II Peter 3:1-9

Review...

- KNOWLEDGE of Christ...
 - o We have been GIVEN Grace and Peace by multiplied...
 - o We have been GIVEN all things that pertain to life and godliness...
 - o We have been GIVEN GREATEST promises making us partakers of the divine nature...
 - o GIVEN to us through the WORD like a LIGHT that shines in a DARK place...
- IMPORTANT because there will be FALSE teachers...
 - o Who will come in secretly they are cunning II Corinthians 11:14
 - o They teach destructive heresies and MANY will follow blaspheming the way of Truth...
 - o Their motive is greed and their DESTRUCTION is certain!
- FALSE teachers CORRUPT others through LIES...
 - o Men who cannot stop sinning cursed like Balaam...
 - o SPOTS and BLEMISHES on the church who we wash away with the WORD of God...
 - o They sound PROFOUND but their words are EMPTY...
 - o They claim to be messengers of LIBERTY but they themselves are SLAVES of corruption...
 - o And those who believe their LIES are brought back into BONDAGE!

GODS PROMISE...

- 1ST THE PURPOSE... vs. 1-2
 - o 1st Need to REMEMBER... vs. 1
 - Beloved I now write to you this second [letter]!
 - As Peter turns to his THIRD topic in his FINAL letter before he went home...
 - He reminds us WHY he wrote the epistle he wrote it to the BELOVED [ἀγαπητός]
 - His epistle is addressed to those who love God and are loved by God!
 - And it was written to stir us up 7x in NT the root word of which means to wake up!
 - **Romans 13:11** "It is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed."
 - In both of which I stir up your pure minds!
 - STIR UP [διεγείρω] to continually [present] WAKE us up ...
 - PURE minds [εἰλικρινής] 2x in NT to be judged [κρίνω] by the sun [εἴλη]
 - Marble statues were very common in Roman culture one in every yard...
 - But when the masons were carving the statues they might make a mistake...
 - Rather than starting over they would use wax mixed with marble to cover their error...
 - It looked good until the heat of the sun would melt the wax revealing the sin!
 - When we first get up in the morning we might think we look pretty good...
 - But when we turn on the light get closer to a mirror lots of imperfections...
 - The closer we get to Jesus we WAKE UP and realize just how much of a sinner we are...
 - Diving us to hold all that much tighter to Jesus not trusting in ourselves!
 - I John 1:7 "If we walk in the light as He is in the light we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."
 - By way of reminder!
 - Peter opened up this epistle noting the importance of reminding us II Peter 1:13
 - Now he closes it with the same exhortation we need to WAKE UP...
 - It is too easy to fall into APATHY get comfortable in our Christian walk...

- We must JUDGE our thoughts by the LIGHT of the WORD so we can be PURE!
- o 2nd What to REMEMBER... vs. 2
 - That you 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 Savior!
 - We are to be REMEBER [passive] the words that were spoken TWO groups...
 - The words spoken before [in the past] by the Holy Prophets the Old Testament...
 - The commandment of the apostles of our Lord and Savior the New Testament...
 - What we NEED to remember is the entirety of Word of God the Bible…
 - Because when we are in the Word Old and New Testaments...
 - We will find that it shines the LIGHT of Christ into our lives giving us a PURE mind!
 - **Psalm 119:11** "Your word I have hidden in my heart that I might not sin against You!"
- 2^{ND} The scoffers... vs. 3
 - o 1st Knowing this...
 - The RESULT of being in the WORD is that we will KNOW...
 - KNOW [γινώσκω] to UNDERSTAND [present] through our KNOWLEDGE of the WORD...
 - The inference is that if we are NOT in the WORD then we will NOT know!
 - If we are NOT well grounded in the WORD we are VULNERABLE...
 - We have seen there are FALSE teachers who try to deceive us keep us from following Jesus...
 - And if we listen to them we will be like a ship tossed about in a storm Ephesians 4:14
 - We will never KNOW where we are where we came from or where we are going!
 - It is only as we are ROOTED in the WORD that we will know truth from a lie!
 - John 17:17 "[Jesus said to the Father] Your word is truth."
 - o 2nd Scoffers will come...
 - SCOFFER [ἐμπαίκτης] 2x in NT also Jude 1:18 the noun form of the verb to MOCK...
 - MOCK [ἐμ π αίζω] 13x in NT all but two of them in relation to crucifying Jesus...
 - The gist of the word being someone who MOCKS Jesus refuses to believe in the gospel...
 - So men will [future] absolutely [indicative] come whose only purpose is to MOCK Jesus!
 - o 3rd The Last Days...
 - In the LAST DAYS a term that is often misunderstood we tend to think of **Revelation**...
 - The LAST DAYS began when the Holy Spirit was poured out on Pentecost Acts 2:17
 - And will continue right up to the rapture of the church I Thessalonians 4:16
 - In between these TWO events are the LAST DAYS when HARD times will come!
 - II Timothy 3:1 "In the last days perilous [χαλεπός] times will come..."
 - When Jesus came to the east side of the Sea of Galilee two men met him...
 - ullet They were so VIOLENT [χαλεπός] no one could pass by that way...
 - Even when the people tried to chain them up they broke the chains!
 - Why MOCKERS come in the LAST DAYS...
 - In basketball the first three quarters do not matter as much as the FOURTH quarter...
 - The team will play its HARDEST because they know the final bell is moments away!
 - Satan knows his time is SHORT so he is trying his hardest...
 - He is become VIOLENT hold nothing back to try and keep people from God...
 - Every cult false teaching and lie he can come up with is everywhere you look...
 - We need to KNOW not underestimate the dangerous times we live in!
 - o 4th Walking in their own lusts...
 - The MOTIVE of these MOCKERS is to walk after their own LUSTS [έ π ιθυμία]

