

LOOKING FOR AND HASTING UNTO THE COMING OF THE DAY OF GOD

II Peter 3:10-18

Introduction:

- Last week, we looked at examples in the Bible of God intervening in human history. God judged the entire earth in the days of Noah, and visited Sodom and Gomorrah in the days of Lot with fire and brimstone. Things didn't turn out too well, and the Bible uses them as examples to warn of future judgment upon the wicked! Luke 17:26-32
- At the site of the Dachau concentration camp near Munich, Germany, there are grim photographs of the horrors of the crimes of Nazi Germany, and alongside the sad relics and memorabilia is a sign by the door that reads, "Those who do not learn from history are condemned to repeat its mistakes."
- After the Holocaust the popular phrase was coined- "Never Again!" However, God says in regards to judging sinful mankind- He will do it again!
- Paul wrote, "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come" (I Cor. 10:11)

I. The Day of the Lord

- a. The day of the Lord will come- The Lord is longsuffering, and delays his coming, allowing time for sinners to repent. But the truth is He indeed will come
- b. The Day of the Lord could be summed up as a period in history when God intervenes in history to both judge the wicked and deliver His people.
 - i. Many today are asking, "Where is God, and why is He not actively working in our universe?"
 - ii. The Day of the Lord will answer their question, though probably not in a way they would like!

- iii. The day of the Lord is not one literal day, but refers to a period of time. It is actually a fairly lengthy period of time spanning several years.
- iv. It is predicted in both the OT and the NT- Zeph. 1:14-16, 3:14-17
- v. God will grab the reins; It is God's way of bringing history to a close, leading into the Eternal State. Human history as we know it will come to a screeching halt! (II Peter 3:10)
- vi. Some Old Testament passages that refer to the day of the Lord describe historical judgments (events that already happened) that have already been fulfilled in some sense- foreshadowing the future day of the Lord!
 - i. Some note: Jewish day began at sunset, and continued to the next day at sunset.
 - ii. Symbolically the day of the Lord also starts out in darkness, has a period of daylight, and ends in darkness
- vii. An excellent summary- See Scofield's notes at Rev 19:19
- viii. Evidently, Peter is referring to the events at the end of the Day of the Lord, leading into the New Heaven and New Earth
- c. As a thief- Christ's return will catch many off-guard, and the end result will be the destruction of this world

II. All things new

- a. V. 10-12-This world as we know it will be burned up!
- b. Just as God stored up enough water to drown the world, He also has enough fire to destroy the world (II Peter 3:7).
- c. Dissolved- Col. 1:17- By Him all things consist
- d. People are worried some maniacal dictator will trigger off a nuclear holocaust, but the Bible says it will be the Lord Himself who will set this world on fire.
- e. See Isaiah 65:17, 66:22- God has promised a new Heaven and Earth
- f. Hebrews 1:10-12
- g. V. 13- So Peter admonishes us to look ahead towards that day, towards God's promise

- h. This earth will pass away-
 - i. The foolishness of living for the world (temporary)
 - ii. Mother Earth worship- sinful, and foolish
 - iii. Earth will be destroyed through God's design, not man's
- i. The problem with "climate change" environmentalists
 - i. Global cooling 100 years ago, Global warming more recently- now they've settled on climate change
 - ii. See Genesis 1:26-28- The mandate given to man- subdue/have dominion
 - iii. Creation is to be used by man to meet his needs, and that means much of it will not be preserved in a pristine state. It is intended for use by man. Adam was placed in the garden to dress it and keep it and was able to eat of it.
 - iv. Creation glorifies God and preservation of some natural habitats seems warranted for this purpose. The reality is that this has largely been done in numerous state and national parks in the USA.
 - v. We should take care of this earth, but not to the hindrance of meeting the needs of humanity
 - vi. Things like energy use (fossil fuels, etc.), meat, etc. should be treated with stewardship principles. Deut 7:22, 22:6-7 shows the need for displacement and yet the need for resource management
 - vii. Sadly, the environmentalists care more about saving the planet than saving the unborn killed in abortions
- III. The purpose for prophecy
 - a. V. 11-12- Seeing/looking- In light of the fact that this world order and the things associated with it will be dissolved, we should live our lives seeking first the Kingdom of God and its righteousness – that is, having holy conduct and godliness.

- b. The purpose of prophecy- “prophecy and prophetic teaching is not simply given us to excite our curiosity, but prophetic teaching is designed to lead to holiness and purity of life.” SLJ
- c. “What manner of persons ought you to be: "The king is coming; he is coming to his throne, and to his judgment. Now a man does not go up to a king's door, and there talk treason; and men do not sit in a king's audience-chamber when they expect him every moment to enter, and there speak ill of him. The King is on his way, and almost here; you are at his door; he is at yours. What manner of people ought ye to be? How can ye sin against One who is so close at hand?" (Spurgeon)
- d. V. 14-15- stay diligent and faithful to the work God has for until He returns!
Work for the night is coming!
- e. V. 16-17- final warning against being led astray by people who play Twister with the scriptures
- f. V. 18- grow in grace and knowledge
 - i. Grace- God’s grace is infinite and cannot grow- but we can!
 - ii. Knowledge- involves knowing more about Jesus, but more importantly knowing in a personal relationship!

Conclusion:

- This concludes our study in Peter. First he encourages us through times of suffering, and then he warns us about false teachers entering into the church
- We must remember as we get closer to the Lord’s return, we should become more diligent!
- I John 3:3-4