

# **“WHERE IS THE PROMISE OF HIS COMING?”**

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Peter Chapter 3**

> Pay close attention to Peter’s endearing expression, **BELOVED**, as displayed some four times in these eighteen verses.

### **I) BELOVED, BE MINDFUL OF THE “SECOND COMING OF CHRIST!” (v1-2)**

**(1) As foretold by the “HOLY PROPHETS”**

**(2) As proclaimed by the “APOSTLES”**

(There are some 2400 verses throughout the Old and New Testaments revealing God's promises about the return of Jesus Christ.)

### **II) BELOVED, BEWARE OF SCOFFERS IN “THE LAST DAYS!” (v3-6)**

> **SCOFFERS WILL COME SCOFFING AT:**

**(1) The 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Christ!**

**(2) Creation!**

**(3) The judgment of the worldwide flood of Noah’s day!**

> **Why will they denigrate the Word of God? *They walk according to their own lusts.***

- **Sir Julian Huxley**, past president of UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) & evolutionary scientist was asked the following question on a public television interview years ago, “Why do you think that evolution caught on so quickly?” Huxley replied “I suppose the reason we all jumped at *The Origin (Origin of the Species* by Charles Darwin) was because the idea of God interfered with our sexual mores.”

**(v4) What is the scoffer’s mindset? *Cynical & Apathetic* - Some religious teachers including the Pope have stated that God created the earth through evolution. Pope Pius XII** stated in his encyclical *Humani Generis* (1950) that there was no opposition between evolution and the doctrine of the faith and that he considered the doctrine of "evolutionism" a serious hypothesis, worthy of investigation and in-depth study equal to that of the opposing hypothesis; **Pope John Paul II**, in an address to the Pontifical Academy of Sciences (1996), said that new knowledge has led to the recognition of the theory of evolution as more than a hypothesis; **Pope Benedict** has refused to endorse "intelligent design" theories, instead backing "theistic evolution" which considers that God created life through evolution with no clash between religion and science.

> **Let’s ask the Son of God, Jesus said in Matthew 19:4-5-** *“Have you not read that He who made them at the **beginning** 'made them male and female,'” **In Mark 10:6** *“But from the **beginning of the creation**, God 'made them male and female.’”* **The Bible teaches that the beginning was at the creation of Adam & Eve, which was approximately 6,000 years ago, not billions of years ago according to evolution. Who will we trust Jesus Christ, the Son of God or man.***

➤ **The wise became fools (*Romans Chapter 1*):**

- *“The evolutionary trees that adorn our textbooks have data only at the tips and nodes of their branches; the rest is inference, however reasonable, not the evidence of fossils.”* - **Stephen J. Gould, Professor of Geology and Paleontology, Harvard University.**
- *“Evolution is a fairy tale for grownups. This theory has helped nothing in the progress of science. It is useless”* - **Professor Louis Bounoure, Former President, Biological Society of Strasbourg, Director of the Strasbourg Zoological Museum, France.**
- *“I myself am convinced that the theory of evolution, especially the extent to which it’s been applied, will be one of the great jokes in the history books of the future. Posterity will marvel that so flimsy and dubious an hypothesis could be accepted with the incredible credulity that it has.”* - **Malcom Muggeridge, journalist & philosopher Pascal Lectures, University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada.**
- *“Scientists who go about teaching that evolution is a fact of life are great con-men, and the story they are telling may be the greatest hoax ever. In explaining evolution, we do not have one iota of fact.”* - **Dr. T.N. Tahmisian, Atomic Energy Commission, USA.**

- “After a lifetime of research on the subject, British anatomist and an evolutionist Lord Zuckerman stated that if man evolved from apelike creature there is not even a trace of such evidence in the fossil record.”- **Dr. Duane T. Gish.**
- **And let us not forget the wisdom of Yogi Bera who once said, “When you come to a fork in the road, take it.”**

### **III) BELOVED, BE PREPARED FOR “THE DAY OF THE LORD!” (v7-13)**

> When will “the day of the Lord” come? **Imminently** (“like a thief in the night”)

> **Three important theological terms regarding Bible prophecy:**

- “**The Day of Christ**”- This refers to the expectation of the Church, her translation, glorification, and examination for reward. The “day of Christ” relates wholly to the reward and blessing of saints at His coming, as the “day of the Lord” is connected with judgment (1Cor. 1:7-9; Phil. 1:10; 2:16).

