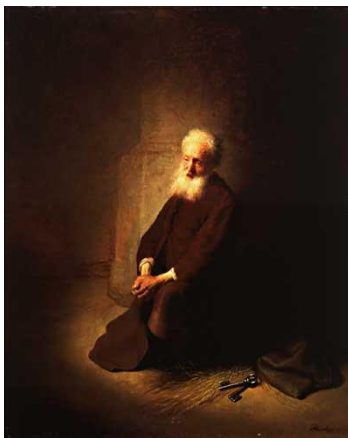


# Pastor Hank's Notes on: 2 Peter



Peter in Prison by Rembrandt

## Introduction: Biography-Life of Peter.

**Peter in The Bible. Peter first mentioned in The Bible:**

### **John 1:40-42**

<sup>40</sup> One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, **Simon Peter's** brother.

<sup>41</sup> He first findeth his own brother **Simon**, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.

<sup>42</sup> And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, **Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.**

## **Peter: A Man of many Names!**

**1. Simon** = Peter's original name.

**2. Barjona** = Son of Jona.

### **Matthew 16:17**

<sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon **Barjona**: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

**3. Cephas** in the Syriac language = a stone.

### **John 1:42**

<sup>42</sup> And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.

**4. Peter** is the Greek translation of Cephas.

There are **607,434** people in the U.S. with the first name Peter! 87<sup>th</sup> most popular name!

**5. Simon Peter:** Sort of a First and Last Name Combo, used interchangeably.

### Mark 3:16

<sup>16</sup> And Simon he surnamed Peter;

Look how Peter's name is used interchangeably:

### John 21:17

<sup>17</sup> He saith unto him the third time, **Simon, son of Jonas**, lovest thou me? **Peter** was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

### Peter's Bio:

**Peter was from Bethsaida, on The Sea of Galilee. Bethsaida = Aramaic: "House of Fishing"**

### John 1:44

<sup>44</sup> Now Philip was of **Bethsaida**, the city of Andrew and Peter.

**Peter moved/lived in Capernaum also on The Sea of Galilee.**

### Mark 1:21,29

<sup>21</sup> And they went into **Capernaum**; and straightway on the sabbath day he entered into the synagogue, and taught.

<sup>29</sup> And forthwith, when they were come out of the synagogue, **they entered into the house of Simon** and Andrew, with James and John.



**Peter was a Fisherman by Trade.**

### Matthew 4:18-19

<sup>18</sup> And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, **Simon called Peter**, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.

**The Apostle Peter's Calling by Jesus:**

<sup>19</sup> And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

**Peter's Family:** Brother = Andrew, Father = Jona

Wife = Not mentioned by name, but we know Peter was married and had a Mother-in-law!

### **Matthew 8:14**

<sup>14</sup> And when Jesus was come into Peter's house, he saw his wife's mother laid, and sick of a fever.

### **Peter in The Bible:**

Paul's name is mentioned 153 times in The New Testament, **Peter's** name is mentioned 152 times!

Peter is the Author of The Bible Books 1 & 2 Peter.

Peter is mentioned frequently in The Four Gospels and The Book of Acts.

Peter is also mentioned in The Book of 1 Corinthians, Galatians and 1 & 2 Peter.

The Twelve Apostles are mentioned in The Book of revelation:

### **Revelation 21:14**

<sup>14</sup> And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

### **Some Interesting Points:**

No one spoke in the gospels as often as Peter did, and Jesus spoke more to Peter than to any other individual.

Jesus rebuked Peter more than any other disciple.

Peter was the only disciple who dared to rebuke Jesus.

Peter confessed Jesus more boldly and accurately than any other disciple.

Peter denied Jesus more forcefully and publicly than any other disciple.

Jesus praised Peter more than any other disciple.

Jesus addressed Peter as Satan alone among the disciples.

**Since Peter is so prominent in the gospel records, it is worthwhile to remind ourselves of some of the important mentions of Peter in the record of Biblical history:**

Peter put his nets out at the direction of Jesus to bring in a massive catch of fish (Luke 5:1-11).

Peter stepped out of the boat during a raging storm and walked on the water with Jesus (Matthew 14:24-33).

Peter was the one who said, "*Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.*" (John 6:68-69).

Peter saw Jesus transfigured in glory, together with Moses and Elijah (Matthew 17:1-9).

The Lord paid Peter's Taxes! Matthew 17:24-27

Peter was the one who asked Jesus how many times we should forgive a brother that sins against us, quoting the high number of "seven times" (Matthew 18:21-35).

Peter was the one who asked Jesus, after the encounter with the rich young ruler, what the disciples would receive for giving everything up to follow Jesus (Matthew 19:27-30).

Peter was the one who insisted that Jesus would not wash his feet; then he commanded Jesus to wash his whole body! (John 13:16-20).

Peter heard Jesus predict that he would deny Him three times (Matthew 26:30-35), and Peter replied, "*Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee*" (Matthew 26:35), and the rest of the disciples agreed.

Peter was the one who cut off the right ear of Malchus, the servant of the high priest, when the soldiers came to arrest Jesus (John 18:1-11).

Peter denied Jesus three times, cursing and swearing that he did not even know "the man," refusing to even name the name of Jesus (Matthew 26:69-75).

Peter was the one who ran with John the disciple to the tomb on the morning of the resurrection, after hearing the report of the women that the body of Jesus was not in its tomb (John 20:1-10).

Peter was the one who received a personal visit from the resurrected Jesus on the day of the resurrection (Luke 24:34).

Peter received a public restoration of Jesus in front of the other disciples after the resurrection of Jesus (John 21).

Peter Preached five sermons in The New Testament!

Peter was one of Jesus' twelve disciples, and along with James and John, he was one of the inner circle of Jesus' closest friends and followers. Peter is often portrayed in the gospels as someone with an exuberant faith and devotion to Jesus. It was Peter, for example, who was willing to step out of the boat and walk on the water with Jesus.

Peter appears to have been the spokesman for Jesus' twelve disciples; and, while we may think Peter was impulsive and sometimes slow by some of the statements he made, Peter was probably just stating aloud what the other disciples were also thinking.

Peter was the first to openly state that Jesus was the Messiah (Matthew 16:16-19; Mark 8:27-33). It was also Peter who denied Jesus. (Luke 22:31-34, 54-71.) But he was later lovingly restored by Jesus and given a special commission (John 21:15-19). When the Holy Spirit came on the day of Pentecost (Acts chapter 2), it was Peter, again, who was the chief spokesman. Peter, with John at his side, became the leader of the very first Christian church in Jerusalem. Peter was mainly an apostle to the Jews. Yet after a vision, followed by a visit to the home of Cornelius, a Gentile Roman Centurion (Acts 10), Peter understood that the Gospel was for all people: Jew and Gentile. Peter went on his missionary travels with his wife (1 Corinthians 9:5).

**2 Peter, The Author:** The author was the Apostle Peter.

**2 Peter 1:1**

**1 Simon Peter**, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:

**Date Written:** Around 66 A.D.

It is implied that Peter was writing from a place he referred to as “Babylon” (1 Peter 5:13).

6\_\_\_\_<sup>th</sup> Book of The Bible? Chapters: 3, Verses: 61, Words: 1553

First Peter had: Chapters: 5, Verses: 105, Words: 2476

How many Books are in The Bible? Answer:\_\_\_\_\_

**Theme:** Peter’s theme in his second letter is a simple one: pursue spiritual maturity through the Word of God as a remedy for false teaching and a right response to heretics in light of Christ’s promised second coming (2 Peter 1:3, 16). When false teachers begin to whisper their sweet words into the ears of immature Christians, the body of Christ begins to break apart, to lose what makes it distinctive in the first place—faith in the unique person and work of Jesus Christ. Peter repeatedly points to the Word of God as the primary means of growth for the Christian (1:4, 19–21; 3:1–2, 14–16).

**Key Words:**

**Knowledge (7x), Beloved (6x), Diligence (2x), Destruction (2x), Corruption (3x), Remembrance (4x) and Lord Jesus Christ & Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ (6x). The word “scoffers” is only used once in The Bible=2 Peter 3:3.**

**Purpose:** To warn against false teaching, doctrinal error, and moral compromise as we live in the last days.

**Basic Outline:**

1. To challenge the readers to grow in their knowledge of Jesus Christ (1:2-15)
2. To reaffirm the truthfulness and the trustworthiness of the prophetic Word of God (1:16-21)
3. To warn of the danger of false teachers and their destructive doctrines (2:1-22)
4. To encourage watchfulness and steadfastness in light of our Lord’s certain return (3:1-18)

**Recipients:** The reference in 2 Peter 3:1 indicates that the recipients were the same believers who were addressed in 1 Peter 1:1).

**2 Peter 3:1**

**1** This **second epistle**, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:

**The Relation of 2 Peter and Jude:**

There is a close relationship between 2 Peter and Jude. The resemblances are largely between 2 Peter 2:1-18; 3:1-3 and Jude 4-13, 16-18.

**Why is Second Peter so important?**

The Churches of Asia Minor were not just struggling with the persecution and suffering addressed in Peter’s first letter; **they also had strife and dissension within their ranks**. In an effort to stem the tide of heresy and false teaching among the Christians, **Peter emphasized the importance of learning and clinging to the proper knowledge of God=The Word of God.**

## Pastor Hank's Notes on: 2 Peter

**Chapter 1 Outline:** Greetings, verses 1-4, Faithful growth in Christ, verses 5-11, The need to be reminded- The urgency in Peter's heart- Peter prepares for the future, verses 12-15, Apostolic testimony of the transfiguration, verses 16-18, A more sure word of prophecy, verses 19-21.

### 2 Peter 1 Greetings, verses 1-4:

**Verse 1 Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith** with us through **the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:**

**Simon Peter...** **Simon** was his given name at birth; **Peter** was the special name given to him by Jesus. The Apostle here called himself **Simon Peter**. Perhaps, since he wrote this letter later in life, he didn't want to forget where he came from and that sometimes he was still more like the old Simon than the new Peter.

**a servant...** Employed in his Lord's work!

**an apostle of Jesus Christ...** Commissioned immediately by Jesus Christ himself to preach to the Gentiles, and to write these epistles for the edification of the Church.

In 1 Peter, Peter introduces himself: "Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ". In 2 Peter, Peter introduces himself: "**Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ**". This dual description may reflect 'Simeon -- Peter'. The lowly servant had become the mighty Apostle through the grace of God. We must not overlook that the title "servant" of the Lord God was one of honour. It was used of Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Joshua, David, Daniel, Isaiah, King Nebuchadnezzar, Paul, Jude, John and James.

### Deuteronomy 34:5

<sup>5</sup> So Moses the **servant of the LORD** died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD.

### Daniel 6:20

<sup>20</sup> And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: and the king spake and said to Daniel, **O Daniel, servant of the living God**, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?

### Titus 1:1

**1 Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ**, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness;

### James 1:1

**1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ**, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.

### Jude 1

<sup>1</sup> **Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ**, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called:

### What does the Bible say about being a servant?

The Bible has a great deal to say about servanthood because the central theme of the Bible is the Servant of all—Jesus Christ. "For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to

minister” (Mark 10:45). True leadership is servanthood, and the greatest leader of all time is Jesus Christ. Servanthood is an attitude exemplified by Christ “Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men” (Philippians 2:6-7).



The five words in the New Testament translated “ministry” generally refer to servanthood or service given in love. Serving others is the very essence of ministry. All believers are called to ministry (Matthew 28:18-20), and, therefore, we are all called to be servants for the glory of God. Living is giving!

How can we demonstrate love for God? Our love for God will be expressed in our love for others. “For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake” (2 Corinthians 4:5).

If the King of kings and Lord of lords placed himself in the position of a servant all throughout his life, what are his expectations for his followers?

### **Matthew 20:26-28**

<sup>26</sup> But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister;

<sup>27</sup> And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:

<sup>28</sup> Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Servant differs from slave, as the servant's subjection to a master is voluntary, the slave's is not. Every slave is a servant but every servant is not a slave.

**to them that have obtained like precious faith...** Peter wrote to those who had the same salvation he had experienced, which he called "a like precious faith." This was obtained by faith, and not by the efforts of man but by grace and the **righteousness** of our God.

### **Ephesians 2:8-9**

<sup>8</sup> For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

<sup>9</sup> Not of works, lest any man should boast.

**\*\* the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ...** Peter said that Jesus Christ *is* our God and Savior. Jesus is God!

The Deity of Christ is the doctrine that Jesus Christ is GOD. God is a Trinity (I John 5:7), and the second Member of that Trinity is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Here's Twelve Bible verses on the Deity of Jesus Christ

### **1. Hebrews 1:8**

<sup>8</sup>But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.

