he has written.

**The second thing** to note is that this letter was written to ***stir up their minds***. He wants to make them (and us) think about the things he has written. This includes the coming of the Lord Jesus. ***This is not all there is. There is a glorious future, when Jesus comes again.*** **Before** offering details about what we are to expect as we move closer to the second coming, Peter reminds us that there is a three-fold foundation of truth that we can anchor our lives on. Note these three layers of foundation.

### 1) The words of the prophets

This would include all of the Old Testament writings. These were like lights shining in the darkness to point them to the truth. The OT writers looked forward to the first coming of Christ and in some cases hinted at His second coming, as well. Jesus confirmed this when he said, ***the scriptures testify of me***. They all point to Jesus.

### 2) The commands of Jesus

Most of these are found in the four gospels. His primary command was that people believe that He is the son of God. That He and the father are one. That He had come from heaven to save all who would trust in him. He called people to forsake self and follow him. He commanded us to love God with all our heart, soul and mind. He also commanded us to be ready for his return!

### 3) The teachings of the apostles

They taught and wrote the doctrinal truths that undergird our faith. Everything they taught and wrote complimented and amplified the Old Testament writings and never contradicted them. The teachings of the apostles continue the Old Testament story and provide understand and enlightenment in light of the incarnation of Jesus.

**Having reminded** them (and us) to remember the foundation of truth that our faith is built upon, he now moved to reveal some expectations of the present, some reminders about the past, and some things to anticipate in the future.

## 2. A Generation of scoffers (3-6)

Peter leads us to understand something about the present—***mockers will come***. Note that this will happen in ***the last days***. Scripturally, they were already in the last days when Peter wrote. The last days, in a broad way, refers to the entire time from the time of Christ's first coming until His second coming.

In addition to the false teachers who were already present, there would be **mockers**. The word speaks of sarcastic ridicule. Note a couple of things about them. First . . .

**A. What they are saying (3-4)**

These people would not only deny the return of Christ, but would make fun of those who believed it. Believers have always had to endure the mocking and derision of unbelievers. When we do, we are following in the footsteps of Jesus, who was mocked in his home town synagogue, in the temple in Jerusalem, and most importantly on the cross outside the city.

**Mockers** look at their own experience of history and assume that all things will continue as they have. Nothing will change. The fancy word for this is uniformitarianism. It assumes that there is an unbroken continuity of cause and effect in history and that this chain of events will simply continue unbroken into the future. We certainly have our share of scoffers today. They work with you, go to your school, and live in our neighborhoods. **Next**, Peter points to . . .

**B. What they are missing (5-6)**

The mockers claim that Jesus could never return and bring judgment. To them, it is ludicrous. But they fail to consider a couple of important historical events that were thought impossible. They are bedrock foundations when it comes to a Christian worldview and view of history. The first is . . .

**Creation**, where God made something out of nothing. The second was the **global flood**. Both point to the power of God. Both point to times when things happened that broke patterns of uniformity.

**Speaking of creation**, Peter reminds us that God created the earth's atmosphere by separating the waters below from the waters above. He formed the inhabitable earth by separating the waters

from the land. This creative action by God is the very thing that scoffers and mockers reject.

**The other was** the worldwide flood. With water God brought judgment upon the entire earth. These two events point out the power and willingness of God to create but also to bring judgment. He has done both in the past, so it is not unthinkable that He would do both in the future. **In the past it was water that God used. In the future He will use fire.**

**Peter says** it **escapes their notice**. Another proper way to translate that phrase would be, **But they deliberately forget**. They make a choice to refuse to consider the ramifications of those two events. Essentially they are rejecting the book of Genesis. But they are also ignoring the signs in nature and science that those two things happened. They replace the truth with man-made theories.

### 3. A Future Judgment (7)

Finally, Peter points to the future act of God in judgment. There will ultimately be restoration and renewal . . . but first, judgment will come.

**Peter reminds us** that the **present heaven and earth**, the current world order since the time of the flood are being **reserved for fire**. Just because it has not happened does not mean it will not happen. When it happens it will involve judgment on ungodly people. One assumes no judgment to his or her own peril. The fact of a coming judgment is unchangeable. The only variable is whether or not you are ready.

More on the Day of the Lord next time as we continue our study of this letter. For now we are reassured that Jesus is coming. He will bring judgment with Him when He comes. So, what should we do with this knowledge? How does this knowledge impact us now? What do we do with this knowledge.

**First**, don't dress up in white robes and go up on a mountain to wait for the second coming of Christ. Some have done so. This is neither wise nor biblical.

**Second**, live each day for the glory of God, as if this is the last day. Continue doing what you do, but with an awareness that He is coming.

**Third**, if you are not prepared for His coming, get prepared. Trust Him for your salvation. Commit your life to Him by faith. In other words, make certain that your reservation is squared away. **We do it for airline flights, hotel reservations, entrance into colleges, tickets for sporting events, concerts and other events.** This one is most important.

Peter has offered a warning. What will you do with it?

British evangelist Rico Tice says, "Loving people means warning people." He illustrates with the following personal story:

I was once in Australia visiting a friend. He took me to a beach on Botany Bay, so I decided I had to go for a swim. I was just taking off my shirt when he said: "What are you doing." I said: "I'm going for a swim."

He said: "What about those signs?" And he pointed me to some signs I'd not really noticed— Danger: Sharks! With all the confidence of an Englishman abroad, I said: "Don't be ridiculous— I'll be fine."

He said: *Listen mate, 200 Australians have died in shark attacks— **you've got to decide whether those shark signs are there to save you or to ruin your fun. You're of age—you decide.*** I decided not to go for a swim.

You've got to decide whether God's warnings are there to save you are to ruin your fun. You're of age. You decide!