

## **The Second Coming Of Christ** Certainty Of Second Coming, 1-7

**2PE 3:1 This is now [already], beloved, the second letter I am writing to you in which I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder,**

1. The Greek “ede” [ay’ day] can be translated “already” which makes good sense.
  - a. It would seem strange that Peter would tell them this is “the second letter.” They would know this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> letter.
  - b. It is possible he is simply saying his second letter is being written much quicker than he anticipated.
2. The first epistle primarily dealt with persecution, and this epistle deals largely with false teachers
3. Some believe that Peter is not referring to what we know as 1 Peter, but to an epistle that has not been preserved.
  - a. This argument assumes that Peter is saying that the subject matter of both epistles is identical which does not seem necessary to assume.
  - b. Peter assumes his readers are versed in the basis principles of the gospel, but he finds it necessary to refresh or remind them of things they knew.
  - c. He does this in both epistles.
4. diegeiro” [de e gay’ ro]- “to wake up, awaken, arouse (from sleep)”

### **Words Of Prophets, The Lord, And His Apostles**

**2PE 3:2 that you should remember the words [inspired utterances] spoken beforehand by the holy [dedicated] prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior {spoken} by your apostles.**

1. 1 Peter does remind us of some of the teaching of the apostles and of the commandment of Jesus.
2. This reminder is needed because some were denying part of the doctrine - the second coming of Christ.
3. It is noteworthy Peter contends that the apostles spoke “the commandment of the Lord and Savior.”

### **“In The Last Days”**

**2PE 3:3 Know this first of all, that in the last days [Christian dispensation] mockers [scoffers] will come with {their} mocking, following [walking, pursuing] after their own lusts [greed, evil desires],**

- 1 “empaiktes” [em pik’ tace]- “a mocker, a scoffer”
2. “The last days” - Heb. 1:2; Acts 2:17.

**HEB 1:2 in these last days has spoken to us in {His} Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom**

also He made the world.

**ACT 2:17 And it shall be in the last days,' God says,' That I will pour forth of My Spirit upon all mankind; And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, And your young men shall see visions, And your old men shall dream dreams;**

- See also 1 Pet. 1:20; Jas. 5:3; Jude 18.
  - The Christian age is the last age of human history.
2. “Mockers” - The mockers ridiculed the idea of Jesus coming again.
- a. They do this because they are “following after their own lusts.” They will not accept anything that holds down their greed and evil desires.
  - b. They perhaps do this because they do not want to face the possibly they will be held accountable for their wickedness.
  - c. Some then and now mock because they reject the miraculous, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ involves many miraculous things.

1. The eternal existence of Christ in heaven.	3. The existence of the angels who will come with Him.	5. The power to raise men from the dead and to transform them.
2. His return back to this earth.	4. The power to destroy the world and the universe.	6. The judgment of all men and blessing some with eternal blessings and condemning others to eternal hell.

### “Where Is The Promise Of His Coming?”

**2PE 3:4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For {ever} since the fathers fell asleep [died], all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation." NIV “Where is this ‘coming’ he promised?”**

1. “Fathers” may refer to the first or early generation of Christians of whom many had died.
  - a. The “fathers” might refer to the Old Testament “fathers” (the patriarchs). (Rom. 9:5, RSV “patriarchs”).
  - b. If this letter was written around 68 A.D., they may have argued that it has been nearly 40 years since Jesus returned to heaven.
  - c. Forty years sometimes seems very long to men.
  - d. They may have argued, “Things have moved along without disturbance since the creation, and there was no place for a supernatural event like the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming.
2. “koimao” [koi ma’ o] - [fell asleep] is a euphemism for died. (Jn. 11:13-15).

**JOH 11:13 Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that He was speaking of literal sleep. 14 Then Jesus therefore said to them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, 15 and I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, so**

that you may believe; but let us go to him. " See also Mk. 5:39; Acts 7:60; 1 Thess. 4:13, 14.

3. "His coming" - Jn. 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; 17:30, 31; Heb. 9:28; 1 Thess. 4:17.

## **Peter's First Argument**

### **World Not As Stable As False Teachers Affirmed**

**2PE 3:5** For when they maintain this, it [deliberately] escapes their notice that by the [powerful] word of God {the} heavens existed long ago and {the} earth was formed out of water and by water, NIV "they deliberately forget."

1. "earth was formed out of water and by water"

**GEN 1:6** Then God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." And God made the expanse, and separated the waters which were below the expanse from the waters which were above the expanse; and it was so. And God called the expanse heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day. Then God said, "Let the waters below the heavens be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so.

