

**Verses 10-12** (verse 11 will be discussed in verse 14)

The Day of the Lord is referring to the coming of the Lord. He is coming as a thief. This means that He is coming suddenly. A thief is intrusive and unwanted, which is how the coming of the Lord will be to the unbelievers. The unbeliever is not looking for the return of the Lord. However, the opposite is the case regarding the believer. We are expecting Him and looking forward to His coming. His coming is not intrusive or unwanted. We are to be looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ (Titus 2:13). While we are eagerly looking and awaiting the coming of the Lord, we are to be diligent in our sanctification, obedience, witnessing, and all God has called us to do.

- **Matthew 24:42-44** “Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup> But <sup>[a]</sup>be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be <sup>[b]</sup>broken into. <sup>44</sup> For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think *He will*.”

The heat and fire in reference here is not one that brings annihilation of the earth. God is not going to destroy the earth and then start all over but is rather going to restore and redeem it. We see that Peter had used the example of the judgment God brought on the whole earth in the flood in which the earth was not destroyed or annihilated. Sin does not only affect humans, but affects animals, stars, and the whole planet. The earth and creation have been under a curse since sin in the garden and are groaning for the day which will bring about freedom. That day is the Day of Lord in which the adoption of the sons of God reaches its final fulfillment.

- **Romans 8:19-25** For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, <sup>[a]</sup>in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. <sup>23</sup> And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for *our* adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. <sup>24</sup> For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he *already* sees? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.

Fire also has another meaning in view. We remember that God puts trials in our lives to test our faith by fire (1 Peter 1:6-7). The crucible of fire does not destroy the gold, but rather is intended to burn away the impurities to allow the gold to be pure. What can be in view is the fire and heat on the Last Day burning away the impurities of the earth and restoring it to the perfect place of paradise God intends.

**Verse 13**

God who does not lie has promised eternal life and to dwell with Him forever. Since we have this promise we are to continue eagerly to look for the new heavens and the new earth where righteousness dwells. There will be no sin in our eternal home, but righteousness. How are we whose righteousness is like filthy garments (Is 64:6) allowed into this place? Only by the imputed righteousness of Christ to us which is brought about by justification. We enter not because of righteousness, but His!

- **Matthew 13:43** Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, <sup>[a]</sup>let him hear.

### **Verses 11,14**

As a result of knowing that the Lord will return and we will dwell with Him forever and that day could be at any moment, what kind of people should we be? We are to be people who diligently seek after holiness and godliness. We are to be diligent in our sanctification process since our glorification is getting closer and closer. Sanctification is the will of God (**1 Thessalonians 4:37**) and we were predestined to be conformed to the image of God (**Romans 8:29**).

### **Verse 15**

Peter refers to the patience of the Lord in not coming as salvation. This gives further context and understanding to verse 9 of this chapter. His patience in not coming is salvation to the elect.

### **Verse 16**

Peter states that some of Paul's writing is difficult to understand. The untaught and unstable then take these hard to understand writings and distort them as well as the rest of the Scriptures which brings about their destruction.

### **Verse 17**

Peter then exhorts the elect exiles that since they are to know that this distortion and twisting of Scriptures will occur, they are to be on guard. They are to study, know, and guard the Word of God with all diligence so that they won't get tripped up and struggle. This is the warning that Peter had labored in Chapter 2 in regards to false teachers, false prophets, heretics, and apostates. The same warning goes to us today.

### **Verse 18**

Peter ends his letter with an exhortation and instruction to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We are not to be lazy or idle in our growth in His knowledge, but rather be diligent. Our sanctification and knowledge of God are linked. As Paul stated, we must renew our minds daily. We are sanctified in the truth; His Word is truth (**John 17:17**). Higher knowledge and theology equal higher doxology and sanctification to the believer.

*Peter will then end this letter with the appropriate response, doxology.*

- Paul's ending in Romans: to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen.
- Peter's ending in 2 Peter: To Him *be* the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.