

## 2 Peter 3:1-9

### Verses 1-2

Peter is referring to this letter as the second letter he is writing to the exiles, with 1 Peter being the first letter in view. The audience of this letter is the same as the first which is the Diaspora who are the scattered exiles in Asia Minor (**1 Peter 1:1**). Peter states the purpose of this letter is to stir up a reminder to them that they are to remember and hold fast to the words spoken by the prophets in the Old Testament as well as the commandments of the Lord as they had heard from the apostles. The same is true for us today as we are to renew our mind and constantly be in remembrance of the words of sacred scripture. The foundation of the church was the prophets and the apostles (**Ephesians 2:19-21**) and they both speak today through the Bible.

### Verses 3-7

Peter is calling the days in which he is writing the last days which was the first century A.D. The term “last days” is in reference to the time from Christ’s first coming until He returns on the Last Day.

- **1 Peter 1:20** For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared <sup>[a]</sup>in these last times for the sake of you
- **1 John 2:18** Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.
- **Hebrews 1:1-2** God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, <sup>2 [a]</sup>in these last days has spoken to us <sup>[b]</sup>in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the <sup>[c]</sup>world.
- **2 Timothy 3:1** But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.
- **Acts 2:16-17** but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel:<sup>17</sup> ‘And it shall be in the last days,’ God says, ‘That I will pour forth of My Spirit on all <sup>[a]</sup>mankind; And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, And your young men shall see visions, And your old men shall dream dreams; <sup>18</sup> Even on My bondslaves, both men and women, I will in those days pour forth of My Spirit And they shall prophesy.

In these last days, false teachers and scoffers will come and, driven by their own lusts, will attack and deny the return of Christ to bring judgment to the ungodly and rescue for the believers. They claim that all is the same as it has been from the beginning. However, it escapes them that God has brought judgment upon the ungodly and unrighteous in the world via the flood. In the judgment upon the world the first time God used water to destroy the earth, but the earth was not destroyed out of existence or annihilated. This thought is important when we look at the earth on the Last Day. However, when He returns on the Last Day to bring judgment and wrath upon this world and the ungodly, He will use fire (Sodom and Gomorrah was a type and shadow of this). We don’t know that day, but that day has been marked on God’s call from all eternity past.

- **Acts 17: 30-31** Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all *people* everywhere should repent, <sup>31</sup> because He has fixed a day in which He will judge <sup>[a]</sup>the world in righteousness <sup>[b]</sup>through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men <sup>[c]</sup>by raising Him from the dead.”
- **2 Thessalonians 1:5-10** *This is* a plain indication of God’s righteous judgment so that you will be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which indeed you are suffering. <sup>6 [a]</sup>For after all it is *only* just <sup>[b]</sup>for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, <sup>7</sup> and *to give* relief to you who are afflicted <sup>[c]</sup>and to us as well <sup>[d]</sup>when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with <sup>[e]</sup>His mighty angels in flaming fire, <sup>8</sup> dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. <sup>9</sup> These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, <sup>10</sup> when He comes to be glorified <sup>[f]</sup>in His <sup>[g]</sup>saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed—for our testimony to you was believed.

## Verse 8

God is an infinite eternal being and is not bound by time and space and is not operating on the same understanding of time as we are. To Christians today, the promise of Christ's return is 2,000 years old. However, to God it is 2 days.

## Verse 9

Since God does not operate on our time, many may question His coming and doubt God's promise to return (John 14:1-3). God is patient in His return and has not returned yet for a significant reason: all the sheep/elect have not come to repentance. One thing that must always be remembered in exegeting the Bible is context. We must remember who Peter is writing this letter to. He has mentioned in the first verse of Chapter three that this is the second letter he is writing to this group of people to which he called beloved. He is writing to the chosen aliens and exiles as was stated 1 Peter 1:1-2. He also states in 2 Peter 1:1 that to whom he is writing has received the same faith. This context and detail cannot be overlooked to properly and Biblically understand this verse. Peter says that He is patient with "you" which is referring to the elect to which He is writing. Peter is stating that the reason that Christ has not returned is that He is patient and does not want any of His elect to perish, but to come to repentance, which they will do. Christ will not return until all His sheep and elect are gathered, rescued, and come to repentance.

- John 6:37-40,44 All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out. <sup>38</sup> For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. <sup>39</sup> This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. <sup>40</sup> For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day." No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.
- John 10:27-30 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; <sup>28</sup> and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. <sup>29</sup> [a] My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of the Father's hand. <sup>30</sup> I and the Father are [b] one."
- John 17:11-12 I am no longer in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, *the name* which You have given Me, that they may be one even as We are. <sup>12</sup> While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me; and I guarded them and not one of them perished but the [a] son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.