

The Life and Letters of Peter

Lesson Fifteen: Look Forward!

3:1 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 First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires.

4 They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our fathers 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 existed 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.

7 By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

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. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

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 in it will be laid bare.

11 Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives

12 as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat.

13 But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

14 So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

15 Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him.

16 He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

17 Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position.

18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

What is your first impression of this chapter? What's Peter's point?

<p>According to v. 1&2, why was Peter writing?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • 	<p>3:1 Dear friends, this is now my second letter to you. I have written both of them as reminders to stimulate you to wholesome thinking.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>What does Peter say will happen in the last days?</p>	<p>3 First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires.</p> <p>4 They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation."</p>
<p>What have the scoffers forgotten?</p> <p>What happened?</p> <p>What is coming?</p> <p>What caused these events?</p>	<p>5 But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water.</p> <p>6 By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed.</p> <p>7 By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.</p>
<p>Look at Isaiah 5:18-21. →</p> <p>What is similar in these thoughts and those in chapter three of Peter's letter?</p>	<p>Isaiah 5: 18 Woe to those who draw sin along with cords of deceit, and wickedness as with cart ropes,</p> <p>19 to those who say, "Let God hurry, let him hasten his work so we may see it. Let it approach, let the plan of the Holy One of Israel come, so we may know it."</p> <p>20 Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter.</p> <p>21 Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight.</p>

Go back to the chapter on page one and at the beginning of each verse, mark every indication of time using a clock ⌚. Use → by the clock to indicate in the future, and ← to indicate in the past. List the concepts in the chart.

Events in the Past ⌚ ←	Present Events ⌚	Future Events → ⌚

God's Perspective on Time

<p>What is the Lord's perspective on time?</p> <p>Why does it appear that He would be slow about keeping His promises?</p> <p>What is He waiting for?</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance...</p> <p>15 Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation,...</p>
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Warnings!

<p>In chapter two, Peter wrote warnings about false prophets. He repeats this in this chapter in verse 17. What might happen if believers listen to them?</p>	<p>17 Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position.</p>
<p>The church at Ephesus fell into the very sin Peter warned the recipients of his letter about. What was their main problem?</p>	<p>Revelation 2:1 "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands: 2 I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. 3 You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. 4 Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. 5 Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.</p>

Be Prepared

<p>Peter gives them advice on how to prevent the fall. They are to grow in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•• <p>of Jesus. Why both?</p> <p>Peter ends with praise. How does he want Jesus praised?</p>	<p>18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.</p>
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Application

What are you doing to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?