- One EASY way to spot a MOCKER they are always in it for themselves...
- MOCKERS do not look to bless [help] they only look to PLEASE [ἐπιθυμία] themselves!
- **Philippians 3:17-19** "They are enemies of the Christ. Their future is eternal destruction. Their god is their appetite... all they think about is this life..."
- 3RD What scoffers say... vs. 4
 - o 1^{st} Where is the promise... vs. 4
 - Saying [present] Where is the promise of His coming!
 - The first question that MOCKERS bring up where is Jesus...
 - The PROMISE is that Jesus would come back for US John 14:1-3
 - At the end of the SEVEN years of Tribulation the DAY of the LORD **Revelation 6-18**
 - Jesus will come out of Heaven on a white horse King of Kings Revelation 19:16
 - He will return with US ten thousands of His saints Jude 1:14
 - He will arrive in Jerusalem and touch down on the Mount of Olives Acts 1:11
 - When He touches down the Mountain will split in TWO Zechariah 14:4
 - With one word he will defeat the Antichrist and his army II Thessalonians 2:8
 - And Jesus will JUDGE those who survive the Tribulation **Matthew 25:31-46**
 - Then He will establish His MILLENNIAL Kingdom Revelation 20:1-4
 - And we the CHURCH will rule and reign with Him for 1000 years I Corinthians 6:2-3
 - But it has been 2000 years and still Jesus has NOT returned...
 - The argument being if He has NOT come yet then maybe He NEVER will...
 - But BEFORE the TRIBULATION BEFORE the SECOND coming of Jesus...
 - The CHURCH must be RAPTURED [Latin of ἀρπάζω] I Thessalonians 4:14-17
 - No one KNOWS the day or hour only the Father in heaven Mark 13:32
 - Within a GENERATION of the REBIRTH of Israel May 14, 1948 Mark 13:28-32
 - Those who believe in Jesus will be CAUGHT up into heaven BEFORE the Tribulation!
 - Until then PREACH the Word…
 - Romans 11:25– "This will last only until the complete number of Gentiles comes to Christ."
 - There are a SET number of people who will receive Jesus as their savior...
 - ONLY God knows the number or who will be the LAST gentile to be saved...
 - But when the last PERSON to believe receives Jesus the RAPTURE happens!
 - We are NOT waiting for the RETURN of Jesus we are WAITING for the RAPTURE...
 - And although there is NOTHING we can do take make it come sooner...
 - We can PREACH the GOSPEL to everyone we KNOW...
 - Maybe someone we share with will be the LAST person to believe then the RAPTURE!
 - o 2nd All things continue...
 - Since the fathers fell asleep all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation!
 - The argument if you look BACK in time to when our fore FATHER died...
 - All the back to the BEGINNING NOTHING has ever CHANGED!
 - There is a scientific word for this view uniformitarianism...
 - The universe has been around for BILLIONS of years it will continue for BILLIONS more...
 - Nothing has CHANGED nothing ever will ever CHANGE life goes on!
 - My father always talked about the return of Jesus he hoped to see the RAPTURE...
 - But he passed away and the world went on…
 - It would be EASY to think the same will happen to me just like my father!
 - We tend to think Jesus will NOT come back in our lifetime it has NOT happened yet...
 - But we are in the LAST days the RAPTURE could happen next week today right now…
 - Are we READY if the RAPTURE was today what would Jesus find us doing...
 - This is a VERY important message both as an ENCOURAGEMENT and WARNING...

