



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

2 PETER

[2 Peter 1](#)[2 Peter 2](#)[2 Peter 3](#)

2 PETER 1:1-15

[NEXT 2:10-22](#)

INTRODUCTION:

1 Peter Chapter 5: Peter stresses his right to be heard. He was an elder. He was a witness of Jesus' death, and was to be a partaker of Jesus' glory. Peter gives some great life lessons that he learned: **1.** Life lessons learned from the Shepherd (vv.1-4). **2.** Life lessons from the Apron (vv.5-7). **3.** Life lessons from a Lion (vv.8-10). **4.** And Life lessons learned from True Grace (vv.10-14). Peter exhorted the elders in the churches to shepherd the flock of God.

2 Peter 1:1-2

(2ndPt.) 1:1 **Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ,—** This epistle was apparently sent to the same believers who had received 1 Peter. Remember, they were scattered all throughout Asia, but written in Rome. The purpose was to combat and warn the church against false teachers and false doctrine. Peter had heard and answered God's call. God did not override Peter's will. Peter responded faithfully. He was called to be a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ. He was not called to occupy a position of authority or to be honored by men but to minister them. He lets his readers know that he is a servant. The word "servant" (*doulos*) means far more than just a servant. It means a slave totally possessed by the master. It is a "bond-servant" by law to a master. That means a servant:

- was owned by his master
- existed for his master
- served his master
- his will belonged to his master

Peter was sold-out for Christ! He was also an apostle of Jesus Christ. The word "apostle" (*apostolos*) means either a person who is sent out or a person who is sent forth; a representative, an ambassador, a person who is sent out into one country to represent another country. Three things are true of the apostle Peter:

1. He belongs to the "One" who has sent him out.
2. He is commissioned to be sent out.
3. He possesses all the authority and power of the One who has sent him out.

This says one thing about Peter: Peter thought that Jesus Christ was worth total devotion.

1:1b ... to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ— Peter is writing to those who share in the same valuable faith; equal privilege before God that he has. This faith in the righteousness of God and Savior Jesus Christ is obtained not earned; no one can work for it, it is a gift. This faith comes through the righteousness of Christ. The righteousness of Christ means:

1. Jesus is the righteous Man who can stand for and cover all men.
2. Jesus bore the sins of men and died for them. This was acceptable to God because He was the Perfect Man without sin.





PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

We therefore stand before God as righteous because He counts us righteous by the death of Christ; free of sin. God only sees Christ! Peter's aim is to stabilize the Christians; combat and warn the church against false teachers and false doctrine that caused believers to doubt and turn away from Christianity. Peter's first statement about himself in this letter is that he is a "bond-servant" and "an apostle" of Jesus Christ.

His first step in this stabilization process is to establish his position of one who voluntarily chooses to serve; an "apostle" –one who is sent out, a delegate, a messenger. His second step in this stabilization process is to establish that their faith was in the righteousness of God and the Savior Jesus Christ. And the gospel they have received, believed, lived, and shared with others is the genuine, original, authentic apostolic gospel.

(2ndPt.) 1:2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord.

Peter blesses those that have obtained like precious faith which came through the righteousness of God, our Savior Jesus Christ. He greets them with grace and peace to be multiplied. The more you know of Jesus, the more grace and peace you have. In this verse Peter mentions specifically the gracious benefits of grace and peace. Grace and peace is always through the knowledge of God, Jesus our Lord. We see that the Biblical order is always grace and then peace.

- **"Grace"** (charis) – the undeserved favor and blessings of God. And note that Jesus Christ multiplies grace and peace. He gives an abundance; he causes overflow; no lack. How can a person be always overflowing with the grace and peace of God? Through the true knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. We have to know God in order to receive the grace and peace of God. What does it mean to know God?
- **"Knowledge"** (epignosei) means "full", personal, precise, and correct knowledge. You gain the knowledge of God through the Spirit, who dwells in you, and brings to your remembrance everything that God has said in His Word. He interprets and explains the spiritual truth of God, giving you the true knowledge of Him. Man deserves nothing from God except judgment, condemnation, and punishment. But God is love and makes it possible for man to experience His grace, in particular the favor and blessings of salvation which is in His Son, Jesus Christ.
- **"Peace"** (eirene) –be bound, joined, and woven together; assured, confident, and secure in the love and care of God. The believer's "peace" in one sense is independent of our circumstances because it is a divine "fruit" brought forth in a life yielded to the control of the Holy Spirit. The better we know God, the more we experience grace and peace. Peace does not mean the absence of pain or absence of conflict or absence of testing times. But divine peace, the peace that the Spirit gives, does mean that in our pain, in our conflicts, in our testing times, we can have genuine inner peace (our soul at "rest").

