

II Peter 3:1-9

REVIEW...

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

GODS PROMISE...

- 1ST - THE PURPOSE... vs. 1-2
 - 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 [εὐλκρινής] - 2x in NT - to be judged [κρίνω] by the sun [ἥλιος]
 - 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 REMEMBER [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!”
- 2ND – 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 [ἐμπαίζω] - 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...
 - 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 [ἐπιθυμία]

- 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**
 - 1st - 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!
 - 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
 - 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!
 - 2nd – 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 [ἄσεβής] 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!