

## Studies in 2 Peter

### How Can I Be Sure That Jesus is Coming Again?

#### 1 Peter 3:1-13

Intro: Peter's second epistle is designed to help us overcome our doubts. He answers the lingering doubts that plague all believers.

- 1) How can I be sure the gospel is true?
- 2) How can I be sure that I will go to heaven?
- 3) How can I be sure that I will not be astray?
- 4) How can I be sure that Jesus is coming again?

Peter wanted the brethren to be sure that all that God had promised for the future would indeed come true. He wanted them to be certain that Jesus was coming again! This text focuses on the final coming of Jesus.

#### THE SECOND COMING DENIED

*"Mockers will come with their mocking..." Infidels will make fun of the promise.*

**Satan uses everything in his arsenal to defeat the word of God.**

**In chapter two we learned that He has false teachers who teach error.**

**In chapter three we see that He has mockers who ridicule the truth.**

*"Following after their own lusts..."*

**Infidelity is often not an intellectual problem; it is a moral one!**

**Many reject the word because of a desire to sin.**

Cf. Huxley's admission: **"I had motives for not wanting the world to have meaning; consequently, assumed it had none, and was able without any difficulty to find satisfying reasons for this assumption.... The philosopher who finds no meaning in the world is not concerned exclusively with a problem in pure metaphysics; he is also concerned to prove there is no valid reason why he personally should not do as he wants to do.... For myself, as no doubt for most of my contemporaries, the philosophy of meaninglessness was essentially an instrument of liberation. The liberation we desired was simultaneously liberation from a certain political and economic system and liberation from a certain system of morality. We objected to the morality because it interfered with our sexual freedom (1966, 3:19, emp. added)."**

#### THE SECOND COMING DEFENDED

*Peter's defense is two-fold:*

**Denial of the second coming is built on a false premise: "All continues as it was from the beginning..."**

**The premise is false because destruction has come to the world before. The flood is proof of that. The evidence of a universal flood is clear.**

**Bert Thompson wrote: "The account of the Genesis Flood hardly stands alone in human history. Researchers have described over 100 flood traditions from Europe, Asia, Australia, the East Indies, the Americas, East Africa, and many other places."**

Professor Harold W. Clark, in his work, *Fossils, Flood and Fire*, discussed the important fact that flood stories abound in practically every known culture.

Preserved in the myths and legends of almost every people on the face of the globe is the memory of the great catastrophe. While myths may not have any scientific value, yet they are significant in indicating the fact that an impression was left in the minds of the races of mankind that could not be erased (1968, p. 45).

**A picture of one of the most ancient: The Gilgamesh Epic has striking parallels to the Genesis account and originates from the same Semitic context and geographical area.**

**If destruction has come before, it can and will come again.**

**There is a reason for the delay!**

**God does not live under the constraints of time like we are.**

*"One day is as a thousand years and a thousand years is as one day"*

*God is not under the press of time to accomplish his purpose.*

**He is not in a rush to complete His work!**

**"One day is as a thousand years..."**

**This is not some formula for prophetic interpretation.**

*God's purpose is not hindered by the long lengths of time involved.*

**Not forced to discontinue due to the fatigue we feel in long periods of time. "A thousand years is as a day..."**

**God wants as many people as possible to be saved.**

*Only His delay can provide for this. Cf. v. 9, 15*

*Rather than ridicule God's delay, these sinners ought to be grateful for God's patience!*

*But let there be no doubt that the day of the Lord will come!*

## **THE SECOND COMING DESCRIBED**

*It will come like a thief*

**Cf. also Mt. 25:13**

**Cf. those many people who think they can predict the day! Cf. "88 reasons that Jesus will come in 1988!"**

Let not false prognosticators lure us into a false sense of security!  
Nor, let us suppose that we can predict when God will say  
"Enough"!

*It will bring total destruction to the whole creation!*

A destruction not by water, but by fire!

A complete destruction of the outer cosmos. v. 7, 10

The earth and its works shall be included, v. 10

*It will inaugurate "the new heaven and earth", where only righteousness dwells! V. 13*

## THE SECOND COMING'S DEMANDS

*Holy--separate from sin, v. 11*

*Godly--devotion and piety, v. 11*

*Diligent to be found in peace—prepared, v. 14*

*Spotless and blameless--sins forgiven, life in order, v. 14*

*Filled with anticipation! Looking for, and hastening the day of God, v. 12*

*Cf. Paul 1 Cor. 16:22. Cf. John Rev. 22:20*

**Conclusion:** Several years ago while living in Lawrenceburg I received a phone call one night from a young lady and her husband that we had known and studied with some. About that time she was reading a very popular book by Edgar Whisenant called "88 Reasons Jesus will come in 1988". The day was soon approaching and the young lady was thinking, "What if the Lord came soon?" Day by the day the Lord's coming pressed upon her conscience and one night she could not bear it any long. That night she obeyed the gospel well after midnight the night I talked with her.

Are you ready for Jesus' coming? It could be today. Would you be ready if the trumpet should sound today? Would it bring joyful surprise or terror to know that all opportunities for salvation were over? But even if he should tarry, you have another concern to think about, death. The world might go on; but you might not! Are you prepared for death?