

**II PETER 3:1-7**  
**THE DAY OF SCOFFERS!**

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to II Peter chapter 3 as we continue through our in-depth study of II Peter.

And yes, the focus of this letter is dealing with false teachers with their false doctrine that they have brought into the church.

It is a topic that many people and really many teachers avoid so as not to offend anyone.

Here's the problem!

I am sorry, I am here to teach you the Word of God. That means the things that you like and the things that you may not like to hear.

And if you think about it, that is what Peter does in this letter.

First, Peter wants us to grow in the Lord, to mature in the faith and that is how he starts out this letter long before he speaks of these false teachers.

Then Peter deals with what we are to pursue in this Christian life, who we are to follow in our Christian walk, how we are to grow in the Lord.

If you don't know what God desires for your life, how are you going to grow in the Lord?

You won't and that is the problem we often see. People are happy where they are at, they are comfortable being the same person they were a year ago, five years ago, ten years ago! There is no growth because they are living their lives as they want and they don't read the Word, they don't apply what they have been taught to their lives!

But Peter tells us that we have the sure Word of God to show us what is right, what is wrong, how to get right when we have gone astray and how to stay right!

In fact, Peter tells us that we can trust the Word of God even more than what we see with our own eyes!

And yes, our eyes can deceive us, we can see things that are not really there, but God's Word will not deceive us because it is truth!

Peter spends a whole chapter dealing with growing in the Lord because if you don't, you will be taken in by these false teachers with their doctrines of demons!

As chapter 2 of II Peter opens up, Peter warns us of the danger of these false teachers. It is not just being a little off, but these are destructive heresies that will lead a person to Hell and not to heaven!

And then Peter speaks of the warning of these false teachers, that they will not get away with this, God will judge them!

And as prideful as they may be right now, that smile, all those riches, all that they have gotten away with will be exposed before the Lord and they will spend an eternity in the Lake of Fire separated from Jesus.

Tragically, because of what they are teaching, like I have said, many people will follow their doctrine and end up in the same place, the Lake of Fire!

Also, keep in mind that Peter wrote this letter as he sat on death row in a Roman prison because of his faith in Jesus Christ. His martyrdom may only be a few weeks to months away at this point, so what Peter is saying is heavy upon his heart.

And, as I have said, he wants to give these believers the truth that will help them to grow, and he is not just giving them the fluff! He is warning them of the dangers that these false prophets were teaching them.

Remember what Peter said in II Peter 1:5-9, **“But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.”**

Peter is trying to stir them up, to make sure they don't become complacent in their walk with the Lord!

Why is that so important?

Because when you become complacent in your walk, you open yourself up to all kinds of false teaching!

As we move into II Peter chapter 3 this morning, we are going to look at the confidence we have in the Lord's return.

Peter is also going to deal with those who don't care, and I have called our study this morning – ***THE DAY OF SCOFFERS!***

When I first was saved, back in 1983, there was much excitement regarding the Lord's return.

And back in 1970 Hal Lindsey wrote a book called ***The Late Great Planet Earth!***

And this book was so popular that the New York Times said it was the best-selling nonfiction book of the 1970's!

Tragically, that excitement is gone. In fact, many churches are denying the Lord's return, or they don't teach about it because it is controversial, and we are seeing the results of that in people's lives.

There is no sense of urgency, of holy living. The church is becoming complacent, and their focus is on social issues instead of bringing people to Jesus! And we see false doctrine in the church growing rapidly!

Why is this so important?

Why do we even have to know these things about the Lord's return?

Can't we just live out our lives and when it happens it will happen?

It is very important because as we wait for the Lord's return it will affect how we live out our faith here and now!

And, if we are not interested in the Lord's return, it too will affect how we live out our faith and not in a good way!

That is John's point in I John 3:2-3 as he wrote, "**Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.**"

You see, as we do it will affect how we live out our faith. We don't want to be involved in something that would bring dishonor to our Lord, but we do want to be serving Him and living holy lives as He is holy when He comes for His Bride, the Church!

One writer put it like this. He wrote,

The hope of Christ's coming was of paramount importance for the early church. In fact, its certainty was so real that first-century believers would greet one another with the term "*maranatha*," meaning "*Lord, come quickly.*"

Instead of being frightened by the possibility, they clung to it as the culmination of everything they believed.

Not surprisingly, the New Testament reflects the intense anticipation by referencing Jesus' return, whether directly or indirectly, in every New Testament book except Philemon and 3 John.

- Nathan Busenitz, *Living a Life of Hope*, p. 122

And this is important because the Lord held the Jewish religious leaders, the Jewish people responsible for not knowing the day of His First Coming!

We see this in Luke 19:41-44 as we are told, "**Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, 'If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation.'**"

In other words, they were not prepared for the coming of the Messiah and judgment came upon them!

And today, many are not interested or excited about the return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

And I do understand that some feel that there is so much more to talk about than the Lord's return. And there is, but you can't negate something that is so prominent in the Scriptures.

And what we see happening is that as the teaching of the Lord's return is taken away, Christians lose hope as they see that wickedness is growing at a rapid rate in our day. And many times, their lifestyle is not Christlike!

And yet, Paul reminds us of what our hope is in as he wrote, **“looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works. Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.”** Titus 2:13-15.

Where is our hope?

Our hope is in Jesus and His return for His Bride, the Church!

And what are we to do?

Paul told Titus, and the Holy Spirit is telling us, **“Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.”**

Obviously then, this is important, and the Devil is drawing us away from this blessed hope and glorious appearing of Jesus Christ that Jesus wants us to have.

Don't let the Devil do that, trust in God and His Word!

Peter is going to give us a stern warning about what will happen in the last days in regard to the return of the Lord and we need to pay attention!

I have broken down our study into the following main points. They are,

***REMEMBER – II PETER 3:1-2***

***THE SCOFFERS – II PETER 3:3-4***

***FORGOT GOD’S PAST JUDGMENTS – II PETER 3:5-7***

With that said, let’s begin reading this morning in II Peter chapter 3, starting in verse 1 as we study through the Word of God and look at this topic – ***THE DAY OF SCOFFERS!***

### **II PETER 3**

#### **VERSES 1-2**

When Peter speaks about writing to them a second time, I believe Peter is speaking of his first letter that he wrote to the churches in Asia Minor or modern-day Turkey.

And now, in his second letter he wants to remind them not to become complacent in their walk. He doesn’t want them to lose sight of the truths of God because of the persecution they were facing.

And Peter is telling them that he wants to stir them up, and, like I have said, not to become complacent in their walk.

And it is easy to do, to become complacent in our walk with the Lord.

What do I mean by that?

You go to church on Sunday, on Thursday, maybe a prayer meeting here and there on Saturday. Week in and week out and you are just going through the motions.

What is the problem then?

It is all motion and there is no emotion anymore. And that is dangerous!

God is always teaching us and if you reject that, you are in trouble. You are saying that you know everything that God has for you, and you don't need to hear it again.

Or maybe you don't even agree with it, and that is dangerous as well as we will see.

And we are told that Peter wants to stir up their "**pure minds**" and the Greek word for "**pure**" is *EILIKRINES*, (i-lik-ree-nace') and it speaks of being sincere or "*tested as genuine.*"

The Latin word is "*sine cera*" and it means "*without wax.*"

And this is an interesting word.

You see, at the pottery shops back then, if something had a crack in it, they would cover it with wax, and it would look fine.

Why would they do that?

Think about it. You are working on a sculpture of a person, and it is taking you months to do. And as you are getting close to finishing this sculpture your chisel breaks off the nose of the person you are sculpting!

How do you fix something like that?

You really can't but what they would do, so they would not have to throw it out, is that they would glue, in a sense, the nose back on with wax and it would look fine!

That was until you held it up to the light of the sun and then you could see the crack.

Also, when someone bought this sculpture and they put it in their yard, as the sun heated the wax, it would melt, and the nose would fall off! Not a good thing.