(2ndPt.) 1:3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: — Peter says, divine power has been granted to us; freely given. Who is "us"? The "us" is not just anyone. It is only those who embrace God's Son. Not everyone is a child of God. When you are born into the family of God by faith in Christ, you are born complete and God has given us everything we need for this life and for godliness. It is through an intimate knowledge of God (having relationship) who has called us by His own glory and excellence.

- **"All things that pertain unto life"** meaning a godly life; our eternal life, and our present life. Life comes from the One who has the power to stop the process of death and to deliver us from



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

death. No man has such power. God longs for man to live, to have abundance of life; therefore He gives all things that will make a person overflow with life.

- **"Godliness" (euseberian)** means living like God; Christ-like; to live in the reverence and awe of God; to be conscious of God's presence, that one lives just as God would live, as if He were walking upon the earth; live seeking to be like God; seek to possess the very character, nature, and behavior of God.

In the true knowledge of Him, God has given us everything we need for this life* and for godliness. First, life is the energy, the force, and power of being. God longs for man to live, to have abundance of life; therefore He gives all things that will make a person overflow with life. Second, godliness is living like God and being a godly person, just as our God. The word **"godliness"** (euseberian) actually means to live in the reverence and awe of God; to be conscious of God's presence, that one lives just as God would live, as if He were walking upon the earth; live seeking to be like God; seek to possess the very character, nature, and behavior of God.

NOTE:

*Life does not come from man himself. Man dies and in the process of dying, he experiences all kinds of trial and sufferings. Life comes from the One who has the power to stop the process of death and to deliver us from death. No man has such power.

(2ndPt.) 1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and preclous promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divne nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. These promises are great because they come from a great God and they lead to a great life. They are precious because their value is beyond calculation.

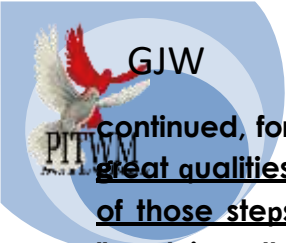
1. ¹He not only provides for our redemption but for our eternal redemption (Hebrews 9:12).
2. He not only gives us life but the promise of life to the full (John 10:10).
3. He not only gives us His joy but joy that is complete (John 15:11). Compare 1 Peter 1:8.
4. He not only gives us peace but the promise of perfect peace (Isaiah 26:3). Compare Philippians 4:7.
5. He not only promises His forgiveness but He will remember our sins no more (Jeremiah 31:34).
6. He not only guarantees heaven but He promises heaven with Him (John 14:2-3 and 1 Thessalonians 4:17).
7. He not only offers us His grace but He promises that it will be sufficient for every need (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Why did God give **"these exceeding great and preclous and magnificent promises"**? He gave them in order that by them, **"you might become partakers of His divne nature."** God places within the heart of the believer His own divine nature and makes him a new creature and a new man in Christ. Then, having become partakers of the **"divne nature,"** (one who has been born again) enters the spiritual state of communion with God and fellowship with Christ. **"...having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust"** means all who come to Christ and are in Him have escaped from sin and corruption. How can we survive in a corrupt world and remain faithful to our wonderful Lord? We must rely on Christ's divine power; and we must rely on Christ's divine nature. Paul summed it all up when he wrote in (Gal. 2:20), **"I have been crucified with Christ and it is no longer I who live but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and delivered Himself up for me."** We have become a partaker; a partner of God's promises and accepting His divine nature.

(2ndPt.) 1:5 And beside this, giving all dilligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; —As Peter

¹ <http://www.wordsoflife.co.uk/BibleStudy/Series40/Study2.htm>

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

continued, for this very reason—in addition to what God has already given them, Peter covers seven great qualities and virtues which are a progressive list to be in the life of the believer. If you miss any of those steps, you will not be able to get to the next place on the list. And that's why Peter says "applying all diligence, add to your faith." In other words, he's telling and charging them! The word "add" (epichoregein) means in addition to God's great salvation—right along side of what God has done—**Add** these things lavishly and generously, "giving all diligence" (hasten, jump, act now, don't wait, be energetic and earnest, and strenuously work) to add these things to your faith as you progress and mature.