### **2. 1 Timothy 3:16**

<sup>16</sup>And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: **God was manifest in the flesh**, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

### **3. John 1:1**

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, **and the Word was God**.

### **4. Revelation 1:8**

<sup>8</sup>I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

### **5. Colossians 2:9**

<sup>9</sup>For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the **Godhead bodily**.

### **6. Isaiah 9:6**

<sup>6</sup>For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, **The mighty God, The everlasting Father**, The Prince of Peace.

### **7. 1 Timothy 1:16-17**

<sup>16</sup>Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first **Jesus Christ** might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.

<sup>17</sup>Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, **the only wise God**, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

### **8. John 20:28**

<sup>28</sup>And Thomas answered **and said unto him, My LORD and my God**.

### **9. 1 John 5:20**

<sup>20</sup>And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. **This is the true God, and eternal life**.



### 10. Matthew 1:23

<sup>23</sup> Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, **God with us**.

### 11. Acts 20:28

<sup>28</sup> Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, **to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood**.

### 12. Isaiah 43:10-11

<sup>10</sup> Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.

<sup>11</sup> I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour.

Verse 2 **Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God**, and of Jesus our Lord,

**Grace and peace...** This is a blessing Peter speaks on those who believe. The more you know of Jesus, the more peace and grace you have. Jesus is King of Peace.

The combined greetings of 'grace' (a Greek greeting) and 'peace' (a Jewish greeting) again reflect the unity of God's people. To the Christian 'grace' reflects the unmerited, active love and compassion of God at work on his behalf. Peace also reflects their inner wellbeing in Him, and also has in mind the peace and contentment of a settled heart, the 'peace which passeth all understanding' (Philippians 4:7).

Peter didn't say, "Grace to you Gentiles, and shalom to you Jews." **Grace** is not just for Greeks, and **Peace** is not just for Jews. God's desire was for the whole Church to receive his grace and experience his shalom! Peter addresses Gentile and Jewish believers together, as members of one body. He wrote in continuity with their cultural and ethnic backgrounds, yet pointed to a new, countercultural reality. He combined a Greek greeting and a Hebrew greeting to create a new distinctively Christian greeting. **χαρις = Grace** **שלום = Peace**

**through the knowledge of God...** Christianity is not a mystical religion, but is based **through the knowledge of God** in objective, historical, revealed, rational truth from God and intended to be understood and believed. The deeper and wider that knowledge of the Lord, the more "**grace and peace**" are multiplied.

In verses 2 & 3 we see one of our Key Words: **Knowledge**

Synonym Discussion of Knowledge:

Knowledge, Learning, Erudition, and Scholarship means what is or can be known by an individual or by humankind. **Knowledge** applies to facts or ideas acquired by study, investigation, observation, or experience; rich in the knowledge of \_\_\_\_\_. **Learning** applies to knowledge acquired especially through formal, often advanced, schooling. **Erudition** is impressive knowledge that is learned by studying: educated, knowledgeable; wise. **Scholarship** implies the possession of learning characteristic of the advanced scholar in a specialized field of study or investigation.

**Some points on Knowledge:**

1. Just some knowledge of God isn't enough.

### **Romans 10:2**

<sup>2</sup> For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.

2. Rather, it is correct, real, true and a full knowledge that brings salvation and its blessings.

3. The multiplication of peace and grace is dependent upon having the correct knowledge. Hence, the danger of false doctrine, which would cut one off from grace and peace.

4. Spiritual growth is dependent upon increasing in knowledge.

### **2 Timothy 2:15**

<sup>15</sup> Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

5. A full and correct knowledge of God and His truth is not only possible, rather, it is expected of everyone.

### **1 Timothy 2:4**

<sup>4</sup> Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

6. Peter makes both the experience of God's peace and the reception of His grace to be dependent upon the knowledge of God.

7. It is also essential that one understand that grace and peace cannot be enjoyed, without a relationship with Jesus Christ. Real grace and peace are not found in non-Christian religious systems. Man has always wanted the truth to come from some emotional or mystical experience.

### **John 1:17**

<sup>17</sup> For the law was given by Moses, **but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.**

Verse 3 **According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:**

**According as his divine power hath given unto us...** His divine power, that which correctly belongs to God only. All the effects of the Gospel on the human heart are in the Scriptures, traced to the power of God.

### **Romans 1:16**

<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the **power of God** unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

**all things that pertain unto life and godliness...** The genuine Christian is eternally secure in his salvation and will be preserved and grow because he has received everything necessary to sustain life and will live a godly life through Christ's power. To be godly is to live reverently, loyally and obediently toward God.

We come to knowledge **of Him** as we learn of Him through His Word, through prayer, and through the community of God's people.

**hath called us to glory and virtue...** God by his own power hath bestowed on us everything necessary for a happy life and godliness, having called us to the knowledge of himself, by his own

infinite goodness. To virtue or courage as the means; and glory - the kingdom of heaven, as the end.

Verse 4 **Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.**

**Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises...** The promises given to us are a gift from God and they are great and precious!

**ye might be partakers of the divine nature...** When you become Borned Again, you become **partakers of the divine nature. You become a child of God!**

### **Galatians 3:26**

<sup>26</sup> For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

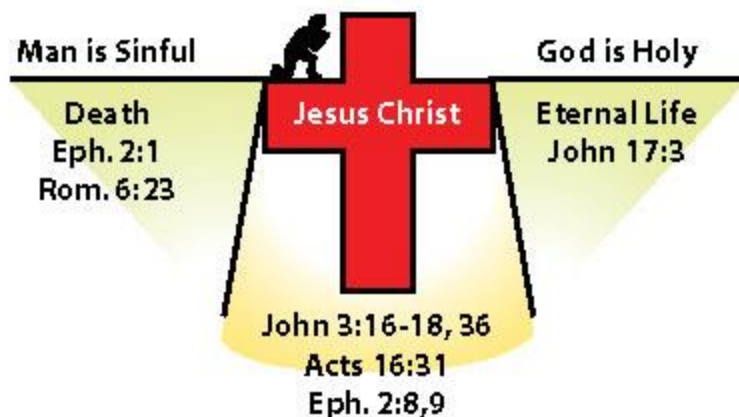
**having escaped the corruption that is in the world...** At the time of salvation, the believer escapes from the power which the rottenness in the world had over him through his fallen, sinful nature.

Though all the depravity and wickedness of human nature, which is in the world, or worldly men, through lust which involves in, and with itself, destruction at last of the soul and body, ee can escape through Jesus Christ!

### **Hebrews 2:3**

<sup>3</sup> How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;

God's Escape Plan: Jesus Christ!



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**2 Peter 1,** Faithful growth in Christ, verses 5-11

### Verse 5

<sup>5</sup> And beside this, **giving all diligence**, add to your **faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge**;

**giving all diligence...** That is, making maximum effort. The Christian life is not lived to the honor of God without effort. Even though God has poured His divine power into the believer, the Christian himself is required to make every disciplined effort alongside of what God has done.

The Christian life is a working life, diligence meaning passionate application and productiveness.

### Proverbs 4:23

<sup>23</sup> Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

**Faith:** Strong belief in God or in the doctrines of a religion, based on spiritual apprehension rather than proof.

### Hebrews 11:1

**1** Now **faith** is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things **not seen**.

### Hebrews 11:7

<sup>7</sup> By faith Noah, being warned of God of things **not seen** as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by **faith**.

**Virtue:** Behavior in a sense of courage showing high moral standards.

**and to virtue knowledge...** This means understanding, correct insight, truth properly comprehended and applied. This virtue involves a diligent study and pursuit of truth in the Word of God and when you do this, you will increase in Biblical Knowledge.

### Verse 6

<sup>6</sup> And to knowledge **temperance**; and to temperance **patience**; and to patience **godliness**;

**Temperance...** Self-Control. Temperance is one of the fruit of the Spirit.

### Galatians 5:22-23

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

<sup>23</sup> Meekness, **temperance**: against such there is no law.

**Patience...** Endurance in doing what is right, never giving in to temptation or trial.

### James 5:11

<sup>11</sup> Behold, we count them happy which **endure**. Ye have heard of the **patience** of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

**Godliness...** A religious life; a careful observance of the laws of God and performance of religious duties, proceeding from love and reverence for the divine character and commands; Christian obedience.

### **1 Timothy 4:7**

<sup>7</sup> But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather **unto godliness**.

### **Verse 7**

<sup>7</sup> And to godliness **brotherly kindness**; and to brotherly kindness **charity**.

**Brotherly Kindness...** Love of the Brethren.

**Charity...** Love in action. Charity means participating in real acts of loving-kindness toward all others (friend or enemy) in unconditional and self-sacrificial ways.

We begin our life with God with faith, but faith progresses into virtue, then progresses into: knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, **brotherly kindness**, and **charity – (love)** being the culmination of all God's work in us.

### **1 Peter 2:17**

<sup>17</sup> Honour all men. **Love the brotherhood**. Fear God. Honour the king.

### **John 13:34**

<sup>34</sup> A new commandment I give unto you, **That ye love one another**; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

### **Romans 12:10**

<sup>10</sup> Be kindly affectioned one to another **with brotherly love**; in honour preferring one another;

### **Galatians 5:13**

<sup>13</sup> For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, **but by love serve one another**.

### **Ephesians 4:2**

<sup>2</sup> With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, **forbearing one another in love**;

### **Philippians 2:2**

<sup>2</sup> Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, **having the same love**, being of one accord, of one mind.

### **Hebrews 10:24**

<sup>24</sup> And let us consider one another **to provoke unto love** and to good works:

### **1 Corinthians 16:14**

<sup>14</sup> Let all your things be done with **charity**.

### **1 Timothy 4:12**

<sup>12</sup> Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, **in charity**, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

**Peter had firsthand experience with Love!**

### **John 21:15-17**

<sup>15</sup> So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.

<sup>16</sup> He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.



<sup>17</sup> He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

### 1 Peter 5:14

<sup>14</sup> Greet ye one another with a kiss of **charity**. Peace be with you all that are in Christ Jesus. Amen.

### Verse 8

<sup>8</sup> For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you **that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ**.

**that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful...** The words **barren and unfruitful** characterize the lives of many Christians, who lack these qualities because they lack in their **knowledge** of God and **in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ**.

**Barren...** Unproductive, idle, a “do-nothing”, not producing, dull, unmeaning; uninventive.

### Mark 4:19

<sup>19</sup> And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, **and it becometh unfruitful**.

**Self-Examination:** Are You Barren in your Christian life?

The importance of these ‘virtues’ is now brought out. Those who abound in them will neither be **barren nor unfruitful** with regard to the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. They will be stirred

to activity in testifying to Christ (1 Peter 3:15) and in good works which reveal Christ (1 Peter 2:9; Matthew 5:16), and they will study to show themselves approved to God (1 Peter 2:2; 2 Timothy 2:15). Thus will they grow daily in their knowledge of Him.

### Verse 9

**<sup>9</sup> But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.**

**But he that lacketh these things is blind...** Spiritual Blindness.

### **Some Biblical examples of persons afflicted with Spiritual Blindness:**

- (1) Lot pitched his tent toward Sodom, solely because the immediate prospect seemed favorable.
- (2) The rich man neglected Lazarus begging at his gate, rather than accepting whatever inconvenience of the moment that might have been incurred in his relief.
- (3) Demas was dazzled by the near-at-hand attractiveness of the present age and forsook Paul (2 Timothy 4:10).
- (4) The parable of the prodigal son gives another example of one for whom the romantic allure of the "far country" with its short term promise of change, pleasure and entertainment, etc., blinded him to the tragedy of ultimate consequences.

It is not hard to see that the world still has its share of those who are the spiritual sons of Lot, Demas, the prodigal son, and the rich man of the parable.

The result of Spiritual Blindness **and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.**

The failure to diligently pursue spiritual virtues produces **Spiritual Blindness**. Such a person is unable to discern his spiritual condition, will have no confidence about his profession of faith. He may be saved and possess all the blessing of verses 3-4, but without the excellences of verses 5-7, he will live in doubt and fear.

It is a very dangerous thing not to grow in God. The one-time experience of salvation is not enough. We are either growing in Christ, or we are going backwards. We will never stand still. Notice, the word "**old**" connected to **sins**. To live as the world lives after you are saved, will draw you away from God.

### **Verse 10, Making our call and election sure:**

**<sup>10</sup> Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:**

**Calling and election ...** are two of the biggest theological words in the New Testament; and this verse is invaluable in the revelation that neither **calling nor election** is a thing finally and irrevocably determined by God apart from what the Christian himself does.

God calls and God elects, **you** need Faith.