Thus, some of the pottery dealers would place a sign in their window that said, "*sine cera*" or "*without wax*" letting their customers know they were getting the real thing, it was without wax, it was genuine.



Our minds need to be genuine, sincere, pure, without the wax or garbage of this world, the influence of this world.

But how can we accomplish that when we are bombarded by so much filth!

It is done as we stir up our minds, as we read and apply God's Word to our lives.

It's said, "***Repetition is the best teacher.***"

In other words, we forget things and we do so sometimes very quickly. Thus, we need to be reminded and that is what Peter is doing!

Maybe you heard the story about a man from the city who was visiting relatives on a farm.

He was out walking around with the farmer when the farmer gave a whistle and his dog herded the cattle into the corral and then latched the gate with her paw.

***"Wow, that's some dog. What's her name?"***

The ***forgetful*** farmer thought a minute, and then asked, "***What do you call that red flower that smells good and has thorns on the stem?"***

***"A rose?"***

***"That? it!"***

The farmer turned and called out to his wife. "***Hey Rose, what do we call this dog?"***

- Source Unknown

Funny, but true!

Peter reminds them what they already knew so that they will not forget these things and because it is so easy to forget these things.

How does Peter do that?

Here we see Peter tell them to listen to the prophets of God, what they said. He tells them to listen to the words of the apostles or the men of God.

And the key is this. You will see if a teaching or what you believe is of God or not if you hold it up to the light of God's Word!

If it is not of God, like the wax, it will fall apart in the light or heat of God's Word!

Paul reminds us in Romans 12:2, "**And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.**"

You see, "**For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**" Hebrews 4:12.

That is the problem for those who don't like what the Bible has to say, it transforms people's lives in a way that they don't like.

So what do they do?

They change what is in the Bible, the meaning of passages.

Let me show you what I mean.

On September 10, 2024, Zondervan put out a NIV Bible called - ***Upside-Down Kingdom Bible!***

This is what Amazon had to say about this new Bible.

God calls believers to live faithfully in a way that flips the wisdom of worldly kingdoms on its head.

In a culture that has become exponentially polarized, it can be difficult to think deeply and love widely.

The *NIV Upside-Down Kingdom Bible* provides readers with thoughtful, Scripture-based notes from a diverse set of trusted Christian voices and explores difficult issues facing Christians today, with features that are honest, nuanced [sophisticated], and filled with grace.

The *NIV Upside-Down Kingdom Bible* provides hundreds of side-column notes, full page articles, essays, and book introductions that skillfully and thoughtfully address topics such as: race and ethnicity, creation care, science, abortion, wealth and poverty, gender and sexuality, politics, baptism, technology, and others.

- <https://bit.ly/4anMXB8>

Now reading that, some may not be alarmed, but understand, this is their opinion in what the Bible is saying and not what the Bible is really saying.

What do I mean by that?

This is a **WOKE** study Bible. And when I say woke, I mean that around 2010 or so this word came to be used to refer to a broader awareness of social inequalities such as racial injustice, sexism, and denial of LGBTQ rights.

One writer, Avery Foley, had this to say about this new Bible, and it really is not the Word of God, it is an abomination. I would be fearful if I were them because God has some strong warnings about adding to or taking away from God's Word and that includes making it say what you want it to say instead of what God is really saying!

This is what she wrote,

Rather than showing how God's Word is unique, giving us a set of glasses through which to view the world that is "*upside down*" to the world's way of thinking, the writers take the world's lenses of feminism, Marxism, evolution, and CRT [Critical Race Theory] and read the Bible through them.

That's why many of the notes I read were sprinkled with references to man-made climate change, terms like "*forced migration experiences*," and "*systemic injustice*."

From what I saw, these terms weren't really defined, but all such terms are routinely used by "*woke*" and progressive Christians the same way the world uses them, so I think it is safe to assume that the world's definition is how they're likewise being used here.

- Avery Foley

Why am I bringing this up?

Because many people will purchase a Bible believing it is the Word of God, but, as we have seen, not all publications are! We need to be careful!

