

Don't Get Faked Out!

2 Peter 3

Background—

- This is Peter's second letter, written to remind believers of what he had previously said and to urge them not to become short-sighted or forgetful about their eternal destiny. (2 Peter 1.8-9)
- He began his first letter with an emphasis on the living hope we have in Christ and the eternal future that is waiting for us. (1 Peter 1.3-9)
- He warned his readers to "keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls" (1 Peter 2.11) and to "be earnest and disciplined in your prayers" because "the end of the world is coming soon." (1 Peter 4.7)
- He began his second letter by urging them to make their relationship in Christ their highest priority and investment of time and effort so that they would not fall away but would "receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." (2 Peter 1.5, 10-11)
- He emphasized that they must pay attention to God's narrative, not a substitute narrative about life and the future.

You must pay close attention to what [the prophets] wrote, for their words are like a lamp shining in a dark place—until the Day dawns, and Christ the Morning Star shines in your hearts. Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet's own understanding, or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God. (1.19-21)

Beware of substitute narratives—

- The Biblical record of past events teaches us that God has predetermined the timeline of human history, including the return of Christ and the end of life on planet earth.

And by the same word, the present heavens and earth have been stored up for fire. They are being kept for the day of judgment, when ungodly people will be destroyed. (3.7)

- It is a common human tendency, but a fatal misconception, to think that delay means I don't need to pay attention to what God has said would happen.
- Delay means opportunity, not improbability.

The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent. (3.9)

- The spiritual attentiveness with how I live "here and now" determines my eternal destiny.

And so, dear friends, while you are waiting for these things to happen, make every effort to be found living peaceful lives that are pure and blameless in his sight. (3.14)

A Serious Warning from History—

- Peter's reference to the flood of Noah's day was not random; Jesus had used it as a warning against negligent behavior or a dismissive attitude toward God's timeline.

"When the Son of Man returns, it will be like it was in Noah's day. In those days before the flood, the people were enjoying banquets and parties and weddings right up to the time Noah entered his boat. People didn't realize what was going to happen until the flood came and swept them all away. That is the way it will be when the Son of Man comes." (Matthew 24.37-39)

- Repeatedly, Jesus warned that delay must not lead to spiritual inattentiveness or negligence.

"So you, too, must keep watch! For you don't know what day your Lord is coming. Understand this: If a homeowner knew exactly when a burglar was coming, he would keep watch and not permit his house to be broken into. You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected."

(Matthew 24.42-44)

Dangerous Proximity—

- In his first letter, Peter told his readers that we are God's chosen and holy people, called out and set apart (1 Peter 2.9-10).
- Peter used the terms "foreigners," "aliens," and "temporary residents" to describe our status as Christians in this present world.
- He warned that we are engaged in a war against our souls and **must** keep away from worldly desires (the influences of present-day culture).

Dear friends, I warn you as "temporary residents and foreigners" to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls. (1 Peter 2.11)

“ *The people that the song bothers are usually conservatives or really religious people, but my thing is I grew up listening to this type of music,” explained Cardi. “Other people might think it’s strange and vulgar, but to me it’s almost like really normal, you know what I’m saying?”*

—Cardi B, regarding her song WAP with Megan Thee Stallion

➡ **Read Ephesians 5.3-8 to understand how spiritually endangering it is for one to accept this perspective.**

Living for the Promise—

- The apostle Peter has emphasized five things that we must remember in order to be *"looking forward to the new heavens and new earth he has promised, a world filled with God's righteousness."* (3.13)

- (1) Salvation through Jesus Christ is our eternal hope.
- (2) God is graciously waiting so that all will have the opportunity to repent.
- (3) God's plan and promise for the future far outweighs any other gain in this life.
- (4) The identity I choose today and the way I live will determine my "forever future."
- (5) The highest priority and most critical achievement in this life is to live well for Christ.

*So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, **make every effort** to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. Therefore, dear friends, since you have been forewarned, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of the lawless and fall from your secure position. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (3.14, 17-18)*