

## 2 Peter 3:1-13

### Remember, Christ is Coming

### Pt.2

Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in *both of* which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder),

**2** that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior,

**3** knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts,

**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 creation."

**5** For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water,

**6** by which the world *that* then existed perished, being flooded with water.

**7** But the heavens and the earth *which* are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

**8** But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day *is* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

**9** The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not

willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

- 10** But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.
- 11** Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,
- 12** looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?
- 13** Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

The New King James Version. (1982). (2 Pe 3:1–13). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

## **Introduction**

On May 18, 1980, Mount St. Helens **erupted** in western Washington. It was the most devastating volcanic eruption in U.S. history.

The blast generated “about 500 times the force of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima.

Fifty-seven people were killed and thousands of animals and left the mountain itself 1,300 feet lower.

**As TIME reported:**

*Clouds of hot ash made up of pulverized rock were belched twelve miles into the sky. Giant mud slides, composed of melted snow mixed with ash and propelled by waves of superheated gas erupting out of the crater, rumbled down the slopes and crashed through valleys, leaving millions of trees knocked down in rows, as though a giant had been playing pick-up sticks.*

*gas swept down the volcano's slope at more than 683 miles per hour and reached temperatures of 572 degrees Fahrenheit. The tempestuous volcano also hurled about 540 million tons of ash into the air,*

Hundreds of homes, businesses, roads, and bridges were **destroyed**. Material from the eruption—called a **pyroclastic flow**—destroyed (230 square miles) of **forest**. The **volcano** ejected a **plume** of ash (12-15 miles) into the air, and **volcanic ash** was **detected** as far away as eastern Oklahoma.

Here is an excerpt from a National Geographic article on the Mt. St. Helens' volcano that illustrates the futility of this kind of thinking "Old man Harry Truman (83) built a cabin by Spirit Lake on the slopes of Mt. St. Helens some 53 years ago. All those years nature remained consistent. But then the mountain started to awaken. Residents were asked to leave. Warnings were given. Park guards came to the cabin to tell him it wasn't safe. TV and newspaper folks interviewed him. He said he could not live anywhere else. He was part of the mountain and the mountain was

part of him. He laughed at and cursed all his visitors. Then on May 18, 1980 the mountain exploded and Harry Truman perished under hundreds of feet of volcanic ash."

More than 10,000 [local earthquakes](#) led up to event, but scientists had trouble pinpointing the source based on the one seismometer located near the volcano. Moran cited the example as a valuable lesson for having instruments in place beforehand, so that scientists can avoid the scramble to set up once a volcano came alive.

Government officials had plenty of time to ensure that everyone was safely evacuated from the area around Mount St. Helens, the Washington State volcano that erupted on May 18, 1980. The mountain had been showing signs that it might blow for months before that fatal Sunday. But logging interests, which owned most of the land around the volcano, were at odds with geologists over how big the danger zone should be. And no one anticipated the strength of the eruption, which spewed 540 million tons of ash into the air and killed 57 people.

This man did not heed the warnings of those who tried to save his life. The mockers do not heed the warnings of Scripture which seek to bring men to repentance. Make no mistake about it, Jesus Christ is coming again.

- 1. *Believers Remember it***
- 2. *Unbelievers Reject it***
- 3. *God Guarantees it***
- 4. *Peter Describes it***
- 5. *Behavior is changed by it.***

## **Lesson**

### **I. Believers Remember it**

1. Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder),
2. that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior,

**Spurgeon** - The purest minds need stirring up at times. It would be a great pity to stir up impure minds. That would only be to do mischief; but pure minds may be stirred as much as you please, and the more the better. There are hallowed memories in the minds of all Christians; but those memories are apt to lie asleep, and it is well to ring the alarm bell, and wake up all the memories within the believer's heart, even as Peter did

when he wrote, “I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance.”

J. Vernon McGee comments on our tendency to forget: A man said to me, “I have a good *memory*. My problem is that my *forgettery* is even better.”

## II. Unbelievers reject it

- 3 knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts,
- 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 creation.”
- 5 For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water,
- 6 by which the world *that* then existed perished, being flooded with water.

## 3 Things to know about there Mockery

1. The Reason for their Mockery
2. The Reasoning for their Mockery
3. The Rejection of their Mockery

The Mockers come Mocking what?

