

The Certainty of

THE DAY OF THE LORD

2 Peter 3:1-15

“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.” — 2 Peter 3:10 (NKJV)

2 Peter 3:1–15 (NKJV)

¹ Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in *both of* which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), ² that you 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 Savior, ³ knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 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 creation.”

2 Peter 3:1–15 (NKJV)

⁵ 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, ⁶ by which the world *that* then existed perished, being flooded with water. ⁷ But the heavens and the earth *which* are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. ⁸ But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day *is* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:1–15 (NKJV)

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. ¹¹ Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ¹² looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? ¹³ Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

2 Peter 3:1–15 (NKJV)

¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; ¹⁵ and consider *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you,

The Certainty of “THE DAY OF THE LORD”

Various Views of Eschatology

VIEWS	PRE MILLENNIAL	POST MILLENNIAL	A MILLENNIAL	TRANS MILLENNIAL
Resurrection	Future - 2 or 3	Future - 1	Future - 1	Past - Spiritual
Reign	Future Material 1 K yr. reign	1 k Yr Current / Spiritual	1 k Yr Current / Spiritual	Spiritual / Completed
Kingdom	Future / Earthly 1 K yr. reign	Current / Spiritual	Current / Spiritual	Past / Present / Eternal NOW
Coming	2 - Future	1 - Future	1 - Future	1 - Past
Judgment	2 - Future	1 - Future	1 - Future	1 - Past
World	Antichrist / Trib / Wars ...	Improves Into Glory	Digresses unto Destruction	Never Destroyed

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“THE DAY OF THE LORD”

“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; ...” — 2 Peter 3:10 (NKJV)



■ JESUS Is Coming AGAIN:

- **Personally** — Acts 1:11; 1 Thes. 4:16;
- **Visibly** — Acts 1:11; Rev. 1:7
- **Audibly** — 1 Thes. 4:16; 1 Cor. 15:52
- **With angels** — 2 Thes. 1:7-9
- **With power & glory** — 2 Thes. 1:7-10
- **To judge the world** — Acts 17:30-33
- **Destroy present world & establish new heavens and new earth** - 2 Pet. 3:10-13
- **Glorify Saints** - Col. 3:4; Phil. 3:20-21

The Certainty of

“THE DAY OF THE LORD”

¹ Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in *both of* which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), — 2 Peter 3:1 (NKJV)



► **We NEED TO BE REMINDED**

- Of the truth taught by God's messengers — God will judge the wicked! — (2-7)
- This world will be destroyed — (7, 10, 11)
- God's will is that men not perish but come to repentance — (9, 14)
- In view of God's judgment, we must live in “holy conduct and godliness” — (11)
- Be diligent that we be found by Him in peace, without spot & blameless — (14)
- To **GROW** in knowledge — (17-18)

“THE DAY OF THE LORD”

“WHERE IS THE PROMISE OF HIS COMING?” 2 PETER 3:3,4

► What would the “mockers” and “scoffers” deny?

- The future fulfillment of God’s promise — “the promise of His coming” — i.e., universal judgment (4)
 - ◆ Their assertion was based on the absence of God’s historical judgment upon sinful men (4)
 - ◆ They reject God’s judgment because they are determined to live according “to their own lust.” (3)



“THE DAY OF THE LORD”

“THIS THEY WILLFULLY FORGET” — 2 PETER 3:5-7

► What would the “mockers” and “scoffers” forget?

- They forget about the past judgments of God (5,6; cf. 2:4-7)
 - ◆ God fulfilled His promise to judge the wickedness of men when he flooded the earth with water which He had previously created (5,6)
 - ◆ They forget God does not view time like we do (8)



“THE DAY OF THE LORD”

“THE DAY OF THE LORD WILL COME” — 2 PETER 3:7-13

**2 Peter 3:7
(NASB95)**

**⁷ But by His word
the present
heavens and earth
are being reserved
for fire, kept for
the day of
judgment and
destruction of
ungodly men.**

- ▶ The present heavens and earth are reserved for FIRE ...
- The word of God brought forth the physical “heavens & earth” (5; Gen. 1:1-2).
- The word of God is preserving the same “heavens and earth” (7)
- The phrase “heavens & earth” of 3:7, 10-12 is just as literal as the phrase “heavens & earth” of 3:5.

