Lesson 16 – 2 Peter 3:1-10 The Day of the Lord Comes Like a Thief
English Standard Version (ESV) Bethel Bible Resources

(1) This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior though your apostles, knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. They will say, "Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation."

(5) For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

(8) But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

(10) But the Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

Think on these things:

1) What two things does Peter say his goals are in reminding the readers of the prophets and the Savior, Jesus? Do you think these are good reasons to come to church? Explain.

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2) We think we live in the "last days", but Peter explained way back at Pentecost that the coming of the Holy Spirit in power marked the beginning of God's last days (see Acts 2:17). What activity is cited as dominating our world, culture (v. 3) and even our churches (v. 4)?

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3) When Peter says "fathers" in v. 4, he is conveying that these skeptics are actually within the Christian church. The fathers they refer to are the Old Testament patriarchs, and even the New Testament apostles who died believing Jesus would return in their own lifetimes. Do you have a response to this (v. 4)? – People saying, "You always talk about Jesus coming back. When? The Church has been saying this for over 2,000 years! I don't believe it." The question always seems to be, "When…?"

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4) Will God intervene in our world? In verses 5-6 Peter says He already did --- twice --- creating the world out of water (Genesis 1:6-10), and destroying those living in the world (Genesis 7:17-24) when sin ran rampant because of men's evil hearts. How do these members of the church deal with these truths (v. 5a) in their skepticism of Jesus Second Coming?

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5) V. 7 says that our present earth and heaven exist by God's Word (see Colossians 1:13-17 and Hebrews 1:1-4). What will be the outcome for our present world (v. 7b, Revelation 21:1)?

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6) V. 8 admonishes us not to overlook what in relation to God's perception of time? Consider Isaiah 55:8-9.

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7) Is God's Day of Judgment late? What's holding Him up (v. 9) that makes us even think this (see Romans 2:4-5 and 1 Timothy 2:1-4)?

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8) V. 10 is a detailed description of what Peter talks about in v. 7b. Even though we have these end times prophecies here and in Revelation (6:12-17), what is surprising about people knowing in advance that this will all happen?

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People and situations I want to pray for this week: