

PREPARED TO LIVE IN VICTORY: THE DAY OF THE LORD IS COMING

Houses of Light Church • December 2-3, 2023 • Pastor Netz Gómez

2 Pet. 3:10

"But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed."

I. PETER'S PROPHETIC ARGUMENT

- A. After Peter mentioned the first three arguments (moral, historical and theological) to refute the scoffers; he now he goes on to give the prophetic argument. What the scoffers say is baseless because it comes from a bad heart, from a willful ignorance about history, and from a mistaken theology that does not consider God's patience or time as He sees it.
- B. Peter's prophetic argument makes it clear that scoffers misunderstand what will happen in the future so what they say is not true. When Peter speaks of ***"the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up"*** and later in v.12 he reaffirms that ***"the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn!"*** he is precisely based on all the Old Testament prophecies that speak of this day in which God will vindicate His holy name, judge non-believers and gather His people into a new kingdom of justice and peace.
- C. When we see the Old Testament prophecies about the Day of the Lord we understand what Peter based his prophetic argument on. In Acts 2:20 On the day of Pentecost Peter himself quoted the prophet Joel to speak of the day of the Lord.

Jol. 2:30-31 "And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. ³¹ The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes."

- D. In many texts of the Old and New Testament this same day is spoken of (Is. 2:11-17; 13:9-13; Am. 5:18-20; Jol. 3:14-16; Ps. 102:25 ; Mal. 3:2; 4:1-2 and 5; 2 Thes. 1:8; Heb. 12:29) Therefore the apostle Peter is not saying something new and unexpected. For centuries, there has been an expectation among God's people that God's wrath would unleash a destruction of the wicked and the world they idolize.

Mal. 4:1-2 "For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ² But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall."

- E. Peter's description of a destruction by fire, in v.10 and 12, does not refer to an annihilation of creation, but rather a catastrophic purification and supernatural transformation of creation, as God reverses the curse and makes new all things (Rev. 21:5).
- F. In v.6 and 7, this transformation is suggested through the comparison between the destruction by water in the days of Noah and the purification by fire at the end of the age. The water did not annihilate, but rather purified. Therefore, fire does not annihilate, but purifies and transforms and renews creation to continue forever (Ps. 37:29; 78:69; 104:5; 105:10-11; 125:1-2; 1 Chr. 23:25; 28:8; Isa. 60:21; Ez. 37:25; Joel 3:20).
- G. v.13 "But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells." Peter states that the purification of this earth by fire will result in a new earth. The judgments and blessings of the Millennium are a foretaste of the eternal blessings of the new earth.

II. TWO PRACTICAL LESSONS FOR US: BE PREPARED AND LIVE A GODLY LIFE

v.10a *"But the day of the Lord will come like a thief..."*

- A. When Jesus and His apostles say that the day of the Lord *"will come as a thief"* they imply at least three things: the day of the Lord includes the second coming of Our Lord Jesus; It will be sudden, unexpected and destructive for non-believers, like the arrival of a thief; but it will also bring liberation and salvation for those who are alert, faithfully doing the work assigned to them by the Lord; This is the practical aspect of reflecting on the events of recent times.

Matt. 24:42-43 "Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. 43 But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into."

1 Thes. 5:2-4 "For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. 4 But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief."

Rev. 3:3 "Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you."

- B. THE SECOND PRACTICAL CONCLUSION of the Lord's Day is that we need to reflect on the way we are approaching our lives and what behavior is expected of us.

v.10, 11 y 14 "10 ...and the works that are done on it will be exposed. 11 Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness... 14 Therefore, beloved, since you are

waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace."

- C. Most people try to find meaning in life by building something that is not just here today and gone tomorrow but as v.11 reveals **the only thing that will survive the fires of judgment on this earth are the expressions of holiness and piety.** These texts state that works made for purely human reasons will be burned to expose them for what they really are.
- D. An old saying states: **"There is only one life, and it will soon pass away. Only what is done for Christ will remain."** A life lived for the world will go empty into judgment; a life lived for Christ will be loaded with eternal riches.
- E. A proper understanding of the Lord's plans for the end times motivates us to godliness. The lesson is this: we must put our lives under the focus of eternity and from God's point of observation and dedicate ourselves to what will last.
- F. When Peter says: **"be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace,"** the question is: how can we, sinners, expect to be found without spot or impurity? There are two verses that give us the answer.
1 Jn 1:7: "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another (this is similar to living in peace), and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin (This is similar to living without stain or impurity)."
2 Pet. 1:3-4a "His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to[c] his own glory and excellence, 4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world..."
- G. Peace and purity, or fellowship and purification, depend on our walking in the light since God is in the light and the power to walk in the light and to achieve purity and peace in the midst of the struggle we have. It is against our flesh to know Him and to believe and claim His great promises.

III. CAN WE HASTEN THE DAY OF THE LORD?

v.12 "waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God..."

- A. There are various positions regarding this text. v.9 says that **"God is delaying this day so that more people will repent."** That is to say, if we repent and live a pure life we can help eliminate the cause of delay. But another part Act. 1:7 teaches us that **"the Father has set times and seasons by his own authority"**; and in Mark 13:22, Jesus said that **"the Father knows the hour of the return of his Son."**
- B. The point here is that there is something for those of us who long for the Lord's return to do and in that sense we can hasten it. We saints can hasten the day of the Lord by living godly lives, being faithful messengers, and living a lifestyle dedicated to evangelism, disciple-making, and prayer,

etc. Evidently, Peter affirms that living in holiness and godliness will actually fulfill these conditions and hasten the Day of God.

IV. CONCLUSION

- A. As long as we have hope for a new heaven and a new earth in which justice dwells and in which the glory and excellence of God cover the earth as the water covers the sea - as long as we enjoy that promise and have hope in it, a power divine ignites us with a fervor for purity and peace.
- B. These two motivations God gives us for our sanctification: 1) that the earth and all the vain achievements of man are going to burn and only the fruits of holiness will remain; 2) that the promise of new heavens and a new earth shines so brightly with the justice and glory of God, that of course we are going to walk in the light!

V. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- 1. What is Peter's prophetic argument for confronting the scoffers?
- 2. What are two practical lessons for us as we continue to grow in understanding God's plan for the end times?
- 3. How can you apply this teaching to your daily life to prepare for the Day of the Lord?

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1. Corporate Prayer is this Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
- 2. Holy58 organizes a Movie Night with the film "The Nativity Story" December 18 at 6:30 p.m. Tickets will be available at the door.
- 3. Prophecy Rooms Wednesday December 13 at 7:00 p.m. Health Rooms Thursday December 14 at 7:00 p.m. Please register at www.nhop.la