

The Letters of **Peter**



Lesson 8-Being ready for the Coming Judgment Day!

Focus: 2 Peter 3:1-18

- **Being mindful of the truth and aware of coming scoffers (v.1-4)**
 - (v.1,2) It is important that we **remember** very well the truths that God has given us to live by and we are to be mindful of them always! We should store them up in our hearts and we should never let them depart from our lips, but should live carefully by them always! (See *Joshua 1:7,8 on this point*).
 - (v.3,4) The Bible promised us that we would see “scoffers” and doubters who mock about the idea of Jesus coming again! These kinds of people just follow their sins. They do whatever seems pleasing to them! They don’t want to follow God. And they don’t want to think about His return or his ever judging or changing the earth. They just prefer to think that all things will always continue just as they are now, and just as they were thousands of years ago. They simply choose to doubt God’s power to change or interfere with anything in this world! We are living in those times where there are many scoffers and doubters. They will be greatly shocked and surprised when Jesus comes and judgment comes upon them though! Let us therefore boldly and faithfully warn all people of this coming judgment from God upon sin and sinners! All must be warned! That is our duty to warn them! (See *Ezekiel 33:1-10*). These people worship and serve the creature more than the Creator who is blessed forever (See *Romans 1:20-32*). God’s return will be to their shame (*Rev. 6:12-17*).
- **Being “willingly ignorant” of the coming destruction (v.5-10)**
 - (v.5-6) Many people today have chosen to be “willingly ignorant” of the fact that God covered the whole world with a great flood in the days of Noah and destroyed it! Many do not want to recognize that God has done that for if they did, then they would have to admit that God is ultimately the Judge of mankind and one day we must all answer to Him for our sins! We would have to follow and obey His holy word. To be in good standing with the rest of the universe, we would need to know, love, and worship this Living God who is God indeed, and the only One!! Many people do not want to do that because they choose to live in their sins instead.
 - **There is lots of evidence for the flood:**
 - *There are **over 270** various legends of the world wide flood from many different cultures and languages all over the world. A number of them bear striking similarities in their details.*
 - ***Fossils of fish, sea life, and both large and small shells can be found in mountains and rocks all over the world!*** (Which clearly shows that our land now exposed was once covered by the oceans)..

- ***A number of natural geological wonders can be easily understood by the flood, such as the Grand Canyon in USA, the Utah Salt flats, and other things too.***
- (v.7,8) Time goes quick to God and means but little. A day is like a thousand years to Him. Some also believe that this makes reference as to how the earth is about 6,000 years old right now, according to Bible timelines and God is planning to return very soon! Then we'll rest for 1000 years (See Revelation 20). This is kind of like the 6 working days of the week, and then the one Sabbath day (#7) at the end of the week for resting! That would mean that the end of this world's history is drawing very near! ***Water and Fire are the two methods that God uses to destroy the sin of this world and to start over fresh again. These are also the symbols use for baptizing God's followers. Baptism by water for the washing away of our sins, and Baptism by "fire" or the Holy Spirit for being empowered to live a holy life in God! (ref. Matthew 3:11). So, once, God destroyed the earth by Water, but in the end He will destroy and cleanse it by Fire (2 Peter 3:6,7).***
- (v.9,10) **God does not wish that any would have to perish in judgment for their sins.** He would like for all people to be saved. That is His desire and we can see it clearly expressed here in verse 9. ***See also Ezekiel 33:11 and 1Timothy 2:3, 4. However, judgment for sin will surely come if we do not receive Jesus, the only one who can save us from our sins (v.10, Matthew 1:21)***
- **Judgment for sin will come suddenly and surprisingly upon the wicked** (seemingly without any warning, but only because they did not receive the warnings of God, but rather mocked and scoffed at God's people, while choosing to be ignorant of God's judgment). **The Bible mentions in many places this "sudden," and to many, surprising judgment that will come from God. (See Matthew 24:36-39; Luke 17:25-30; 21:34-36; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-4). God is patient, but the Day of Judgment for sin will surely come!**
- (v.10) **Life will not continue onward for any people on the earth after Jesus returns for His people "as a thief."** When Jesus does return that way, all the wicked will be burned up and destroyed. (See 2 Thess. 1:7-10). There are no second chances, just like in the days of Noah and Lot.
- **Be holy people who are waiting for the new Holy Land (v.11-14)** God expects us to be holy people and to live for Him.
- **Be careful not to fall into sin or to be led astray by false and corrupt teachings (v.15-18)**
 - *Some people twist the writings of Paul and other Bible writings to make them say what they want to hear. They teach a false concept of grace, sometimes called "cheap grace," in which they believe that God will allow them to live corrupt and sinful lives, and then will still freely save them. They twist the other Scriptures too. God will judge such people for their sins. Do not be deceived!*

Question (s) for the Heart:

Will you choose to repent of your sins and to seek Jesus' peace now before His Judgment Day comes?

_____ (Please make that choice today before it's too late).