2Peter chap. 3

Council of Ephesus

1 This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: 2 That ye 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 Saviour: 3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, 4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. 5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: 6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: 7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. 8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. 11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, 12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. 14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless. 15 And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; 16 As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction. 17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness. 18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. One of the hardest things for most Christians who haven't had the privilege of a private education is reconciling the creation account of Genesis with the theory of evolution. I went to public school in the 70's and 80's and back in those days no one ever questioned what was being taught, it was just accepted without a second thought. So after my conversion experience I knew for the first time that God was real and slowly began to realize that everything I had been taught about the natural world was far from accurate. Evolution is the devil's favorite lie because it writes God completely out of the picture and imperceptibly turns people into atheists. Today with all the advances in modern science many are coming to the conclusion that evolution simply doesn't work as a model for life. Only life can beget life, it doesn't happen by random chance with long ages of time. Some object to using the scriptures to gain insight into the natural world but if God's word is truly inspired, it speaks accurately to all areas of knowledge including the scientific realm.

For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: The Jewish historian Josephus mentions a crystalline firmament that God created on the 2nd day that divided the waters above the firmament from those below, implying that the pre-flood world had a canopy. A crystalline canopy would have had many beneficial effects on life from a denser atmosphere with more oxygen to filtering out harmful UV radiation to a greenhouse effect where dews from the earth watered lush vegetation Gen. 2:5,6. There is evidence in the creation account and fossil record that plants, insects, animals and people were much larger and lived longer. So many Christians love to speculate on Nephilim giants never realizing that everything was gigantic including Adam and Eve. The waters on top of the firmament canopy would have increased atmospheric pressure which is confirmed by modern medical science in their use of hyperbaric chambers. Hyperbaric chambers enhance the body's natural healing process by increasing pressure and oxygen which is basically simulating the pre-flood world. The world before the flood far from being akin to the caveman era was a paradise for men and women.

The creationist Carl Baugh who has done extensive research on the earth's electromagnetic field has postulated that the EMF was at least ten times stronger in the past. Other benefits of a crystalline canopy would have been to absorb cosmic radiation causing radiocarbon dating not to work and recharge the earth's EMF that all living systems depend on. At the time of the flood the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven (canopy) were opened and the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights Gen. 7:11,12. One of the great arguments against the flood is that it would be impossible for there to be enough water to cover the mountains we have today. But we need to remember that before the flood

the earth was likely much smoother and when the plates of the earth's crust were broken up and later smashed together the edges pushed upwards forming the more rugged and taller mountains we see today. The rain falling on the poles would have created the ice caps and the massive amounts of water erosion would have created the Grand Canyon in months not millions of years. There is so much evidence that debunks evolution and the final piece is when God set the rainbow in the heavens after the flood because before that time there was no rainfall like we have today Gen. 9:13-16.

The year was 431 and the First Ecumenical Council of Ephesus was convened to deal with the teaching of Nestorius the Archbishop of Constantinople. Nestorius rejected the long standing use of Theotokos as a title for Mary as the 'Mother of God' or 'God-bearer'. As a firm opponent of the Arian heresy, he fell into the opposite error. Nestorius believed that no union between the human and Divine was possible. If such a union of the human and Divine occurred, Nestorius believed that Christ could not truly be con-substantial with God and con-substantial with us. The Council denounced Nestorius' teaching as erroneous and decreed that Jesus was one person (hypostasis) and not two separate persons, yet possessing both a human and Divine nature. Calling Mary the Theotokos or the Mother of God was never meant to suggest that Mary was coeternal with God, or that she existed before Jesus Christ or God existed. The Church acknowledges the mystery in the words of the ancient hymn: "He whom the entire universe could not contain was contained within your womb, O Theotokos." The Council also condemned pelagianism which was a rejection of the biblical concept of grace.

O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt (Matt. 15:28). The Canaanite woman who was desperately seeking healing for her daughter revealed the true power of a mother's faith and love. Mary, the Theotokos, in whose motherhood the vocation to motherhood bestowed by God on every woman is raised to its highest level. In transforming culture so that it supports life, women occupy a place, in thought and action, which is unique and decisive. It depends on them to promote a "new feminism" which rejects the temptation of imitating models of "male domination", in order to acknowledge and affirm the true genius of women in every aspect of the life of society, and overcome all discrimination, violence and exploitation. Men who have habitually oppressed and sexually exploited women will have a terrible record to meet one day and the person they answer to will not be St. Peter. Most Christians are not aware of this but Holy Mary practically runs heaven and the Holy Trinity are perfectly fine with it. God very much delegates authority among his created beings and Mary is the highest and most exalted of all his created beings and she very much does command respect for women of all nations and kindreds and people and tongues.

Faith princess is the model of virtue and piety in the kingdom of love. She is an exquisite blue-eyed beauty from the Rhineland who ever lives to spread cheer and hope wherever she goes. I have only ever seen her get mad one time when some poor dolt spoke some words of doubt in her hearing. She slapped him so hard in the face that some of his teeth were knocked loose and then promptly banished him from the kingdom for twenty years. A 20 year banishment is one of the worst punishments that can be handed down because the offender gets to think about his crime for twenty years which is a slow form of torture. One day after eating her favorite meal of bratwurst with cheese pretzels and chugging one to many beers she decided to go for a walk on the palace grounds. After some time she ended up at the slopes of Mt. Eridani which is one of the tallest mountains in the kingdom of love. With a giggle she said, Be thou removed and be thou cast to yonder place. At these words the base of the mountain exploded in a cloud of rock and debris with broken geysers of water and lifted into the air and was set in a meadow down below. In this meadow was a Doubting Castle that was kept by one Giant Despair that was flattened like a pancake. After this a voice from heaven cried out saying, put the mountain back, Princess! - and she obeyed the word of the LORD. Displays of faith like this are seldom if ever seen in our world but theoretically possible if one can court the favor of the princess of faith.