“THE DAY OF THE LORD”

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- ▶ The present heavens and earth are reserved for FIRE ...
- The judgment of this context is a universal judgment that affects all creation — against all ungodly men, (6,7,10-12; cf. Jn 5:28,29; Ac 17:30-31)
- The entire “literal” world was flooded therefore the literal “heavens & earth” will be destroyed with fire (Gen. 7:11; 9:11, 15; 2 Pet. 3:7,10-12).

The Certainty of

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"THE DAY OF THE LORD WILL COME" — 2 PETER 3:7-13

DESTRUCTION WILL BE AS UNIVERSAL AS CREATION!



CREATION
VERSES 3,4

all continues
just as it was from
the beginning of
creation."



FLOOD
VERSES 5,6

UNIVERSAL
JUDGMENT
WITH WATER



COMING
VERSES 7,10-12

UNIVERSAL
JUDGMENT
WITH FIRE

DESTRUCTION WILL BE AS UNIVERSAL AS THE FLOOD!

“THE DAY OF THE LORD”

“THE DAY OF THE LORD WILL COME” — 2 PETER 3:7-13

**2 Peter 3:8–9
(NKJV)**

⁸ But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day *is* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, ...

- ▶ The present heavens and earth are reserved for FIRE ...
- “One day being as 1,000 years and 1,000 years as one day” is NOT a statement of “this is equal to that.”
- Instead, Peter is stating God is outside of time and is not bound by time.

“THE DAY OF THE LORD”

“THE DAY OF THE LORD WILL COME” — 2 PETER 3:7-13

**2 Peter 3:9
(NKJV)**

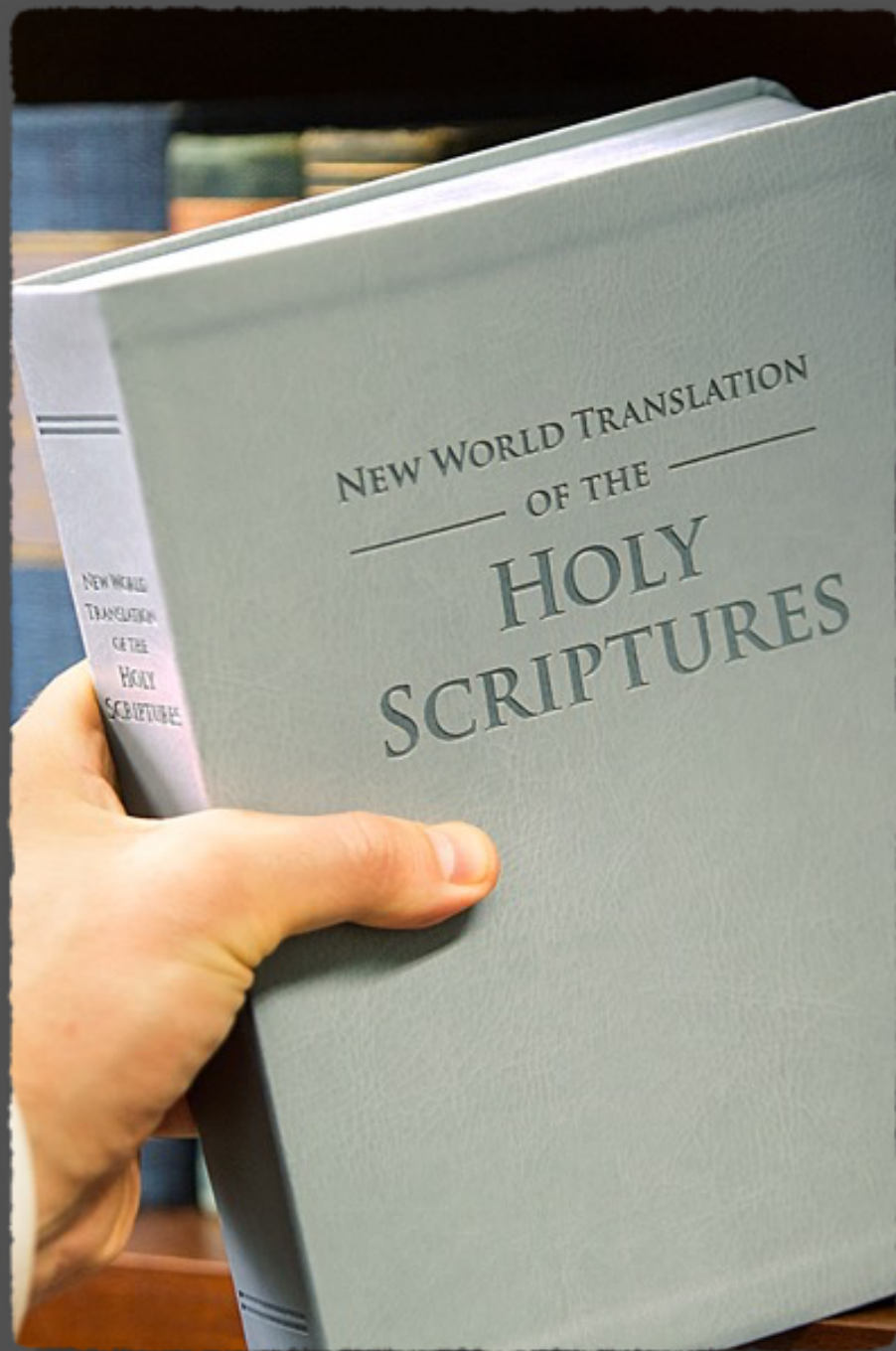
⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

- ▶ The present heavens and earth are reserved for FIRE ...
- “One day being as 1,000 years and 1,000 years as one day” is NOT a statement of “this is equal to that.”
- Instead, Peter is stating God is outside of time and is not bound by time.
- God’s delay in judging men is not an indication of His unwillingness to punish the wicked, but rather His willingness to save the penitent (9)

The Certainty of

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“THE DAY OF THE LORD WILL COME” — 2 PETER 3:7-13



Future of The Earth?

The phrase “the end of the world,” which appears in many Bible translations, can also be rendered as “the conclusion of the system of things,” or “the close of the age.” ... It refers, not to the destruction of the earth or of all humanity, but to the end of the framework of human society. —1 John 2: 17. The Bible teaches that “evil men will be done away with” so that good people can enjoy life on earth.—

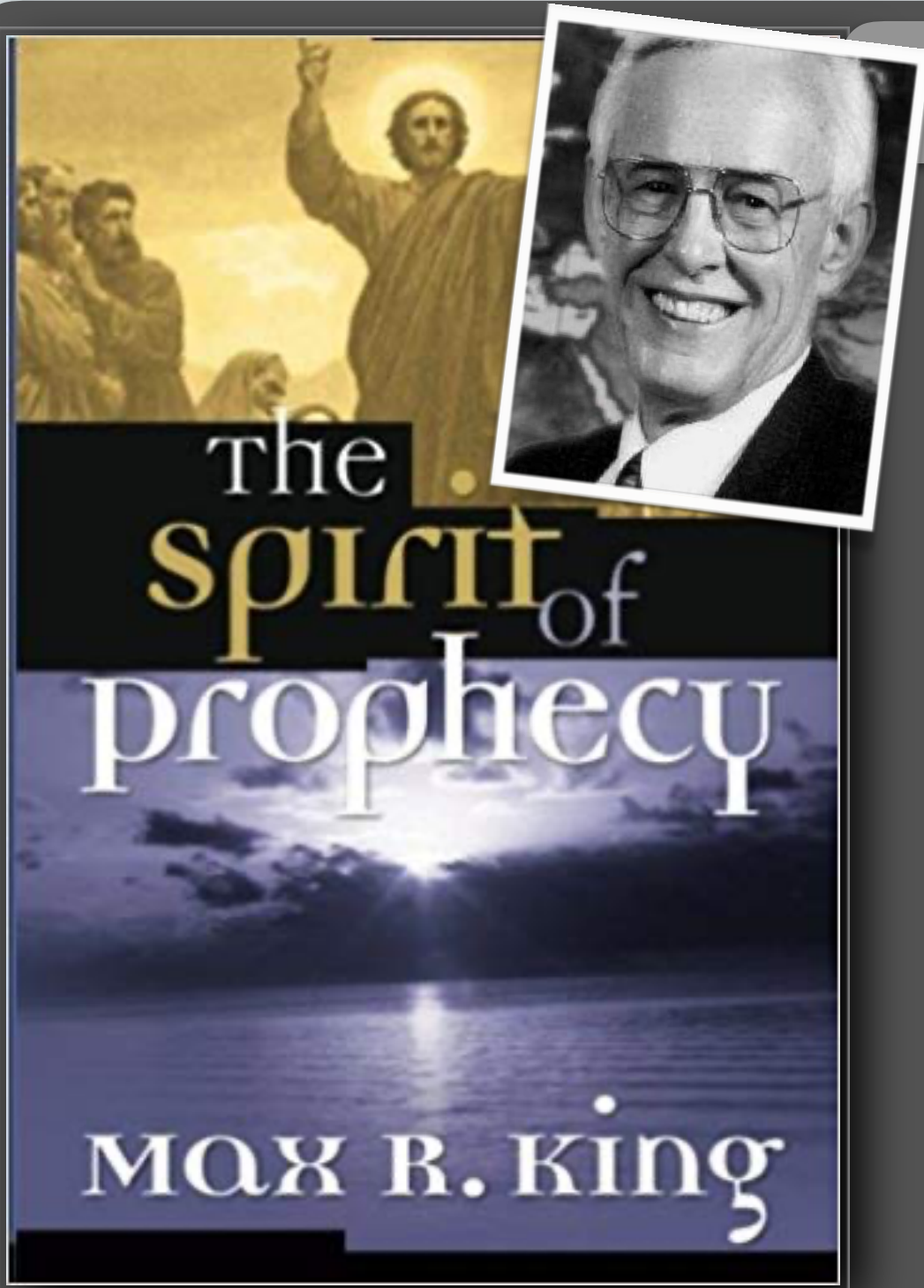
(Jehovah’s Witnesses, When Will the World End? /

<https://www.jw.org/en/bible-teachings/questions/end-of-the-world/>

The Certainty of

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“THE DAY OF THE LORD WILL COME” — 2 PETER 3:7-13



Future of The Earth?

Max King: “The Holy Scriptures teach the second coming of Christ, including the establishment of the eternal kingdom, the day of judgment, the end of the world, and the resurrection of the dead, occurred with the fall of Judaism in 70 A.D.”
(The Nichols-King Debate, 1)

“THE DAY OF THE LORD”

“THE DAY OF THE LORD WILL COME” — 2 PETER 3:7-13

- ⁴ and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For *ever* since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.” (3:4)
- ⁷ But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. (3:7)

10 But the
day of the
Lord will
come like
a thief,

in which the heavens will pass
away with a roar

and the elements will be
destroyed with intense heat,

and the earth and its works
will be burned up.

“THE DAY OF THE LORD”

“THE DAY OF THE LORD WILL COME” — 2 PETER 3:7-13

2 Peter 3:10
(NKJV)

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

“Heavens will pass away with a great noise” (10)

- **ROAR - 14.85 ῥοιζηδόν:** ... pertaining to a sudden noise made by swift movement—‘with a shrill noise, with a rushing noise.’ οἱ οὐρανοὶ ῥοιζηδὸν παρελεύσονται ‘the heavens will disappear with a rushing noise’ 2 Pe 3:10. The expression ‘with a rushing noise’ may be rendered as ‘suddenly and with a roar’ or ‘quickly and with a lot of noise.’ —

“THE DAY OF THE LORD”

“THE DAY OF THE LORD WILL COME” — 2 PETER 3:7-13

2 Peter 3:10
(NKJV)

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

“Elements will melt with fervent heat” (10)

