

## What is this World Coming to?

Foundations of the BFM 2000 / 2 Peter 3:1–13

### Introduction

In a recent 24 hour period, major news sources have carried disturbing reports of many recent events:

- Russia and Ukraine are at war - recently reports stated that Russia could blow up a dam and flood 80 cities in Ukraine.
- Transgender policies are flooding our school systems
- Two employees are shot at Dallas hospital - one killed, one wounded
- Ian's death toll could number in thousands
- One could continue to deal with food/water shortages, fuel prices, loss of labor on jobs,
- and On Thursday, ESPN's Adam Rittenberg gave Florida a C- grade for the Napier hire based on the early returns.<sup>1</sup>

Just like a hurricane in the ocean being tracked for its projected track and landfall so residents can make preparations - The reality is that all of the above are clues and indicates as pieces of the puzzle of what is coming.

In Peter's second letter, he reminds believers of what they have in Christ and through the power of the Gospel. The theme verse in 2 Peter 3:1 lets us know that he is writing to "stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance." Peter stirs up a remembrance of what the Scriptures teach about the end of time. He shares a scriptural perspective on what the world is coming to. These are reminders of the certain expected end that this world, as we know it, will come to.

Last week we looked at Genesis 7 and the flood of Noah and God's judgment upon the whole earth for the wickedness of man. In this passage Peter is dealing with the judgement that is yet to come. There is a false teaching in Peter's day as well as ours, that denies that God will judge the world.

Arnold Swartzeneiger - "I'll Be Back!" Peter is reminding us that Jesus is coming back (Read Text)

## **Transition:**

One of the popular TV shows is the fictional drama Without A Trace. It is set in NYC's special FBI missing persons unit. Each episode is devoted to finding one missing person.

You can read headlines when you type in the word vanished and get a feeling of dread when you read about different people who simply vanished with no explanation. Families are devastated. Questions come to mind - Where did they go? What could have happened? How could they be there one moment and gone the next?

The Bible deals with a time when a similar event will happen. The difference is that it won't be an isolated event. It will be global and simultaneous. Suddenly, millions will vanish from the earth without a trace!

We call this the rapture - Christ fulfills His [John 14:1-3](#) promise made to the disciples. Paul's encouragement to the Thessalonians will become a reality.

### **1 Thessalonians 4:16**

<sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

The rapture will trigger a 7 year tribulation period on earth while the saints are at the marriage supper of the Lamb in heaven.

The Second Coming of Christ will begin His 1000 year reign on the earth followed by Satan being loosed for a season. Satan will deceive many and judgment day takes place at The Great White Throne. Satan, all of his demonic agents, and every sinner that has refused to repent and trust Christ as Lord and Savior will be there that day. Death and Hell will be delivered up that day like a man awaiting his sentence in the county jail who is sent to trial. Ultimately Christ will sentence those in that judgment into an eternal lake of fire. Those who have trusted Christ will be forever with Christ in all of eternity. The old heaven and earth are done away with and the New Heaven and the New Earth are revealed.

Peter is writing with this in view - the earth has an appointment with destruction one future day. This Christian view is often ignored and scoffed at. That's why Peter writes this chapter in his letter. TT - He writes establish some reminders for every Christian that holds a scriptural view of the end times.

## 1. Remember the Scriptures - v. 1-2

<sup>1</sup> This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in *both* which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: <sup>2</sup> 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:

v. 1- stir up your minds by way of remembrance

v. 2 - that you may be mindful of the words -

There is a political obsession with the climate. You can google the word climate and find an overwhelming amount of recent news. There are articles about climate change innovation, climate-friendly technology and transportation, special committee meeting briefs and so much more. This subject has become a central talking point for politics.

The Scriptures are clear that we are to be good stewards of the natural resources God has given us. We are to have dominion over the earth. But the reality is that the world headed towards an unstoppable catastrophe that will result in the entire world being destroyed and a new heaven and new earth taking its place.

A. The Words of The Holy Prophets -

2 Peter 1:21 Hebrews 1:1

**2 Peter 1:21 KJV 1900**

<sup>21</sup> For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake *as they were* moved by the Holy Ghost.

**Hebrews 1:1 KJV 1900**

<sup>1</sup> God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

A man was having a discussion with a lost person that questioned the validity of the OT Scriptures. He only believed what Jesus said.

The man soon learned that Jesus affirmed the OT Scriptures quite a lot. He quoted the Old Testament 78 times, the Pentateuch alone 26 times. He quoted from Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Deuteronomy, Psalms, Proverbs, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Amos, Jonah, Micah, and Malachi. He referred to the Old Testament as “The Scriptures,” “the word of God,” and “the wisdom of God.”

The apostles quoted 209 times from the Old Testament and considered it “the oracles of God.”

With that as our foundation, what exactly does the OT say concerning what the earth is coming to?

John MacArthur has often referred to the earth as a “disposable planet”. He uses the example of a styrofoam cup. You wouldn’t really try to permanently save a styrofoam cup, would you? The earth is like that cup. Relative to God’s plan and to eternity, this planet is a Styrofoam cup that has a very brief usage.

**Joel 1:15 KJV 1900**

<sup>15</sup> Alas for the day! for the day of the Lord *is* at hand,

And as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come.

**Zechariah 14:1 KJV 1900**

<sup>1</sup> Behold, the day of the Lord cometh,

And thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee.

