

2 Peter 3: 1-7

“Why did Peter write 2 Peter”

We will look at these verses under the following headings

1. The Apostolic Motive = Verse 1
 2. The Apostolic Purpose = Verse 2
 3. The Apostolic Warning = Verses 3-4
 4. The Apostolic Diagnosis = Verse 5a
 5. The Apostolic Interpretation = Verse 5b-6
 6. The Apostolic Prediction = verse 7
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1. The Apostolic Motive = Verse 1

This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in *both* which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:

“*I stir up*”

διεγείρω *diegeiro dee-eg-i'-ro*

to wake fully, that is, arouse (literally or figuratively): - arise, awake, raise, stir up.

We live in a generation when Christians have fallen asleep.

Compare 2 Peter 1: 12-15

“pure minds”

The word here “Pure”

Can mean either “Tested by the Sun”

Or

“Tested in a Sieve”

{Maybe like they used a sieve in the days of the gold rush}

2. The Apostolic Purpose = Verse 2

That ye 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 Saviour:

“Mindful”

Lit: Mental grasp

Jud 1:17 But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ;

App: Catechism

Why should we give ourselves to the meditation of these word's?

2Pe 1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

Note:

In the previous verses the equality between the words of the Apostles and the words of the Prophets.

So, we have considered:

1. The Apostolic Motive = Verse 1 {To stir them in their faith}
2. The Apostolic Purpose = Verse 2 {That they might have a mental grasp of the faith}

Now:

3. The Apostolic Warning = Verses 3-4

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

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.

Consider:

1. Who it is that we are warned of.

“Scoffers”

or a Mocker.

We talked about False Teachers in Chapter 2. Now we are dealing with those who don't pretend to be teachers but simply make their goal to Mock Christianity.

2. When will they come?

{Verse 3}

“that there shall come in the last days scoffers”

Note;

The last days {Apostles till now and till the return of Christ}

3. Should we be overly concerned about them?

Many would say no.

But the apostle Peter says:

“Knowing this first”

In other word’s this is something to know as of first importance.

Ill:

Shepherd who knows there is a Wolf in the area.

Nothing else concerns him but to chase away of kill the wolf.

4. What will characterise these people?

They will be

Verse 3

“walking after their own lusts”

Its worth quoting Jude here:

Jud 1:18 How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.

Jud 1:19 These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.

Jud 1:20 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

5. What will they be saying?

Verse 4

“And saying, Where is the promise of his coming?”

Note here:

The emphasis of their derision is not primarily on the Coming of Christ but on the Promise.

They mock the Word of Christ.

Remember the devil in the garden:

“Hath God Said?”

Consider:

6. Their deceptive lie.

Verse 4

for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as <i>they were</i> from the beginning of the creation.
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But:

Is that true?

Not according to Genesis 6:

Gen 6:6 And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

Gen 6:7 And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and

*beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air;
for it repenteth me that I have made them.*

4. The Apostolic Diagnosis = Verse 5a

So we have in our text in verse 5:

7. Their Ignorance with a purpose.

For this they willingly are ignorant of,

Or as another translation puts it:

“For they deliberately overlook this fact”

5. The Apostolic Interpretation = Verse 5b-6

Note:

They are purposely ignorant of the following:

1. Creation by the word of God.

Verse 5b

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

Gen 1:6 And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.

Gen 1:7 And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so.

Gen 1:8 And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.

2.

They are purposely ignorant

Of Judgment on the Ancient world.

Verse 6

<p><i>2Pe 3:6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:</i></p>

Gen 7:11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.

Gen 7:12 And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights.

Gen 7:21 And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man:

Gen 7:22 All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died.

Gen 7:23 And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark.

Gen 7:24 And the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days.

6. The Apostolic Prediction = verse 7

Now Creation by the word of God and past judgment is essential evidence for what is said in verse 7

<p><i>2Pe 3:7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.</i></p>
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Note:

“by the same word”

Consider:

2Th 1:8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

2Th 1:9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

See 2 Peter 3: 10 and 12