The starting point is **Faith**—You must come to Jesus Christ by faith—that unseen part that God has worked through Jesus Christ to bring about newness in us, and you trusted and believed. This is the dynamic catalyst

that will result in good works and spiritual maturity that will minister fruitfulness. Now begin to add:

1. **Virtue** (areten) which is moral excellence, goodness of character, moral strength and moral courage. It means always choosing the excellent way.
2. **Knowledge** (gnosin) which is practical intelligence, practical insight; that which enables a man to know what to do in every situation and do it according to the Will of God.

Faith is developed by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. By us adding to our faith, **virtue**, we fulfill moral excellence and goodness of character; then adding **knowledge**, it enables a man to know what to do in situations according to the Will of God because we are successfully growing.

(2ndPt.) 1:6 **And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;**

3. **Temperance** (egkrateian) which is master and control of the body or the appetites of the flesh; self-control. You begin to take control of self and prevail against the lusts that rise up. "He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down and without walls" Prov.25:28. Know that self-control is of God, a fruit of the Holy Spirit.
4. **Patience** (hupomonein) which is translated endurance, fortitude, steadfastness, constancy, and perseverance. With this fruit, this is the ability to endure when circumstances are difficult.
5. **Godliness** (eusebeian) which means to live in devoutness, piety, and devotion to God. This helps a person live above petty things because of one's devotion to God.

Temperance handles the pleasures of life; patience handles the pressures and problems of life. The person who gives in to pleasures is not disciplined enough to handle pressures, and so gives up. Godliness does what is right because it is the Will of God. Therefore we can do what is right in the welfare of others.

(2ndPt.) 1:7 **And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.**

6. **Brotherly Kindness** (philadelphian) which is a love between brothers and sisters. The word used for love is *phileo* which means deep-seated affection and care, deep and warm feelings, holding near and dear within the heart. This enables us to be loyal and kind to the other members of God's family.
7. **Love** (agape) goes beyond just our fellow believers. It is for the entire world. Loves regardless of feelings; sacrificial love. This love enables us to want nothing in return.

When we have brotherly love, we love because of our likeness to others, but with agape love, we love in spite of the differences we have. These seven virtues stem first from faith and ends with love.

(2ndPt.) 1:8 **For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.** "These things" mean the seven virtues or qualities. The word "abound" (pleonazonta) means to increase and grow, to overflow and be filled with more and more, ever learning of how to increase these things in our lives. In other words,



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

- do not be satisfied with your life as it is;
- with present growth;
- with staying where you are spiritually;
- with just knowing Jesus.

As we increase in these virtues, we will not be idle and slothful or unproductive or unfruitful in knowing what to do in situations of our lives. We must learn to keep our minds on Christ Jesus. In other words, do not be satisfied with your present growth; with staying where you are, adding one step, but keep abounding in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

If these virtues be in us:

- We will not be barren nor unfruitful;
- We will not be blind and shortsighted;
- We will not forget that we have been cleansed from our sins;

Christians must develop these qualities, and by doing so, they will know Christ better. If these things be in us, we are full of Christ.

(2ndPt.) 1:9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. When you lack any of these things (virtues), it makes you blind and shortsighted. It makes you forget that you have been cleansed from your sins. This person's lack of fruit could exist because a person's cleansing was merely an external reformation that did not come from a truly changed heart or one who has fallen into serious error regarding the Christian life and becomes a backslider. Unfortunately, you can also go backwards. You can forget being purged from old sins and regress. Some people had godliness at one time, but sin caused them to abandon it. Many exercised self-control for a time, but then gave up on it. A person is either moving ahead in Christ or either he is sliding back from Christ. Without Christ we are blind; unable to discern our true spiritual condition. This verse is the opposite of abounding in verse 8.