**Zechariah 14:3–4 KJV 1900**

<sup>3</sup> Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations,

As when he fought in the day of battle.

<sup>4</sup> And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives,

Which *is* before Jerusalem on the east,

And the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west,

*And there shall be a very great valley;*

And half of the mountain shall remove toward the north,

And half of it toward the south.

**Zechariah 14:12–13 KJV 1900**

<sup>12</sup> And this shall be the plague wherewith the Lord will smite all the people

That have fought against Jerusalem;

Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet,

And their eyes shall consume away in their holes,

And their tongue shall consume away in their mouth.

<sup>13</sup> And it shall come to pass in that day,

*That a great tumult from the Lord shall be among them;*

And they shall lay hold every one on the hand of his neighbour,

And his hand shall rise up against the hand of his neighbour.

**B. The Words of The Lord Jesus Christ**

**Matthew 24:21 KJV 1900**

<sup>21</sup> For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

**Matthew 24:36–39 KJV 1900**

<sup>36</sup> But of that day and hour knoweth no *man*, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. <sup>37</sup> But as the days of Noe *were*, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. <sup>38</sup> For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the

ark, <sup>39</sup> And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Matthew 24:35 is key

**Matthew 24:35 KJV 1900**

<sup>35</sup> Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

### C. The Words of The Apostles

**1 Thessalonians 5:2 KJV 1900**

<sup>2</sup> For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

**2 Peter 3:10 KJV 1900**

<sup>10</sup> 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.

**2 Peter 2:4–5 KJV 1900**

<sup>4</sup> For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast *them* down to hell, and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; <sup>5</sup> And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth *person*, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;

**Revelation 20:11 KJV 1900**

<sup>11</sup> And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

**Revelation 21:1–5 KJV 1900**

<sup>1</sup> And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. <sup>2</sup> And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, *and be* their God. <sup>4</sup> And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are

passed away. <sup>5</sup> And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

## 2. Refuse the Scoffers - v. 3-7

### 2 Peter 3:3-7

<sup>3</sup> Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> 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: <sup>6</sup> Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: <sup>7</sup> 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.

In chapter 2 Peter gives a picture of these scoffers:

False prophets

perish in their own corruption

unrighteous

like irrational animals

insatiable for sin; greedy

like wells without water

like dogs returning to their vomit and a hog that wallows in mire

A. Indicates the last days - v. 3 -

### 2 Peter 3:3 KJV 1900

<sup>3</sup> Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

### 2 Peter 2:1 KJV 1900

<sup>1</sup> But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

B. Built on a Godless Ideology - v. 4 -

**2 Peter 3:4 KJV 1900**

<sup>4</sup> 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.

Uniformitarianism is a geological principle that basically teaches that the present earth is the way it is simply by just doing its own thing. It operates as it always has on its own.

The problem with this is multi-faceted but the root is that it moves an active God and makes Him passive. He created the earth - okay - but then He left it to basically do its own thing and He passively sits back and has no active role.

C. Willful Ignorance of Creation and the flood- v. 5-7

**2 Peter 3:5-7 KJV 1900**

<sup>5</sup> 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: <sup>6</sup> Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: <sup>7</sup> 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.

There is a complete disregard for two major events:

one being creation - the other being a judgment by flood

Creation - Genesis 1:7

Flood - Genesis 7:10

**Genesis 7:10 KJV 1900**

<sup>10</sup> And it came to pass after seven days, that the waters of the flood were upon the earth.

40 days and nights it rained

### **3. Rejoice in the Savior - v. 8-10**

**2 Peter 3:8-10 KJV 1900**

<sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> 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.

A. Concerning Time - v. 8 -

**2 Peter 3:8 KJV 1900**

<sup>8</sup> 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.

**Deuteronomy 33:27 KJV 1900**

<sup>27</sup> The eternal God *is thy* refuge,

And underneath *are* the everlasting arms:

And he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee;

And shall say, Destroy *them*.

B. Concerning His Promises - v. 9 -

**2 Peter 3:9 KJV 1900**

<sup>9</sup> 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.

**1 Peter 3:20 KJV 1900**

<sup>20</sup> Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.

C. Concerning Salvation & Judgment - v. 10

**2 Peter 3:10 KJV 1900**

<sup>10</sup> 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.

## 4. Respond in Sincerity - v. 11-13

2 Peter 3:11–13 KJV 1900

<sup>11</sup> *Seeing* then *that* all these things shall be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought ye to be in *all* holy conversation and godliness, <sup>12</sup> 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? <sup>13</sup> Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

There is a compelling call to every Christian to live in light of this fact: 2 Peter 3:13-14

Repent and Receive Christ - Mark 1:15

Remember the Lord's Table - 1 Cor 11:26

Respond to life spiritually - Colossians 3:1-4

Relate to one another in love - 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13

Restore the bereaved - 1 Thess 4:13-18

Recommit ourselves to the ministry - 2 Timothy 4:1-2

Refuse to neglect church - Hebrews 10:24-25

Remain steadfast - James 5:7-8

Renounce sin in our lives - 1 John 2:28-29

Reach the lost - Jude 21-23

The greatest concern of our passage is not the earth's future. Instead we are concerned about the souls of men.

The ending question is: how can someone escape this judgment?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://gatorswire.usatoday.com/2022/10/21/florida-football-billy-napier-midseason-grade-espn/>