### **Ephesians 2:8**

**<sup>8</sup> For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:**

## **Philippians 2:12**

<sup>12</sup> Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.**

Basically, 2 Peter 1:10 teaches that the elect, whose salvation is sure (Rom. 8:29-30), will show evidence of their election by continuing to believe in Christ and manifesting good works consistent with their salvation. The confirmation of your election is your progress in sanctification. God predestined all the elect to be conformed to the image of Christ (Romans 8:29). Therefore, the reassuring evidence of our election is Christ-likeness.

**for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall...** FAITH, VIRTUE, KNOWLEDGE, PATIENCE, GODLINESS, BROTHERLY KINDNESS and CHARITY (verses 5-7): These are not the wages that we pay to earn entrance into the eternal kingdom, but they are the necessary evidence that our trust in God's promise is genuine, and in that way they are the confirmation of our call and election.

## **Verse 11**

<sup>11</sup> For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly **into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.**

**into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ...** Peter here reminds his readers of the great reward of a calling and election, Heaven!

The point of verses 5–11 is that we should earnestly confirm our call and election by making every effort to grow in our walk with Christ (vv. 5-7). So here's the application: Are you making every effort towards moral excellence? Are you making every effort to increase your knowledge of God's character and his will? Are you making every effort to strengthen your power of self-control? Are you making every effort to enlarge your capacity for patience? Are you making every effort to cultivate godliness to develop a heart for God? Are you making every effort to grow warm in your affection for your fellow believers? And are you making every effort to stir up love in your will for the person you dislike the most? If these things are in you and increasing, you will not be fruitless (v. 8), you will never stumble (v. 10), and you will enter the eternal kingdom of Christ=Heaven (v. 11). But if these things are not your earnest concern, then it is because you have become Spiritually Blind to the beauty of God's promises.

Peter's point is that a Christian who pursues the list virtues (verses 5-7) will not only enjoy assurance in the present, but a full, rich reward in the future life (verse 11). A full reward awaits the faithful, godly believer in Christ's ever-lasting kingdom!

## **Just a few verses on Heaven:**

### **Daniel 7:27**

<sup>27</sup> And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.

### **1 Peter 1:4**

<sup>4</sup> To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,



**Hebrews 11:16**

<sup>16</sup> But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

**Luke 10:20**

<sup>20</sup> Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.

**Matthew 5:12**

<sup>12</sup> Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

**Revelation 7:15-17**

<sup>15</sup> Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

<sup>16</sup> They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

<sup>17</sup> For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.



## Pastor Hank's Notes on: 2 Peter

**Chapter 1 Outline:** Greetings, verses 1-4, Faithful growth in Christ, verses 5-11, The need to be reminded- The urgency in Peter's heart- Peter prepares for the future, verses 12-15, Apostolic testimony of the transfiguration, verses 16-18, A more sure word of prophecy, verses 19-21.

**2 Peter 1**, Peter prepares for the future, Peter explains why he writes about things they have heard before - the basics of Christian living. **Verses 12-15:**

### Verse 12

<sup>12</sup> Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of **these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth.**

Peter is reminding them of **these things (the things he's been addressing his readers in his letter)**, so that they will not be negligent in keeping them. He says that they are already aware of this, but he is just reminding them, so they will grow in the Lord. **"and be established in the present truth"**, meaning you are daily studying God's Word and growing in that knowledge. To do otherwise, would make you a backslider.

### Verse 13

<sup>13</sup> **Yea, I think it meet**, as long as **I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up** by putting you in remembrance;

**Yea, I think it meet...** I think it is right: Because of what is at stake, Peter knew it was right to remind people constantly, especially because he knew that the days of his earthly life were soon coming to an end.

**I am in this tabernacle...** The physical body is merely a tent or temporary dwelling for the soul.

### 2 Corinthians 5:1

**1** For we know that if **our earthly house of this tabernacle** were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

This reminds us of how temporary our earthly lives are:

### James 4:14

<sup>14</sup> Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

Peter considered his body no more than a **tent**. A **tent** is a temporary place to live. Tents should be taken care of, but you wouldn't invest large resources into fixing up a tent. You save your real resources for a more permanent place to live. Our more permanent place to live is heaven, and we should invest more in heaven than in our **tent** - our physical body.

**to stir you up...** 'to excite you'; 'stimulate' present tense, 'keep on rousing you up'. 'to rouse, to awaken from sleep.' To excite or arouse you to a diligent performance of your duties; to keep up in your minds a lively sense of Religious things.

Unfortunately, many modern religious leaders have lost their faith in the Word of God to **'stir up'** their members. Thus, other tactics are being used. Some feel that it is the job of the preacher to find something 'new' in the Bible. Peter believed that the Word of God is the tool to stimulate

brethren (Hebrews 4:12-13). The preacher also needs to remember that he is to stimulate the brethren instead of discouraging them. Someone has jokingly described the task of the preacher as ‘trying to raise the dead in 30 minutes.’

What Peter is saying is that as long as he’s alive, he gonna stir us up and remind us of Jesus!

### Verse 14

**<sup>14</sup> Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle**, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me.

**Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle...** How did Peter know that shortly he must put off his tent? Probably it was because Peter was simply getting old. Perhaps it was because the flames of persecution were getting hotter around him. Church history tells us that Peter did die a martyr, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed him (John 21:18-19).

### John 21:18-19

<sup>18</sup> Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdest thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not.

<sup>19</sup> This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me.

### Verse 15

**<sup>15</sup> Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance.**

Peter put this reminder in a letter, so the people of God would have a constant reminder even after his departure.

From: Albert Barnes Commentary: (Nice point)

**After my decease** - My “exodus,” ( ἔξοδος exodon my journey out; my departure; my exit from life. This is not the usual word to denote death, but is rather a word denoting that he was going on a journey out of this world. He did not expect to cease to be, but he expected to go on his travels to a distant abode. This idea runs through all this beautiful description of the feelings of Peter as he contemplated death. Hence he speaks of taking down the “tabernacle” or “tent,” the temporary abode of the soul, that his spirit might be removed to another place 2 Peter 1:13; and, hence, he speaks of an “exodus” from the present life - a journey to another world. This is the true notion of death; and if so, two things follow from it:

(1) we should make preparation for it, as we do for a journey, and the more in proportion to the distance that we are to travel, and the time that we are to be absent; and,

(2) when the preparation is made, we should not be unwilling to enter on the journey, as we are not now when we are prepared to leave our homes to visit some remote part of our own country, or a distant land,

**after my decease...** Peter didn’t mention no idea relative to any successor of his, rising up after him with his full authority and inspiration. Hello Catholic Church!

**to have these things always in remembrance...** By his writings. We may learn from this,

### **Apostolic testimony of the Transfiguration, verses 16-18**

#### **Verse 16**

<sup>16</sup>For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, **but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.**

**eyewitnesses...** a person who has personally seen something happen and so can give a first-hand description of it.

**of his majesty...** The Transfiguration

<sup>17</sup>For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

<sup>18</sup>And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.

#### **Question: "What was the meaning and importance of the Transfiguration?"**

Answer: About a week after Jesus plainly told His disciples that He would suffer, be killed, and be raised to life (Luke 9:22), He took Peter, James and John up a mountain to pray. While praying, His personal appearance was changed into a glorified form, and His clothing became dazzling white. Moses and Elijah appeared and talked with Jesus about His death that would soon take place. Peter, not knowing what he was saying and being very fearful, offered to put up three shelters for them. This is undoubtedly a reference to the booths that were used to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles, when the Israelites dwelt in booths for 7 days (Leviticus 23:34–42). Peter was expressing a wish to stay in that place. When a bright cloud overshadowed them, a voice said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him" The cloud lifted, Moses and Elijah had disappeared, and Jesus was alone with His disciples who were still very much afraid. Jesus warned them not to tell anyone what they had seen until after His resurrection. The three accounts of this event are found in Matthew 17:1-8, Mark 9:2-8, and Luke 9:28-36.

#### **Matthew 17:1-8**

**1** And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart,

**2** And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.

**3** And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him.

**4** Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias.

**5** While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

**6** And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid.

**7** And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid.

**8** And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only.

The purpose of the Transfiguration of Christ into at least a part of His heavenly glory was so that the “inner circle” of His disciples could gain a greater understanding of who Jesus was. Christ underwent a dramatic change in appearance in order that the disciples could behold Him in His glory. The disciples, who had only known Him in His human body, now had a greater realization of the **Deity of Christ**, though they could not fully comprehend it. That gave them the reassurance they needed after hearing the shocking news of His coming death.

Symbolically, the appearance of Moses and Elijah represented the Law and the Prophets. But God’s voice from heaven – “Listen to Him!” - Clearly showed that the Law and the Prophets must give way to Jesus. The One who is the new and living way is replacing the old – He is the fulfillment of the Law and the countless prophecies in the Old Testament. Also, in His glorified form they saw a preview of His coming glorification and enthronement as King of kings and Lord of lords.

The disciples never forgot what happened that day on the mountain and no doubt this was intended. John wrote in his gospel, “and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,” (John 1:14). Peter also wrote of it here (2 Peter 1:16-18). Those who witnessed the transfiguration bore witness to it to the other disciples and to countless millions down through the centuries.



Francesco Zuccarelli (Italian, 1702–1788)

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**2 Peter 1,** A more sure word of prophecy. Peter is writing about The Bible, Prophecy and The Lord's Return-The Second Coming. **verses 19-21:**

### Verse 19

<sup>19</sup> We have also a **more sure word of prophecy**; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, **as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:**

Peter's eyewitness experience at the Transfiguration, verses 12-15 was amazing, but the testimony of God's word about Jesus was even **more sure** than Peter's personal experience. The fulfillment of **prophecy** is a certain, reliable testimony of the truth of The Bible. This mention of the word of **prophecy** in this context surely explains Peter's observation and sees the event of the Transfiguration as a prophetic foretelling of the Second Coming.

### Quick break down this verse:

**We have also a more sure word of prophecy...** God's Word, The Bible Old and New Testaments

**whereunto ye do well that ye take heed...** Peter was warning believers that since they would be exposed to false teachers, they must pay careful attention to The Word of God, The Bible.

**as unto a light that shineth in a dark place...** In a dark world, the **light** is the lamp of revelation, the Word of God, of which contains The Laws of God and The Prophecies of God, all which point to His Son, The Lord Jesus. The Christian has two Lights for this present life, The Bible and Jesus who is Light!

### Psalm 119:105

<sup>105</sup> Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

**until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts...** The word "**until**" indicates that we are now in the period of waiting, at the end of which **prophecy** is fulfilled in The Second Coming of Christ. The truths in the Bible will continue to point to the source of all truth: Jesus, until He returns in glory, at His Second Coming.

### Now, let's expand verse 19:

**We have a more sure word of prophecy, The Bible!**

1. God's Book is Inspired:

### 2 Timothy 3:16

<sup>16</sup> All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

Inspired means: Informed or directed by the Holy Spirit. Guided by divine inspiration.

God told those men what to write and they wrote what God told them to write they were Inspired by God!

## **2 Peter 1:21**

<sup>21</sup> For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

## **Job 32:8**

<sup>8</sup> But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.

God's Book is Inspired;

2. God's Book is Preserved forever!

## **Psalm 12:7**

<sup>7</sup> Thou shalt keep them, O Lord, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.

Preserved means: Saved from injury, destruction or decay; kept or defended from evil; interesting...

And our Bible is Saved from injury, destruction and decay; it's kept and defended from evil by who? By us? No, By God! He said He would Preserve The Bible and He said He would Preserve forever, why?

Because God's a smart God and we're a dumb people and The Devil would love nothing more than to get us to translate the wrong bible and get us to read the wrong Bible!

3. God's words are also Holy words!

## **2 Timothy 3:15**

<sup>15</sup> And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Now Holy means: Properly, whole, entire or perfect, in a moral sense. Hence, pure in heart, temper or dispositions; free from sin and sinful affections. Applied to the Supreme Being, *holy* signifies perfectly pure, immaculate and complete.

That's why my Bible says: "Holy Bible" on the cover, because God's word is Holy, perfectly pure immaculate and complete!

4. Fourthly, God says His Words are Pure. Look at our opening text here in:

## **Psalm 12:6**

<sup>6</sup> The words of the Lord are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

Pure means: Free from adulterants or impurities, **Free** of dirt, defilement, or pollution, Free of foreign elements, Having no faults; sinless, Free from moral defilement; without spot; not sullied or tarnished; incorrupt; undebased by moral turpitude; holy.

And as I've said this before:

"Inspiration + Preservation equals = God's Holy Pure words, The Bible!

I believe that The Bible I hold in my hand is God's Inspired, Preserved, Holy Pure Book! Amen!