Elements - *stoicheion* (στοιχεῖον, 4747),

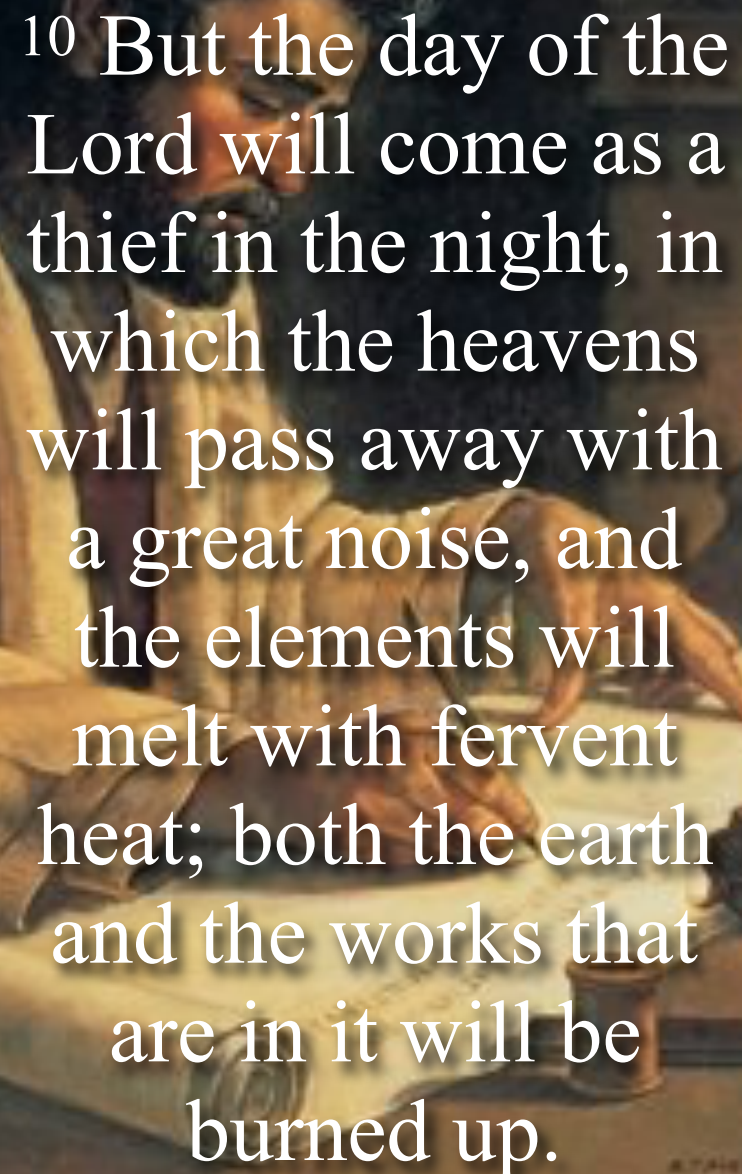
In the NT it is used of

- (a) the substance of the material world, 2 Pet. 3:10, 12;
- (b) the speculations of gentile cults and of Jewish theories, ... Col. 2:8,
- (c) the rudimentary principles of religion, Jewish or Gentile, ... Col. 2:20, and ... Gal. 4:3, 9,
- (d) the “elementary” principles (the A.B.C.’s) of God’s word ... Heb. 5:12,

“THE DAY OF THE LORD”

“THE DAY OF THE LORD WILL COME” — 2 PETER 3:7-13

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(NKJV)



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“Elements will melt with fervent heat” (10)

ELEMENTS στοιχεῖα^c, ων _n: <G4747> ,

Thayer / Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament.

2. the elements from which all things have come, the material causes of the universe (εστι δε στοιχειον, εξ ουπρωτου γινεται τα γινομενα και εις οεσχατον αναλυεται ... το πυρ, το υδωρ, οαηρ, ηγη, Diogenes Laërtius Zeno 137); so very often from Plato down, as in Tim., p. 48 b.; in the Scriptures: Sap. 7:17; [19:17](#); [2 Peter 3:10,12](#).