(2ndPt.) 1:10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:— Peter wants to rouse the complacent believer. Rather than staying blind in verse 9, Peter urges his readers to make "sure" (confirm and secure) their calling and election, in making their salvation sure to their own minds; having no lingering doubts. We cannot be sure of our calling and election if we have not been purged from our former sin. Christians should diligently pursue; work at and confirm that their calling and election is reliable, unshifting and firm; that God has called them to be saved. God has called us by His Word and His Spirit; He has elected us, separated us from the world, through sanctification of the Spirit. In other words, the believer who pursues the spiritual qualities or virtues mentioned, guarantees to himself, spiritual fruit. By practicing these virtues, we will not fall, meaning into doubt; despair; fear or even fall into apostasy (falling away from the faith) or into perdition (hell). People stumble and come short of the glory of God, but God's calling and election pursues us and will not allow us to fall. Our own efforts in pursuing the Christ-like character, continues to make our calling and election sure. By God's grace we will continue to grow in the virtues; manifesting those fruits. We have to continue on in these things by having undoubted evidence that we are children of God. Peter considers these things to be very important:

- He is always going to preach, teach, repeat, and remind them of the importance of these things.
- He is going to stir believers to do them as long as he lives in "this tabernacle"—the tent of his body.
- He was going to make arrangements with those left behind to teach these things after his death.

POINT:



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

Salvation is to know Christ as the Son of God, who was sent to earth by the Father to save the world. We are not to look upon Christ as a mere man, as a great religious leader who founded the religion of Christianity. No, we are to look upon Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord whom we surrender totally to Christ as Lord experiencing the overflow of the Lord's Grace and Life abundantly day by day. This is the power of Christ— the power to save us from death and to give us Life and godliness—the power that can stop death and give us Life and Peace.

(2ndPt.) 1:11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Those who practice those qualities will be richly provided with the reward of eternal life. We will be richly and gloriously welcomed into heaven.

(2ndPt.) 1:12 Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth. The readers already knew the true gospel message. However, truth always needs repetition because believers forget so easily. Since we share a new nature, and a new quality of life in Christ, Peter is always going to preach, teach, repeat, and remind them of the importance of these things. The letter will always remind them as they read it over and over.

(2ndPt.) 1:13 Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance;— Peter thought this was the right thing to do—to stir (wake-up from sleep; excite and arouse) believers to be reminded to perform these virtues as long as he lived in “*this tabernacle*”—the tent of his body—temporary earthly vessel. Therefore, as long as he was in this bodily tent, he would stir them by reminding those believers to diligently perform their duties.

(2ndPt.) 1:14 Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me. Peter knew his death was at hand as he wrote this letter. Nero's persecution had already begun killing the Christians and Peter was martyred right after writing this epistle. Tradition says he was crucified upside down, refusing to be crucified like his Lord.

(2ndPt.) 1:15 Moreover I will endeavor that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance. Peter desires that they don't forget, but to always keep the true value of these virtues in remembrance, even after his death.

SUMMARY:

This is Peter's second letter. The lesson tells us that God has given us everything we need for spiritual growth. Believers are called to put forth an effort to grow in God's Word. He tells us that to build our faith, we need to practice it more and more every day. We need to practice all these virtues that Peter lists: **faith** – that is, trusting in God's providence when things get tough; **virtue** – courage in the face of adversity; **knowledge** – a deeper appreciation of who God is, who we are, and what the difference is; **temperance** – self-control; a restraining of our desires and passions to come into line with Scripture; **patience** – steadfastness with others who really grind on our nerves; **godliness** – an awareness of the presence of God around you; **brotherly kindness**, and **love**. These are our exercises that we

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

should practice daily; chase after, and pursue, so that we can build upon our faith. If we possess these qualities we will abound and be fruitful in our Lord Jesus Christ. We don't want to become blind because we had doubts, thereby, making our calling and election not sure to ourselves, and eventually falling. We want to receive that entrance; that rich welcome into the eternal kingdom. Peter says he would continue to remind them, for he was soon going to put aside his earthly tent.

Peter says he will continue to remind them, and he wants them to remember that the divine power of God that is prepared to give us all things is the same power that raised Jesus from the grave. It also means always choosing the excellent way.

APPLICATION:

Everything we need for life and godliness comes from God. Add to your faith while praying, while reading; and it will come to pass. While we add to, another waters, and God increases. So, Maturity will come!

[TOP](#)



2 PETER 2:10-22

NEXT 3:1-15

INTRODUCTION:

Peter then discusses the depravity of false teachers. In arrogance they revile against authority, all the while reveling in pleasure and lusts as they circulate among the Christians they seek to influence. Like the prophet Balaam, they are motivated by the wages of unrighteousness and have forsaken the right way. Empty of true substance, they are like wells without water, clouds tossed by a tempest (2nd Pt.2:10-17).

Finally, Peter describes the deceptions of false teachers. In both their methods and promises they seek to deceive those who like them had once escaped the pollutions of the world. But the false teachers are once again enslaved by such pollutions and their last end is worse than the beginning (2nd Pt.2:18-22).