**as unto a light that shineth in a dark place...** The Bible is a light which teaches, proves, points to and directs one to **The True Light: Jesus!**

### **Matthew 17:2**

<sup>2</sup> And was transfigured before them: and **his face did shine as the sun**, and his raiment was white as the light.

### **John 1:4**

<sup>4</sup> In him was life; and the life was the **light** of men.

### **John 1:9**

<sup>9</sup> That was the true **Light, which lighteth every man** that cometh into the world.

### **John 8:12**

<sup>12</sup> Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, **I am the light of the world**: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

**Question:** "What did Jesus mean when He said, 'I am the Light of the World' (John 8:12)?"

Answer: "I am the Light of the world" (John 8:12) is the second of seven "I AM" declarations of Jesus, recorded only in John's gospel, that point to His unique divine identity and purpose. In declaring Himself to be the Light of the world, Jesus was claiming that He is the exclusive source of **Spiritual Light**. No other source of spiritual truth is available to mankind.

There are two types of light in the world. We can perceive one, or both, or neither! When we are born into this world, we perceive physical light, and by it we learn of our Creator's handiwork in the things we see. However, although that light is good, there is another Light, a Light so important that the Son of God had to come in order to both declare and impart it to men. John 8:12 records, "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." The symbol used by the Lord in this verse speaks of the light of His Truth, the light of His Word, the light of eternal Life. Those who perceive the true Light will never walk in spiritual darkness.

### **Isaiah 42:6**

<sup>6</sup> I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for **a light** of the Gentiles;

### **Luke 2:32**

<sup>32</sup> **A light to lighten** the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

### **John 3:19**

<sup>19</sup> And this is the condemnation, that **light** is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

### **John 12:46**

<sup>46</sup> I am come **a light** into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.

### **1 John 2:8**

<sup>8</sup> Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, **and the true light now shineth**.



**Acts 26:23**

<sup>23</sup> That Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles.

**2 Corinthians 4:4**

<sup>4</sup> In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, **lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.**

**2 Corinthians 4:6**

<sup>6</sup> For God, who commanded **the light** to shine out of darkness, **hath shined** in our hearts, to give **the light** of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

**until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts...** "Day Dawn" is used to describe morning daylight breaking through the darkness of night, picturing the first gleams of the sun piercing the darkness. Light bursting through the darkness.

The day-star or morning-star was the name that Greeks assigned to the planet Venus which was the brightest object in the sky apart from the sun and moon and appeared sometimes as the evening star and sometimes as the morning star. In the desert the morning star is so brilliant that it appears as though the sun were about to rise.

**and the day star arise in your hearts...** Jesus is this Day Star. Without this Light, there is no life. The Light of Jesus gives everything the power to be. Darkness is symbolic of evil and of Lucifer. Lucifer pretends to be the light, but is not. "Day Star means bearer of the Light. When you accept Jesus as your Savior and He comes to dwell within you, you are filled with the source of all Light. Jesus The Light does away with all darkness. Salvation occurs in the heart. This Light shines in the **hearts** of all Christians.

**Prophecy** looks ahead to the Second Coming of Christ, The **"Day Star"** who will outshine all things.

Christians today have the light of Christ within their hearts. At Christ's Second Coming, He will bring all believers into a perfect day. His outward coming will bring light to all people.

**Revelation 22:16**

<sup>16</sup> I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. **I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.**

**Revelation 21:23**

<sup>23</sup> And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, **and the Lamb is the light thereof.**

**Malachi 4:2**

<sup>2</sup> But unto you that fear my name shall **the Sun of righteousness arise** with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.

## The Light of the World Is Jesus 193

PHILIP P. BLISS

*I am the light of the world . . . John 8:12*

PHILIP P. BLISS

1. The whole world was lost in the dark-ness of sin; The Light of the  
 2. No dark-ness have we who in Je - sus a - bide, The Light of the  
 3. Ye dwell - ers in dark-ness with sin-blind-ed eyes, The Light of the  
 4. No need of the sun-light in heav - en, we're told, The Light of the

world is Je - sus; Like sun-shine at noon-day His glo - ry shone in,  
 world is Je - sus; We walk in the Light when we fol - low our Guide,  
 world is Je - sus; Go wash at His bid - ding and light will a - rise,  
 world is Je - sus; The Lamb is the Light in the Cit - y of Gold,

Chorus

The Light of the world is Je - sus. Come to the Light, 'tis  
 shin - ing for thee; Sweet - ly the Light has dawned up - on me;  
 Once I was blind, but now I can see; The Light of the world is Je - sus.

### Verse 20

<sup>20</sup> Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

Even in Peter's day enemies of Jesus twisted Old Testament prophecies, giving them personal and bizarre meanings attempting to exclude Jesus from their fulfillment. But Peter says that prophecy is not of any private interpretation. Unfortunately, this verse has been made the basis of the Medieval Church's denial of every man's right to interpret the Scriptures, and their claim to the right of interpretation for the church alone (that is, their church alone).

One the great legacies of the Reformation were the principal of private interpretation in the sixteenth century. It was Luther himself who brought the issue of private interpretation of the Bible authorities at the Diet of Worms was the implicit principal of private interpretation.

When asked to recant of *his* writings, Luther replied, “Unless I am convinced by Sacred Scripture or by evident reason, I cannot recant. For my conscience is held captive by the Word of God and to act against conscience is neither right nor safe. Here I stand, I can do no other, God help me.”



Luther at the Diet of Worms, Paul Thumann, 1872

Christ himself bore witness of the fact that every man is responsible for studying and reading the Word of God for himself, when he demanded of the lawyer, “What is written in the law? how readest thou?” (Luke 10:26).

The Bible commands us to Study!

### **2 Timothy 2:15**

<sup>15</sup> **Study to shew thyself approved unto God**, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

### **What happens when you have Private Interpretation?**

Harold Camping = Family Radio

Ellen G. White = Seventh-day Adventism

Charles Taze Russell, Judge J. F. Rutherford = Jehovah’s Witnesses

Joseph Smith, Brigham Young = Mormonism

### **Verse 21**

<sup>21</sup> **For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.**

**For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man...** Scripture is not of human origin, neither is it the result of human will.

**but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost...** The inspired writers of the sacred Scripture were “holy men of God” who were moved, borne along, guided, and driven

by the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost so guided their thoughts and writings, without suppressing their individual styles and vocabularies that they composed and recorded without error.

Humanly speaking, the Bible was written by 40 men of diverse backgrounds over the course of 1500 years. Isaiah was a prophet, Ezra was a priest, Matthew was a tax-collector, John was a fisherman, Paul was a tentmaker, Luke was a physician.

**Those “holy men of God”, men that God used to write The Bible includes:**

Moses = A Murderer

Jonah = A Rebel

David = An Adulterer and Murderer

Solomon = An Idolater

Mark = A Quitter

Peter = Denied The Lord and Occasionally led by Satan...

## **2 Timothy 3:16**

<sup>16</sup>**All scripture is given by inspiration of God**, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

## Pastor Hank's Notes on: 2 Peter

**Chapter 2 Outline:** The presence, popularity and strategy of false prophets and false teachers and their judgment, verses 1-3. Divine judgment on the wicked, and care of the righteous, verse 4-10. A description of the ungodly false teachers among them, a list of the sins, their spiritual doom is sealed, verses 10-17, the example of Balaam, verse 15-16. The allure of the false teachers, verses 18-19. The consequences of apostasy, verses 20-22.

### 2 Peter 2

**Verse 1, The presence of false prophets, false teachers, deniers of The Lord and their damnable heresies:**

**1** But there were **false prophets** also among the people, even as there shall be **false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them**, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

Even as there were holy men of God who spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit (**2 Peter 1:21**), so also there were **false prophets and false teachers** then and today. Peter stated this as a fact; and he said they were **among you**.

**who privily shall bring in damnable heresies...** False teachers work **privily-secretly**. It isn't that their teaching is secret, but the deceptive nature of their teaching is hidden. No false teacher ever announces himself or herself as a false teacher.

Satan has always endeavored to infiltrate groups of believers with the deceptions of **false teachers**. Since Eve, the Devil has been in the **heresy** business.

**Heresy:** A fundamental error in religion (Webster's 1828).

### Heresy, Heretic

Referring to schism and false teaching. The word "heretic" is used only one time in the Bible (Titus 3:9-11), but the term "heresy" is used four more times (Acts 24:14; 1 Cor. 11:19; Gal. 5:20; 2 Peter 2:1). The same Greek word, *hairesis*, is translated "sect" in Acts 5:17; 15:5; 24:5; 26:5; and 28:22. This Greek word is used in two different ways in the N.T. (1) Any religious sect or party (Acts 5:17; 15:5; 24:14; 28:22). (2) False teachers and doctrinal error (Titus 3:9-11; Galatians 5:20; 2 Peter 2:1). The terms heretic and heresy refer to a willful choosing of false doctrine, a willful alignment with error.

### Titus 3:9-11

<sup>9</sup>But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain.

<sup>10</sup>A man that is an **heretick after the first and second admonition reject;**

<sup>11</sup>Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself.

**damnable heresies...** False teachers parade themselves as "Christian" Pastors, Teachers, and Evangelists bringing in **damnable heresies** by telling lies about Jesus Christ, The Christian Religion, and Church Doctrine. By these heresies people are hurt and led astray. Heresy isn't harmless.

**Damnable = damnation!**

**Galatians 5:19-21**

<sup>19</sup>Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

<sup>20</sup>Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, **heresies**,

<sup>21</sup>Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, **that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.**

**even denying the Lord... This means they held doctrines which were in fact a denial of the Lord!**

**Jude 4**

<sup>4</sup>For there are certain men **crept in unawares**, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, **and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Deuteronomy 18:20**

<sup>20</sup>But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak **in the name of other gods**, even that prophet shall die.

**Jeremiah 23:14**

<sup>14</sup>I have seen also in the prophets of Jerusalem an horrible thing: they commit adultery, and walk in lies: they strengthen also the hands of evildoers, that none doth return from his wickedness; they are all of them unto me as Sodom, and the inhabitants thereof as Gomorrah.



**Mary Baker Eddy**, Founder of The Christian Science Church:

Today, Christian Scientists are directed from the "Mother Church" in Boston. "Sermons" are prepared by a central committee and issued quarterly to all Christian Scientists throughout the world. Their congregations have "readers," but not pastors. The readers read from Science and Health and from the Bible.

The Christian Scientists are much into publishing with the Christian Science Monitor having a circulation of over 150,000.

**Their heresies are many:**

1. Denial of Blood Atonement
2. Denial of Deity of Christ
3. Denial of Deity of Holy Ghost

4. Denial of Eternal Security
5. Denial of Literal Burning Hell
6. Denial of the Physical Resurrection of Christ
7. Denial of Literal Second Coming of Christ
8. Denial of Sin Nature from Birth
9. Denial of the Trinity
10. Denial of the Virgin Birth
11. Multiple Authorities
12. Salvation through Works

### **The Bible Test for Prophets:**

#### **Deuteronomy 13:1-3**

<sup>1</sup> If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder,  
<sup>2</sup> And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them;  
<sup>3</sup> Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the Lord your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.



Harold Camping's most recent failed "prophecy" that the rapture would occur on May 21, 2011, is not the first time he has made false predictions based not on sound exegesis of Scripture, but on his own methods of interpretation. His first prediction was that the end of the world would occur on May 21, 1988. When that failed, Camping wrote a book early in the 1990s titled 1994? In it, Harold Camping claimed that history would end in September of 1994.

#### **Matthew 24:36-37**

<sup>36</sup> But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.  
<sup>37</sup> But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.



### False Prophet Benny Hinn:



#### Orlando Christian Center, Dec. 31st, 1989, Benny Hinn:

"The Lord also tells me to tell you in the mid 90's, about '94-'95, no later than that, God will destroy the homosexual community of America. [Audience applauds] But He will not destroy it - with what many minds have thought Him to be, He will destroy it with fire. And many will turn and be saved, and many will rebel and be destroyed." - Benny Hinn.

"The Spirit tells me - Fidel Castro will die - in the 90's. Oooh my! Some will try to kill him and they will not succeed. But there will come a change in his physical health, and he will not stay in power, and Cuba will be visited of God." - Benny Hinn.

"The Spirit of God tells me, An earthquake will hit the east coast of America and destroy much in the 90's. Not one place will be safe from earthquakes in the 90's. These who have not known earthquakes will know it. (People I feel the Spirit all over me; "tongues.")

"Oooh. A world dictator is coming on the scene. My. A short man. He's a short man. I see a short man, whose a perfect incarnation of Satan. ("Tongues.") Never in my life have I had anything happen like what's happening to me now. This man will rule the world. The next few years you will see him. But not long after that, you will see Me. ("Tongues.")

April 2nd, 2000 on TBN

"I believe, that Jesus, God's Son, is about to appear physically, in meetings and to believers around the world, to wake us up! Now hear this, I am prophesying this! Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is about to appear physically in some churches, and some meetings, and to many of His people, for one reason - to tell you He is about to show up!"



## The Jehovah Witnesses are False Prophets! They claim to be Jehovah's Prophet:



Announcing  
JEHOVAH'S  
KINGDOM

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*They shall know that*  
**A PROPHET  
WAS  
AMONG THEM'**

JEHOVAH GOD is interested in having people know him. Though he is invisible to human eyes, he provides various ways by which they can know his personality. They can know what to expect from him and what he expects of them.

One can come to understand that Jehovah is a God of surpassing wisdom by observing creation. This also reveals the loving care with which he designed things for man's welfare and enjoyment. A second way to know God is through his Word of truth, the Bible. Herein one finds the full expression of Jehovah's purpose toward mankind—why man is on the earth and the blessings that God has in store.

A third way of coming to know Jehovah God is through his representatives. In ancient times he sent prophets as his special messengers. While these men foretold things to come, they also served the people by telling them of God's will for them at that time, often also warning them of dangers and calamities. People today can view the creative works. They have at hand the Bible, but it is little read or understood. So, does Jehovah have a prophet to help them, to warn them of dangers and to declare things to come?

### IDENTIFYING THE "PROPHET"

These questions can be answered in the affirmative. Who is this prophet? The cler-

gy of the so-called "Christian" nations hold themselves before the people as being the ones commissioned to speak for God. But, as pointed out in the previous issue of this magazine, they have failed God and failed as proclaimers of his kingdom by approving a man-made political organization, the League of Nations (now the

United Nations), as "the political expression of the Kingdom of God on earth."

However, Jehovah did not let the people of Christendom, as led by the clergy, go without being warned that the League was a counterfeit substitute for the real kingdom of God. He had a "prophet" to warn them. This "prophet" was not one man, but was a body of men and women. It was the small group of footstep followers of Jesus Christ, known at that time as International Bible Students. Today they are known as Jehovah's Christian witnesses. They are still proclaiming a warning, and have been joined and assisted in their commissioned work by hundreds of thousands of persons who have listened to their message with belief.

Of course, it is easy to say that this group acts as a "prophet" of God. It is another thing to prove it. The only way that this can be done is to review the record. What does it show?

During the World War I period this group, the International Bible Students, was very active in preaching the good news of God's kingdom, as their Leader Jesus Christ had set this work before them in his prophecy at Matthew 24:14. They took literally Jesus' words to the Roman governor Pontius Pilate: "My kingdom is no part of this world." (John 18:36) They also took to heart Jesus' words to his fol-

## 1. Did the Society proclaim that 1914 would "end" world governments?

*“...the ‘battle of the great day of God Almighty’ (Rev. 16:14), which will end in A.D. 1914 with the complete overthrow of earth’s present rulership, is already commenced.”—The Time is At Hand, Studies in the Scriptures, vol. 2, 1886, 1911 edition, p. 101*

**2. How sure was the Society that the date 1914 would not be “changed” and that it was “not the date for the *beginning*, but for the *end*”?**

*“We see no reason for changing the figures—nor could we change them if we would. They are, we believe, God’s dates, not ours. But bear in mind that the end of 1914 is not the date for the beginning, but for the end of the time of trouble.”—Zion’s Watch Tower, July 15, 1894, p. 226-231 [Watchtower Reprints, p. 1677]*

**3. When 1914 failed, what “date” did the Society “change” in their updated edition of *The Time is At Hand* book?**

*“...the ‘battle of the great day of God Almighty’ (Rev. 16:14), which will end in A.D. 1915 with the complete overthrow of earth’s present rulership, is already commenced.”—The Time is At Hand, Studies in the Scriptures, vol. 2, 1886, 1915 edition, p. 101*

**4. When 1915 failed, what did the Society say God would do in 1918?**

*“Also, in the year 1918, when God destroys the churches wholesale and the church members by millions, it shall be that any that escape shall come to the works of Pastor Russel to learn the meaning of the downfall of ‘Christianity.’ ” —The Finished Mystery, Studies in the Scriptures, vol. 7, 1917, p. 485*

**5. When 1918 failed, what date did the Society give for the “old world” to end and the “new order” to begin with the “resurrection” of the Old Testament saints?**

*“...the old order of things, the old world, is ending and is therefore passing away, and that the new order is coming in, and that 1925 shall mark the resurrection of the faithful worthies of old... it is reasonable to conclude that millions of people now on the earth will be still on the earth in 1925. Then, based upon the promises set forth in the divine Word, we must reach the positive and indisputable conclusion that millions now living will never die.”—Millions Now Living Will Never Die, 1920, p. 97*

**6. Why did the Society discourage Jehovah’s Witnesses from bearing children in 1938?**

*“...it would therefore appear that there is no reasonable or Scriptural injunction to bring children into the world immediately before Armageddon, where we now are.”—The Watchtower, November 1, 1938, p. 324*

**7. How soon was Armageddon to break out in 1941?**

*“Never was there a more moving sight in these ‘last days’. ...Receiving the gift, the marching children clasped it to them ...the Lord’s provided instrument for most effective work in the remaining months before Armageddon. What a gift! and to so many! The manner of releasing the new book Children was an outright surprise to all....”—The Watchtower, September 15, 1941, p. 288*

## 8. Why were Jehovah's Witnesses looking forward to 1975?

*"WHY ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO 1975? WHAT about all this talk concerning the year 1975? ...Their interest has been kindled by the belief that 1975 will mark the end of 6,000 years of human history since Adam's creation."—The Watchtower, August 15, 1968, p. 494*

*"According to trustworthy Bible chronology six thousand years from man's creation will end in 1975, and the seventh period of a thousand years of human history will begin in the fall of 1975 C.E." —Life Everlasting – In Freedom of the Sons of God, 1966, p. 29*

Benny Hinn, The JW's, Harold Camping have all raked in hundreds of millions of \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$!

### 1 John 4:1

1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

Despite the apparent sophistication of our technological age, we live in a highly gullible generation open to false prophets and False Messiahs. During the past few centuries, for example, there have been some very influential people who have misled many people with their false predictions, including:

**William Miller**, who is credited with the beginning of the Adventist movement, which includes the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He claimed that Jesus would return "sometime between March 21, 1843 and March 21, 1844."

After his prediction had failed, a colleague named Samuel Snow, claimed that the true date would be October 22, 1844. That prediction also proved false.

Nelson H. Barbour, a Millerite Adventist who lived from 1824 to 1905, wrote a book entitled *Evidences for the Coming of the Lord* in 1873, and was involved in other date-setting attempts with Charles Taze Russell.

Russell continued attempts at setting dates for the return of Jesus and spoke of invisible fulfillments. Russell is credited as being the founder of the religious organization called **Jehovah's Witnesses**.

Joseph Smith, the founder of **Mormonism**, claimed that Jesus would return by 1891.

According to the 1997-JUN-24 issue of *Sun Magazine* Pope John XXIII predicted in 1962 that Christ would appear in the sky over New York City. He will announce the creation of a 1000-year paradise, to be preceded by six months of great sorrow.

Herbert W. Armstrong, who lived from 1892 to 1986 and founded a religious organization called the Worldwide Church of God, wrote a book called *1975 in Prophecy!* The book warned of a catastrophic drought, enslavement of Americans and Britons, nuclear war, and the return of Jesus as a dictator.

In 1992, David Koresh of the Branch Davidian group in Waco Texas changed the name of their commune from *Mt. Carmel* to *Ranch Apocalypse*, because of his belief that the final all-encompassing battle of Armageddon mentioned in the Bible would start at the Branch Davidian compound. They had calculated that the end would occur in 1995. After a 51-day standoff, on 1993-APR-10, 76 members died as a result of a deliberately set fire.

Michael Drosnin, author of "*The Bible Code*," found a hidden message in the Pentateuch (the first five books in the Bible) that predicts that a comet will crash into the earth in 2012 and annihilate all life.

### Signs of a False Prophet:

**False Authority**, False prophets always claim to have access to information you can't otherwise access without them.

### False Gospel, 2 Peter 2:1-3

**False Hope**, Along with this authority, there is some sort of reassurance or certainty offered.

### False Healing, *The Washington Post*

**World Views**, By Abby Phillip July 31, 2014; Nigerian official warns pastors and healers to stop making false Ebola-cure claims...

### False Signs and Wonders,

#### Matthew 24:24

<sup>24</sup> For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew **great signs and wonders**; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

Another facet to the **False Prophetic Ministry** is reliance upon **Signs and Wonders** reports abound within prophetic congregations and on the internet about meetings where **angelic feathers** appeared, **jewels** and **precious stones** allegedly being found after prophetic worship. Members frequently tell of tasting real manna that has fallen from the ceiling, and experiencing oil and **gold dust** miraculously covering people and clothing according to: Catch the Fire Ministries.

The accounts of Sign and Wonders have been proven to be false: gold dust turning out to be gold colored plastic micro-flakes!



**Here are a few traits False Prophets commonly possess that you should be aware of:**

**1. They are Sincere**

Some False Prophets aren't sincere, but many are. Don't expect a shifty-eyed person who looks like a prototypical serial murder. False Prophets have often convinced themselves that they have the truth—or at least that their behavior is fully acceptable to God. Because they are so sincere, they are extremely convincing, one of their most dangerous traits.

**2. They are Intelligent**

False Prophets typically are highly intelligent individuals, able to discern and make the most intellectual arguments. They use this talent to convince others to follow after them. And don't think their followers are fools either. Intelligent people attract intelligent followers.

**3. They are Popular**

False Prophets are typically well-liked and gregarious. They are social butterflies. It's hard to get much of a following otherwise. They are characteristically wise to the ways of politics and social interaction. It is not uncommon for them to seek the praise that comes from men more than the praise that comes from God. As a result, they put great effort into their social relations.

**4. They are Charming, Attractive and/or Appealing**

False Prophets are sometimes attractive or charming, but always appealing. They often possess traits that naturally draw people into their circles of influence: charisma, humor, joviality, positive attitudes, conversational personalities, and the like. Since most folks are attracted to materialism, possessions, and outer appearances, being charming, appealing, and even wealthy bodes well for a good following. And housing their flocks within the walls of incredibly expensive and attractive structures doesn't hurt their cause.

**5. They are Knowledgeable**

False Prophets obviously possess the knowledge required to convince their unsuspecting followers they know what they are talking about. False Prophets sometimes come armed with secular education, sometimes even seminary training.

**6. They are Reassuring**

False Prophets don't want their flocks to leave, or to waste too much time investigating the truth. To keep them from this, False Prophets reassure their followers not to worry, and that everything is ok. The message often is: "Listen to me, rely on my sermons and my message, and you'll have everything you need."

**7. They are Confident**

Few people desire to follow a person who is unsure of himself or lacks confidence, even if he appears to be knowledgeable and intelligent. Therefore False Prophets are frequently confident individuals, sometimes extremely confident, to the extent they believe nothing else could possibly be right other than what they personally believe and preach. This often produces an unteachable attitude in the False Prophet which then transfers to his followers.

#### **8. They are Highly Motivated**

False Prophets have followings, sometimes large multitudes of adoring listeners that hang on their every utterance of guidance. The mere fact so many people adore them likely helps fuel their motivation. Several objects can motivate a False Prophet, including money, power, sexual favors and popularity.

#### **9. They are Harmless in Appearance**

False Prophets don't look dangerous. They don't act dangerous. They don't seem dangerous. They look harmless. But False Prophets are the most dangerous "species" on earth. Their words mislead millions into an abyss of eternal destruction.

#### **Matthew 7:15**

<sup>15</sup> Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.



#### **10. They are False**

Naturally, "False" means "Wrong." False Prophets are incorrect, they do not have the truth.

What's a Christian to do?

1. Study your Bible!
2. Make sure your Church and your Pastor Studies, Teaches and Preaches from The Bible!

Amen!

## Pastor Hank's Notes on: 2 Peter

**Chapter 2 Outline:** The presence, popularity and strategy of false prophets and false teachers and their judgment, verses 1-3. Divine judgment on the wicked, and care of the righteous, verse 4-10. A description of the ungodly false teachers among them, a list of the sins, their spiritual doom is sealed, verses 10-17, the example of Balaam, verse 15-16. The allure of the false teachers, verses 18-19. The consequences of apostasy, verses 20-22.

### 2 Peter 2

**The presence of false prophets, false teachers, deniers of The Lord and their damnable heresies:**

#### Verse 1

**1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.**

Last week we looked at The presence of false prophets, false teachers, deniers of The Lord and their damnable heresies.

**\*\*\*\*Teaching Moment, Important! Continuing verse 1:**

**even denying the Lord that bought them...**

**Question: Are False Prophets and False Teachers CHRISTIANS/SAVED?**

**Answer: \_\_\_\_\_**

Calvinists" or "Reformed Theology" teach **T-U-L-I-P:**

Total Depravity.

Unconditional Election.

Limited Atonement.

Irresistible Grace.

Perseverance of the Saints.

**According to Calvinists" or "Reformed Theology" Limited Atonement** means that Christ's atoning death was only for the **elect**, that Jesus didn't die for everybody, Jesus death was for and limited to the "elect" for those He planned and ordained to go to Heaven: He did not die for those He planned and ordained to go to Hell.

The Bible teaches that Christ bore the sins of all people. **Isaiah 53:6** says, "**All** we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us **all**." There are two "all's" in this verse. The first "all" speaks of the universal fact of sin- "All

we like sheep have gone astray." And the second "all" speaks of universal atonement-"and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." The "all" in the first part of Isaiah 53:6 covers everyone. If all went astray, then the iniquities of all were laid on Christ.

Not only did He bear the sins of us all, **but the Bible plainly teaches that He died for the whole world. Jesus's Atonement was not limited, but UNLIMITED!**

## 1 John 2:2

<sup>2</sup> And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

### Romans 5:6

<sup>6</sup> For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

### John 1:29

<sup>29</sup> The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

### Hebrews 2:9

<sup>9</sup> But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

### 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

<sup>14</sup> For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:

<sup>15</sup> **And that he died for all**, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

### 1 Timothy 2:5-6

<sup>5</sup> For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

<sup>6</sup> **Who gave himself a ransom for all**, to be testified in due time.

### Titus 2:11

<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to **all men**,

### 1 Timothy 2:3-4

<sup>3</sup> For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

<sup>4</sup> Who will have **all men to be saved**, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

### Luke 19:10

<sup>10</sup> For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was **lost.**

**\*\*The "lost" refers to the entire world of lost humanity, not just the lost elect.**

### John 4:42

<sup>42</sup> And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the **Christ, the Saviour of the world.**



**John 8:12**

<sup>12</sup> Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, **I am the light of the world:** he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

\*\* Jesus is not the light of the elect, He is the light to the world!

**1 John 4:14**

<sup>14</sup> And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.

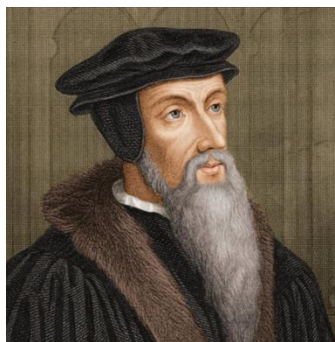
**Isaiah 53:6**

<sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of **us all**.

**Bible Scholar J. C. Ryle** states: "Christ is...a Savior for all mankind....He did not suffer for a few persons only, but for all mankind....What Christ took away, and bore on the cross, was not the sin of certain people only, but the whole accumulated mass of all the sins of all the children of Adam....I hold as strongly as anyone that Christ's death is profitable to none but the elect who believe in His Name. But I dare not limit and pare down such expressions as the one before us....I dare not confine the intention of redemption to the saints alone. Christ is for every man....The atonement was made for all the world, though it is applied and enjoyed by none but believers."

**Ironically, Calvin** himself may not have placed much value on the idea of a limited atonement. After all, the five points of what is called "Calvinism" came from a synod in the Netherlands almost 60 years after his death. Calvin had this to say about John 3:16: "It is a remarkable commendation of faith, that it frees us from everlasting destruction. . . . And he has employed the universal term *whosoever*, both to invite all indiscriminately to partake of life, and to cut off every excuse from unbelievers. Such is also the import of the term *World*; . . . he shows himself to be reconciled to the whole world, when he invites all men without exception to the faith of Christ, which is nothing else than an entrance into life" (*Commentary on John*, Vol. 1).

**John Calvin** also said: "God is unwilling that we should be overwhelmed with everlasting destruction, **because He has appointed His Son to be the salvation of the world.**" - *Commentary on John* - Volume 1.

**John 3:16**

<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

**Continuing verse 1, false prophets, false teachers: and bring upon themselves swift destruction...** either in this life, being suddenly cut off in the midst of their days, by the immediate hand of God, or eternal damnation at The Great White Throne Judgment.

### **Romans 2:16**

<sup>16</sup>In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.

### **Verse 2**

<sup>2</sup>And **many shall follow their pernicious ways**; by reason of whom **the way of truth shall be evil spoken of**.

**Pernicious...** Means spiritual ruin, or loss. Their destructions; i.e. the heresies of destruction, or destructive opinions.

**many shall follow their pernicious ways...** It's sad that more people will believe a lie than will believe in the Truth.

**the way...** This was an early name for Christianity.

### **Acts 24:14**

<sup>14</sup>But this I confess unto thee, that after **the way** which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets:

**the way of truth shall be evil spoken of...** Other religions today, such as the Muslim, believe the Christians are heathen. Those, who do not believe in Jesus, think we are **evil** for following Him.

### **Verse 3**

<sup>3</sup>And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

**And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you...** The making of **money** is the motivation for a great deal of false teaching, the false teachers look not with what is true, but what makes one rich using **feigned words (pretend/false words)**.

### **Creflo Dollar**



Creflo Dollar's theology is primarily based on this idea: that by giving money to his ministry as a "tithe" the giver is demonstrating faith that will connect to an automatic material blessing from God. He bases this primarily on Genesis 14, where Abraham, the forefather of the nation of Israel (who at the time was called Abram, his original name before God renamed him), had just launched

a successful military rescue of his nephew Lot and gave a tithe of the spoils of war to the High Priest Melchizedek. According to Dollar, since Abram gave the tithe, he was immediately blessed by the High Priest and thus all people should give 10% of their income to his church to receive their blessings. Dollar also teaches the **heresy** that God is in Heaven waiting to bless us but He cannot bestow a blessing until the tithe “activates” Him.

Born and raised in a Georgia Baptist church in the 1960s, Creflo Augustus Dollar is a southern televangelist and pastor who gained his fame through his nondenominational ministry known as the World Changers Church International. Launching his ministry with only eight members gathered in a school cafeteria in 1986, Dollar grew his congregation to an enormous 30,000 devoted followers while bringing in \$69 million in revenue in 2006 alone. Still growing in 2012, Dollar added a second location in The Bronx, New York to increase his reach.

Extending his ministry as an author and reputable speaker with engagements around the globe, the 54-year-old is often criticized for his lavish lifestyle. Owning multi-million-dollar estates in Atlanta, New Jersey and Manhattan, Dollar raised eyebrows in 2014 when his private jet was destroyed after veering off the runway. In only a matter of months, Dollar’s fundraising efforts had already generated another \$60 million dollars to purchase a private Gulfstream G650 jet that he claimed was a necessity to bring his teachings to people around the world.

### **Concluding Thoughts from: The Bible Illustrator:**

#### **Damnable heresies, Destructive heresies**

1. It is a destructive heresy for a man to think that he can be saved without faith in Christ, while ignoring, or, it may be, denying the redemptive work of Christ.
2. It is a destructive heresy for a man to think that he is safe and in the way of salvation while yielding to corrupt passions and living a careless life.
3. it is a destructive heresy for a man to regard himself as a Christian, and think he is right for heaven, while possessing nothing of the mind and spirit of Christ.
4. It is a “heresy of destruction” for a man to think that if he abstains from great and glaring transgressions he may safely indulge in sins of the heart, and need no be over particular about what has been called “the minor moralities of life.”
5. It is a “heresy of destruction” for a man to think that he is a Christian sheltered by the blood of Christ while he consciously and continually disregards the commands of Christ.
6. It is a “heresy of destruction” for a man to boast that Christ is all in all to him while he withholds himself and all he has from Christ.
7. It is a “heresy of destruction” for a man self-complacently, to suppose that he may “gird up the loins of his mind, be sober, and hope unto the end” while he is conscious of no love to God, and while cherishing hatred of his fellow-man. Let us examine ourselves, lest we should--**Denying the Lord that bought them.**

## Pastor Hank's Notes on: 2 Peter

**Chapter 2 Outline:** The presence, popularity and strategy of false prophets and false teachers and their judgment, verses 1-3. Divine judgment on the wicked, and care of the righteous, verse 4-10. A description of the ungodly false teachers among them, a list of the sins, their spiritual doom is sealed, verses 10-17, the example of Balaam, verse 15-16. The allure of the false teachers, verses 18-19. The consequences of apostasy, verses 20-22.

### 2 Peter 2 The ungodly will be judged, verses 4-6:

#### Verse 4

<sup>4</sup>For if **God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness**, to be reserved unto judgment;

**God spared not the angels that sinned...** Satan himself was the leader of the sinning Angels, it was through pride that he fell (Ezekiel 28:12, and 1 Timothy 3:6); and from this also that pride was also the sin of the “fallen” Angels. The point Peter made was that God did not spare them, but condemned them: **“but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness”**.

God judged these wicked angels, setting them **into chains of darkness**. Apparently some fallen Angels are in bondage while others are unbound and active (now) in the earth as demons/devils.

#### Some thoughts:

1. Man is made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26) and Angels are not. Satan and his Angels resented God's plan to create a being that would be more closely connected to God than they were.

#### Genesis 1:26

<sup>26</sup>And God said, **Let us make man in our image**, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

2. Though mankind is beneath the Angels in dignity (Hebrews 2:6-7, 2 Peter 2:11)...

#### Hebrews 2:6-7

<sup>6</sup>But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man that thou visitest him?

<sup>7</sup>Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands:

3. It is the job of Angels to serve mankind (Hebrews 1:14, 2:7-8, Psalm 91:11-12).

#### Hebrews 1:14

<sup>14</sup>Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

4. Satan and his Angels resented a plan that would command them to serve lesser beings. Redeemed mankind will be lifted in honor and status above all Angelic beings

#### 1 Corinthians 6:3

<sup>3</sup>Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?

**To be reserved unto judgment...** **Jude 1:6**, “to the judgment of the great day.” These fallen Angels are kept in custody unto the day of final judgment.

There is considerable similarity between II Peter and Jude, Compare:

<b>Jude</b>	<b>2 Peter</b>
Jude 4	2 Pet. 2:1-3
Jude 5	2 Pet. 2:5
Jude 6-7	2 Pet. 2:4, 6
Jude 8-9	2 Pet. 2:10-11
Jude 11-12	2 Pet. 2:13-14
Jude 12-13	2 Pet. 2:12
Jude 16	2 Pet. 2:18
Jude 18	2 Pet. 3:3
Jude 18	2 Pet. 3:3

### **Some Examples:**

#### **Jude 4**

<sup>4</sup>For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and **denying** the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

#### **2 Peter 2:1-3**

**1** But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even **denying** the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

#### **Jude 18**

<sup>18</sup>How that they told you there should be **mockers in the last time**, who should **walk after their own ungodly lusts**.

#### **2 Peter 3:3**

<sup>3</sup>Knowing this first, that there shall come in **the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts**,

#### **Verse 5**

<sup>5</sup>And spared not **the old world, but saved Noah** the eighth person, **a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;**

God judged **the old world**, the world before Noah's Flood.

#### **Genesis 6:5-8**

<sup>5</sup> And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

<sup>6</sup> And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

<sup>7</sup> And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

<sup>8</sup> But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

**but saved Noah...** The human race was reduced to 8 people by that judgment.

**a preacher of righteousness...** In Genesis 6:9, it is said of Noah that he was “a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God;” and it may be presumed that during his long life he was faithful in reproving the wickedness of his age, and warned the world of the judgment that was preparing for it by being **a preacher of righteousness**.

**bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly...** Important! Peter here refers to the flood recorded in Genesis as an historical event, denying the allegation of some that it was a myth.

### **1 Peter 3:20**

<sup>20</sup> Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.

### **Hebrews 11:7**

<sup>7</sup> By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

### **Verse 6**

**<sup>6</sup>And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;**

Verse 4: God judged the Fallen Angels.

Verse 5: God judged the Old World.

Verse 6: God judged Prosperous Cities.

**And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned...** God will not always strive with man. He is patient and kind and forgiving, but He will judge us when He says enough. The judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah came because there were not even 10 righteous in the city. God rained down fire and brimstone on the city, because they were homosexuals and lesbians. This is an abomination to God.

