



ShalomAZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption

Why God Waits: Scoffers, Judgment, and Mercy

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Devotion and Discussin Questions

Key Texts: 2 Pet. 3:3-7; Gen. 6-9; Ps. 119:105; Jer. 20:9; 2 Chr. 36:14-16; Col 1:17

Peter warns us that in the last days, scoffers will rise up—mocking the promises of God, twisting the truth, and following after their own desires. These voices aren't harmless; they are dangerous because they chip away at the foundation of faith for those who are not firmly anchored in God's Word. Scoffers argue that nothing has ever really changed, that God doesn't intervene, and that His promise of judgment is empty.

But Peter reminds us of two things: history has already proven them wrong, and God's Word will prove them wrong again. The same God who created the world through His Word, and judged the world by water in Noah's day, has reserved the present heavens and earth for judgment by fire. His Word is unshakable, and His justice is sure. Let's look at Peter's warning in three parts.

1. SCOFFERS WILL MOCK, DRIVEN BY DESIRE

Peter says, *"First of all, know this: that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing, following after their own desires. They will say, 'Where is this promise of His coming? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on the same as from the beginning of creation!'"* (vv. 3-4). Notice their motivation—it's not about seeking truth. They are led by their cravings. They want to believe that there is no judgment, no accountability, no coming day when they will answer to God. By mocking His promises, they give themselves permission to indulge whatever lusts and ambitions their hearts crave.

This is still true today. Many mock the idea of Yeshua's return, not because there's no evidence for it, but because the thought of His coming disrupts their plans. They say, "Everything just keeps going. Nothing ever changes." But underneath the words lies a refusal to submit to God. Their mocking questions aren't honest doubts but hardened rebellion. As believers, we must be ready: scoffers will come, and their voices will grow louder as the days grow darker. But the posture of our hearts matters. We must respond to God's promises with humility, not cynicism.

2. GOD'S WORD HAS ALREADY BROUGHT JUDGMENT BY WATER

Peter confronts the scoffers' claim head-on: *"For in holding this idea, it escapes their notice that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God. Through these the world of that time was destroyed by being flooded with water"* (vv. 5-6). He says they are willfully ignorant. They choose not to remember that God has already intervened in history. Creation itself was shaped by the Word of God, and that same Word unleashed judgment through the flood in Noah's day.

The flood is more than a children's story—it is a historical reminder that God does not leave sin unchecked forever. Humanity was living in rebellion, and God judged the world with water. Yet even in judgment, He preserved the righteous through Noah and his family. This proves two things: God's judgment is real, and His deliverance is real. Scoffers ignore this

because it doesn't fit their narrative, but we must hold it close. The flood stands as a testimony that God's Word always comes to pass.

3. BY THE SAME WORD, JUDGMENT BY FIRE IS COMING

Peter then brings it home: *"But by the same Word, the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept until the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly people"* (v. 7). The scoffers say nothing ever changes, but Peter says everything is moving toward a day of judgment. Just as God once judged by water, He will judge again—this time by fire. And notice the phrase "by the same Word." The Word that created and sustained the world is the same Word that will bring about its final reckoning.

This is a sobering truth. The present world is not permanent. It is being held, reserved, set apart for a day that God has already appointed. For the ungodly, that day will mean destruction. For the righteous, it means deliverance. And just as God preserved Noah through the waters, He will preserve His people through what is to come. This is not meant to terrify us, but to wake us up—to anchor our lives in the promises of God, and to live with urgency, knowing that the day of the Lord will surely come.

CONCLUSION

Peter's warning in these verses is both sobering and reassuring. Scoffers will mock, but their voices are hollow. God has already shown us in history that His Word brings both creation and judgment. And the same Word that once judged the earth with water now reserves it for fire. That means we don't live in a world spinning without purpose. We live in a world moving toward God's appointed day.

For those who might be living like the scoffers—mocking God's promises, ignoring His Word, or assuming there will always be more time—this is your wake-up call. Don't confuse His patience with absence. Today is a day of mercy. Step out of rebellion and into trust. Surrender your heart to Yeshua, who bore judgment so you could be spared.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why do you think scoffers are so often motivated by desires rather than truth?
2. How does the flood serve as a reminder of both God's judgment and His mercy?
3. What does it mean to be "willfully ignorant," and how do we see that in our world today?
4. Why is it important that Peter says, "By the same Word" the world is reserved for fire?
5. How should the certainty of coming judgment shape the way we live right now?

CLOSING PRAYER:

Abba Father, we thank You for the clarity of Your Word. Thank You for reminding us that scoffers will come, but their voices cannot undo Your promises. Thank You for reminding us through the flood that Your judgment is real, and that You know how to preserve Your people. And thank You that by Your same Word, You hold all things together until the day of Yeshua's return. Give us courage to live faithfully, urgency to share Your Good News, and humility to walk in repentance before You.

In Yeshua's name, amen.