

28. 2 Peter

*2 Peter 3; The coming day of the Lord (3:1-18)

- "Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come... saying, 'Where is the promise of His coming?'" (3:3-4). "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" (3:7). The heavens and earth will be destroyed after the Millennium, at the time of the great white throne judgment (Revelation 20:11). "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" (3:8-9).

- "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" (3:10). The earth will not be burned up until after the Millennium. The new heavens and earth will then be revealed (3:12-13). People can hasten the coming of the day of God (3:12). This is probably a reference to the church fulfilling the great commission, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19). When Jesus was talking about the last days, He said, "The gospel must first be preached to all the nations" (Mark 13:10). Jesus also said, "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come" (Matthew 24:14). During the Great Tribulation, an angel will have, "an eternal gospel to preach to those who live on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and tongue and people" (Revelation 14:6). God does not want anyone to perish but for all to be saved. Believers have a responsibility to continue making disciples, sharing the gospel and serving the Lord until Jesus returns.