**Answer:** The Second Coming of Christ

**4 and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming?”**

**Saying (lego)** is **present tense** which indicates that they were continuously belittling the truth about **Christ's Second Coming**

**coming**

("coming" is the Greek word **parousia** [see word study] which literally means “a being beside” and refers **primarily to Christ's presence** and secondarily to His coming or arrival).

The apostles clearly did not want this foundational truth to be missed or misunderstood as attested to by about 300 NT references (out of 260 NT chapters) to the "Second Coming".

**Coming (3952)(parousia)** is a combination of two Greek words **para** = with, alongside + **ousia** = being (**ousia** is the participial form of the verb **eimi** = to be) which together literally mean to be alongside.

**Parousia** then literally means a **being beside** or a **presence**. The word denotes both an arrival and a consequent presence with.

**Parousia** conveys the thought of an arrival (advent or coming) of a person to a place plus the idea of their presence at that place until a certain event transpires. The

word **parousia** has no English equivalent and therefore is often transliterated in writings.

**John MacArthur - Parousia** refers to more than just coming; it includes the idea of “**presence**.” Perhaps the best English translation would be “**arrival**.” The church’s great hope is the arrival of Jesus Christ when He comes to bless His people with His presence. That glorious truth appears in more than 500 verses throughout the Bible. (MacArthur J. James. Moody) (Bolding added)

### “Where is the promise

The Bible is full of the promise of His Coming

#### **1 Thessalonians 1:10 (NKJV)**

<sup>10</sup> and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *even* Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

#### **1 Thessalonians 2:19 (NKJV)**

<sup>19</sup> For what *is* our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? *Is it* not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?

#### **1 Thessalonians 4:16 (NKJV)**

<sup>16</sup> For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

#### **2 Thessalonians 1:7–10 (NKJV)**

<sup>7</sup> and to *give* you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, <sup>8</sup> in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, <sup>10</sup> when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.

## **2 Thessalonians 2:1 (NKJV)**

**2** Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, Matthew 24:29–31 (NKJV)

<sup>29</sup> “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>30</sup> Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. <sup>31</sup> And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

**Matthew Henry** has this to say about the Second Coming "Without this, all the other articles of the Christian faith will

signify very little. This is that which fills up and gives the finishing stroke to all the rest."

## 1. The Reason for their Mockery

**3** knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts,  
**4** and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming?"

**Spurgeon** expounds on **scoffers** (scorners) in *Psalm 1:1* where we read "*blessed is the man who does not... sit in the seat of scoffers*"...

The seat of the **scorner** may be very lofty, but it is very near to the gate of hell; let us flee from it, for it shall soon be empty, and destruction shall swallow up the man who sits therein.

**Spurgeon rightly notes** that "Errors of doctrine are almost always attended with errors of practice, and certainly' they legitimately lead that way. Those who scoff according to the lusts of their intellect are very likely to live according to the lusts of their flesh.

## 2. The Reasoning for their Mockery

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 creation.**”

#### **4 For since the fathers fell asleep,**

Who are **the fathers**? Examination of the 9 NT uses (See Luke 1:17 John 6:58, 7:22 Acts 13:32 Ro 9:5, Ro 11:28 Rom 15:8 Heb 1:1 2 Pet 3:4) show that **the fathers** is used predominantly to refer to the Old Testament **fathers**.

**Fall asleep** (2837) (koimao) is a NT euphemism for death and is a pleasant way of speaking of something that in itself is not considered pleasant

**Vincent** adds that **koimao** was used in classical Greek to denote death. The difference between the pagan and the Christian usage lies in the fact that, in the latter, it was defined by the **hope of the resurrection**...

The related word **koimeterion** was used by the Greeks to describe a place of rest and was adopted by the Christians to describe the place of interment of the bodies of their departed and which is the root word of our English word “**cemetery**” or “the sleeping place”.

**all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of creation.”**

The things that continue today, the scoffers contend, are the things that have always been and, therefore, always will be. Thus the scoffers assert a continuous, uniform duration for the material universe and their use of **all** leaves no room for cataclysmic exceptions in their argument. Their false reasoning is known as the theory of uniformity or Uniformitarianism, a geological theory propagated and popularized in the 1800's by geologist Sir Charles Lyell and directly refuting the geological doctrine of Catastrophism (the doctrine that at intervals in the earth's history all living things have been destroyed by **cataclysms**, e.g., floods & earthquakes, and replaced by an entirely different population.)

