

## **WHAT YOU ARE TO KNOW**

### **2 Peter 3:1-7**

**Intro: As a Christian you are to know what the Bible teaches about those things that pertain to spiritual life and godliness. You are to: “Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Tim. 2:15).**

**We need to know the truth about redemption through the blood of Jesus Christ; about salvation by grace; and about the Gospel of “How Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, and that he was buried and raised again the third day according to the scriptures” (1 Cor. 15:3-4).**

**It is also important, not only that we know what the Bible says, but that we be reminded often about its contents so as not to stray.**

**Many people have gone astray on the subject of the rapture because they have followed men and not the Word of God. This is the subject that cries out for our attention in 2 Peter three. The Bible clearly says: “Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh” (Matt. 25:13). Watch! Scoffers will come in the latter days.**

#### **I. Vss. 1-2, THE SINCERE KINDLING OF THE MIND**

**A. VS. 1, Peter desired to awaken, to arouse and agitate, in a good way, the minds of the saints. He did so by bringing to memory those things that they had learned. This is the principle of repetition. It is necessary that the truth be repeated over and over again. This is what Paul was talking about in Philippians 3:1.**

**1. In our day, we are too desirous of the new at the expense of the true rudiments of knowledge. Rudiments are to be repeated over and over.**

**a. This is true in education and is one of the reasons for the dumbing down of it. It is not the new that we need; it is the old.**

**b. Many parents who believe that they have it all settled and that they do not need Sunday nor Wednesday night because they know it all already are robbing themselves and their children of vital repetition of truth.**

2. Peter said that he wanted to stir up their “pure minds by way of remembrance.” There is a great need to remember. It has been my experience in life that men more often need to be reminded than informed. The Greeks had a saying: “time wipes all things out.” It’s like taking an eraser to a blackboard. Mature Christians do not so much need to be taught as to be reminded.

B. Vs. 2, We need to “be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets...”

1. We need to be mindful of the prophets for they and the law are inseparable. Luke 16:16 says: “The law and the prophets were until John.”

a. Psalm 19:7 says: “The law of the Lord is perfect converting the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure making wise the simple.”

b. “And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might” (Deut. 6:5). This is the kind of reminder that we need.

2. The Apostles remind us that Jesus is to have the preeminence in all things. Colossians 1:18: “And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.”

## II. Vss. 3-4, THE SNEERS OF THE SCOFFERS

A. Vs. 3, Thomas Adams (1583-1652) breaks down this verse as follows:

- A Preparation, Knowing this first.
- A Prediction, There shall come in the last days.
- A Description, Scoffers, walking after their own lust.

1. We are not to be ignorant of the conditions in the last days. There are some things we need to know. This is a reminder to remember.

2. Scoffers are a big part of the last days. They make fun of and mock Christianity. The scoffers referred to here are specifically the false prophets of chapter two.

a. What is a scoffer? A scoffer treats lightly that which should be taken seriously. The antediluvians scoffed at Noah. The Sodomites scoffed at the coming judgment of fire

and brimstone. In the last days, men will scoff at the doctrine of the rapture and the coming tribulation.

b. The evil men and scoffers in Malachi's day asked: "Where is the God of judgment" (2:17).

3. "Walking after their own lusts." In chapter two, the Apostle says of these scoffers: "they allure through the lusts of the flesh." Their lifestyle is in contradiction to the Bible. When preachers and teachers are living against the Word of God, they must either change the way they are living or change the Bible. In our day, many are changing the Bible to suit their way of living.

a. In the New International Version, the word "fornication" is left out in Romans 1:29; and the word "sodomite" is changed to "shrine prostitute."

b. The Message Bible changes the words fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, effeminate, drunkards, extortioners etc. in 1 Corinthians 6:9-10. I encourage you to read 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 in the KJB, and then in the Message.

B. Vs. 4, Jesus is coming again, first in the clouds, and then to the earth to rule and to reign. When is He coming back? I do not know, and no one else does!

1. The scoffers see the promise of the *parousia* to be a fanciful deception. "What has become of the promise of his coming?"

2. "Since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation." The fathers spoken of here, speaks of their on fathers and grandfathers who had taught the soon coming of Christ. The first century Christians believed that Christ would come in their lifetime. This is the doctrine of the imminent return of Christ Jesus-- Perhaps Today.

3. These Bible deniers and scoffers believed that the earth and universe were stable, and that nothing would happen to change that.

### III. Vss. 5-7, THE SUBMERSION OF THE EARTH BY FLOOD

A. Vs. 5, These scoffers were willingly ignorant of what had happened in creation. "Willingly" as used here is the Greek word *thelo* meaning "they are resolved to be deliberately

ignorant.” Will Rogers, the great Oklahoma humorist, said: “Everybody is ignorant, only on different subjects!”

1. The scoffers forget that God created the earth out of nothing. “And God said”-- occurs nine times in Genesis one. Psalm 33:9 says: “For he spake, and it was done: he commanded, and it stood fast.”

2. Kenneth Wuest says: “Concerning this they willfully forget that the heavens existed in ancient times, and land out of water, and by means of water cohering by the word of God.”

B. Vs.6, By means of water, the earth was destroyed in Noah’s day.

1. The Greek word for “overflowed” is *kataklyza* from which we get our English word cataclysm. The flood was cataclysmic. Nothing like it had ever happened. They had never seen rain! But the rain came and the fountains of the deep broke open and the flood came.

a. God broke into the normal lives of the people of the antediluvian world and shook it up. Luke 17:27 reads: “They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.”

b. Men, women, boys, and girls were sent to a watery grave. The world perished.

c. Why the flood? The flood came because of the sinfulness of the world.

2. Genesis 6:8 says: “Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.” Have you found grace in the eyes of the Lord? (Eph. 2:8-9).

C. Vs. 7, The same word that spake the world into existence will one day destroy it by fire.

1. “Kept in store.” The world is laid up for destruction.

2. “Reserved unto fire.” Man will not destroy the earth; God will. God will be the one to throw the switch.

3. Peter speaks of “the day of judgment.” This day will come. When? Jesus says in Mark 13:31-32: “Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass, till all these things be done. But of that day and that hour knoweth no man,

no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.”

4. “Perdition of ungodly men.” The word for men is *anthropos*: a human being whether male or female. Unbelievers are headed to eternal misery in hell.

Conclusion: “Where is the promise of his coming?” Just as surely as God destroyed the earth by the flood and as surely as he destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah with fire and brimstone, He will come again, and the earth will be destroyed in His time.

Dr. Cecil A Fayard, Jr.  
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