

15 - THE HOPE OF THE LORD'S RETURN (2 PETER 3:1-18)

I. The Call to Remembrance (2 Peter 3:1-9)

A. The Purpose of the Letter (2 Peter 3:1-2)

1. As a Stimulant (2 Peter 3:1)

- Peter is writing them to stimulate their pure minds with reminders.

2. The Object of Remembrance (2 Peter 3:2)

- He wants to remind them of the Old and New Testament scriptures.

B. The Reality of Scoffers (2 Peter 3:3-7)

1. The Presence of Scoffers (2 Peter 3:3)

- In the last days, scoffers will arise who are driven by their lusts.

2. Their Accusation (2 Peter 3:4)

- They will point out that the promise of the second coming has not been fulfilled.

3. Their Forgetfulness (2 Peter 3:5-6)

- They have forgotten that God's word created and brought judgment.

C. God's timing (2 Peter 3:7-9)

1. The Future of the World (2 Peter 3:7)

- The heavens and earth as we know it are reserved for judgment.

2. God and Time (2 Peter 3:8)

- God's timing is not our timing.

3. The Patience of God (2 Peter 3:9)

- God is not delaying the fulfillment of His promise.
- God's patience allows the lost to find salvation.

II. The Day of the Lord (2 Peter 3:10-13)

A. The Day of the Lord Described (2 Peter 3:10)

- The coming of Jesus Christ will happen suddenly.

Facing The Coming Storm: 1 & 2 Peter, Jude

Biblical Note: The Day (Last Day) (The Day of the Lord)

The Day is referred to in the Old and New Testament in many ways (Day of Christ, Day of the Lord, The Last Day). It refers to the return of Jesus Christ for believers and the judgment of unbelievers. It will signal the completion of God's redemptive work. Paul's letters are filled with longings for the day when Jesus Christ will manifest himself in glory and establish his kingdom. See: Matthew 7:22; 1 Corinthians 1:8; 3:13; 5:5; 2 Corinthians 1:14; Philippians 1:6,10; 2:16; 2 Thessalonians 2:2-3, 2 Timothy 4:8; 1 Peter 3:10.

- The world as we know it will cease to exist.

B. A Proper Mindset (2 Peter 3:11-12)

- Because our world is headed to this end, we must be mindful of how we live.
- We must be watchful for the coming of the Lord.

C. A Proper Hope (2 Peter 3:13)

- In hope, we look to the coming of the new heavens and the new earth.

III. Conclusion (2 Peter 3:14-18)

A. The Exhortation (2 Peter 3:14-16)

1. Be Prepared (2 Peter 3:14)

- Live in such a way that you will be found blameless when Christ returns.

2. The Lord's Desire (2 Peter 3:15)

- The patience of God allows for the salvation of others.

3. The Written Testimony (2 Peter 3:16)

- This is the testimony of scripture including the works of Paul.

B. The Warning (2 Peter 3:17)

- We must be on guard against anything that would lead us astray.

C. The Encouragement (2 Peter 3:18a)

- We are to grow in grace and in our relationship with Jesus Christ.

D. The Doxology (2 Peter 3:18b)

- Peter gives glory to Christ forever and ever.