“THE DAY OF THE LORD”

“THE DAY OF THE LORD WILL COME” — 2 PETER 3:7-13

2 Peter 3:10
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ELEMENTS στοιχεῖα^c, ων _n: <G4747> ,

BDAG / A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature.

1 basic components of **someth.**, *elements*

a of substances underlying the natural world, the basic *elements* fr. which everything in the world is made and of which it is composed (Pla. et al.; PGM 4, 440; Wsd 7:17; 19:18; 4 Macc 12:13; Ath., R. 3 p. 51, 17), to disappear in the world conflagration at the end of time 2 Pt 3:10, 12 (Ath. 22, 3; lit. s.v. καυσόω). The four elements of the world (earth, air, fire, water) Hv 3, 13, 3

“THE DAY OF THE LORD”

“THE DAY OF THE LORD WILL COME” — 2 PETER 3:7-13

LITERAL

**The creation of
the material
world (4,5)**

LITERAL

**The flood of the
material world (6)**

LITERAL

**The present
material heavens
& earth reserved
for fire (7)**

ALSO LITERAL

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. ¹¹ Since all these things are to be destroyed ... ¹²because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!

"THE DAY OF THE LORD"

"THE DAY OF THE LORD WILL COME" — 2 PETER 3:7-13

JUDGMENT SHADOWS

- ▶ The angels who sinned (2:4)
- ▶ The Flood (2:5)
- ▶ Sodom & Gomorrah (2:6-8)
- ▶ Egypt (Ez. 32:7-8)
- ▶ Assyria (Nah. 1:1-5)
- ▶ Israel (Amos 8:1-2, 9)
- ▶ Jerusalem (Jer. 4:1-6)
- ▶ Babylon (Isa. 13:10, 13)
- ▶ Edom (Isa. 34:4-6)
- ▶ Jerusalem (Mat. 24:1-34)

FUTURE REALITY

"The Scriptures teach that Jesus of Nazareth will come again in our future to raise both the wicked and righteous for eternal judgment."

- ▶ John 5:28,29
- ▶ 1 Cor. 15
- ▶ 2 Cor. 4,5
- ▶ 1 Thes 4:13-18
- ▶ 1 & 2 Peter

“THE DAY OF THE LORD”

“THE DAY OF THE LORD WILL COME” — 2 PETER 3:7-13

THEREFORE

2 Peter 3:11–12 (NKJV)

¹¹ Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ¹² looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?

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"The Scriptures teach that Jesus of Nazareth will come again in our future to raise both the wicked and righteous for eternal judgment."

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“THE DAY OF THE LORD”

“THE DAY OF THE LORD WILL COME” — 2 PETER 3:7-13



“Looking for new heavens and a new earth” (3:13)

