



BAND of BROTHERS

SUMMER SERIES 2022 – WEEK 5

2 Peter 3:1-13 – No Doubt About It

Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God
– 2 Peter 3:11 ESV

- **Peter's True Heart**

This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. – 2 Peter 3:1a ESV

- Peter takes a step back and begins this chapter with a softer tone
- He addresses his readers as beloved
- Don't look past this
 - This is a crowd that Peter cares deeply about
 - We see why he desperately wants them to understand the false teaching that is being preached at them
 - Therefore, he is constantly reminding them of the work of the Lord

In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder. – 2 Peter 3:1b ESV

*I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of **reminder**.* – 2 Peter 1:14
ESV

*And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to **recall** these things.* – 2 Peter 1:15 ESV

- We should take notice of how many times Peter wants to “stir up”
- What is the purpose or good of being reminded of these things?
- Do we need it?

“The purest minds need stirring up at times. It would be a great pity to stir up impure minds. That would only be to do mischief; but pure minds may be stirred as much as you please, and the more the better.” – Charles H. Spurgeon, *Commentary on 1-2 Peter and Jude*

- The greatest among us still need to be stirred up
 - o There is never a point where we don't need to remember these things

- **Remember the Words of the Prophets and Christ**

...you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles. – 2 Peter 3:2 ESV

- This isn't the first time we have seen Peter issue a warning like this

*But what **God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets**, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about **which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago**. – Acts 3:18-21 ESV*

- Words of the Prophets

and behold, with the clouds of heaven

***there came one like a son of man,**
and he came to the Ancient of Days
and was presented before him.*

***And to him was given dominion**
and glory and a kingdom,
that all peoples, nations, and
languages*

*should serve him;
his dominion is an everlasting
dominion,
which shall not pass away, that
shall not be destroyed.*

– Daniel 7:13-14 ESV

*Look! **The Lord is coming!***

*He leaves his throne in heaven
and tramples the heights of the
earth.*

*The mountains melt beneath his feet
and flow into the valleys*

like wax in a fire,

like water pouring down a hill.

– Micah 1:3-4 ESV

- Words of the Apostles

*and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, **at the coming of our Lord Jesus** with all his saints.*

– 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13 ESV

*Behold, **he is coming with the clouds**, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.*

– Revelation 1:7 ESV

- 23 of the 27 books in the New Testament mention the return of Christ
- In the 260 chapters of the New Testament, the apostles refer to the Second Coming around 300 times
- We should believe in the Second Coming because the Scriptures mention it so much

- **False Teachers' Argument**

- Despite all evidence, false teachers will still reject the Second Coming
- They were and still are mocking those who believe in the Second Coming

*...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. – 2 Peter 3:3-4 ESV*

- No part of this question was asked in a pure way
 - These false teachers were implying that the Second Coming was past due
 - They were claiming to know better than God on when he should return
 - Their true heart was shown
- They believed God would not intervene because they believed he never had
 - They only accept what they want to hear and what they can explain
 - Uniformitarianism – The assumption that the same natural laws and processes that operate in our present-day scientific observations have always operated in the universe in the past and apply everywhere in the universe
 - Translation: The laws of nature have dictated the past and they will continue to do so. Nothing will change.

- **Peter's Biblical Defense**

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. – 2 Peter 3:5-6 ESV

- Peter goes on the offensive

- The first flaw in the scoffers' argument is they "deliberately overlook" the words of scripture
- This is the DNA of false teaching
 - False teaching deliberately and willingly distorts or overlooks the truth of God's word

- **God's Sovereignty**

Peter immediately attacks the flaw in the scoffers' argument

- God has interacted with and changed the world in the past
 - Their argument is based on the laws of nature not changing, but they forget the laws of nature were created by God

*The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the **face of the deep**. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the **waters**.* – Genesis 1:2 ESV

- God's word goes on to bring creation to fruition
- Then we see the opposite thing happen when God uses water with the flood
 - The flood was not just a natural disaster, it was God's judgement
 - This was foreshadowing what God will do in the final judgement

- **God's Eternality**

- The next argument Peter appeals to is God existing outside of time
- He is eternal

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. – 2 Peter 3:8 ESV

- God's eternal nature is not like ours
- He exists outside of time because he created time
- Our perspective of time is different than God's
 - This poses a danger that believers must be weary of
 - Placing human limitations on an eternal God
- Fortunately, this is not just Peter's argument

*You return man to dust
and say, "Return, O children of man!"
For a thousand years in your sight
are but as yesterday when it is past,
or as a watch in the night.* – Psalm 90:1-4 ESV

- What we hold to be a long time (2000 years), to God is just a "watch in the night"

- **God's Grace**

*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.** – 2 Peter 3:9 ESV*

- Some of the scoffers were claiming that the delay in Christ's return was evidence that he could not keep his promises
 - Peter claims the exact opposite
 - This "delay" is evidence of the grace and mercy of God
- While we wait on the Lord, we are witnessing his patience
 - This should lead people to repentance

...do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? – Romans 2:4 ESV

- The very argument that these false teachers were using against the return of Christ is the very thing that should lead them to repentance
- Don't miss who Peter is speaking to here
 - Notice he says God is "patient toward **you**"
 - This serves as a great reminder that God's patience is the reason why those who are believers are saved

- **God Delivers on His Promises**

***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. – 2 Peter 3:10 ESV*

- Ultimately, God will do what he says he will do
- There will come a day when he judges the world
 - However, we will not expect it
 - It will be like a thief

*Therefore, stay awake, for **you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.** But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the **thief** was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. – Matthew 24:42-44 ESV*

*For you yourselves are fully aware that **the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.** While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. – 1 Thessalonians 5:2-4 ESV*

- We will not know the time or the day when the Lord will return
 - o Anyone who says they know, is lying
 - o The only thing we know for certain is Christ will return and judge the world
 - o This forces us to focus on what sort of people will we be upon his return

- **Who Will You Be?**

*Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, **what sort of people ought you to be** in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! – 2 Peter 3:11-12 ESV*

- Peter brings is full circle as he speaks about lives of godliness
 - o Yet now he adds another dimension to it
 - o We are to be known for our plethora of holiness
 - o While we wait for the return of the Lord our lives should be marked by his holiness
 - o Remember, we have everything we need for life and godliness
 - o As we wait, who will you be?

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

If Christ were to return today, what person would you be?

How do we both long for Christ's return and rejoice in his patience?

How would you address people today who doubt the return of Christ?