- Jesus is coming VERY soon that means HEAVEN is not far away...
- We may NOT know the day and the hour but we must be prepared!
- I John 3:3 "Everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself..."
- 4TH What scoffers forget... vs. 5-7
 - o 1st Willfully forget... vs. 5
 - For this they willfully forget!
 - Willfully FORGET [λανθάνω] chose to HIDE or keep SECRET...
 - It is not that SCOFFERS do not know the TRUTH it is that they do not WANT the TRUTH...
 - They know Jesus is COMING but they DENY what they know because of their SIN!
 - **Romans 1:28** "As they did not like to retain God in their knowledge God gave them over to a debased mind."
 - Suppose you stole a THOUSAND pesos from a friend and he saw you do it...
 - Then the next day you saw him you would feel extremely embarrassed...
 - Unless you went to him and repented you would likely try and avoid him!
 - That is what happens to those who do NOT come to God in repentance...
 - God SAW their SIN therefore they are extremely EMBARRASSED to be around Him…
 - They try and AVOID Him some try and DENY Jesus will ever RETURN...
 - Because by DENYING they can fool themselves into DENYING the judgment of their sin!
 - o 2^{nd} The Word of God... vs. 5
 - By the word of God the heavens were of old!
 - SCOFFERS forget that by the Word of God the heavens were of old...
 - **Genesis 1:1** "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."
 - Who CREATED the earth Jesus the WORD of God **Genesis 1:3**
 - **Colossians 1:16** "By Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth visible and invisible."
 - **Hebrews 1:2** "Through whom also He made the worlds."
 - **John 1:3** "Jesus created everything there is. Nothing exists that he did not make."
 - What about EVOLUTION...
 - There are only TWO possibilities for the origin of life DESIGN or ACCIDENT...
 - Because SCOFFERS choose to deny the CREATOR they believe life is all an ACCIDENT!
 - We are familiar with FACEBOOK it is a PROGRAM that uses 62 MILLION lines of CODE...
 - If one WORD in the code is misspelled then the whole PROGRAM can crash!
 - But suppose I tried to convince you all that CODE was the result of an ACCIDENT...
 - They RANDOMLY formed every WORD in the right place so we can use FACEBOOK!
 - **Psalms 14:1** "The fool has said in his heart There is no God."
 - In contrast human DNA is made up of over THREE billion lines of CODE [base pairs]
 - How much more foolish to think we are an ACCIDENT deny the God who created us!
 - FOOLS who claim to be the wise...
 - **Romans 1:22** "Professing to be wise they became fools [μωρός]."
 - More often than not today higher EDUCATION is turning out FOOLS [morons]
 - Because they are not teaching the Bible about the consequences of sin...
 - Instead the students are told there is no right or wrong it is all relative...
 - There is no sin as long as you think it is ok it is good!
 - **Judges 21:25** "Everyone did what was right in his own eyes."
 - Do not mistake INFORMATION for WISDOM schools might give LOTS of INFORMATION...
 - But the INFORMATION of men if we listen can blind us to our NEED for Jesus...