■ Isa. 65:17-25;
cf. Isa. 11:6-16

■ Isa. 66:22-24

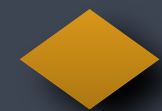
■ 2 Pet. 3:11-13

■ Rev. 21:1-4

**Same
Language**



**Different
Contexts**

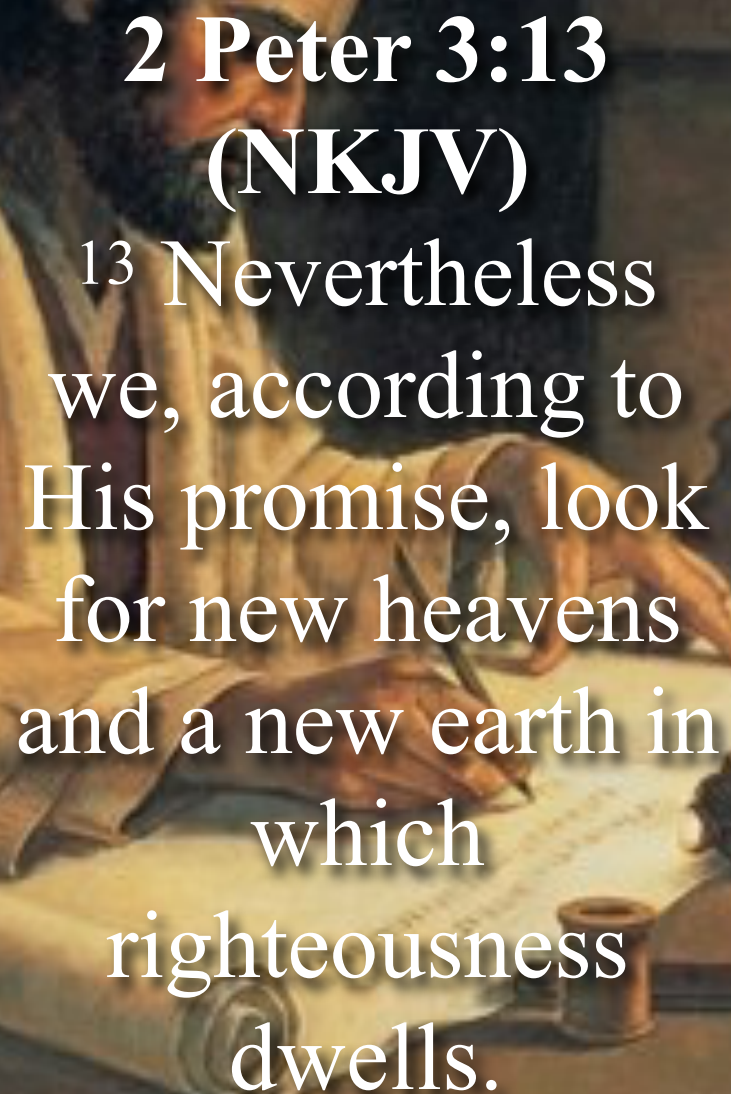


**Different
Things**

“THE DAY OF THE LORD”

“THE DAY OF THE LORD WILL COME” — 2 PETER 3:7-13

“Looking for new heavens and a new earth” (3:13)



**2 Peter 3:13
(NKJV)**
 13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

- Peter has mentioned the material creation - the universal judgment of the flood - and the same material heavens & earth reserved for fire & destruction.
- The material universe will be destroyed - the new heavens and new earth will be the eternal habitation reserved for God's people in heaven (1 Peter 1:4; Col. 1:5; 2 Cor. 5:1-5; 1 Thes. 4:13-18)

“THE DAY OF THE LORD”

“THE DAY OF THE LORD WILL COME” — 2 PETER 3:7-13

“New Heavens & New Earth”

**Judgment on
JUDAH &
RESTORATION**
(Isaiah 65,66)

**LITERAL
RESTORATION OF
JUDAH - 536 BC**

**ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE CHURCH**

**UNIVERSAL
Judgment &
ETERNAL LIFE**
(2 Peter 3:1-13)

The literal world will
be destroyed.
**As new creatures
in Christ they were
to look to their
eternal reward.**

**FUTURE FULL
GLORIFICATION of
the CHURCH**
(Revelation 21:1-4)

As children of God - we will
have something much better
than what we currently have!
**God's people will be
with Him in HEAVEN.**

“THE DAY OF THE LORD”

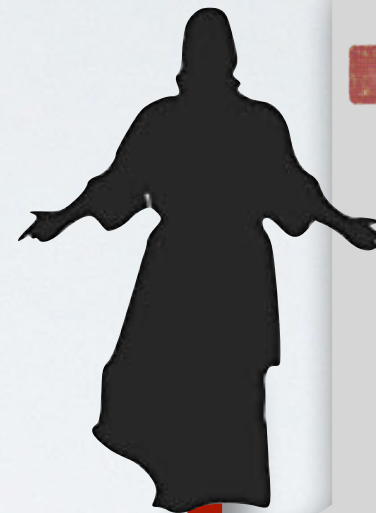
“THE DAY OF THE LORD WILL COME” — 2 PETER 3:7-13

WE HAVE ...

- ▶ Sanctified
- ▶ Cleansed
- ▶ Grace & Peace
- ▶ Born Again
- ▶ Living Hope
- ▶ Our faith
- ▶ Trials / Testing

We LOOK FOR ...