**Wikipedia's** description is eerily almost "Biblical"...

The dominant paradigm of modern geology is uniformitarianism (sometimes described as gradualism), in which slow incremental changes, such as erosion, create the Earth's appearance. This view holds that the present is the key to the past, and **that all things continue as they were from the beginning of the world.** (Ref)

According to the "futile speculation" of Uniformitarianism, it is assumed that the processes that govern nature today have always been the same in the past so that the present is the key to the past. These fools claim that everything seen on earth can be explained by natural laws and processes presently in operation. This notion is reflected in the modern view that **evolution** can explain the origin of earth, of vegetable and animal life, and of human life as well. These scoffers take a so-called "scientific approach" by examining evidence (but as Peter shows in the next verse they are dishonest observers with "selective" memory loss), applying reason, and drawing a conclusion. They reason that since **no creation** is occurring today, it never happened in the past either! The false teachers were implying that God is absent from the affairs of this planet. They express an **incipient deism** which rules out divine intervention in the universal order (by the way a number of America's founding fathers were deists). The mockers argue that in a universe governed by natural laws, supernatural occurrences such as miracles (e.g., a literal Creation out of nothing [ex nihilo] or a universal flood) simply cannot occur. Therefore they "reason" that Jesus Christ could not come (again). In effect, they were teaching that,

There will not be a great cataclysmic judgmental event at the end of history, because that is not how the universe works. There never has been such a judgment, so why should we expect one in the future. Instead, everything in the universe is stable, closed, fixed, and governed by never varying patterns and principles of evolution. Nothing catastrophic has ever happened in the past, so nothing catastrophic ever will happen in the future."

And so the mockers blatantly deny the truth of both the Creation and the Flood in Genesis. Paul had an excellent description of their aberrant, arrogant "logic": For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools." (Ro 1:21; 22-see notes Ro 1:21; 22) (See Torrey's Topic "Spiritual Blindness" "Self delusion")

### **3. The Rejection of their Mockery**

**5** For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water,

6 by which the world *that* then existed perished, being flooded with water.

5 For this they willfully forget:

[New American Standard Bible](#)

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,

**FOR WHEN THEY MAINTAIN THIS IT ESCAPES THEIR NOTICE: Lamthanei (3SPA)I gar autos touto thelontes (PAPMPA): (Jn 3:19,20; Ro 1:28; 2Th 2:10, 11, 2:12)**

**Please note -The NAS is probably not the best translation of the Greek in this passage.** It is one thing to have something escape one's notice but quite another to **willfully** overlook a matter. The **KJV** gives a better sense of the heart of these unbelieving scoffers stating that they willingly are ignorant of...

Here are several other renderings...

they **deliberately** suppress this fact (NET)

they **willfully** overlook and forget this [fact] (Amplified)

they **deliberately** forget (NIV)

**Wuest** - The literal Greek is, "for this escapes them being willing" (Robertson); Vincent translates, "this escapes them of their own will,"

**For** (gar) is a marker of **cause** or **reason** and follows one or more words in a preceding clause (Always pause and ponder **terms of explanation** - this practice will

facilitate **Biblical Meditation** which is linked to untold blessings! See Ps 1:2-note, Ps 1:3-note; Joshua 1:8-note). The **reason** that they ascribed to the false teaching of "uniformitarianism" (there have been no significant physical changes or interventions on planet earth) is now explained --- **For** they deliberately chose to suppress, disregard, overlook (cp Paul's statement that they continually, actively, volitionally, on purpose "suppress [hold down, quash, restrain] the truth in unrighteousness" Ro 1;18-note) and forget the truths that Peter now reminds us of.

this puts a great many scientists and Ph.D.'s in a pretty bad light!

It is amazing how so-called "thinkers" (scientists, liberal theologians, philosophers) will be selective and deliberately refuse to consider certain data.

this they willfully forget:

this they willfully **forget:**

**forget:**

**anthanó: to escape notice**

**Original Word:** λανθάνω

**Part of Speech:** Verb

**Transliteration:** lanthanó

**Phonetic Spelling:** (lan-than'-o)

**Short Definition:** I am hidden, escape notice

**Definition:** I am hidden (concealed), lie hid, escape notice, sometimes with acc. of person from whom concealment takes place; I do so and so unconsciously, unknown to myself, I shut my eyes to so and so.

means to **ignore** (discount, disregard, refuse to take notice of), to succeed in avoiding attention or awareness or to not recall information and thus to lose sight of its significance.

**willfully forget:**

**Willingly (thelo)** (See notes above) is a word which expresses a desire that comes from an active decision of one's will and clearly implies choice and purpose. Webster says that **willful** implies an obstinate, often perverse determination to have one's way.