The Devil may not get people to stop reading their Bible, so what he does is change what the Bible has to say and over time, they will believe these doctrines of demons!

Why is Peter reminding them to focus on God, to focus on His Word?

The reason Peter is telling them to focus on God, to focus on His Word, is because of the false teachers that are bringing in destructive heresies or doctrines of demons, as I have said.

You see, they not only deny Jesus, His virgin birth, His deity, His death and resurrection, but Peter is now going to tell us that they also deny His Second Coming.

So Peter wants them to – **REMEMBER!**

Remember the things that they have learned, be reminded of them, don't forget them, and don't succumb to the doctrines of men, and really, doctrines of demons. Stay true to the Word of God that will set you free from the lies, the false doctrine that is out there!

As we move on, we will be looking at – ***THE SCOFFERS!***

#### VERSES 3-4

Peter is telling us that scoffers, mockers will come in the "**last days.**"

Now, when did the last days begin?

They began with the First Coming of Jesus as Paul tells us in Hebrews 1:1-2, "**God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds.**"

And these last days will continue on until the Second Coming of Jesus when He establishes His Kingdom, His Millennial Reign on this earth.

And Peter gives us this warning of what these people will do and that is deny the return of the Lord.

Spurgeon does not pull any punches on this one as he wrote, "***Every time a blasphemer opens his mouth to deny the truth of revelation, he will help to confirm us in our conviction of the very truth which he denies. The Holy Ghost told us, by the pen of Peter, that it would be so; and now we see how truly he wrote.***"

Now for the next question.

Why do people deny the Lord's return?

Peter tells us it is because they are walking after their own lusts, doing their own thing and thus, to admit the Lord is coming back would mean their sin is going to be judged.

And so, they deny the Lord's return so they can continue on in their sin!

I am not talking about unbelievers here, and neither is Peter, he is speaking about believers and their denying the imminent return of Christ or really those who claim to be Christian.

And their rationale behind this is simple and Peter tells us, and I am paraphrasing, ***“You have been talking about this for years and it hasn't happened. Thus, it won't happen, it is just talk. All things just continue on as they did in the past, nothing changes!”***

In other words, they believed what we now call ***uniformitarianism*** or that all the natural laws occur in the same manner, nothing changes, we live in a closed system where God, if He exists, doesn't intervene!

The dictionary defines uniformitarianism as, ***“A geological doctrine that processes acting in the same manner as at present and over long spans of time are sufficient to account for all current geological features and all past geological changes.”***

In other words, all the geological changes to the earth's crust have taken place slowly over long periods of time uniformly as opposed to sudden cataclysmic upheavals (catastrophism).

For instance. Evolutionists look at the Grand Canyon and they see the small river flowing through it and their conclusion is that it took millions of years for that canyon to form.

Creationists look at that same canyon and they see all the sedimentary rock laid down by water and they say it happened quickly, during the global flood!

Same Grand Canyon, but depending on your view, you see things differently. And the reality is, we can look at Mount Saint Helen's and see the canyons that volcanic explosion formed in just days. So it doesn't take millions of years, we have seen this with our own eyes!

But for the evolutionist, the key to the present is to look at the past but they look at the past with a skewed view.

And that is in complete opposition to the Biblical view that tells us that we live in an open system and yes, God has placed order in the natural laws, but God has and will continue to intervene in our lives, in this world!

This idea of uniformitarianism came into being through the efforts of a nineteenth-century British lawyer and geologist named *Charles Lyell*.

He wrote a book called *Principles of Geology* which impacted the scientific community.

They now came to ignore that which they once believed, catastrophism or cataclysmic events and moved towards uniformitarianism.

*Charles Darwin* took that book with him on his voyage to the Galapagos and other islands off the Pacific coast of South America on the ship Beagle, where he established his theory of evolution, (1831-1832).

Now let me say this and this should stir some of you. Charles Darwin did not develop the theory of Evolution and neither did Charles Lyell.

***“ . . . the most prominent earlier theory being put forward by Jean-Baptiste Lamarck, who proposed the idea of ‘inheritance of acquired characteristics.’ ”***

And this is also where Darwin got his information from and few know who Lamark is, but they do know Darwin!

That is just extra credit!

What is interesting is that the church bought into this garbage, but why?

The reason is simple. Their minds are not pure to the Words of God but instead they believe the principles of this world, the philosophies of this world!

Here is the problem with that logic, in thinking evolution and uniformitarianism are compatible with Christianity. And let me say this, they are not!

You can't take Genesis 1:1, "**In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth**" and all that comes after that and then come to the conclusion that everything happened, evolved over long periods of time. They are not compatible with each other. You have to believe either in evolution or creation, there is no middle ground when you take the Scriptures literally!

Also, one well known pastor disagrees that evolution and the Christian faith are compatible and not in conflict with one another and he offered this stinging critique of evolution.

This is what he wrote,

*"To put it simply, evolution was invented in order to eliminate the God of Genesis and thereby to oust the Lawgiver and obliterate the inviolability [sacredness] of His law. Evolution is simply the latest means our fallen race has devised in order to suppress our innate knowledge and the biblical testimony that there is a God and that we are accountable to Him (cf. Romans 1:28).*

*By embracing evolution, modern society aims to do away with morality, responsibility, and guilt. Society has embraced evolution with such enthusiasm because people imagine that it eliminates the Judge and leaves them free to do whatever they want without guilt and without consequences."*

Exactly. That is what we have seen this morning in these verses!



Again, I can understand this from the unsaved world, but from people who claim to be Christians, and they are denying the Lord's return, that is a dangerous road to travel. You can't pick and choose what you like and what you don't like in the Scriptures!

And if you doubt that this is dangerous, look at what happened as this theory of evolution grew, look at some of the things that came out of it.

- Mormonism in the 1830s.
- Millerism which morphed into the "Seventh Day Adventism" in the 1830s.
- Jehovah's Witnesses in the 1870s.
- Christian Science also started in 1870s.

And there have been many other cults that started around that time and since! Once you start moving away from the truths of God opened up to us by the Spirit of God, you open yourself up to doctrines of demons and that is what we have seen with these cults and continue to see today!

Warren Wiersbe sums it up like this for us. He wrote,

How important it is for us as Christians to understand God's truth! Today we are surrounded by scoffers, people who refuse to take the Bible seriously when it speaks about Christ's return and the certainty of judgment.

In this paragraph, Peter admonished his readers to understand three important facts about God and the promise of Christ's coming . . . [God's Word is true – II Peter 3:1-4; God's Work is consistent – II Peter 3:5-7; God's will is merciful – II Peter 3:8-10]

Because God's Word is true, we must pay attention to it and take its message seriously.

. . . older Christians must also be reminded of the importance of Bible doctrine and, in particular, the doctrines that relate to the return of Christ. Prophetic teaching must not lull us to sleep. Rather, it must awaken us to live godly lives and to seek to win the lost (Rom 13:11-14).

Now here is the problem with evolution, or just one of the many problems. No one was there to observe it, and it is not something we observe today.

Not only that, but even evolutionists themselves deny the evidence for evolution.

Do you understand that! They don't have the evidence, but they will believe it anyway!

That is not science folks, that is faith!

Let me show you what I mean. We are told,

Evolutionists commonly answer the above criticism by claiming that evolution goes too slowly for us to see it happening today. They used to claim that the real evidence for evolution was in the fossil record of the past, but the fact is that the billions of known fossils do not include a single unequivocal transitional form with transitional structures in the process of evolving.

Given that evolution, according to Darwin, was in a continual state of motion . . . it followed logically that the fossil record should be rife with examples of transitional forms leading from the less to the more evolved.

Even those who believe in rapid evolution recognize that a considerable number of generations would be required for one distinct "kind" to evolve into another more complex kind.

There ought, therefore, to be a considerable number of true transitional structures preserved in the fossils - after all, there are billions of non-transitional structures there!