**making them an ensample...** That is, a model. God sent a definite message to all future generations “**unto those that after should live ungodly**”, that wickedness results in judgment.

**What was the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah?**

1. Homosexuality. That is how the term "sodomy" came to be used to refer to anal sex between two men, whether consensual or forced. Clearly, homosexuality was a major part of why God destroyed the two cities. The men of Sodom and Gomorrah wanted to perform homosexual gang rape on the two angels who were disguised as men in Genesis chapter 19.

2. Pride.



3. They were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy.

#### **Ezekiel 16:49-50**

<sup>49</sup> Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.

<sup>50</sup> And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I took them away as I saw good.

#### **Jude 7**

<sup>7</sup> Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

#### **Verses 7&8: Lot**

<sup>7</sup> And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked:

And delivered just Lot.... This example shows that God makes a distinction between the righteous and the wicked; and that while the wicked will be destroyed, the **just** will be saved.



<sup>8</sup> (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, **vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;**)

Peter already told us how the Lord delivered Noah (Verse 5). Now, he shows us that the Lord **delivered just Lot.**

**vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds...**

**Vexed means:** Tortured, troubled, worn down, oppressed.

The sin of Sodom was open and shameless; and as a citizen, Lot saw much of it and his heart was pained Sodom and Gomorrah tormented Lot's just-righteous soul from day to day, but Lot failed to follow through with godly actions and separate himself and his family from the ungodliness of Sodom and Gomorrah. The Lord delivered Lot because of his righteous soul; yet Lot lost everything else because of his too-close association with those wicked cities.

There was spiritual weakness in Lot, immorality (Gen. 19:8) and drunkenness (Gen 19:33-35). His heart was in Sodom (Gen 19:16), yet he did hate the sins of his culture and strongly sought ways to protect God's angels from harm. He obeyed the Lord in not looking back at Sodom (Gen. 19).

**New York City (Sodom) Today:** (I'm VEXED, are YOU?)



NYPD Commissioner William Bratton exiting a Homosexual NYPD Police SUV which reads: "NYPD OUT AND PROUD."



An armed police officer stood guard outside the Stonewall Inn, a Federal Landmark.





NYPD having fun at Gay Pride Parade. Your Tax Dollars at Work!



Mayor de Blasio showing support for Gay Pride Day.

## Verse 9

<sup>9</sup>The Lord knoweth **how to deliver the godly** out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

**how to deliver the godly...** Those that walk in the steps of just Lot and Noah, who were **just** in their generation. This concludes what Peter began in verse 4. The point is: If God spared neither wicked angels nor wicked men, destroying the old world and Sodom and Gomorrah, but delivered Lot and Noah- righteous persons; God still has wisdom, power, and will to deliver other **godly** men, and punish other wicked men.



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### Verse 10

A description of the ungodly **False Teachers** among them, a list of the sins, their spiritual doom is sealed, verses 10-17, the example of Balaam, verse 15-16.

<sup>10</sup> But **chiefly** them that walk after the flesh in the lust of **uncleanness**, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.

These ungodly **False Teachers** are especially reserved for judgment. They live according to the flesh, not the spirit, and are **chiefly** marked by **uncleanness**.

### What is Uncleanness?

According to *Vine's Dictionary*, Cleanness (New Testament) it has two meanings:

#### 1. Physical uncleanness:



Uh, Peter's not talking about this type of uncleanness...

**2. Moral Uncleaness:** Anything that is not pure; that influences the children of God to immoral activity; that turns our minds away from righteousness; is unclean.



**Uncleaness** is joined with **fornication** in several contexts (Romans 1:24; Ephesians 5:3; Colossians 3:5)

### **Ephesians 5:1-5**

<sup>1</sup> Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;

<sup>2</sup> And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

<sup>3</sup> But **fornication, and all uncleaness**, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;

<sup>4</sup> Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.

<sup>5</sup> For this ye know, that no whoremonger, **nor unclean person**, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, **hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.**

### **Colossians 3:1-7**

<sup>1</sup> If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

<sup>2</sup> Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

<sup>3</sup> For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

<sup>4</sup> When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

<sup>5</sup> Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; **fornication, uncleaness**, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

<sup>6</sup> For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:

<sup>7</sup> In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.

**The opposite of Uncleaness is Holiness, and God wants His Children Clean and Holy!**

### **1 Thessalonians 4:7**

<sup>7</sup> For God hath not called us unto **uncleaness**, but unto **holiness**.

## The Unclean Last Days Generation:

### Romans 1:21-32

<sup>21</sup> Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.



<sup>22</sup> Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

<sup>23</sup> And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.



Jesus supporting Gay Pride!

<sup>24</sup> Wherefore God also gave them up to **uncleanness** through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:



<sup>25</sup> Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.



<sup>26</sup> For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

<sup>27</sup> And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

<sup>28</sup> And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

<sup>29</sup> Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

<sup>30</sup> Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,



<sup>31</sup> Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

<sup>32</sup> Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.



### Continuing, Verse 10...

**and despise government...** They regard all government in the state, the church, and the family, as an evil, they are:

**Presumptuous are they, selfwilled...** Presumptuous meaning “Daring” is to be brazen, audacious and defiant. “Self-willed is to be obstinate, determined in one’s own way.

**They are not afraid to speak evil of dignities...** They are lawless and disobedient, spurn all human authority, and speak contemptuously of all legal and civil jurisdiction. Those in general despise governments, and speak evil of dignities, who wish to be under no control, that they may act as freebooters in the community.

### Verse 11

<sup>11</sup> **Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord.**

**Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might...** A reference to the Holy Angels, who are greater in power than human beings.

**bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord...** Unlike false teachers who are defiant toward higher powers, the Holy Angels so revere their Lord that they will not speak insults against any authority. Even the Archangel, Michael, recognizing the great presence and power of Satan, refused to speak evil of him, but called on the Lord to do so (Jude 9 – see below). No believer should be so boldly foolish as to mock or command the power of supernatural demons, especially Satan.

### Jude 9

<sup>9</sup> Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.

This is the same method Christians must use, as well. The name of Jesus rebukes the evil one. We have no power in our own name. It is the power in His name that succeeds.

### Verse 12, Description of the ungodly false teachers among them, continued:

<sup>12</sup> **But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption;**

**But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed...** Since they function in the flesh, not the spirit, they are like animals. They are fit only for destruction (**made to be caught/taken like an animal and destroyed**).

**speak evil of the things that they understand not...** Cursing away at persons and matters they don't understand. They are ignorant.

**Speaking is for edifying and to be a blessing to others!**

#### **Ephesians 4:29**

<sup>29</sup> Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

**and shall utterly perish in their own corruption...** These False Teachers, through fraud, violence, lust and deceit establish the very type of social climate which inevitably leads their own destruction **as well as that of their victims**.

What these evil men, who were troubling Peter's people and are troubling the Church today, were doing, was to say that they loved and served Christ, while the things they taught and did were a complete denial of him!

#### **Galatians 6:8**

<sup>8</sup> For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

#### **Verse 13**

<sup>13</sup> And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you;

**And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness...** Due punishment, both in body and soul, for all their injustice to God and men; which will be the just reward that they shall receive at the righteous judgment of God.

**they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time...** Most sinners, in order to practice their abominable pleasures, seek the secrecy of the night; but these, bidding defiance to all modesty, decency, and shame, take the open day, and thus proclaim their sins during the day time.

**Spots they are and blemishes...** These are a reference to apostate Christians whose wicked and immoral behavior was a disgrace to the body of Christ.

**sporting themselves with their own deceivings...** With their sins and lusts, by which they deceive themselves and others, it being a sport to them to commit sin; and in which they take great pleasure and pastime, and not only delight in their own sins, but in those of others, and in them that do them.

**while they feast with you...** At Feasts, or at the Lord's Table at Church, or at their own houses, which shows that they were of them, and among them!

#### **Jude 12**

<sup>12</sup> These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots;

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### Description of the ungodly false teachers among them, continued:

#### Verse 14

14 Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:

**Having eyes full of adultery...** The false teachers had so totally lost moral control that they could not look at any woman without seeing her as a potential adulteress. Their heart is set on the flesh, and their **eyes full of adultery**, both spiritual and sexual. Whenever they see a woman, they have lustful thoughts.

#### Matthew 5:28

<sup>28</sup> But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

**and that cannot cease from sin...** They cannot stop sinning, they love and practice sin!



Kansas City prophet **BOB JONES'S** tapes were removed from the Vineyard Ministries International product catalog after he admitted to “a moral failure” (Lee Grady, “Wimber Plots New Course for Vineyard,” *Charisma*, Feb. 1993, p. 64). Jones was using his alleged spiritual authority and “prophetic anointing” to induce women to disrobe.

**beguiling unstable souls...** Those that were not well grounded in the faith and doctrine of holiness, who might therefore easily be drawn aside by being tricked and charmed.

**an heart they have exercised with covetous practices...** They are equipped, but not for ministry, only for selfish, greedy, lustful gain.

**cursed children...** Children of the curse. As openly profane sinners be, yet they inwardly, and from their hearts, they curse the true followers of Christ, but remember, God has the last say:

#### Matthew 25:41

<sup>41</sup> Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:



## The example of Balaam, Verses 15 & 16:

### Verse 15

<sup>15</sup> Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;

**Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray...** They've gone astray from the right way of the Lord, the way of truth, the Gospel of truth; or Christ, who is the way, the truth, and the life; the true way to eternal life, and which is the right way to eternal happiness; the way of life, righteousness, and salvation by Christ, the Christian faith, and the doctrine of it, which they once professed, but now **are gone astray...**

**Balaam ...** Served as an illustration and example of such false prophets. He was an Old Testament compromising prophet for sale to whomever paid him, who preferred wealth and popularity over faithfulness and obedience to God (Numbers 22-24).

Balaam and these False Teachers had drawn People into a fleshly religion. True Christianity has to do with crucifying the flesh and living in the spirit. The flesh must die that the spirit might live!

### Jude 11

<sup>11</sup> Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of **Balaam** for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.

According to 2 Peter 2:15, Balaam's "way" is a choice to promote falsehood for financial reasons. According to Jude 1:11, Balaam's "error" was his willingness to accommodate pagan beliefs out of greed. Even a Church can be guilty of this...



SAINT MATTHEW THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH, Gahanna, OH



And then there were three! Thanks all who participated. We broke our record by 15 buy-ins and re-buys.  
Total prize pool over \$6000!!!

**who loved the wages of unrighteousness...** The reward which Balak offered Balaam for an unrighteous act, **the cursing of God's people.**

### 1 Timothy 6:10

<sup>10</sup> For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

### Verse 16

<sup>16</sup> But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbade the madness of the prophet.

Through a talking donkey, God kept him from cursing Israel.



### Verse 17

<sup>17</sup> These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever.

**These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest...** These ungodly false teachers are empty - as useless as **wells without water** - and like clouds that bring only darkness, and no nourishing rain.

**to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever...** Darkness signifies a state of unhappy misery. Here it signifies the punishment of the wicked after judgment, which our Lord has said will happen to those who reject Him!

### Matthew 22:13

<sup>13</sup> Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into **outer darkness**, there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

### Jude 13

<sup>13</sup> Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of **darkness** for ever.

### The allure of the false teachers, Verses 18 & 19:

<sup>18</sup> For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.

**For when they speak great swelling words of vanity...** The False Teachers deceive the weak with vain, boasting, proud and high sounding words that pretend as scholarship or profound spiritual insight, and even as direct revelation for God.

## Jude 16

<sup>16</sup>These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth **speake**th great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.

**allure** — Greek, “lay baits for.” Entice,

**through much wantonness...** In verse 10 the False Teachers “walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness”, here in verse 18 they operate through much **wantonness**.

**Wantonness** means: showing no thought or care for the rights, feelings, or safety of others, sexually lawless or unrestrained; loose; lascivious; lewd.

**those that were clean escaped from them who live in error...** The followers of these False Teachers had begun to think of the way they were living; they had broken off many of their evil habits; and there was hope that they would be entirely reformed, and would become decided Christians, but they were **allured** again to the sins in which they had so long indulged by False Teachers.

## Verse 19

<sup>19</sup> **While they promise them liberty**, they themselves are the **servants of corruption**: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.

**While they promise them liberty...** False teachers promise those trying to “escape” the struggles of life, liberty/freedom, which they seek.

“True religion always promises and produces liberty, but the particular liberty which these persons seem to have promised, was freedom from what they regarded as needless restraint, or from strict and narrow views of **religion**.” – Albert Barnes

In being overcome by the flesh and the False Teachers, these people became **servants of corruption**.

## Jesus said in John 8:34

<sup>34</sup> Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin **is the servant of sin**.