2. False teachers often wilfully omit known scriptures that contradict their views.

3. False teachers also twist scriptures and use them out of context to teach whatever please them.

4 "The word of God" refers to the creative utterances of God. (Gen. 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14; cf. Heb. 11:3).

### **"World At That Time Was Destroyed"**

**2PE 3:6** through which the world at that time was destroyed [not annihilated], being flooded with water.

**GEN 7:11** In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on the same day all the fountains of the great deep burst open, and the floodgates of the sky were opened.

**GEN 7:12** And the rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights.

**1PE 3:20** who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through {the} water.

**2PE 2:5** and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;

- "kataklyuzo" [ka ta loo' zo] - to overwhelm with water, to submerge, deluge

1. The "seven others" are not called "godly," but it is implied.

2. God did not save them being ungodly and punish all the other ungodly. (Acts 10:34, 35).

### **"Present Heaven And Earth"**

**2PE 3:7 But the present heavens and earth [the universe] by His [same powerful] word are being reserved [laid up] for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction [eternal misery] of ungodly men.**

- “thesaurizo” [thay sow ree’ zo] - “to reserve, to heap up, keep in store.”
  - Matt. 6:19, 20; Lk. 12:21; Rom. 2:5; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 12:14; Jas. 5:3.
1. Paul gave this warning.

**2TH 1:7 and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, 8 dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 And these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, See 2 Pet. 2:9**

2. God will rescue all the godly - not one will perish. See 2 Pet. 2:10.

#### **Notes:**

1. The word of God which had creative power also has sustaining power. (Heb. 1:3). “upholds all things by the word of His power.”
2. “Destruction” [apoleia, apo’ lay a] does not mean annihilation, but banishment from God and eternal punishment. (Matt. 25:30, 46).

### **Peter’s Second Argument**

Passing of time means nothing to God

**2PE 3:8 But do not let this one {fact} escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.**

**PSA 90:4 For a thousand years in Thy sight Are like yesterday when it passes by, Or {as} a watch in the night.**

1. The language here does not mean that God always reckons a 1000 years as day.
2. It means that time means nothing to the Eternal One. God is timeless. Finite man thinks in term of time, but time will end when the universe ends.
3. A delay of even thousands of years is as nothing to the God who has always been and always will be.

### **Peter’s Third Argument**

Delay Due To God’s Longsuffering

**2PE 3:9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient [longsuffering] toward you, not wishing for any to perish [the eternally lost] but for all to come to repentance [change of hearts].**

1. God’s delay is not due to weakness or indifference, but His desire is for all men to be saved.

1TI 2:4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.	ACT 10:34 And opening his mouth, Peter said: "I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality, 35 but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right, is welcome to Him.
--	---

2. **Man often fails to keep promises.**

a. Promise more than he can do.	e. May seek to change or alter the promise.
b. May die and not be able to fulfill promises	f. May not have what he promised.
c. He may forget his promises	g. Conditions may arise making it impossible for him to fulfill it.
d. He may refuse to keep promises	

3. God keeps all His promises.

- a. He is absolutely faithful, and He has the power and the knowledge to back His promises.
- b. We can trust His every promise. (Heb. 13:4, 5).

### **The Day Of The Lord Will Come**

**2PE 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come [suddenly] like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works [everything in the world] will be burned up.**

- “roar” is from “rhoizedon” [roi zay don] meaning “a roar, a great noise.”
  - “like a thief” - 1 Thess. 5:2.
  - “with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God.” (1 Thess. 4:16).
  - He is coming with His angels (Matt. 16:27; 25:31), and His coming will be visible to all. (Rev. 1:7).
1. “stoicheion” [stoy kay on] - The “elements” may refer to the sun, stars, moon, etc. It might also refer to fire, air, earth, water, etc. that make up the universe.
  2. “will be burned up” - katakaio [ka ta ki’ o]
    - a. NIV, NEB “ will be laid bare.” Marshall “will be discovered.” “will be disclosed” - TCNT - “will be exposed” ESV
    - b. “will be discovered” is a reading of the Vatican and Sinaitic manuscripts.
      - 1)The form is the Future indic. Pass. 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular of “heuris’ko.” See Aleph B K P
      - 2) “heu ris’ko” - “to find, to discover.”
      - 3) This translation of “discover” is obscure, and does not fit the passage. (2 Pet. 3:7,11).
      - 4) It is likely a corruption that somehow made its way into the text.

