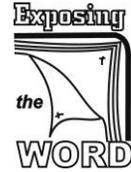


“REMINDERS OF Truth”^{©2009}

The Epistles of 1 & 2 Peter

BY DR. EDGAR PIERCE



XVII- Remember God is going to Judge the World Again: 2Pe 3:1-13

When I think of people, who assume because they have not experienced it that it cannot be true, I think of a story of a grandpa. A little girl keep hearing her grandpa talk about there is no such thing as hell and that all this God stuff was only a tale. One day she said, “Grandpa have you been dead yet.”

Many today are quick to discount any idea of judgment to come and punishment for sin. The only problem is they have not been dead yet.

2Pe 3:1 *This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance.* I point out yet again that Peter is writing to remind us of truth. In this portion, we see that he reminds us that God is going to judge the world again.

I- The Scoffers to Come:

As we have previously stated one thing that authenticates the Word of God is the sureness of the prophetic words given to by God to men. Does anything surprise God? Certainly not! Peter wants to remind us of the words spoken by the prophets of the past. **2Pe 3:2** *That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:*

The warning also includes, as the KJV and most other translations translates it, “Scoffers...” that would come. **2Pe 3:3** *Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,*

The Greek word translated scoffers here is only found two times. Here and in **Jud 1:18** *How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.* It is translated mockers here. The *Strong's Concordance* says it by implication a “false teacher.”

Peter and Jude were not the only NT writers that warned of these scoffers. Paul said in **1Ti 4:1** *Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.*

John said in **1Jn 2:18** *Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come,*

even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.

So the message of end time scoffers permeates the Word of God. But what is mean by last days. The *Liberty Commentary on the New Testament* says, “In biblical terminology, these were not the former days of promise and prophecy, but the latter days of fulfillment and blessing Jesus Christ.” (p713) These days in which we live and have lived for some 2000 years are the last days.

II- Their Intentional Error:

2Pe 3:4 *And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.*

Now hold on a minute there is something very important that they forgot. They say that nothing has changed since the creation. Is this true? No. Look at **2Pe 3:5** *For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: 6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished.*

We certainly live in a time when the flood is discounted and relegated to a myth by most today. They intentionally overlook this as even a possible answer to a lot of unexplained things. Men today will believe anything to keep from believing in God. Men will deny, deny, deny until they believe the lie. Peter reminds them of the past judgment that God brought upon the earth as an argument that God has and will again judge this world.

III- Fiery End of Earth:

The idea of a judgment so severe that it destroys the blue planet that we live on is clearly taught in the Bible. **Isa 65:17** *For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.*

Isa 66:22 *For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain.*

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Then John in the book of Revelation says, *Rev 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.*

Still in no other place do we find the mechanism that God is going to use as we do in Peter. First look at the promise given to Noah after he came off the ark. *Gen 9:11 And I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth.*

This prevents another world wide flood that will destroy the earth. So how will it happen.

2Pe 3:7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

In 2 Peter we find the way, by fire. We see it three times in this portion of Scripture that we are looking at. *2Pe 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.*

Also in *2Pe 3:12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?*

This is a pretty plain and forward statement. If it were Peter saying it we could maybe disregard and discount it but I remind us that this is God saying it through Peter. God has the reservation made and is only waiting for it to happen.

When will this take place? In the day of the Lord. After the millennium reign, after the great white throne judgment, then God will purify this world and make it anew by fire and His word.

IV- God is Not Rushing:

Remember the scoffers are saying where is this so-called second coming. It has not happened, they say. But, please let us not forget that God is eternal and our time does not put constraints upon God as it does us. *2Pe 3:8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand*

years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

The Lord is longsuffering and not willing that any should perish. No not one. His will is that all men will repent of their sin and come to God through Christ.

V- The Great Motivator:

Notice again that the return of Christ will be like a thief in the night. *2Pe 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night...*

Jesus told about the 10 virgins, 5 ready for the return of the bridegroom and 5 not. (also see *Matt 24:22-24*)

So the return of the Lord being imminent is a great motivator but the wrath that is to come is even greater. Peter says *2Pe 3:11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness.* Remember that those who reject Christ teachings and doubt His return their beliefs, we have seen, lead them into an ungodly lifestyle. Because we know that Christ is coming and that God is again going to judge the world it should motivate us to live right.

It should motivate us to live anticipation the coming of Christ. *2Pe 3:12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.*

Now that is just wonderful upon which to think. A place where there is no sin with its lies and destruction. A perfect place it will be.

Revelation 21:27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

No, we have not seen it yet, but then again we have not been dead yet either. Flee the judgment to come by turning to Christ.