

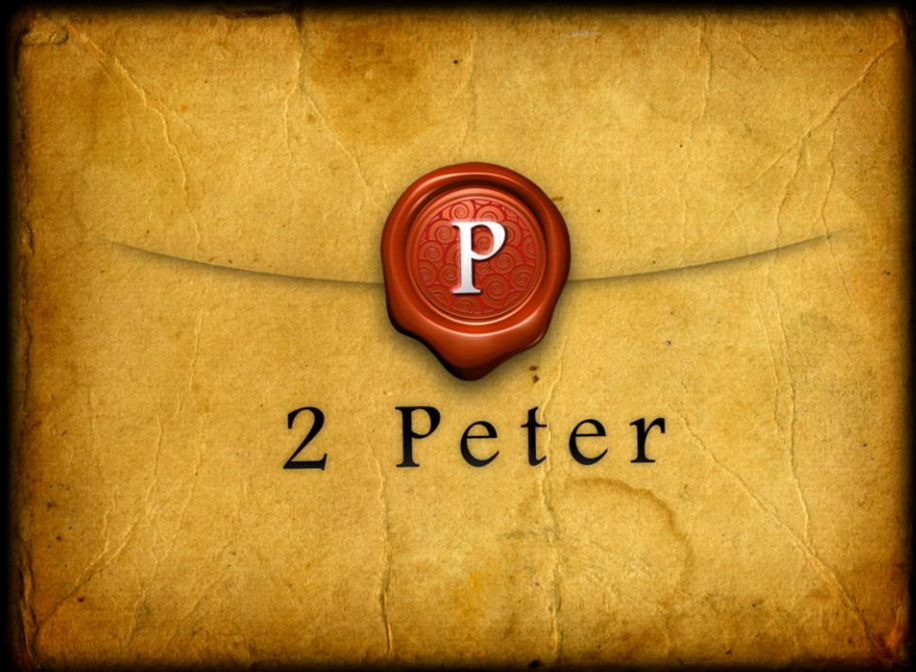
THE VILLAGE CHURCH

2 Peter

Remembering Truth
When it Really Counts

*“... a primer to guard
against false teaching”*

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2 Peter 3:1 – 10

- ¹ Dear friends, this is now my second letter to you. I have written both of them as reminders to stimulate you to wholesome thinking. ² I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Savior through your apostles.
³ Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires.

2 Peter 3:1 – 10

- ⁴ They will say, “Where is this ‘coming’ he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.” ⁵ But they deliberately forget that long ago by God’s word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water. ⁶ By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed.

2 Peter 3:1 – 10

- ⁷ By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.
- ⁸ But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:1 – 10

- ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

Answers to the False Teachers

1. Scripture

1. Prophets

1. Isaiah 66:15-16

2. Malachi 4:1-3

3. From the first prophet to the last, they had heard the constant theme of the Day of the Lord

2. Apostles (note the same level of authority)

1. Rev 19:11-16

2. Constant theme in New Testament writings

Answers to the False Teachers

2. History

1. Peter challenges their Uniformitarianism by pointing to **creation and the flood**.

1. God creates and sustains the universe by His Word.

1. John 1:1-3

2. Heb 1:1-3

2. God uses **water** in creation and destruction

1. Gen 1:6-9

2. Gen 7:11-23

3. He will one day use **fire**

1. Isaiah 66 (already mentioned)

2. 2 Thess 1:6-8

Answers to False Teachers

3. Eternity – the timelessness of God

1. God's perspective on time is much different than ours

1. God is eternal (omnitemporal)

- a. Isaiah 57:15
- b. Psalm 90:2
- c. Psalm 102:11-12, 24-28

2. God transcends time

- d. Gen 1:1-5
- e. Jude 25

Answers to False Teachers

3. God's Relation to Humanity in Time

1. His Great Gift
2. One aspect of Omniscience

2. “Do not forget” implies same deliberate forgetfulness of false teachers – (don't let them distort your thinking)

Answers to False Teachers

4. The Character of God

1. He is not loitering

1. Galatians 4:4
2. Isa 25:1

2. He is patient

1. Joel 2:12-13
2. Matt 18:21-35
3. Romans 2:4

Day of the Lord

1. No one will see it coming

1. 1 Thess 5:2

2. Rev 3:1-3

3. Matt 24:36-51

2. Judgment and Cleansing

1. What are we speaking about here?

Old Earth: Destroyed or Renewed?

- Burned up / utterly destroyed or refined / renewed / transformed?
 1. The perspective of the Earth NOT remaining forever
 - a. Psalm 102:25-26
 - b. Luke 21:33
 - c. 2 Peter 3:10
 - d. Revelation 21:1
 - The perspective of the Earth remaining forever (Ecclesiastes 1:4; Psalm 78:69)
 - “Destroy” doesn’t have to mean absolute or final destruction, but a temporary destruction reversed by resurrection and restoration”

Old Earth: Destroyed or Renewed?

- Redemption means restoration
 - Christ will “remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything” (Acts 3:21)... not “destroy” everything and start over
 - The context of 2 Peter 3:10
 - The earth was “destroyed” through water in the Flood
 - The flood was cataclysmic and devastating, but didn’t obliterate it and cause it to cease to exist
 - A small group of people (Noah and his family) and the animals were rescued in order to re-inhabit the new world made ready by God’s cleansing judgment
 - This next time it will be “destroyed” through fire, which will permanently eliminate sin
 - In the same way, it won’t make the New Earth uninhabitable
 - “Burned up” could also be translated “laid bare” or “exposed” and was done that way in the earlier Greek manuscripts

Old Earth: Destroyed or Renewed?

- The meaning of “new”
 - “Heaven and earth” is the entire universe (Revelation 21:1)
 - “New” is not used as “new as opposed to the old”, but as “new in quality and superior in character”
 - The idea is that the “old” has become obsolete and should be replaced by what is “new” (i.e. – New Covenant)
 - Understood better is that when we accept Christ we have “become a new creation, old things have passed away, behold new things have come” (2 Corinthians 5:17)
 - Resurrection is about continuity... the same body which was destroyed is reconstructed into the new
 - God will re-gather all He needs from a scorched and disfigured Earth and raise it to become the New Earth... the “destruction” will be temporal and partial, but the renewal will be eternal and complete
 - The earth’s death is no more final than our own!
 - Earth’s fiery “end” will open straight into a glorious new beginning!!

Bridge to Today

- The present pressures of disbelief
- The present need of Hope