

II Peter 3:10-14

I. Introduction:

A. This context is about answering the scoffers that questioned the promise of the return of Christ (**II Peter 3:1-9**).

1. Prior to that, the Sadducees said there was no resurrection (**Matthew 22:23**).

2. There were some in Corinth that said that too (**I Corinthians 15:12**).

B. There were other first century false teachings and concerns too.

1. There were false messages spread about Christ coming soon to the churches (**II Thessalonians 2:1-3**).

2. There was the error being taught that Jesus had already come (**II Timothy 2:14-18**).

3. There was the fear that those who died in the flesh had no hope when Christ returned (**I Thessalonians 4:13-18**).

4. What we will look at in this lesson clarifies a lot of these questions.

II. Body: **II Peter 3:10-14**

A. Jesus will come as a thief in the night (**I Thessalonians 5:1-11**).

1. The point is to always be ready (**Matthew 24:42-44**).

2. As we see with Jesus teaching about the ten virgins (**Matthew 25:1-13**).

B. The sky, the earth, and the elements will be destroyed (**Hebrews 1:8-12**).

1. Jesus said the heaven and earth are going to pass away (**Matthew 24:35-36**).

2. It is simple, the things which are seen are temporal (**II Corinthians 4:18-5:1**).

3. So, what about Scriptures such as **Ecclesiastes 1:4**?

a. Do your word study on the Hebrew “עָלְמָא עָלְמָא”: “that is, the vanishing point; generally time out of mind (past or future), that is, (practically) eternity; frequentative adverbially (especially with prepositional prefix) always: - always (-s), ancient (time), any more, continuance, eternal, (for, [n-]) ever (-lasting, -more, of old), lasting, long (time), (of) old (time), perpetual, at any time, (beginning of the) world (+ without end)” (Strong’s # 5769).

b. Was the temple literally forever (**I Kings 9:3**; cf. **II Chronicles 36:14-21**)?

c. Were Aaron and his sons literally to offer burnt offerings to the Lord (**Leviticus 6:19-22**; **Hebrews 7:11-28** and **Hebrews 10:1-18**)?

C. With all things earthly being temporary, the question is posed about what manner of persons one ought to be in light of that (**I John 2:15-17**).

1. In Peter's first letter he made some points that easily connects to this one in this letter (**I Peter 4:1-5**).

2. When Jesus returns there will be judgment (**Acts 10:36-42** and **II Timothy 4:1**) and that judgment will have eternal consequences (**Matthew 25:31-46** and **John 5:26-29**).

D. Looking for and eagerly awaiting the final return of Christ (**Titus 2:11-14**).

1. Looking for a new heavens and earth is simply about looking for a new dwelling place with the old being destroyed (**I Peter 1:3-5**).

2. Be careful with the the language of the new heaven and earth. Such has been used in other contexts NOT talking about the judgment (i.e. **Isaiah 65:17-25**).

E. How to behave in light of the coming Judgment...

1. Be diligent to be found of Him in peace (**Colossians 3:15** and **I Peter 3:8-12**).

2. Be diligent to be found of Him without spot (**I Timothy 6:14** and **James 1:26-27**; cf. **I Peter 1:18-19**).

3. Be diligent to be found of Him blameless (**Ephesians 1:3-4** and **Philippians 2:14-16**).

III. Conclusion: Our Next Study: **II Peter 3:15-18**