

Scoffers in the Last Days

II Peter 3:1-9

Introduction:

- I now write to you this second epistle: Peter already wrote about the importance of being reminded (2 Peter 1:12-13). Mcgee: I have a good memory. My problem is my forgettery is even better!
- That you may be mindful of the words which were spoken of before: Peter knew the importance of reminding his readers of the Scriptures, both received from the Old Testament (spoken before) and present to his own day (and of the commandment of us).
- Peter clearly believed that the words of Scripture were important; the words themselves, and not merely the meaning behind the words.
- “Peter believed in the inspiration of the very ‘words’ of Scripture; he was not one of those precious ‘advanced thinkers’ who would, if they could, tear the very soul out of the Book, and leave us nothing at all; but he wrote, ‘That ye may be mindful of the words’ — the very words — ‘which were spoken before by the holy prophets.’ ‘Oh!’ says one, ‘but words do not signify; it is the inward sense that is really important.’ Exactly so; that is just what the fool said about egg-shells. He said that they did not signify; it was only the inward life-germ of the chick within that was important; so he broke all the shells, and thereby destroyed the life.... If the words could be taken from us, the sense itself would be gone.” (Spurgeon)
- By placing the messengers of the New Testament on the same level as the messengers of the Old Testament, Peter understood the authority of the New Testament, even as it was being formed.
- Peter understood that Jesus gave His apostles the inspired authority to bring forth God’s message
- Note: Peter saw this authority invested in the apostles, not in him alone. (i.e. Paul v. 15-16)

- I. Scoffers in the last days
 - a. Will come in the last days:
 - i. What are the last days? “last days”- in the OT simply referred to a future time, often centered around the Messiah. II Tim 3- perilous times, disobedience, and deception. Hebrews 11:3- We are living in the last days, and we are to be ready for when the Lord comes for us!
 - ii. In a sense, we can say the last days began when Jesus ascended into heaven.
 - iii. Last days vs. the end times
 - iv. “With the advent of Jesus the last chapter of human history had opened, though it was not yet completed.” (Green)
 - b. Scoffers openly mock God’s word
 - c. They mock Gods’ promises
 - d. Where is the promise of His coming? This is the message of scoffers. In the thinking of these scoffers, Christians have talked about Jesus coming for two thousand years and He still hasn’t come back yet.
 - i. (2nd coming or of judgment)
 - ii. scoffers ridiculed Camping, but also all Christians belief in the rapture and second coming
 - e. Knowing this first: Christians should not be surprised to find that there are those who scoff at the idea of Jesus coming again. Peter told us that the scoffers will come. This is the first thing to know. This should confirm our convictions since God has forewarned us!
 - f. Why do men scoff?
 - i. Romans 8:7- the carnal mind is opposed to the things of God
 - ii. Eccl 8:11- Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.
 - 1. Be sure your sin will find you out!
 - g. The certainty of the last days and God’s promise.

- h. Walking according to their own lusts: These words remind us that scoffers do not only have an intellectual problem with God and His word. They also have a clear moral problem, wanting to reject the Lordship of Jesus Christ over their lives.
- II. Ignorance of God's judgment
- a. All things continue as they were from the beginning of creation: The scoffers base their message on the idea that things have always been the way they are right now, and that God has not and will not do anything new in His plan for creation.
 - b. The argument of the false teachers is essentially a naturalistic one- they deny any divine intervention in human history
 - c. The scoffers insist that because they have never seen a widespread judgment of God, that there will never be one. But they willfully forget God's creation and the judgment God poured out on the earth in the days of Noah.
 - d. A literal belief in Creation, in Adam and Eve, and in Noah's Flood are essential for a true understanding of God's working both then and now. To deny these things undermines the very foundations of our faith. Sadly, today it is many Christians who willfully forget these things, thereby putting themselves in the place of scoffers.
 - e. The Bible clearly teaches that the active agent in creation was God's word. He spoke and creation came into being.
 - f. They are **willingly** ignorant
 - i. God's previous judgment- the Flood
 - ii. V. 5- even of creation by the word of His power- Heb 11:3- Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.
 - iii. The Information Age and yet there is a lack of knowledge about God!
 - iv. Regarding a worldwide flood- Ken Ham:

The idea of the earth being millions or billions of years old came from an interpretation of the rock layers and fossils. Now many Christians think this is the

only interpretation, so they try and fit the long ages into the Bible somewhere. But Noah's Flood washes away the long ages!

You see, if there really was a global Flood, like the Bible says, we should find billions of dead things, buried in rock layers, laid down by water, all over the earth. And that is exactly what we find! The floodwaters ripped up miles of sediment, re-depositing it in layers. Organisms got trapped and buried, turning into fossils.

There is no need for millions of years to form the rock layers. The Bible's history concerning the Flood explains it!

- g. The same word of God that created all matter and judged the world in the flood will one day bring a judgment of fire upon the earth.
 - h. "The lesson taught by the flood was this is a moral universe, that sin will not forever go unpunished; and Jesus himself used the flood to point to this moral (Matthew 24:37-39). But these men chose to neglect it." (Green)
- III. God's perspective
- a. V. 8- Peter references Psa 90:4 - 4 For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.
 - b. With God, indeed, there is neither past, present, nor future. He takes for his name the 'I AM.'... He is the I AM; I AM in the present; I AM in the past and I AM in the future. Just as we say of God that he is everywhere, so we may say of him that he is always; he is everywhere in space; he is everywhere in time." (Spurgeon)
 - c. Peter is not giving a prophetic formula, but teaching a general principle contrasting how we see time and how God sees time. Many have gone into error forcing this to mean what it does not!
 - d. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise: The truth is that God will keep His promise, and without delay according to His timing. Any perceived delay from our perspective is due to the longsuffering of God, who allows man as much time as possible to repent.
 - e. Peter's statement reflects God's heart of love for the world (John 3:16), and His compassionate sorrow even in the righteous judgment of the wicked.

- f. It is the same thought as expressed in Ezekiel 33:11
- g. This can be somewhat difficult to process- God is not willing...yet many will perish
- h. God is not willing, but sadly many men are unwilling to repent and get saved!

Conclusion:

- V. 10 warns that the day of the Lord **will** come
- We must be ready! We must try and win the lost while there is time!