

“The Day of the Lord”

Text: 2 Peter 3:1-10 Date: September 18, 2022

A Quick Review of 2 Peter 1-2

- After his initial greeting, Peter says that Jesus’ divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness (1:3-4)
- THEREFORE... Be holy!
 - Add to your faith, goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, mutual affection and love (1:5-7)
- For IF YOU DO THESE THINGS...
 - You will not become ineffective or unproductive (1:8-9)
 - You will not commit the sin of apostasy but rather inherit eternal life (1:10-11)
- THIS IS WHY Peter feels compelled to remind them of these things (1:12). And he is not ashamed to remind them (even though they already know) because:
 - He will soon die and no longer be able to do so (1:13-14)
 - He was an actual eyewitness of these things (1:15-18)
 - He, by God’s grace, is an *apostle* and therefore what he says has prophetic authority, like the Old Testament prophets spoke with authority to the people of Israel (1:19-21)
- And then he reminds them that there are false teachers today just like there were false prophets then. *But how can they tell? How can they know that Peter is true and others are false?*
- Peter goes on now to demonstrate what false teachers look like then and now. With this description he also comforts the church to know that even though there will always be these false prophets and teachers, God is able to deal with the wicked and deliver the righteous (the entirety of chapter 2).
- And NOW, we come into chapter three is which Peter will give one more final and dramatic reason to stimulate wholesome thinking and righteous living... the Day of the Lord.

2 Peter 3:1-10

Dear friends, this is now my second letter to you. I have written both of them as reminders to stimulate you to wholesome thinking.

²*I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Savior through your apostles.*

³ Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. ⁴ They will say, “Where is this ‘coming’ he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.”

Related passages: Matthew 24:9-13; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4

⁵ But they deliberately forget that long ago by God’s word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water. ⁶ By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. ⁷ By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

Related passages: Matthew 24:36-41; Luke 17:26-29

⁸ But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

Related passage: Ezekiel 18:23

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

Related passages: Matthew 24:42-44; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-9

Questions for Personal Reflection/Group Discussion

1. How does knowing that the world as we know it will be destroyed by fire change your perspective?
2. In what ways is Peter seeking to stir us up to “wholesome thinking” and righteous living?
3. Why? (think through the themes of the whole book)