**Thelo** is in the present tense (which indicates they are habitually willful) and the active voice indicates that they made a personal choice. They persistently ignore the obvious facts.

Everybody is ignorant,” said Will Rogers, “only on different subjects.”

How true, and yet that is not the whole story because there is more than one kind of ignorance. Some people are ignorant because of lack of opportunity to learn, or perhaps lack of ability to learn; others are (to use Peter’s phrase in 2 Peter 3:5) “willingly ... ignorant.” “Not

ignorance, but ignorance of ignorance, is the death of knowledge,” said a famous philosopher, and he is right.

Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *The Bible exposition commentary* (Vol. 2, pp. 461–462). Wheaton, IL: Victor Book

## 1. The Creation

## 2. The Cataclysm

### 1. The Creation

v. 5.....that by the word of God the heavens were of old,  
and the earth standing out of water and in the water,

**Jeremiah...**

Thus you shall say to them, "The gods that did not make the heavens and the earth shall perish from the earth and from under the heavens." It is He who made the earth by His power, Who established the world by His wisdom; And by His understanding He has stretched out the heavens. (Jeremiah 10:11,12)

Through His prophet Isaiah, Jehovah charges all peoples to...

Lift up your eyes on high and see Who has created these stars. The One who leads forth their host by number, He calls them all by name; because of the greatness of His might and the strength of His power not one of them is missing. (Isaiah 40:26)

The phrase **God said** (the word of God) occurs nine times in Genesis 1 beginning in verse 6...

Then **God said** (= "by the word of the Lord"), "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters."... Then **God said**, "Let the waters below the heavens be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so. (Ge 1:6,9)

The **Psalmist** also testified to the creative **power of God's Word** crying out...

Let all the earth fear the LORD. Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast. (Ps 33:8-9) **C H Spurgeon** comments that...

Creation was the fruit of a word. Jehovah said, "Light be," and light was. The Lord's acts are sublime in their ease and instantaneousness. "What a word is this?" This was the wondering enquiry of old, and it may be ours to this day.

**He commanded, and it stood fast.** Out of nothing creation stood forth, and was confirmed in existence. The same power which first uplifted, now makes the universe to abide; although we may not observe it, there is as great a display of sublime power in confirming as in creating. Happy is the man who has learned to lean his all upon the sure word of Him who built the skies!

Creationist Dr. Henry Morris explains **the heavens existed long ago** this way...

Evolutionists, whether they are atheistic, pantheistic, deistic, or theistic evolutionists, **willingly ignore** God's testimony that the heavens and the earth did not evolve by continuing natural processes but were called into existence by God's omnipotent Word, fully complete and functioning from the beginning (Ge 1:1-2:3; Ex 20:8-11; Ps 33:6-9; Heb 4:3,10; Hebrews 11:3). The only reason God took as long as six natural days to finish the whole creation was to serve as a pattern for man's six-day work week (Ex 20:8, 9, 11). The various theories of cosmic evolution, stellar evolution and planetary evolution are all unproven and internally destructive, as are the various theories of chemical evolution, organic evolution, human evolution and cultural evolution. There are now thousands of fully qualified scientists, some from every field of science, who have studied the scientific evidence, pro and con, who have come to the conviction that the Biblical record of earth history is precisely correct and that evolutionary theory is totally false (Defenders Study Bible. World Publishing)

v. 5.....that by the word of God the heavens were of old, **and the earth standing out of water and in the water,**

MacArthur understands this description to mean that.

The earth was **formed** between two realms of watery mass. During the early part of the creation week, God collected the upper waters into a **canopy** around the whole earth, and the lower waters into underground reservoirs, rivers, lakes, and seas."

**Dr. Henry Morris** comments on **out of water and by water...**

In the 1st stage of creation, after the 2nd day, the primeval earth material was surrounded by vast "waters above the firmament" and suspended in other "waters under the firmament" (Gen 1:7 --- "... separated the waters which were below the expanse from the waters which were above the expanse... " This could possibly have been a canopy of water vapor which acted to make the earth like a hothouse, provided uniform temperature, inhibited mass air movements, caused mist to fall, and filtered out ultraviolet rays, thus extending life.). The waters beneath the "firmament" (the "expanse" of the troposphere) later were either formed into seas or confined in a great deep beneath the earth's crust. This regime apparently continued until the time of the great Flood when they all came together again. Until then the earth was "standing" (Greek sunistemi--that is, being "sustained" in and by the waters). The earth is, in fact, uniquely, the "water planet." (Morris, Henry: Defenders Study Bible. World Publishing

## 2. The Cataclysm == Flood

6 by which the world *that* then existed perished, being flooded with water.

by

**Through (dia)** is a marker of instrumentality by which something is accomplished. In this case the instrument through which the **world** was **destroyed** was the **water** (and some commentators add "**and the Word**").

