

Text: 2 Pt 3.7-10

Last week we looked at vv. 3-6, taking our title from the first phrase, “know this first of all...”

There are some things we need to know about false teachers in contrast to the words of the prophets and apostles:

1. Mockers will mock
2. Mockers are deliberately ignorant of God’s work: in Creation and in the Great Flood

There is one more thing that the mockers are ignorant of, and that is God’s determination to bring this age to an end in mighty judgement.

It is not that mockers don’t know God has said these things, it is that they minimize God’s word about these things.

“not important”

“mythological”

“not happening” (“where is the promise of his coming?” v. 4)

Today our focus is on **What You Need to Know** about the coming judgement.

Read 2 Pt 3.7-10

Proposition: We need to know that judgement is as sure as creation and the flood; and then order our lives in faith every day.

I. The “bonus” Word to come (7)**A. Bible interconnections**

1. “but” — connects with preceding
 - a. Can be taken as “adversative,” *i.e.*, but = “on the other hand”
 - b. However, this form can = “an additional fact”
2. “by his word” — connects with “by the word of God” in v. 5
 - a. This is that which escaped the mockers notice
 - b. This word also escapes their notice

As noted above, the mockers know that God says these things, they deliberately ignore them in their mocking.

B. This “Word” speaks of the future

1. God “made a reservation” for the heavens and earth: fire
 - a. As they were formed by the word, so they are reserved for fire by the word
 - b. As the word brought judgement by water, so the word plans judgement by fire
 - c. Side note: “**present** heavens and earth” — implies a change in the “cosmic system”¹
 - 1) The present system is not the pre-flood system
 - 2) The present system is not the post judgement system
2. The heavens and earth are kept for the day of judgement
 - a. The day of judgement points to a specific time in the future
 - b. The day of judgement focuses on arbitrating justice against ungodliness

Even if men escape justice for their ungodliness now, they will not escape forever.

This word is for the world and for those who mock the word.

II. The critical understanding of faith (8-9)

A. Mockers might affect the understanding of the faithful

But do not let this one *fact* escape your notice...

1. Just as the mockers ignore God’s word
2. Don’t let their mocking cause you to ignore God’s word

B. The substance of their mocking: “Where is God after all this time?”

1. Again, v. 4, “Where is the promise of his coming”
2. Quite clearly there are those who mock this promise today: “Where is Jesus? It’s been two thousand years!”

¹ Hiebert, *Second Peter and Jude*, 149.

C. Answering the mockers

1. The eternal perspective (8b)

- a. Note: the text does not say “one day *is* a thousand years” but “is *like*”
- b. Time is not relevant to God – he can do what he wishes when he wishes

“His use of time is extensive, so that He may use a thousand years to do what we might feel should be done in a day, as well as intensive, doing in a day what we might feel could only be done in a thousand years. His work of atonement on the cross of Christ had such an intensive character; what was there done in one day has its impact on time and eternity.”²

2. The divine will and plan

- a. The Lord’s patience towards men (9a)
 - 1) The Lord is not slow (he is on time)
 - 2) The Lord is patient to you: an illustration of his patience

Suppose the Lord brought judgement before you were saved? Where would you be?

- b. The Lord’s patience reflects his mercy and desire to save (9b)
 - 1) Our translation says “not wishing” for any to perish (a good way to put it)
 - 2) God’s desire is for men to repent and be saved (Ezek. 33:11; Mt. 23:37; 2 Pet. 3:9)
 - 3) God’s patience has an end point (don’t forget, don’t ignore this fact)
- c. God could make everyone repent (he made Pharaoh deliver the Israelites)
- d. God allows men to mock, but he will judge

² Hiebert, *Second Peter and Jude*, 153–54.

III. The truth of coming judgement (10)

A. The day of the Lord will come unexpectedly

1. "Like a thief"
2. The day is that day we already spoke of
 - a. Not a single day, but a period of intense judgement
 - b. From prophetic Scriptures we take it to begin with the rapture and revelation of Antichrist
 - c. Most of the book of Revelation focuses on this day
3. When it comes, it comes without warning or sign – like a thief

B. The word of v. 7 repeated and expanded on

1. The heavens will pass away with a roar ("a rushing sound")
2. The elements (building blocks of nature) destroyed with intense heat

Commentators point to the power within the very atoms of all physical things: if those atoms are split, they produce intense heat.

3. The earth and its works will be burned up
 - a. This again points to the wicked deeds of men "works"
 - b. The issue in judgement is the sin of man

Conclusion:

2 Pt 3.11 Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness

Proposition: We need to know that judgement is as sure as creation and the flood; and then order our lives in faith every day.

Our God is in control, and all things will unfold as he said. When fearsome headlines interrupt our lives, trust God. When we live in days of peace, live for God and proclaim Christ.