TOP



2nd Pt.3:1 This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:— Second Epistle means second to 1 Peter. Peter addresses the saints as "*beloved*." As he begins to stir up their minds in his writing, he reminds them that they are dearly loved. The phrase "*pure minds*" (*eilikrine dianoian*) means to have a clear, pure, unmixed, uncontaminated, focus; a concentrated mind. It is the picture of thoughts being sifted just like wheat is sifted in order to be separated from the chaff. Thoughts are to be sifted in order to separate the true and pure, from the untrue and impure. If a person is to know and understand the return of the Lord, his mind had to be aroused, and stirred. The mind cannot be lazy or wandering about. Peter reminds them of their blessed condition by using the term "*pure mind*" to accomplish three purposes:

1. **First**, it explains that the majority, although troubled (shaken) by the situations, are still true in terms of their adherence to the apostolic faith. They still believed the gospel. Their minds had not been given over to the lusts and heresy swirling around them.
2. **Second**, Peter intended the phrase to encourage these believers to remain loyal to the gospel and to those who had taught it to them.
3. **Third**, this term is also an evidence of God's preserving mercies. Preservation in true faith is always a testimony to the grace, power, and faithfulness of God.

2nd Pt.3:2 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:— They had to be mindful, watchful, alert, focused, concentrated, and actively engaged upon two things.

1. The mind must remember the words spoken by the **prophets*. They had much to say about the return of Christ to the earth.
2. The mind must remember the commandments of the Lord that have been preached and taught by the **apostles*. Jesus Christ taught much about His return. The apostles in turn shared His teachings with the people.

NOTE:

*The **Prophets**, of course, were the messengers of divine truth in the Old Testament. ***Apostles** mentioned in the New Testament are the Twelve—the men called and commissioned by Jesus Christ Himself. These are the men who had the authority to interpret the Old Testament testimony concerning Jesus. The prophets and apostles were both God's messengers communicating truth to the people. The prophets and apostles spoke with one voice. And the subject of that singular voice was the Redeemer – the Lord Jesus. Prophets foreshadowed Christian truth. The apostles interpreted Christian truth. But we must remember that it is the strategy of false teachers to cast doubt upon and belittle the prophets and apostles concerning particular points of doctrine which condemn the false teachers.

POINT:



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

The stress is upon the mind—a pure mind, a mind that is focused and learning and remembering what it has been taught. But before a person can remember something, he first has to study and learn the truths of God's Word. This stresses the utter necessity for him to study the scriptures, to learn all he can about the return of Christ to the earth.

- “these last times” 1Pt.1:20
- “the last days” 2Pt.3:3; 2Tim.3:1
- “these last days” Heb.1: 2
- “the last time” 1Jh.2*:18; Jude 18

2nd Pt.3:3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,— Peter is giving us what we sometimes call a “heads up” ... a warning in saying, “Know this first” of all. **NOTE:**

John’s term for the end time: “*the last time*” (*eschate hora*) — the Greek really means the last hour, the midnight hour when the world is to end. **The point is:** The coming again of Jesus Christ and the end of the world—in this final section of the book of Second Peter is calling for preparation—that is, for man to prepare himself to receive God’s Son. Man must be ready for the return of Christ or else he will be doomed.

This first passage covers a critical subject: the first thing to know—**scoffers shall come**. They will come with their ridiculing, *following after their own lusts (passions)*. Now what exactly is a scoffer? A scoffer is someone consumed by disdain for something or someone. A scoffer usually projects a certain intellectual arrogance and social snobbery. Indeed, a scoffer will not listen to or heed wise counsel or anything that resembles a rebuke. Know that scoffers walk after their own lusts. They live like they want to and do their own thing. They want the possessions and pleasures of this world. They have to mock and reject the second coming of Jesus Christ. If they accepted it, they would have to change their lives. They would have to repent and turn to Christ or else live under their terrible fear of eternal judgment. They scoff for **two reasons**:

1. Because it has been thousands of years since Jesus Christ came to earth the first time.
2. Because the world continues on just as it has always been.

2nd Pt.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. “Where is the promise of His coming?” Now mind you, they’re not wanting to know where in the Bible Christ’s second coming is promised. Mockingly they are asking, “Where is the fulfillment of the promise?” And here’s the support for their argument. “Since the fathers fell asleep all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.” Who are “the fathers?” It seems most natural to understand the fathers as the Old Testament patriarchs – Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. “Fell asleep” obviously refers to their deaths.