- ▶ Final Inheritance
- ▶ Final Salvation
- ▶ Final Glorification
- ▶ Final Revelation
- ▶ Faith REALIZED
- ▶ Hope REALIZED
- ▶ End of TRIALS
- ▶ In Heaven



AD
30

“Current Heavens & Earth”

reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men

END

New Heavens & Earth
in which righteousness dwells

"THE DAY OF THE LORD"

"THE DAY OF THE LORD WILL COME" — 2 PETER 3:7-13

WE HAVE ...

- ▶ Sanctified
- ▶ Cleansed
- ▶ Grace & Peace
- ▶ Born Again
- ▶ Living Hope
- ▶ Our faith
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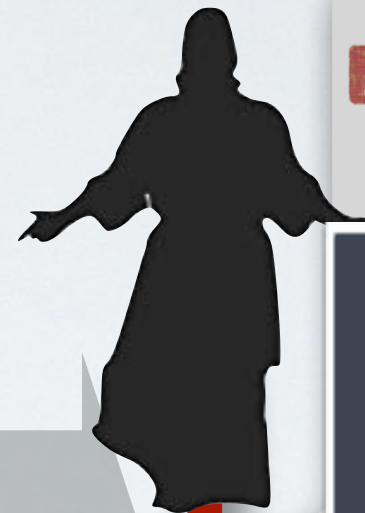
**ACCORDING
TO HIS
PROMISE**

We LOOK FOR ...

- ▶ Final Inheritance

**FULL &
ETERNAL
SALVATION
IN HEAVEN**

- ▶ END OF TRIALS
- ▶ In Heaven



**AD
30**

"Current Heavens & Earth"

reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men

END

New Heavens & Earth
in which righteousness dwells

The Certainty of

“THE DAY OF THE LORD”

There Will Be No Hiding / No Escape



- All will hear his voice and come forth – (Jn 5:28,29; (2 Cor 5:10))
- Every work will be brought into judgment / all made known / Judgment impartial – (Eccl 12:7,13,14; Heb 4:13; Rom 2:5-12; Phili 2:9-11)
- The righteous will receive everlasting life in heaven, but the wicked, everlasting punishment in hell – (Matthew 25:46)

The Certainty of

“THE DAY OF THE LORD”

WHEN? ??? — ARE YOU READY?



Matthew 24:36–39 (NKJV)

³⁶ “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. ³⁷ But as the days of Noah *were*, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

The Certainty of

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WHEN? ??? — ARE YOU READY?



- **Mt 24:42,44** — Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. 44 Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.
- **Mt 25:13** — Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.
- **Mk 13:32** — "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

The Certainty of

“THE DAY OF THE LORD”

WHEN? ??? — ARE YOU READY?



- **1Th 5:2** — For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a **thief in the night**.
- **2Pe 3:10** — But the day of the Lord will come as a **thief in the night**, . . .
- **Rev 16:15** — "Behold, I am coming as **a thief**. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame."

The Certainty of

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WHEN? ??? — ARE YOU READY?



2 Peter 3:14–15 (NKJV)

¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; ¹⁵ and consider *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation—

The Certainty of

“THE DAY OF THE LORD”

WHEN? ??? — ARE YOU READY?



- Requires **intent** – Mat 7:13,14
- Requires **faith** – John 8:24; Heb 11:6
- Requires **repentance** – Acts 17:30,31
- Requires **confession** – Rom 10:9,10
- Requires **baptism & continued obedience** – Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3-6,16,17; Heb. 5:8,9
- Requires **purpose** – Acts 11:23
- Requires **diligence** – 2 Pet 3:5-11

The Certainty of

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WHEN? ??? — ARE YOU READY?



- We can **mock** the warnings of scripture . . . We can **ignore** the warnings of scripture . . . we can **delay** obedience, and be found **unprepared** . . . (2Pt 3:1-7)
- **OR** — We can humbly **heed** the warnings & promises of God by obeying the gospel and being diligent in serving God — (2Pt 3:8-14)

The Certainty of

THE DAY OF THE LORD

(2 Peter 3:1-15)

“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.” — 2 Peter 3:10 (NKJV)

JESUS IS COMING AGAIN READY OR NOT!