- That is not WISDOM it is FOOLISH because it keeps us from God!
- o 3rd The FLOOD... vs. 5-6
 - The earth standing out of water and in water!
 - On day THREE of creation God separated the WATERS Genesis 1:6-8
 - Just as there was WATER on the earth there was WATER above it...
 - A layer of WATER above the atmosphere that would have shielded heated earth...
 - The sun would have heated the WATER making the earth ONE climate...
 - And would have protected men from ultraviolet rays long lives!
 - By which the world that then existed perished being flooded with water!
 - Much of the world we know today was created by the CATASTROPHE of the FLOOD...
 - It is POSSIBLE the mountains were not as HIGH before the FLOOD...
 - And before the FLOOD there were no continents or oceans...
 - It would still take an enormous amount of WATER to cover the whole earth!
 - **Genesis 7:11** "On that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up and the windows of heaven were opened..."
 - It was not just RAIN FOUNTAINS of the deep huge water underground aquifers...
 - And the WINDOWS of Heaven opened the layer of WATER above the clouds...
 - This collapsed pouring all the WATER down onto the earth!
 - The evidence of the FLOOD...
 - The evidence of the flood the judgment of God is all around FOSSILS OCEANS...
 - Fossils do not form under normal conditions it takes WATER pressure and mud...
 - We have fossils of whales on top of mountains how do you suppose that happened!
 - Our world is a one giant testimony to the judgment of God...
 - Yet most ignore the evidence they are just like the people in the days of NOAH!
 - Luke 17:27 "They ate they drank they married... until the day that Noah entered the ark and the flood came and destroyed them all."
 - So many people today are just going about their daily lives OBLIVIOUS...
 - They assume they have all the TIME in the world tomorrow will be just like today...
 - They do realize that Jesus is coming SOON the JUDGMENT is right around the corner!
- o 4th The FIRE... vs. 7
 - The heavens and earth which are now preserved by the same Word!
 - The same WORD Jesus who created the world in SIX days...
 - Is the same WORD who allowed by His WORD for the world to be JUDGED by WATER...
 - Is the same WORD who holds the world together today!
 - Are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men!
 - He holds it all together reserved for the FIRE **Colossians 1:16**
 - For the DESTRUCTION [ἀπώλεια] of those who do not FEAR [ἀσεβής] God!
 - If you hold TWO positively magnets together they REPEL each other...
 - Within every ATOM there are REPELLING forces that should cause it to fall apart...
 - Scientists today struggle to explain what holds an ATOM together!
 - But what science does NOT know the Bible answers for us...
 - Jesus literally HOLDS the whole universe together atom by atom...
 - And when He lets go the whole universe would just explode in a fiery blaze!
 - **II Peter 3:10** "The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise and the elements will melt with fervent heat both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up."
- 5TH Not SLOW... vs. 8-9
 - o 1st The TIMING... vs. 8

- Beloved do not forget this one thing...
 - With the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day!
 - Since Jesus JUDGED the world with the FLOOD in the days of Noah...
 - And we KNOW He will JUDGE the world again in the FIRE [after the tribulation]
 - Since it has NOT happened yet when will all this take place!
 - BELOVED [ἀγαπητός] we must NOT [imperative] FORGET [λανθάνω] one thing...
 - A day with the Lord is like a thousand years and a thousand years is like a day!
 - Paul thought Jesus might come back in his lifetime Philippians 4:5
 - James thought Jesus might come back in his lifetime James 5:8
 - John thought Jesus might come back in his lifetime Revelation 22:20
 - But the Lords TIMING is not our TIMING He is not in a RUSH...
 - We think that WAITING on the Lord means a couple of HOURS maybe WEEKS...
 - Following Jesus means being PATIENT willing to wait on His TIMING!
 - **Psalm 27:14** "Wait I say on the LORD!"
- The prophecy of TWO days...
 - **Hosea 6:2** "After two days He will revive us. On the third day He will raise us up."
 - The nation of Israel was destroyed in 70 A.D. the destruction of the Temple...
 - For 2000 years [TWO days] they were lost until the nation was reborn in 1948...
 - When Jesus returns Israel will be lifted up on the THIRD day [1000 years]
 - Perhaps speaking of the ultimate restoration of Israel in the Millennial Kingdom!
- o 2nd The REASON... vs. 9
 - The Lord is not slack concerning His promise as some count slackness!
 - Lord [κύριος] the MASTER the one in CHARGE...
 - Is not SLACK [βραδύνω] to be DELAYED [present] to be SLOW…
 - Concerning His PROMISE as some men count being SLOW the SCOFFERS...
 - The context being the RETURN of Jesus which concludes with the JUDGMENT...
 - And ultimately the DESTRUCTION of the earth by FIRE!
 - But is longsuffering toward us...
 - Not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance!
 - LONGSUFFERING [μακροθυμέω] compound word LONG [μακρο] ANGER [θυμέω]
 - God is not SLOW to COME back He is SLOW to get ANGRY and JUDGE...
 - His PURPOSE in WAITING is so that men would NOT perish [eternal destruction]
 - Instead WILLING that ALL men would COME [χωρέω] to have ROOM to REPENT...
 - Peter is NOT saying that ALL men will be saved...
 - He is saying by not JUDGING already God gave us TIME to REPENT and be saved!
 - If Jesus had come back 30 years ago how many of us would be in heaven!
 - Just because Jesus has NOT come yet does NOT mean that He is not coming...
 - God has shown amazing PATIENCE because He desires for MANY to be saved!