It is interesting that God, by creating water above and below, built into His creation the means of its destruction. From its inception, the earth was formed with the means of its own destruction for it had water in its subterranean depths, in the seas, and in the clouds. In His perfect timing, God released the waters from below and above (see Gen 7:11ff), inundating the land and destroying all life outside of the ark.

**the world that then existed**

**At that time (tote)** means **then** and so the Greek phrase (ho tote kosmos) literally means **the then world**. When is **then**? In context Peter is describing the **world** as it was at the time the cataclysmic flood in Genesis 6-9. This time phrase directly addresses the statement of the ungodly regarding the **beginning of creation** in (3:3)

Most conservative Biblical scholars feel that the "world order" **at that time** was substantially different than the "world order" after the flood. Extrapolating from the Biblical account the world of Noah's day seems to have possessed a unique physical environment often referred to as the **canopy**, representing a collection of water above the land and sheltering the earth from the sun's destructive ultraviolet rays, producing a gentle climate that was devoid of rain, storms, and winds. Further this pre-flood orderly arrangement was characterized by incredible human longevity (cf Ge 5) and remarkable fruitfulness as the **canopy** acted much like a green house.

**6** by which the world *that* then existed *perished, being flooded with water*

**Destroyed** (622)(apollumi) pertains to destruction without annihilation. It basically has to do with that which is ruined and is no longer usable for its intended purpose. The thing ruined can no longer fulfill the use for which it was designed. All people are created by God for His glory, but when they refuse to come to Him for salvation they lose their opportunity for redemption, for becoming what God intends for them to be. They are then fit only for condemnation and destruction.

**Destroyed** is in the historical aorist tense which indicates a past completed action. The indicative mood speaks of a definite event.

Peter is refuting what is commonly referred to as the **uniformitarianism** of the mockers,

Creationist Dr. Henry Morris has some interesting comments on the "world... destroyed" writing that... The "perishing" of the **world that then was** is especially evidenced by the vast beds of fossils of plants and animals that have been preserved in the sedimentary rocks of the earth's crust. These fossil beds have been misinterpreted by evolutionary scientists as a record of the evolution of life over many ages (despite the ubiquitous absence of any true transitional forms in these billions of fossils). What they really represent is the cataclysmic destruction of life in one age, at the time of the great Flood. Both sedimentary rocks and unhardened sediments have mostly been deposited under water, and they now cover most of the earth's land surface as well as ocean bottom surface. Furthermore, flood traditions somewhat similar to the Flood record in Genesis have been found among almost all nations and tribes of the earth. The genuine facts of science and history thoroughly support the Biblical account of the Flood, while only willful ignorance can warrant the evolutionary interpretation of these evidences, and Peter said it would be so in the last days. Most important of all, of course, is the divinely inspired record in the Bible itself (Ge 6:1-9:1ff), confirmed by Christ (Lk 17:26;27), Peter and others that the Flood, indeed, was a worldwide cataclysm. That being the case, the fossil record (which is the main hope of the evolutionist) is mostly a record of the Flood, not of

evolution." (Morris, Henry: Defenders Study Bible. World Publishing) (bolding added)

**The Columbia Encyclopedia**, a secular source has this entry under **deluge**

**Flood stories resembling the biblical story** are found in the folklore of many races—Native Americans, Fiji Islanders, and Australian aborigines. The earliest known of these stories is Sumerian, one form being found in the record of Berossus (3rd century BC), another on a tablet of the Gilgamesh epic of at least 2000 BC.

