

## What Time Is It?

### II Peter 3:8-10

INTRO: II Peter 3:8-10 deals with time. When the time is right, Jesus will come again. Men mocked Noah. They said he was foolish for building an Ark, for making preparation for the judgment that was coming. Men today mock and scoff the Bible message that Jesus is coming again. But when God is ready, when the time is right, Jesus Christ will appear.

Just as God extended a 120 year period of grace to the anti-diluvians, God now extends grace to the lost.

#### I. VS 8, GOD'S TIME IS NOT OUR TIME

A. Peter once again uses the word "beloved." The once brash fisherman is now a loving pastor who is concerned about his sheep. He loves them and cares for them with a pastor's heart.

B. "Be not ignorant of this one thing...."

1. "Be not ignorant" is the Greek word *lanthano* which means "to be hidden." "Be not ignorant," means "stop allowing this to be hidden from you."

2. Peter wanted them to see that man's timing and God's time are not the same. The false teachers scoffed because Jesus had not yet come. By their scoffing, they proved that not only were they ignorant of God's time table, they were also ignorant of the person of God. They did not know what God was like.

a. God is eternal; He has neither beginning nor ending.

b. Because God is eternal, He does not dwell in time. He dwells in eternity.

C. "One day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day."

1. The false teachers had tried to squeeze God into their idea of time. They were saying: "Where is the promise of His coming." Many days and many years had passed since Jesus had said: "I will come again."

2. With the scoffing, we who are here today can be assured that the coming of the Lord is nearing. The Gordon Jenson song, "Redemption Draweth Nigh," says:

- *Years of time have come and gone, since we first heard it told how Jesus would come again some day; if back then it seemed so real, then I just can't help but feel, How much closer His coming is today.*

3. Peter is referring to Psalm 90:4 when he says: "One day is with the Lord as a thousand years...."

a. Psalm 90:4 says: "For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night."

b. To the Lord, a thousand literal years are as yesterday when they have passed.

4. When people mock and say: "Where is the promise of His coming?" We must remember that God, "in His eternal being does not experience times as such, and the passing of a day, so far as His predicted actions are concerned" (Wuest 70).

a. "Since a thousand years are as one day to the Lord, we cannot accuse Him of delayed fulfillment of His promises. In God's sight, the whole universe is only a few days old!..... When you study the works of God, especially in the Old Testament, you can see that He is never in a hurry, but He is never late" (Wiersbe 83).

b. Our God is too great to be limited by time. God does as He please and when He pleases.

1.) He could have spoken the universe into existence in a moment of time; but He did not. He did it in a six day period. These were literal twenty-four hour days.

2.) Man may try to dictate when Jesus should come: "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only" (Mt 24:36).

## II. VS 9, NOW IS THE TIME TO BE SAVED

A. “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness....”

1. God is not tardy or slow concerning the promise that Jesus will come again.

2. “The cause of the delay stems not from indifference or inattentiveness on the part of God. It lies in God’s grace and mercy toward sinners. He allows them time to repent of their sins. Jesus will return when God’s patience has ended, when the time allotted has expired, and when the last believer has accepted Christ as Saviour” (Kistemaker 334).

B. God is “longsuffering to usward....”

1. Who are the us-ward?

a. The us-ward are God’s own people, the elect (I Pet 1:2).

b. “God is longsuffering toward lost sinners because some of them will believe and become a part of God’s elect people” (Wiersbe 85). “.....he is not dilatory, *but is long-suffering to us-ward*; not to all the individuals of human nature, for the persons intended by *us* are manifestly distinguished from *some men* in the text, and from scoffers, mocking at the promise of Christ’s coming, in the context, ver. 3, 4; and are expressly called *beloved*, ver. 1, 8, 14, 17; and God’s long-suffering towards them is their salvation, ver. 15;.....” (Gill Vol 6 871).

2. We do not know who will be saved and who will not. It is our responsibility to share the Gospel with every person.

C. “Not willing that any should perish.....”

1. This does not teach universal salvation (2:3; 3:7; Rm 9:22).

2. “Although God desires the redemption of the entire race. He does not decree universal salvation” (Kistemaker 335).

D. “But that all should come to repentance.”

1. Does God want men to go to hell? Does God rejoice that men reject His Son and will be cast into hell? No. "God is not willing that any should perish."

2. It is a fact that God wants sinners to be saved.

a. I Tim 2:4: God "will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."

b. In Ezekiel, we see that God has no pleasure in the death of the wicked (Ez 18:23, 32; 33:11).

3. God extends His love and mercy to sinful men, even to those who ultimately reject Him.

a. God showed His love and mercy to Cain (Gen 4:7).

b. Over and over we read of our Lord Jesus showing love and compassion for multitudes of lost sinners (Mk 6:34; Mt 9:36).

c. Luke 6:12 tells us that before Jesus appointed the twelve Apostles, He spent the night in prayer.

1.) One of the twelve that He called was Judas Iscariot.

2.) In love, Jesus commissioned Judas along with the other eleven to preach, heal, and cast out demons.

3.) In the upper room, Jesus visibly indicated to Judas that He knew he was about to betray Him (Jn 13:26).

4.) Although Jesus showed mercy to Judas, he never repented, although filled with remorse.

d. John Calvin speaking of verse 9 says: "So wonderful is [God's] love towards mankind, that he would have them all to be saved, and is of His own self prepared to bestow salvation on the lost" (419).

e. Yes, God extends mercy to sinful man. But when man rejects God's mercy, condemnation hangs over him (II Pet 2:3; 3:7).

4. The word "come" in this verse means "to make room for."

- a. The lost man needs to make room for Jesus. He needs to repent.
- b. Have you made room for Jesus?

### III. THE TIME OF CHRIST COMING IS DRAWING NEAR

A. Jesus is Coming! “The day of the Lord” is drawing near. When will He come?

1. Nobody knows but the Father. Jesus will “come as a theft in the night.”
2. When the world cries, “Peace and safety,” then Jesus will come.
  - a. Just as the thief gives no warning, Jesus will come as a “thief in the night.”
  - b. I Thes 5:3.

B. The “day of the Lord” begins with the rapture and goes through to the end of the millennium. At the end of the millennium, “the heavens shall pass away with a great noise.....”

1. The heavens will disappear with a roar and a hiss.
2. The atmospheric heavens are going to vanish away (Rev 6:14). “As the sky passes away, a crackling sound as of a roaring flame will be heard” (Kistemaker 336).

C. “The elements shall melt with fervent heat.....”

1. The sun, moon, and stars will be destroyed (Isa 34:4).
2. The stars will fall like figs fall when the tree is shaken (Rev 6:13).

D. “The earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.”

1. “Man’s great works will also be burned up! All of the things that man boasts about – his great cities, his great buildings, his

inventions, his achievements – will be destroyed in a moment of time” (Wiersbe 88).

2. The sinner man will not be able to point to his degrees, his accomplishments, his power, and money. These will all be gone.

**CONCLUSION:** Friend, do you know Christ as Savior? If not, decide now to trust Him before it is eternally too late.