But (with the exception of a few very doubtful creatures such as the controversial feathered dinosaurs and the alleged walking whales), they are not there.

Instead of filling in the gaps in the fossil record with so-called missing links, most paleontologists found themselves facing a situation in which there were only gaps in the fossil record, with no evidence of transformational intermediates between documented fossil species.

The entire history of evolution from the evolution of life from non-life to the evolution of vertebrates from invertebrates to the evolution of man from the ape is strikingly devoid of intermediates: the links are all missing in the fossil record, just as they are in the present world.

With respect to the origin of life, a leading researcher in this field, Leslie Orgel, after noting that neither proteins nor nucleic acids could have arisen without the other, concludes:

***And so, at first glance, one might have to conclude that life could never, in fact, have originated by chemical means.***

Being committed to total evolution as he is, Dr. Orgel cannot accept any such conclusion as that. Therefore, he speculates that RNA may have come first, but then he still has to admit that:

***The precise events giving rise to the RNA world remain unclear. . . . investigators have proposed many hypotheses, but evidence in favor of each of them is fragmentary at best.***

Translation: ***“There is no known way by which life could have arisen naturalistically.”***

Unfortunately, two generations of students have been taught that Stanley Miller’s famous experiment on a gaseous mixture, practically proved the naturalistic origin of life. But not so!

Miller put the whole thing in a ball, gave it an electric charge, and waited. He found that amino acids and other fundamental complex molecules were accumulating at the bottom of the apparatus.

His discovery gave a huge boost to the scientific investigation of the origin of life.

Indeed, for some time it seemed like creation of life in a test tube was within reach of experimental science.

Unfortunately, such experiments have not progressed much further than the original prototype, leaving us with a sour aftertaste from the primordial soup.

Neither is there any clue as to how the one-celled organisms of the primordial world could have evolved into the vast array of complex multi-celled invertebrates of the Cambrian period. Even dogmatic evolutionist Gould admits that:

*The Cambrian explosion was the most remarkable and puzzling event in the history of life.*

Equally puzzling, however, is how some invertebrate creature in the ancient ocean, with all its *“hard parts”* on the outside, managed to evolve into the first vertebrate - that is, the first fish - with its hard parts all on the inside.

Yet the transition from spineless invertebrates to the first backboned fishes is still shrouded in mystery, and many theories abound.

- <https://bit.ly/4jkq4Tj>

Yes, life formed from non-life, not by evolution but by Creation as God created the heavens and the earth in six literal days, and He did not need that much time. He could have done it instantaneously, but He was giving us the example of the work week. We work for six days and rest on the seventh day!

Now we could spend a lot of time showing you that there is no evidence for evolution but there is evidence for creation as you look out into this world. But that is not our focus here this morning.

Our focus, and what Peter warned them about we are seeing come to pass in our days, scoffers are mocking and rejecting the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Now, the big question is, ***“How do we know what Peter is saying is true? Peter was not a scientist, so couldn’t he be wrong? And if he is wrong about evolution or a slow process of events bringing about change, then can he be wrong about the second coming? In fact, people have been talking about the return of the Lord for almost two-thousand years, and it hasn’t happened yet. So why should we believe that it is going to happen?”***

First of all, just because it has not happened yet, doesn’t mean it is never going to happen.

Also, there are still prophecies related to the Second Coming of Jesus that need to come to pass before He does return.

Not only that but look at Paul’s first letter to the church in Thessalonica. He was there maybe three or four weeks, and do you know what he taught this young church, these new believers?

He taught them of the return of Jesus Christ in every chapter!

Like I have said, prophecy is important for us to understand and then apply to our lives!

And, as we will see, Peter is going to explain why he is right, and they are wrong in denying the return of the Lord!

But listen to what one person has to say regarding end times events, and please understand that these ideas are growing, and I think that is why we see so much sin in the church, they are going on like nothing will happen, everything just continues on as it was.

But this is what one person wrote,

I’m becoming increasingly skeptical these days that the Second Coming of Christ, Millennium, Rapture, or End Times (as described in Revelation or Daniel) are actually events that will happen in real life, and were perhaps instead based off of some mistranslation, misunderstanding, or something that was not from God’s word to begin with.