5) If the word “found” or “discovered” is genuine, it may have the meaning “found (useless, perishable, destructible).

c. The Alexandrian has “burned up” and so does many major translations.

1) The form is 2 future indic. passive, 3<sup>rd</sup> person sing. of “katakaiō.”

2) “katakaiō” [ka ta ki’ o] is used in Matt. 3:12; 13:30, 40.

3) 2 Peter 3:7, 11,12.

3. Jesus taught He would come without warning. (Matt. 24:35-44)

**MAT 24:35 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words shall not pass away. 36 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. 37 "For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. 38 "For as in those days which were before the flood they were eating and drinking, they were marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, 39 and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so shall the coming of the Son of Man be. 40 "Then there shall be two men in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. 41 "Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken, and one will be left. 42 "Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming. 43 "But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. 44 "For this reason you be ready too; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will. See Luke 12:39, 40; 1 Thess. 5:2, 3.**

4. Heaven

a. Birds fly (Gen. 1:20).

**GEN 1:20 Then God said, "Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens."**

b. Sun, Moon and Planets (Gen. 1:16-18).

**GEN 1:16 And God made the two great lights, the greater light to govern the day, and the lesser light to govern the night; He made the stars also. 17 And God placed them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, 18 and to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness; and God saw that it was good.**

c. Third heaven (2 Cor. 12:1, 2-4).

**2CO 12:2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago-- whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know, God knows-- such a man was caught up to the third heaven. 3 And I know how such a man-- whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, God knows-- 4 was caught up into Paradise, and heard inexpressible words, which a man is not permitted to speak.**

- The “third heaven” and “paradise” are synonymous in this passage. (2 Cor. 12:2, 4).
- paradeisos [pa ra’ day sos]
- 1) among the Persians a grand enclosure or preserve, hunting ground, park, shady and well watered, in which wild animals, were kept for the hunt; it was enclosed by walls and furnished with towers for the hunters.
- 2) a garden, pleasure ground
- “Paradise” sometimes is the same as “Abraham’s bosom” - the abode of the righteous spirits after death. (Lk. 23:43). See Abraham’s bosom (Lk. 16:22).
- The word sometimes refers to heaven where God dwells. (Rev. 2:7). See Matt. 6:9.
- The “third heaven” is not “heaven” where God abides. (Jn. 3:13).

**JOH 3:13 "And no one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven, even the Son of Man.**

- See 1 Jn. 4:12; Exod. 33:20. - No one has ever seen God as He is, but God has appeared in various forms.

d. Heaven of heavens (1 Kgs. 8:27).

**1KI 8:27 "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain Thee, how much less this house which I have built! See Matt. 6:9**

3. The word “heavens” in this verse [2 Pet. 3:12] would refer to the heavens where “the birds fly” and to heavens where the sun, moon, stars, and planets are.
4. It appears to refer to the entire universe in this passage. There is no basis for making exceptions.
5. The earth and universe will be completely destroyed.
6. Our world is destined for fire (2 Pet. 3:7) - not to be a paradise.
7. Our citizenship is in heaven. (Phil. 3:20), and we have been instructed to lay up our treasures in heaven. (Matt 6:19-21).
  - a. The hope of heaven has been laid up for us. (Col. 1:5).
  - b. “to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, (1 Pet. 1:4).
8. Jesus is not returning to the earth, but the saints will meet Him in the air. (1 Thess. 4:13-18).
9. The One who created the universe (Gen. 1:1) will destroy it.
10. The created the world through His Son (Jn. 1:1-3), and He will destroy it at the second coming of His Son.

## Comments:

1. Men through sin and neglect may do a lot of damage to this world and may kill untold numbers, but they will not end the world.
2. **The Bible teaches that God will end the world** when He sends His Son again to conquer His enemies and to judge the world. (1 Cor. 15:23, 24). See Acts 2:34,35.
3. It is our place to prepare ourselves for eternity and to teach others the gospel and to make the world a better place, and not frustrate ourselves about the end of the world. (Matt. 25:12; 28:19,20).
4. It will come when God is ready.
  - a. Our conduct may have influence on God's decision (2 Pet. 3:12), but it will be God's decision.
  - b. God is Sovereign and answers to no one.
5. This does not mean we should be indifferent to the environment and evil, but we should not frustrate ourselves over the end of the world.
  - a. God sent His Son, the first time, when the time was exactly right. (Gal. 4:4).
  - b. He will send His Son, the second time, when the time is exactly right.

"Scripture taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE®,  
© Copyright 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation

Used by permission." ([www.Lockman.org](http://www.Lockman.org))