

2 Peter 3

-This is the last chapter of the book of 2 Peter.

Let's read 2 Peter 3:1-2

1-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.

-All Christians need to be reminded of the truths of God.

-This is because we forget.

-This is also why God through Peter has written these letters so that we would remember the truths of God.

-In verse 2 above, what are "the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets"?

-The Old Testament.

-What is "the command given by our Lord and Savior through your apostles"?

-The New Testament.

-In verse 2, God through Peter is bringing together the Old Testament and the New Testament as the Word of God.

-In verse 2, God through Peter is teaching us that the words of the prophets in the Old Testament and the words of the apostles in the New Testament are the Word of God.

-Also in verse 2, this command of the Lord Jesus is through not just Peter, but also through the apostles.

-The Lord Jesus never made Peter the pope of the church.

-The church is based on Christ and the Word of God through the holy prophets and the apostles.

Let's read 2 Peter 3:3-4

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."

-What is a scoffer?

-Someone who mocks or makes fun of someone else.

-In Matthew 27, the soldiers mocked Jesus before He was crucified:

27-Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him.

28-They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him,

29-and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. “Hail, king of the Jews!” they said.

30-They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again.

-As there were scoffers while Jesus was on the earth, there are also scoffers today in these “last days” in which we live.

-These people are evil, and do not believe that Christ will return to the earth.

Let’s read 2 Peter 3:5-6

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.

-Everything has NOT gone on as it has since the beginning of creation.

-With the flood, God destroyed the world that He had created, and the world that we live in today is not like the first world that God created.

-The first world that God created was perfect, but the world in which we now live is not perfect.

Let’s read 2 Peter 3:7

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.

-As our God is holy, He will one day destroy this world with fire, and the ungodly will be judged before God.

-In 2 Peter 3:10, we will also see this truth which teaches us that God will destroy with fire this current earth on which we live.

Let’s read 2 Peter 3:8

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

-From this verse, we should understand that God sees time differently than we do.

-The time of people and the time of God are different.

-The time of people is not perfect.

-The time of God, however, is perfect.

-If you think that God is too slow, you are wrong.

- If you think that God is too fast, you are wrong.
- This earth is according to God's time, and not our time.
- Your life is according to God's time, and not your time.
- Because God is sovereign, God will do all of His work according to His time, and not according to our time.
- You were born on this earth according to God's time, and not your own time.
- You will be taken off this earth according to God's time, and not your own time.
- How should this truth help our lives?
- We should give our time and our lives completely to God, for He will work out our lives perfectly in His perfect time.

Let's read 2 Peter 3:9

- 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.
- God will keep all of His promises according to His time, and not our time.
- Why is God patient?

- Because God wants no one to die.
- Because God wants everyone to come to repentance.
- This verse and 1 Timothy 2:4 teach us that God wants no one to die.
- Some people say that God wants people to die, but this is not true.
- God wants to save everyone.
- God wants everyone to repent.
- If people die and go to hell, it is not God's fault.
- God rejects no one.
- It is people who reject God.
- Does the Word of God say that God kills people?
- Yes.
- Why does God kill people?
- Because they sin against Him.
- God is holy, and therefore, He must protect His holiness.
- This is why God must punish all sin with death.
- When God created Adam and Eve, He created them without sin.
- When God gives life to all people, He places within us all the image of God.

-In Genesis 1:27, we read this: “So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them.”

-We receive our flesh from our parents, but our spirit from God Himself.

-This is the difference between people and animals.

-People have a spirit or a conscience, but animals do not.

-This image of God is without sin, and is part of our spirit or our conscience.

-All people have a spirit or a conscience from God which does not want to sin.

-When people sin, they are fighting against the image of God that is on the inside of them.

-When people continue to sin and do not repent, God gives them over to their sin.

-The first chapter of Romans explains how God gives people who will not repent over to their sin:

-“God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another” (Ro 1:24).

-“Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts” (Ro 1:26).

-Even though people may have never been taught the Word of God, they know in their spirit that there is a God.

-We read this in Romans 1:21:

-“For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.”

-Therefore, it is people who reject God, and if people reject God, then God takes their life.

Let's read 2 Peter 3:10

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.

-What is the day of the Lord?

-It is the end when God will destroy all of the earth with fire.

-Then, our God will make a new heaven and a new earth, and all Christians will live a perfect life that God has always wanted us to have.

-This day will come like a thief.

-Just like people do not know when a thief will come, we will also not know when the day of the Lord will come.

-Only God knows this.

Let's read 2 Peter 3:11-13

11-Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives

12-as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat.

13-But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

-What is the day of God?

-It is the same as the day of the Lord, and only God knows when this day will come.

-Since everything in the world will be destroyed, how should we live?

-We should live holy and godly lives.

-We should look forward to the end when God will make all things new.

-We should live our lives on earth knowing that nothing on this earth will last forever, as God will make a new heaven and a new earth.

-Although we need to live and work to be able to feed ourselves and our families, we should live according to eternity, and not just our short lives here on earth.

Let's read 2 Peter 3:14-15a

14-So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

15-Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation.

-If we look forward to heaven, this will help us to live for God and not for ourselves.

-When we live for God and not for ourselves, this will help us to be spotless, blameless, and at peace with God.

-How does God's patience means salvation for many people?

-Because God wants all people to be saved, He is patient and continues to work with people that they would turn to Him and be saved.

Let's read 2 Peter 3:15b-16

15-Just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him.

16-He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

-As God through Peter wrote this letter, God through Paul wrote all of the letters that have Paul's name on them.

-Even though the letters come from Peter and Paul, they are written by God Himself through them.

-All of the Bible is the Word of God, and has no error in the original writing in the Hebrew and Greek languages.

-Why would God write "things that are hard to understand" through Peter and Paul and others?

-It is like the parables of Jesus.

-In Matthew 13:10, the disciples came to him and asked, "Why do you speak to the people in parables?"

-Here is what the Lord Jesus replied:

11-He replied, "Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them.

12-Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them.

13-This is why I speak to them in parables: 'Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand.'

-Then, the Lord Jesus talked of the prophecy of Isaiah:

15-"For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them."

-It is difficult for us to understand the Word of God, but if we ask God to help us, He will do so.

-For those who truly want to understand the Word of God, God will help them, and they will understand.

Let's read 2 Peter 3:17-18

17-Therefore, dear friends, since you have been forewarned, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of the lawless and fall from your secure position.

18-But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.