At the same time, I can still believe in Heaven, Hell, etc. and many other things about faith/doctrine/Scripture.

It's just that I'm starting to seriously question whether the teachings about the Rapture or Second Coming were actual real/true or not, or whether we have totally distorted something God said (or did not say.)

- <https://bit.ly/4hjIRwg>

Make no mistake about it, these are – ***THE SCOFFERS!***

As Peter continues on, he will tell us why they are wrong as he points out that they have – ***FORGOT GOD'S PAST JUDGMENTS!***

#### VERSES 5-7

How can Peter be so sure of the Lord's return and the coming judgment of God?

It is simple. Peter's point is that God warned this world of judgment because of their sin during the time of Noah and the flood came.

And, just like God warned them of His coming judgment, He has also warned us, and we need to pay attention, we need to heed His Words!

You see, Peter wants them to remember that judgment because another judgment is coming!

Now I know, and I have heard the arguments against the flood, that there is no evidence for a flood, and on and on the foolishness goes.

Here is the thing, and Peter points it out to them and to us. It is not that they don't have the evidence to believe, but that they willfully forget what God has done in the past.

First of all, look at creation, it points to the fact that there is a God. In fact, we are told that God created the heavens and the earth and all the life that is in it in six literal, 24-hour days.

The evidence that is out there shows us that truth. Look at the complexity of life, it didn't just happen but there had to be a designer, a creator and that is God!

That is what Paul said in Romans 1:18-23, that people will suppress the truth that is before them so they can reject God. He put it like this, **“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man - and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.”**

These so-called highly educated men believe that information can be gained over long periods of time, from where we do not know, and it kept gaining more and more information until life came forth and through millions of years we evolved from an amoeba to man!

Foolishness!

And because they reject God, they will be judged because there is no excuse, the heavens declare the glory of God!

But God not only created the heavens and the earth, but He brought judgment upon man in the form of a flood that covered the face of the earth.

We are told the reason in Genesis 6:5-8, **“Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. So the LORD said, ‘I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.’ But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.”**

Man was wicked but Noah found grace in the eyes of God and he and his family were spared as they were safe within the ark.

But the flood destroyed maybe some 5 to 8 billion people plus all the animals at that time.

All life outside the ark, except for fish, even though many were destroyed, died in this judgment of God!

I know, some laugh at the idea of a global flood, but look at the evidence.

There are billions of dead things buried in rock layers laid down by water, all over the earth!

And folks, many geologists and scientists are looking at the evidence and seeing the remains of a global flood, but many willfully forget or ignore this truth!

Think about this for a minute. This is not some coincidence! Since all of mankind came from Noah’s sons that means that all of mankind should remember the Flood.

Is there evidence for that?

You bet there is.

Of the more than 200 cultures from all over the world, each of them has a flood story in their cultural history. It has been changed some, but the basic premise is the same.



Let me share a few things with you to show you that there is plenty of evidence for a global flood, and these are just a few things.

- Bones of whales have been found 440 ft. above sea level north of Lake Ontario.
- Other whole skeletons have been found in Vermont 500 ft. above sea level; and another in Montreal/Quebec about 600 ft. above sea level.
- Scientists have found marine life fossils at every level of the Himalayan Mountains some 19 to 20 thousand feet high proving that at one time these mountains were at sea level and covered with water before they were thrust up.
- Marine life fossils have also been found in the Salt Lake area and in deserts and inland areas all over the world, which has caused experts to conclude that at one time these areas were under water.
- Rapid burial of plants and animals.
- Rapidly deposited sediment layers spread across vast areas.

Again, those are just a few, the geological evidence is overwhelming for a universal worldwide flood.

