

The Day of the Lord

2 Peter 3: 8-10

2Pe 3:8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

“Be not Ignorant”

Definition:

“The condition of being uneducated, unaware, or uninformed”

Note:

Ignorance can be a dangerous thing.

Illus:

A child ignorant of the danger of the road; a fire etc.

But to be ignorant of the things of God is the most dangerous thing of all!!!

Hos 4:6

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

Paul writing of his own nation could say:

Rom 10:3

For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

In verse 5 of our present passage we read of the worst type of ignorance.

2Pe 3:5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:

Ignorance by choice!

Thomas Manton in a sermon on psalm 119:144 said:

“our ignorance and folly, which is the cause of all our sin”

Note:

The cure in:

Psa 119:144

The righteousness of thy testimonies is everlasting: give me understanding, and I shall live.

But getting back to our text.

What are we told specifically not to be ignorant of?

“that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day”

Note;

God is not constrained or ruled by time.

God is the creator of time: its Lord and Master.

To call any one else a “Time Lord” is to ascribe something which belongs to God alone.

When Genesis says:

“In the beginning”

It means God made time itself.

Note 2;

Our text has reference to God not us.

This cannot be used to support the day/ages view put forward by some.

When Genesis says a day it means a day.

The Bible was written for us not God.

Therefore we understand it in the normal use of language.

God is not the author of confusion. {1 Cor 14:33}

Compare our text with Psalm 90:1-4 speaking of God

Psalm 90:9-12 speaking of man.

So:

We see in verse 8 God is NOT controlled by time.

In verse 9

We see:

God is NOT.....

2Pe 3:9a "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness"

This reminds us of verses 3 & 4 of this chapter.

2Pe 3:3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

2Pe 3:4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

Compare Hab. 2: 1-4

Then in the second half of verse 9 we have:

“but is longsuffering to us-ward”

Compare Isaiah 30:18

Next in verse 9

“not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance”

Does this part of the verse present us, who hold to the doctrine of Election, with a problem?

Not at all.

Let me quote Calvin on this:

“But it may be asked, If God wishes none to perish, why is it that so many do perish? To this my answer is, that no mention is here made of the hidden purpose of God, according to which the reprobate are doomed to their own ruin, but only of his will as made known to us in the gospel. For God there stretches forth his hand without a difference to all, but lays hold only of those, to lead them to himself, whom he has chosen before the foundation of the world.”

Compare Ezekiel 33:11

Now we turn to verse 10 of our passage.

“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night”

Rev 16:15 Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

Does this mean a secret rapture?

Not at all.

It means to come unexpectedly!!!

Rev 3:3 *Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.*

Read Matthew 24: 36-44

Then refer back to verses 36 and 35

Note that day in verse 36 will be a day when heaven and earth shall pass away.

This fits perfectly with the words of Peter in our text:

“in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up”

Note here:

The return of Christ will usher in the Eternal state.

Not a seven year tribulation followed by various judgments followed by a supposed earthly reign

Note also:

The apostle peter does not point us to a millennial reign but the Eternal state in verse 13 of our passage:

2Pe 3:13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Also we reject the idea of a “Two-stage” return of Christ based on a proper understanding of:

1 Thess. 4: 13- 5:4