2nd Pt.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:— “For this,” refers to the idea expressed in the previous verse – *that all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation* (3:4). God’s creative Word is sure (3:5). God’s judicial Word is sure (3:6). God’s sustaining Word is sure (3:7). Because this is why we believe that God’s redemptive Word is sure. Knowing all of this, **Scoffers are ignorant of three facts**, and note scripture says that they are “**willingly ignorant**.” They choose to ignore, to be unreasonable, and to reject the fact that God is the Creator and Sustainer of the world.



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

1. Scripture declares that the world is not self-creating and self-sufficient (v5). It was not made by the laws of nature, and it does not run and operate itself by the laws of nature. The heavens and earth were created by the Word of God. He spoke the world into existence. He created the universe and the laws of nature.

The point is: Mockers willingly choose to ignore and reject God; to deny absolute intelligence and power.

2nd Pt.3:6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:—

2. Scripture declares that the world has not always continued on as it presently does (v6). The earth has perished before—God spoke the Word and judged the world. His Word destroyed the world with a flood, and all life was destroyed except Noah and his family, and two of every creature. God did not let people go on and on in their sin forever. God judged and punished sinners. God created it to be moral, and He expects man to live righteously, and godly lives while here on the earth. If they refuse, then He speaks His Word and judges the earth.

The point is: the world was destroyed by God's Word once; it can therefore be destroyed by God's Word again.

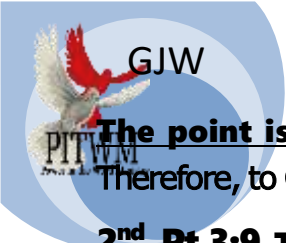
2nd Pt.3:7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

3. Scripture declares that the heavens and earth are being kept, reserved, and stored up for destruction— fire (v7). How? By God's Word, He is controlling the heavens and the earth. They have not been destroyed because God has not yet spoken the Word to do so! God knows His timing, and His judgment of ungodly people, and you can count on that!

It is this that men and mockers have chosen to ignore, and reject God's Word when they don't think He's coming back. They are accountable to a loving, holy, and just God. It is to this that they refuse to study and know and submit to His Word. Therefore, they continue on in their selfish, hoarding, unjust, and immoral ways. However, the promises of the return of Christ, and the renewal of creation, stabilizes and sustains God's people, and spur us on in the way of holiness until He comes, because He is consistent in everything He does.

2nd Pt.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. Peter turns his attention to the saints; those whom he affectionately addresses as *beloved*. He says, "*But, beloved do not let this one fact escape your notice; be not ignorant of this one thing.*" This was said to stabilize, to settle, and to comfort them. Peter reminds them of two things. Both have to do with the attributes or perfections of God.

- The **first is the eternity of God.** He reminds them "*that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*" This clause, taken from Psalm 90:4, does not represent a chronological calculation. But God is not limited by our perceptions of time. He exists outside of time. Why has Christ not yet returned? We must not be ignorant about anything: The Lord does not measure time the same as man.



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

The point is: The feelings of one day are so intense that it feels like a thousand years. Therefore, to God the experience during just one day of an evil earth is as a thousand years to Him.

2nd Pt.3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

- The **second** is the **long-suffering of God**. The Lord is not slow in sending Christ back to earth, as some men count slackness, but long suffering. His patience takes over. God suffers long and suffers along with us, and the intensity of His feeling is absolute (meaning unlimited). Whereas we bear only the sufferings of our own personal experience; God bears the sufferings of all the experiences of all men. However, God will not bear evil forever.

To **"perish"** is a terrible thing. It means to utterly be lost and destroyed; lose eternal life, and be cut off from life forever and ever; in a state of suffering forever and ever apart from God; to be spiritually destitute, completely empty of all good; to suffer the judgment, condemnation, and punishment of separation from God forever and ever! I've stressed this as much as I can. **Now**, is the time to **"Repent"**—*change, change one's mind, turn one's life; turning away from sin and turning to God, forsaking sin; putting sin out of one's thoughts and behavior; resolving never to think or do that thing again.

The point is: God will have the gospel preached to every part of the earth to turn more hearts to Him before He sends Christ back to earth. Our task is not to question when He is returning, but to watch and be ready in case He returns before we depart this life and go to Him. **The time now is to repent** because God does not want any to perish!

