

## Skepticism of the Last Days – 07/18/21

**TEXT- 2 Pe 3:1-10** *This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:*

**INTRO** – This 2000 year old prophecy describes the skepticism that prevails today. The last days are a reference to a future event. It clearly is not referring to the time of Peter's writing. This prophecy began to be fulfilled in the late 1800's. From this era has come an explosion of skepticism in the form of theological modernism, humanism, evolution communism and agnosticism among other philosophies.

Bob Jones University began as a result of the state universities teaching these ideas which parents complained was destroying the faith of their children. William Jennings Bryan spoke to Bob Jones at a Bible conference in 1924 suggesting that if our schools don't quit teaching evolution as a fact we are going to become a nation of atheists.

### I. A Rejection of a World-wide Flood 3:4-6

- In the late 1800's the influence of Charles Lyell taught the view that the earth's strata was laid down over millions of years and that there was no global flood. Professors did not advance students who held to the biblical view of the flood branding them as illiterate thinkers and not worthy of an academic degree.
- Prior to the nineteenth century geologists argued that the flood was the cause of the fossil beds.
- Prior to the nineteenth century it was generally believed even by scientists that God created the world and there had been a world-wide flood.
- By the 19<sup>th</sup> century the evolutionary view had taken control of our public schools and it is clearly a fulfillment of the last days.

### II. The Rejection of Creation 3:5

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:*

The teaching of evolution has gone hand in hand with agnosticism and atheism.

**Heb 11:6** *But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

The elevation of education over truth

### III. The Motive of the Scoffers 3:3

**Heb 4:12** *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

#### **Willful lusts**

**2 Co 3:14-16** *But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ. 15 But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart. 16 Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away.*

**The will is the difference between believers and unbelievers.**

**Ph.D. Richard Dawkins biochemist trained at a high level vs. Lowell Coker of microbiology both look at the same evidence and come to a completely different conclusion.**

**Some have made a commitment to the materialistic philosophy.**

**Every man has a choice but there are consequences to that choice.**

### IV. The Ignorance of Scoffers 3:5

**Eph 4:17-19** *This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, 18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: 19 Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.*

agnosia - "want of knowledge or perception"

#### **You don't know what you don't know!**

**Rom 1:28** *And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;*

**Humanists are proud of their knowledge.**

**Psa 111:10** *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.*

**Most skeptics are ignorant of the Bible.**

- They may know some Bible stories but not the practical nature behind them.
- They don't know the overall theme of the Bible
- They don't understand how the Bible all fits together as a whole.
- They don't know how to interpret the Bible

- They are not familiar with the evidences of divine inspiration
- They don't understand the clear teaching on salvation.

#### V. The Faith of Scoffers 3:4-5

**I don't have naught faith to be an atheist.**

Skeptics pride themselves in thinking they are following scientific facts while Bible believers are following blind religious faith.

The exact opposite is true.

- They believe everything came from nothing.
- Life came from non-life
- Intelligence came from non-intelligence
- Great intelligence is a product of small intelligence.

#### VI. The Undeserved Opportunity For Scoffers 3:9

“Testimonies of Scientists Who Believe the Bible” This book contains 70 men and women with Ph.D.'s in hard science and yet believe in a six day literal creation and a world-wide flood.

Skeptics can be saved.

#### VII. The Destiny of Scoffers 3:9-10

God is merciful and compassionate but He is also holy and just.

Rejection of Jesus Christ dooms a soul to hell with no hope of recovery.

#### **CONCL-**

- The culture of our day reminds us of the veracity of the Word of God. It is true and the actions of the day only remind us of the prophecy of Peter.
- We need not fear because our God is still in control.
- We must be about our Father's business.

Luke 2:49 . . . *wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?*