

Grow Up
A Study of 2 Peter

Anticipation

2 Peter 3:1-18

Pastor Nathan Mains - October 5, 2008

Peter's Stimulus Package

2 Pet 3:1 *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.*

3 *First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. (NIV)*

What is the danger?

2 Pet 3:4 *They will say,*

"Where is this 'coming' he promised?

*Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on
as it has since the beginning of creation."*

5 *But they deliberately forget that long ago
by God's word*

*the heavens existed 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. (NIV)*

And another Judgment is Coming

2 Pet 3:7 *By the same word [God's] the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.*

□ So where is it?

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.*

(NIV)

What is Peter's Point?

2 Pet 3:9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness.

He is patient with you [us], not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

2 Pet 3:10 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 in it will be laid bare. (NIV)

What does this mean for us?

2 Pet 3:11 *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. (NIV)*

➤ Are we supposed to be looking
forward to this?

What does this mean for us?

2 Pet 3:13 *But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.*

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. (NIV)*

Or maybe better translated:

...Make every effort

to be found by Him

in peace,

spotless & blameless

Remember 2 Peter 1:3-11

[God's] divine power has given us everything we need for life & godliness... to develop: Goodness, knowledge, Self-control, Perseverance, Godliness, Brotherly kindness, Love.

...if you possess these qualities in increasing measure they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive...

...if you do these things, you will never fall, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (NIV)

But what about the delay?

2 Pet 3:15 Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, 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. (NIV)

What Paul teaches on this

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 ...*you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead-- Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.*

5:9 *For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

10 *He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. (NIV)*

Final Encouragement

2 Pet 3:17 *Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this,*

be on your guard

so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men

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. (NIV)

Take Away

Since our Lord Jesus may return at any time we should live accordingly, making every effort to be found by Him, on that day, spotless, blameless and living in peace with each other.