NOTE:

*The change is turning away from lying, stealing, cheating, immorality, cursing, drunkenness, and the other so-called glaring sins of the flesh. But the change is also turning away from the silent sins of the spirit such as self-centeredness, selfishness, envy, bitterness, pride, covetousness, anger, evil thoughts, hopelessness, laziness, jealousy, and lust.

1. **Repentance involves two turns:**
 - a. The negative: turn away from sin.
 - b. The positive; turn toward God.
2. **Repentance is more than sorrow.**
 - a. a person may repent simply because he wills and acts to change.
 - b. a person may repent because he senses an agonizing sorrow within.

Repentance is both the change of mind, and the actual turning of one's life away from sin, and toward God, not only the sense of feeling sorrowful, but taking action of body, soul, and spirit.

2nd Pt.3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night;— The Day of the Lord is coming. Again, Peter shows them that there is something about the person, the character of God that they need to understand— He keeps His promise, for He is longsuffering, and wants none to perish. God is working during this window of grace. He is not idle. He is calling out His elect until such time as all elect souls are secure. Peter assures us that this moment in time *"will come like a thief in the night."* In other words, it will arrive suddenly and unexpectedly, but, precisely according to God's timetable. No thief tells a man ahead of





PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

that he is going to strike his house. If a man knew, he would watch and prepare.

This point is: the Lord Jesus Christ has told us that He is coming back to earth. He has forewarned us, but He has not told us when. Why?

- Not knowing when Jesus is returning keeps us focused upon Him and His return. It keeps us looking and longing for Him; it keeps us watching, and it stirs us to live pure and holy lives.
- Not knowing when Jesus is returning serves as a warning to unbelievers. It warns them that they must repent now, today, for He could return today and catch them unprepared.

THE BELIEVER MUST:

- not be careless: get tired of waiting, get sleepy, be caught off guard, begin to disbelieve.
- But he/she must watch, sit up, stay awake, listen, look for, take notice of all noises and sights (signs).

2nd Pt.3:10b ...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. In the Day of the Lord, God will demonstrate His judgment:

- *through the heavens— it will pass away with a horrific noise,*
- *through all the elements— (the material of which they are composed) will melt; be destroyed in the fierce heat,*
- *through the earth— it will be burned up, and*
- *through our works— also burned up.*

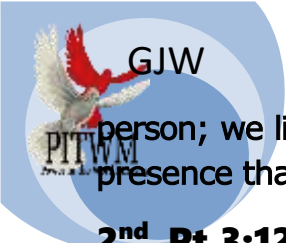
If a person believes in God, then he knows that God can destroy the universe. How? By doing what He did when He created the world, and when He destroyed the earth the first time, that is, by simply speaking the Word. Man, himself can cause an atomic explosion so severe that every element of the earth would melt with fervent heat. Why then doubt God? Why is God going to destroy both heaven and earth? There is one glorious reason and verse 13 tells us: so that He can create new heavens and an earth *where righteousness dwells.* **Note:** *"the earth and the works that are therein shall be burned up."*

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| • buildings | • services |
| • offices | • evil works |
| • houses | • businesses |
| • religion | • murder |
| • governments | • wars |

By "**works**" is meant all the works of man's hands:

Everything that man has done, all of his corruptible works, shall be burned up and destroyed by the fire of God's judgment. The whole universe will be destroyed by fire; a fiery explosion will take place, and the fire will be so hot that every element will melt from the fervent heat.

2nd Pt.3:11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,— Peter puts it like this, *"Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conversation (conduct) and godliness."* Peter is not so much asking a question, but also stating a fact. You ought to be this way – holy and godly. "**Holy**" means that our behavior is sanctified, that is, set apart unto God; separated from the world and given over to God; given over to live pure and righteous lives. "**Godliness**" means that we live like God and we seek to be a godly



person; we live and do all things in the reverence and awe of God; we are so conscious of God's presence that we live like God would live if He were walking upon earth; in the end, Christlike.

2nd Pt.3:12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? The word "*hastening*" (*speudontas*) can mean two things.

1. To hurry after; to earnestly desire; to rush toward (the Day of God).
2. To rush the coming of Christ; to cause the day of God to come sooner. The believer has a part in bringing about the eternal kingdom of God. How? By living more holy and godly lives so that more people will more readily be attracted to Christ. The more they see Christ in us—His presence and power carrying us through the trials and temptations of life, the more they are going to want Christ and His power in their lives. When people see these things, the things for which they long, they will be attracted to Christ much quicker. The result will be more souls for Christ. Therefore, the way we are to speed up the day of God is to live more dynamic lives for Christ.

