

The early disciples and companions of Jesus were constantly communicating what they had heard and seen in the wake of their encounter with God's Son. Peter took the time to summarize the what and the why and the how of the end of the age. Let's spend a few minutes thinking about the implications.

"This is now, beloved, the second letter I am writing to you in which I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, that you should *remember the words* spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles.

Know this first of all, that in the last days *mockers will come* with their mocking, following after their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation."

For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water, through which the world at that time was destroyed, being *flooded with water*. But by His word the present heavens and earth are being *reserved for fire*, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

*But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day.* The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. But the *day of the Lord will come like a thief*, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, *what sort of people ought you to be* in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! *But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.*

Therefore, beloved, since you *look for these things, be diligent* to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are *some things hard to understand*, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.

You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, *be on your guard* so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness, but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen." - 2 Peter 3

It appears that Peter was concerned that we would guard ourselves from purposelessness and unbelief. He appeals to Noah and the flood, and reminds us that God will shake the earth once more, and then the end will come. *But the end will be the beginning* for the sons of God, and those who have held fast to Jesus will experience a common reward with all who have trusted Him with our souls. *Selah!*