**Being flooded** (2626) (katakluzo from **kata** = intensifies meaning + **kludon** = dashing or surging wave, a surge, a violent agitation of the sea from **kluzo** = to billow, dash over) means to surge over completely, to inundate (cover with a flood, figuratively to overwhelm), to deluge, to overflow or to submerge. The word pictures a large flood with destructive force (and implies complete, destructive overflow) and is used in its literal sense by Peter. **Katakluzo** is used metaphorically in several OT passages (see Septuagint uses below), which picture an enemy force as "overflowing" (Jer 47:2) or a manifestation of God's anger (Ezek 13:13)

In 2Peter 2:5 Peter the related noun **kataklusmos** which means "an inundation, deluge." (Used only of Noah's flood in Mt 24:38, 39; Lk 17:27; 2Pe2:5)

In the Greek NT katakluzo is only used to refer to Noah's Flood (cf. Mt 24:38,39; Luke 17:27; 2Peter 2:5) for other words were used for other, lesser, local floods (cf. Luke 6:48 [plemmúra = tide, floodtide inundation], Rev 12:15 [potamophoretos]-note).

Note the use of the **historical aorist tense** which signifies a past completed action. It has been well said that those who cannot remember (or refuse to acknowledge the reality of) the past are condemned to repeat it (cp "**condemned**" in [2Pe 2:6-note](#); "condemnation" of ungodly in [Jude 1:4](#), [Heb 11:7-note](#) = Noah's obedient faith "condemned the world"! [**Corollary**: a "faith" that does not obey is suspect! We are not speaking of "perfection" for none of achieve perfect obedience, but of general "direction" of our lives as manifest by our choices, our lifestyle - are we journeying "heavenward" or "hell-ward"?]).

**Katakluzo** gives us our English word **cataclysm** (from Latin "*cataclysmos*" - deluge) which **Webster** defines as a momentous and violent event marked by overwhelming upheaval and demolition, an event that brings great changes, a violent upheaval; a disastrous flood; a deluge; calamity, woe, disaster.

In Geology **cataclysm** is "another name for catastrophe... any sudden and violent change in the earth's surface caused by flooding, earthquake or some other rapid process". (Collins Dictionary)

**Comment: Webster's 1828** version says "cataclysm is used "particularly (of) the flood in Noah's day." It is interesting that the modern version has "jettisoned" this description in its more "*enlightened*" definition!

The **Concise Oxford English Dictionary** has an interesting note on the origin of **cataclysm**, explaining that it originated in the seventeenth century, "*originally denoting the biblical Flood*".

### **John Morris states**

“That he is convinced that Noahs Flood is the bottom line in solving the controversy surrounding Evolution vs Creation.”

**Dr. Henry Morris,** understood the central nature of the Flood to the debate and wrote a pivotal book in 1960 Titled “The Genesis Flood” If fact he credits a reading of 2 Peter 3 as the primary means God used to move into this study of Evolution vs. Creation His Book was the catalyst for the “Creation movement’ He knew that your acceptance or rejection of the Universal Flood taught in the Bible was the determiner of your belief on anything else in the Bible.

The reality is that the Evolutionist claim the same evidence of fossils in the rocks as proof of there position, yet this is exactly what you would expect see if a universal catastrophic flood took place.

You see, if there really was a global Flood, like the Bible says, **we should find billions of dead things, buried in rock layers, laid down by water, all over the earth.** And that is exactly what we find! The floodwaters ripped up miles of sediment, re-depositing it in layers. Organisms got trapped and buried, turning into fossils.

But the world has shut there eyes to this truth and sadly many in the church.

**Jamieson & Fausset** - They obstinately shut their eyes to the Scripture record of the creation and the deluge

**Dr. Henry Morris** - It is remarkable that evolutionism (Darwinianism) which is currently such dominant theory of the origin and meaning of life is based on absolutely no verifiable evidence. There is simply no scientific or historical evidence that evolution has taken place. In fact the most basic laws of science (laws of probability and thermodynamics) prove that genuine macro-evolution could not happen at all. As Peter prophesied, this belief would be based on "**willful ignorance**"... which is why Paul categorically stated that such "suppressers of the truth" (the 2 major previous divine cataclysmic events—creation and the flood) are "**without excuse**" ([Ro 1:20-note](#)).

Evolution, is The LIE that the devil has used to put to sleep the masses. It leads people to believe, there is no God and that He is not coming back.

**To deny the Biblical Flood is to deny the very essence of the Gospel itself**

1. The God is Just and will Judge Sin
2. That God is Faithful to keep His Promise of Judgement
3. That God has the Power to completely Judge and destroy you.

4. That God is Gracious and had made a Way to be Saved
5. That God will and Can be merciful to Sinners

### III. God Guarantees it

- 7 But the heavens and the earth *which* are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.
- 8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day *is* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.
- 9 The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

### IV. Peter Describes it

- 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

## V. Behavior is changed by it

- 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,
- 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?
- 13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.