"The Day of God" refers to the day when God shall dissolve and destroy the heavens and earth; the day when the universe "*shall be set aflame by fire and shall be dissolved and the elements shall melt with fervent heat*").

The point is: The thought of our eyes upon such a terrible Day of Judgment is to arouse us to live a holy and godly life. If we take our eyes off that day or fail to direct our life toward the Day of God, then we will most likely slip into ungodliness.

2nd Pt.3:13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Why are we looking for new heavens and a new earth? Simply stated: so that the world will be perfect, and nothing but righteousness will exist therein; a world in which only righteous people will live; no more sin and evil, no more accidents, disease, suffering, murder, drunkenness, drugs, adultery, sexual perversion, war, or death. Christians may anticipate all of this with great delight. For us, the return of Christ does not mark a dreaded end as it does for those who have rejected Him. Rather it marks the beginning of that new and eternal existence promised us in the Word of God (Is. 65:17, 66:22). You see the destruction described in vv.10 and 12 is not the elimination of creation, but its glorious renewal.

2nd Pt.3:14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless. Since believers are looking for Christ's return, they must be diligent and prepared for the His coming. The word "**diligent**" (*spoudasate*) means to be eager; to strive earnestly; to be zealous in seeking after. Why? – So that the Lord will find you prepared. There are three preparations that are necessary:

1. The believer must be found in peace. He must be at peace with both God and man; not living a rebellious life with God nor be divided against his brothers and sisters.
2. The believer must be without spot. He must be clean, pure, and unsoiled; having no





PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

dirt, pollution, or contamination of sin whatsoever.

3. The believer must be found blameless. He must be free from fault and then be pure; above reproach and rebuke both in church, and in the world.

2nd Pt.3:15 And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;— Remember that the Lord is longsuffering (patient) giving time for people to be saved, which is a good thing. Peter draws support from Paul's writing, saying that he taught the same thing—perhaps from Romans 2:4 where God's patience is twice called kindness, and leads to repentance. But the day will come when God cannot bear sin and evil any longer.

SUMMARY:

Peter returns in this epistle to warn that the storm is coming. In fact, it's already here. Peter exposes these mockers, along with the folly of their denials. He does so by reiterating his commitment to remind his readers of the truths of the scriptures as revealed through the Old Testament prophets, the Lord Jesus, and His apostles (3:1-2). Peter then describes the mockers of whom he warns his readers, both in terms of their lifestyle and their creed (3:3-4). In verses 5-7 he exposes the folly of their thinking, especially as it relates to the role of the Word of God in Old Testament history and in prophecy (**2nd Pt. 3:1-7**).

Peter then turns his attention to the saints in verses 8-13. While mockers deny the Scriptures, true saints base their hope, and their conduct on the promises of the Word of God. In verses 8 and 9, Peter gives a divine perspective of time and presents a very different explanation for the apparent delay of the Lord's return. This he does by focusing on God's attributes: His eternality, His omnipotence, and His mercy (**2nd Pt. 3:8-9**).

Now Peter comforts the faithful, for they have a safe place to stay. In verses **10-13**, Peter explains why the nearness of the "*Day of the Lord*" is not evident to unbelievers, and how the Lord's return should impact the saints who look forward to the "*new heavens and a new earth*" where they in turn will dwell. God always has **our** best interest in mind, and **His** purpose for our new beginning. As we live holy lives in anticipation of His return, we draw others, therefore keeping our minds stirred ready, and waiting, and diligently looking for the coming of the Lord's return. We must be found in peace, without spot, and blameless of conduct, remembering His longsuffering that will lead others to Salvation! Even our beloved brethren Paul was given much wisdom in these matters, referring to all the letters he had also written to them (**2nd Pt. 3:10-15**).

APPLICATION:

Looking toward to the future gives us hope that the Lord will return. Will we truly be ready and waiting? There are two things that characterize Christians who live in the light of the return of Jesus Christ and the renewal of Creation. One is **anticipation**. The other is **activity**. In the last days all kinds of things will be happening, so beware, and be not ignorant of the things around you; be mindful of God's Word. All of His promises are sure! [TOP](http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html)