- “**The Day of the Lord**”- This time period begins at the rapture of the Church continues through the tribulation, the second coming of Christ, His millennial kingdom, the great white throne judgment of God, and the purging of earth. (Isa 2:10-22; 13:6-16; Jer 30:7; Dan 12:1; Joel 1:1-3:21; Amos 5:18-20; Zeph 1:1-3:20; Zech 12:1-14:3).

- “**The Day of God**”- Is found in 2 Peter 3:12 it is the period when God’s people enjoy the new heavens and the new earth, when all evil has been judged (1Cor. 15:28).

- “**like a thief in the night**”- **Matthew 24:36-51; Jesus said in John 10:10-** “*The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*” (**Satan is the thief who wants to steal the truth of God as our Creator, the devil tried to kill Christ our Savior, and he wants to destroy the idea that Jesus is coming again!**) **Paul said in 1 Thess 5:1-11-** *But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.*

### **IV) BELOVED, BE READY FOR “OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST!” (v14-18)**

**(v14-17) Are you falling away?** Beloved, beware of the end-times apostasy, in his insightful article “**WHAT IS APOSTASY?**” author and Bible teacher **Thomas Ice** writes, “*The English meaning of apostasy means “the abandonment or renunciation of a religious belief” or simply to depart from one’s faith. When surveying the New Testament teaching on apostasy, it becomes apparent that it is one of the most frequently mentioned subjects. Yet, rarely do evangelicals preach, teach, or talk about this frequently mentioned biblical topic. There are a large volume of Scripture passages in the Epistles alone that are devoted to the issue of apostasy: Romans 1:18-32; 10; 16:17-18; 2 Corinthians 11:1-15; 13:5; Galatians 1:6-9; 5:1-12; Philippians 3:2, 18-19; Colossians 2:4-23; 1 Timothy 1:3-7; 4:1-3; 6:3-5; 2 Timothy 2:11-26; 3:1-9; 4:15; Titus 1:10-16; Hebrews 2:1-4; 3:7-4:13; 5:12-6:12; 10:26-31; 12:14-17; 1 Peter 3:19-20; 2 Peter 2:1-22; 3:3-10; 1 John 2:18-23; 3:4-12; 4:1-6; 2 John 9; Jude 3-23. Apostasy and its evil effects provide the main message of such books as Galatians, 2 Thessalonians, Hebrews, and Revelation. Further, Paul warned the Ephesians elders of apostasy during his final meeting with them after spending three years teaching them (Acts 20:17–38). In summarizing New Testament descriptions of apostasy, they fall in two broad categories. First, apostasy relates to the area of doctrine. Specifically, an apostate is one who moves away from the sound doctrine of the New Testament to a false or unhealthy teaching that does*

*not line up with the Bible. Second, apostasy relates to behavior. Anyone who professes to be a believer and does not follow the New Testament ethic is viewed as an apostate. Simply put, apostasy has to do with word and deed.*” According to **Lewis Sperry Chafer’s** book *Major Bible Themes*, he writes, “Another feature of the present age *will be the growing apostasy on the part of the unsaved within the professing church.* 2 Peter 2 – 3 summarizes the progression in four categories: (1) denial of the person and deity of Christ (2:1), (2) denial of the work of Christ that He bought us when He died on the cross (2:1), (3) moral apostasy over departure from moral standards (2:2-22), (4) departure from the doctrine of the second coming of Christ and the judgments related to it (3:1-13). Other passages: 1Tim. 4:1-3; 2Tim. 3:1-9; Jude 3-19.” **Dwight Pentecost** in his prophecy classic, *Things To Come* writes, “The New Testament pictures the condition within the professing church at the end of the age by a system of denials.

- Denial of **GOD**—Luke 17:26; 2 Timothy 3:4-5
- Denial of **CHRIST**—1 John 2:18; 4:3; 2 Peter 2:6
- Denial of **CHRIST’S RETURN**—2 Peter 3:3-4
- Denial of **THE FAITH**—1 Timothy 4:1-2; Jude 3
- Denial of **SOUND DOCTRINE**—2 Timothy 4:3-4
- Denial of **THE SEPARATED LIFE**—2 Timothy 3:1-7
- Denial of **CHRISTIAN LIBERTY**—1 Timothy 4:3-4
- Denial of **MORALS**—2 Timothy 3:1-8, 13; Jude 18
- Denial of **AUTHORITY**—2 Timothy 3:4”

(v18) Every Christian must “*grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever, Amen.*” We must grow in grace in every aspect of life, personally and for others; remember the words of Paul “*Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies*”. (1 Cor 8:1-2). Christians must grow in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, Jesus said in John 8:31-32, “*If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*” Let’s GO FOR GOD!