And when you look at the massive fossil records that we have, it points to a flood as Henry Morris tells us, “. . . *the preservation of fossils requires rapid burial and lithification, or else they will be destroyed by decay or scavengers.*”

And remember, they believe in uniformitarianism or that everything just continues on, no big cataclysmic events. And yet, when you ask them what happened to the dinosaur, they speculate it was a catastrophic event. They will use it only when it suits them and thus, they *willfully forget!*

The idea here is that haughty, arrogant men can't admit to a flood, or they'll validate the judgment of God. They've chosen instead to deny any evidence for God and His judgment and pretend to be their own authority.

And please understand, they don't want to believe in God.

Let me give you this example. Listen to what a New York University philosopher Thomas Nagel wrote in his book, *The Last Word*.

*I want atheism to be true and am made uneasy by the fact that some of the most intelligent and well-informed people I know are religious believers. It isn't just that I don't believe in God . . . it's that I hope there is no God! I don't want there to be a God; I don't want a universe to be like that.*

- Thomas Nagel, *The Last Word*, p. 130

That is pretty clear – he is willfully forgetting what has taken place, he is suppressing the truth and hoping he is right that there is no God, even though the evidence is overwhelming that there is.

How sad and many feel the same way!

And so, what we have seen with the flood of Noah is that God intervened before and brought judgment upon an evil world and He is going to do it again, not with a flood but with fire!

How do I know that?

Because of the past and the evidence showing that what God has said has taken place, His Word is true and thus, what He says of the future will be true also!

But right now, God is holding this world together. That is what Paul tells us in Colossians 1:17, “**And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.**”

The Living Bible puts this verse like this, “**He was before all else began and it is his power that holds everything together.**”

And in Hebrews 1:3 Paul tells us, **“who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.”**

Now some may laugh at that, God holding everything together. But think about Coulomb’s Law of Electricity that shows like charges repel each other and opposite charges attract each other.

Now think of an atom that has protons in the nucleus and electrons orbiting around it.

What holds those protons together?

We aren’t sure and the scientists tell us that maybe it is *“atomic glue”* or something like that. There are other theories out there, but that is all that they are.

Now, keep in mind that there is a tremendous amount of power in that nucleus of the atom!

Let me put this into perspective for you on how powerful these forces are and even more amazing, how in the world do they even stay together.

If you were to take one tablespoon of positive charges and place them on the North Pole and then take another tablespoon of positive charges and place them on the South Pole, keep in mind that like charges repel each other. Nothing too impressive we might think.

Also note that the diameter between the poles, if you could cut right through the earth, is 7,899.80 miles apart.

In saying that, it would take 30 thousand tons of pressure on each of the poles to keep them from pushing away from each other!

So what holds them together?

Not what but who, and laugh if you want, but it is Jesus Christ and when He let's go, well, Peter will tell us in a few verses what takes place when He does!

I will give you a hint, it goes ***BOOM!***

And, in speaking of this judgement, Peter is going to talk about the Day of the Lord, and we will see that in our next study of II Peter!

So look at what we saw this morning.

Peter told us to – ***REMEMBER!***

Remember what you have learned, remember the Word of God, and not only remember it but apply it to your life. The Lord is coming back and that should cause us to live accordingly!

Next, Peter warned us that there will be – ***THE SCOFFERS!***

There will be those who deny the Lord's return and just believe that everything will continue on just as it has been going on in the past or for them millions of years.

Thus, there is no judgment!

But Peter wants them to understand this fact, that they – ***FORGOT GOD'S PAST***

***JUDGMENTS!***

And his example is that of a flood and how God judged this world in the past and He is going to do that again. Not because I have said so, but the Word of God tells us.

We see this in Acts 17:31, **“because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”**

Jesus will come as the righteous judge and He will separate the sheep from the goats and the sheep will enter into the Kingdom Age!

Also, in II Timothy 4:1 Paul wrote, “**I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom.**”

Once again, we see that same thought we saw in Acts!

Make no mistake about it, the Day of the Lord is coming and the only way to escape the judgment of God is by placing your faith, your life in Jesus Christ!

And for us as Christians, yes, it may be ***THE DAY OF SCOFFERS***, but our hope is in Jesus and His love for us, His grace that He extends to us and His return!