



Repentance Tabernacle Church

RepentanceTabernacle@gmail.com
www.RepentanceTabernacle.org (984) 369-5171

Beware!

Scripture: 2 Peter 3:1-10

The apostle Peter, drawing towards the conclusion of his second epistle, begins this last chapter with repeating to stir up their pure minds by way of remembrance. Peter already wrote about the importance of being reminded (2 Peter 1:12-13). But here he wanted to emphasize what should be known in light of the coming of Jesus and the prophecies surrounding His coming.

Peter clearly believed that the Word of God was important. Peter understood that Jesus gave also His 5-fold ministry the authority to bring forth God's message, the Good News to the church. He understood this from passages such as Matthew 16:19, where Jesus gave the apostles authority to bind and loose. It is by the Word of God we that are called the people of God are to be stirred up, that we might be active and lively in the work of holiness, and zealous and be unwearied on the way to heaven.

In the last days scoffers will say that Jesus is never coming back. They walk after their own lusts, they follow the devices and desires of their own hearts, and carnal affections, (Romans 8:7), their minds are evil and opposite to God, and they proclaim openly what is in their hearts. They will attempt to shake and unsettle us, even as to our belief of Christ's second coming; they will scoffingly say, "**Where is the promise of his coming?**" Jude 1:10 tells us, "*But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves.*"

It was by God's powerful word that the world was made at first, and made in such a commodious and beautiful frame and order, (Hebrews 11:3). This was the change which God had before brought upon the world, and which these scoffers had overlooked. For this they willfully forget: that by the Word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. After destroying the world by the flood God promised in Genesis 9:16-17, "*And the bow (rainbow) shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, This is the token (sign) of the covenant, which I have established between me and all flesh that is upon the earth.*"

At Christ Second Coming the world will be judged by fire as stated by John while he was on the Isle of Patmos, "*And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. **And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire**" (Revelation 20:10-15).*

The reason why Jesus' return isn't sooner is so that **all should come to repentance**, because God is **not willing that any should perish**. Peter's statement reflects God's heart of love for the world (Ezekiel 33:11; John 3:16), and His compassionate sorrow even in the righteous judgment of the wicked. Though the Lord's longsuffering love to the lost makes it seem that perhaps He delays His coming, the truth is that He will indeed come. And when Jesus does return, He will come at a time that will surprise many (as a thief in the night). The ultimate result of His coming will be a total transformation of this present world (in which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat).

One day Christ will create a new heaven and earth, where we will live forever (Revelation 21-22). As people of God, our hope is in this promise. At the Second Coming the scoffers will be judged by fire (Revelation 20:10-15). The cure for complacency, lawlessness, and heresy is found in the confident assurance that Christ will return. God is still giving unbelievers time to repent. To be ready, **people of God must keep on trusting and resist the pressure to give up waiting for Christ's return.**

**The Word of God warns us to beware as we navigate our daily Christian journey.
People of God beware of the scoffers and hold to the promise Christ will come again to redeem us!**