**for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage...** In war, that when one man is conquered by another, he is no longer a free man, but the other's prisoner and captive, and is in a state of servitude and bondage; so it is when a man is overcome by sin, he becomes a servant of sin and a prisoner of it.

**The consequences of apostasy and the danger of falling away and following after False Teachers, Verse 20-22:**

## Verse 20

<sup>20</sup> For if after they have escaped the **pollutions** of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

**For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ...** The world gives off a deadly influence-**Spiritual Pollutions**. Peter

notes that at some point in time, these false teachers and their followers wanted to escape the moral contamination of the world system and sought **The Saviour Jesus Christ, but**

**they are again entangled therein...** They are again entangled in their sins they return to their old sins, and continue in them. **And:**

**the latter end is worse with them than the beginning...** Professors of religion who go back again into sin, become worse in character and condition than they were before.

Apostates become worse than they were before their professed conversion. “Reformed” Drug addicts, if they go back to their “drugs” again, become wilder than ever.

### **Matthew 12:45**

<sup>45</sup> Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

### **Verse 21**

<sup>21</sup> For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.

These False Teachers had known the truth and had known it well, but because of Pride, Lust, Greed turned **from the holy commandment delivered unto them: The Gospel, the Christian Life**

The sad thing for many of these people was that just as they were learning about the way of righteousness, and about Christ’s **holy commandment**, and were almost ready for full response, they were being turned back from it into the ways of these False Teachers.

And the same was true for the False Teachers themselves. They too had been introduced into the way of righteousness, but had then become caught up with ideas that took them in the opposite direction. Better were it that they had never become involved, for their present position now makes it harder for them genuinely to come to Christ.

### **Verse 22**

<sup>22</sup> But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

Here Peter quotes part of Psalm 26:11,

### **Proverbs 26:11**

<sup>11</sup> As a dog returneth to his vomit, so a fool returneth to his folly.

The meaning of the Proverbs here quoted is, that they have returned to their former sinfull, dirty manner of life.

The nature as dogs is displayed by the way he returns to the vomit of the flesh and the world. He is like the brute beasts described in **2 Peter 2:12**, more animal than godly because he lives for the flesh.

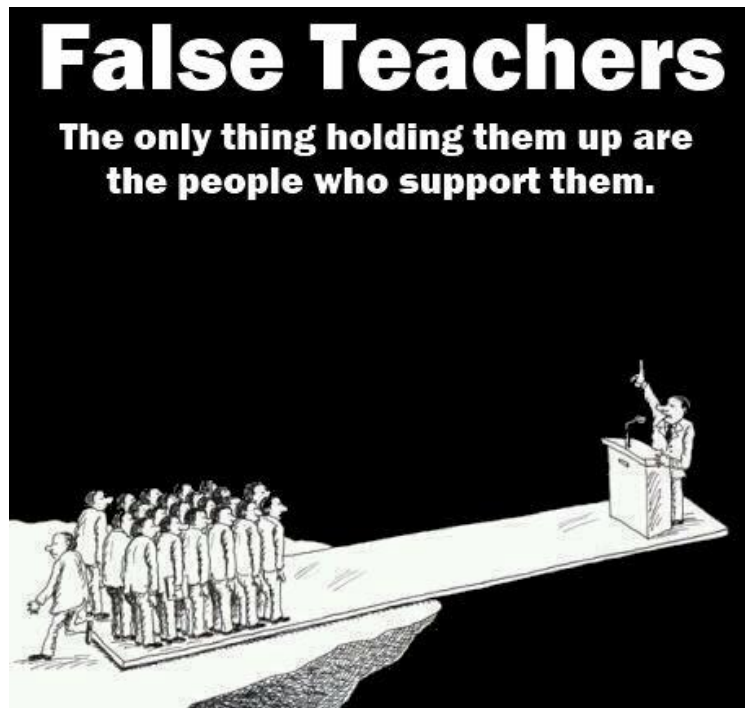
“The dog which has got rid of the corruption inside it through vomiting it up cannot leave well enough alone; it goes sniffing around the vomit again.” – Michael Green



**\*I think this is important!** Just a quick recap of 2 Peter chapter 2. Peter here is referring specifically to those who have been teaching and living falsely as well as those who are following these **False Teachers**. Beware of them!! **THEY:**

- Secretly bring in damnable heresies. (vs. 1)
- Deny the Lord who bought them. (vs. 1)
- Bring upon themselves swift destruction. (vs. 1)
- Many will follow their sensuality. (vs. 2)
- Because of them the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. (vs. 2)
- They are Unclean and despise government. (vs. 10)
- Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities. (vs. 10)
- They are natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption. (vs. 12)
- They shall receive the reward of unrighteousness. (vs. 13)

- They count it pleasure to riot in the day time. (vs. 13)
- Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceiving's while they feast with you. (vs. 13)
- They have eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin. (vs. 14)
- They beguile unstable souls.(vs. 14)
- Their heart they have exercised with covetous practices. (vs. 14)
- They're cursed children! (vs. 14)
- They have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray. (vs. 15)
- They follow the way of Balaam, who loved the wages of unrighteousness. (vs. 15)
- They are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest. (vs. 17)
- Darkness is reserved for ever for them. (vs.17)
- They speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. (vs. 18)
- They promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption. (vs. 19)
- After they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. (vs. 20)
- For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. (vs. 21)
- Just like a Dog, they return to their vomit of sin. (vs. 21)



## Pastor Hank's Notes on: 2 Peter

**Chapter 3 Outline:** The Apostle Peter declares it to be the design of both his Epistles to remind the brethren of Christ's coming to judgment, in opposition to scoffers, verses 1-7. Revelations concerning the "day of the Lord," with refutation of the mockers, verses 8-13. Exhortations and showing that Paul had taught the like in his Epistles. Being steadfastness with advice to beware of seduction, and to grow in Christian grace and knowledge, the doxology, verses 14-18.

### Verse 1

**1 This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you;** in both which I stir up **your pure minds by way of remembrance:**

This is a transition to another part of the Epistle; for the Apostle having largely described false teachers, the secret enemies of the Christian religion under a profession of it, moves on to take notice of the more open enemies and profane scoffers of it; and from their ridicule of the doctrine of Christ's Second Coming.

**This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you...** This confirms what has been said, that this Epistle was written by Peter, as well as the 1 Peter.

**beloved...** This word is somewhat of a keynote in this chapter, occurring here, and in 2 Peter 3:8, 14, 15 & 17. It contrasts with the intense pronouncements against the false teachers and mockers. **"Beloved"** This attitude toward the readers of his letter reflects Peter's pastoral concern (1 Peter 5:1-4).

**your pure minds...** Your sincere minds. This is an encouragement that their minds were not yet corrupted, either by the false teachers, or by the scoffers.

**by way of remembrance...** Peter writes not a new prophecy. He recalls, explains, and applies a whole body of old prophecies from The Old Testament.

### Verse 2

<sup>2</sup>That ye 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 Saviour:**

### Jude 17 (Again, Jude Comparison)

<sup>17</sup>But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ;

Peter knew the importance of *reminding* his readers of the Scriptural message, both received from the Old Testament (**spoken before**) and contemporary to his own day (**and of the commandment of us**).

**Holy Prophets:** The Old Testament prophets are in view, who were holy in contrast to the unholy false teachers. God's Word was written by those prophets. In particular those prophets warned about coming judgment.

### Malachi 4:1-2

**1** For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

<sup>2</sup> But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.

**by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour...**

By placing the Apostles of the New Testament on the same level as the Prophets of the Old Testament, Peter understood the authority of the New Testament, even as it was being formed.

Peter understood that **Jesus** gave His Apostles the inspired authority to bring forth God's Message to the New Testament community.

### **Matthew 16:18-19**

<sup>18</sup> And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

<sup>19</sup> And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

### **2 Timothy 3:16**

<sup>16</sup> All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

### **Verse 3**

<sup>3</sup> Knowing this first, that there shall come in the **last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,**

The **scoffers** here are similar and maybe some of the false teachers of chapter two. This is shown by two truths: (1) They are sensual characters, walking after their own lusts, as were the false teachers; and (2) they are evidently people who were familiar with the "promise" of the Lord's coming, who had indeed once believed it, but then became mockers.

In the last days, one of the main focuses of **scoffers** is the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. The **last days** began when Jesus ascended into heaven.

### **Jude 17-19 (Again, Jude Comparison)**

<sup>17</sup> But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ;

<sup>18</sup> How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.

<sup>19</sup> These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.

Jude adds something very important about the **scoffers** and mockers. They are completely given over to sin and are without the Spirit of the Lord in their life; therefore, they are reprobates with a mind that is at war with God. Their mind is void of anything connected with God.

**Question:** "What does the Bible say about scoffers?" **Answer:** The word translated "scoffer" in English can mean "one who mocks, ridicules, or scorns the belief of another." In Hebrew, the word



translated "scoffer" or "mocker" can also mean "ambassador." So a scoffer is one who not only disagrees with an idea, but he also considers himself an ambassador for the opposing idea. He cannot rest until he has demonstrated the foolishness of any idea not his own. A scoffer voices his disagreement, ridicules all who stand against him, and actively recruits others to join his side. In the Bible, scoffers are those who choose to disbelieve God and His Word. They say in their hearts, "There is no God" (Psalm 14:1), and make it their ambition to ridicule those who follow God. Second Peter 3:3 warns us that that there shall come in the last days scoffers walking after their own lusts. Scoffers have always been and will always be present in the world.

### There were scoffers back in Jesus's and Peter's time:

#### Matthew 27:29-31

<sup>29</sup> And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and **mocked him**, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!

<sup>30</sup> And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head.

<sup>31</sup> And after that they had **mocked him**, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him.

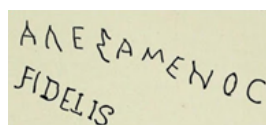
### There were scoffers back in the early Church:



In 1857, a piece of graffiti, now known as the Alexamenos Graffito, was discovered on the Palatine Hill in the center of Rome when a building called the Domus Gelotiana was excavated. Believed to date from around 200 A.D., the picture, etched or scratched in plaster, it depicts a human-like figure with a donkey looking head, attached to a cross. To the left is Alexamenos, with one hand raised in prayer. Scrawled the Greek words "ΑΛΕ ΧΑΜΕΝΟΣ ΣΕΒΕΤΕ ΘΕΟΝ," which translates to "Alexamenos worships [his] God."

Without doubt, this image was intended to mock both Alexamenos and his God, and also all Christians, as the artist accuses Christians of practicing 'onlatry,' or 'donkey-worship', apparently a common taunt against Christians, at that time.

Adjacent to this image is another inscription in a different hand which reads in Latin Alexamenos fidelis, meaning "Alexamenos is faithful" or "Alexamenos the faithful." It is argued that this second graffiti is a response by an unknown party to the mockery of Alexamenos in the image shown here:



**Scoffers...walking after their own lusts...** These words remind us that scoffers do not only have an intellectual problem with God and His word. They also have a clear moral problem, wanting to reject the Lordship of Jesus Christ over their lives. **Scoffers today:**



## Verse 4

<sup>4</sup> 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 the creation.

**Where is the promise of His coming?** This is the message of scoffers. In the thinking of these scoffers, Christians have talked about Jesus coming for two thousand years and He still hasn't come back yet, so they scoff at and mock Christians for their Faith that Jesus is Coming again!

This is probably the same type of scoffer that laughed at Noah while he was building the ark. Their whole world revolves around the physical. Just as it had never rained in the time of Noah and they did not believe. They do not believe now, because they have never seen Jesus appear in the sky. Anything that you can see with your eye requires no faith to believe.

Just as Jesus spoke of and Peter and the other Old and New Testament authors wrote of The Second Coming of Jesus, these scoffers mocked the **Bible Doctrine of The Second Coming of Jesus!**

## The Second Coming:

Is the return of Jesus Christ from Heaven to judge His enemies and set up His earthly rule.

### Revelation 19:11-16

<sup>11</sup> And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

<sup>12</sup> His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

<sup>13</sup> And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

<sup>14</sup> And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

<sup>15</sup> And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

<sup>16</sup> And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, King Of Kings, And Lord Of Lords.

### O.T. Prophecies of Christ's Second Coming:

#### Job 19:25-27

<sup>25</sup> For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:

<sup>26</sup> And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God:

<sup>27</sup> Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.

#### Isaiah 13:3-5

<sup>3</sup> I have commanded my sanctified ones, I have also called my mighty ones for mine anger, even them that rejoice in my highness.

<sup>4</sup> The noise of a multitude in the mountains, like as of a great people; a tumultuous noise of the kingdoms of nations gathered together: the Lord of hosts mustereth the host of the battle.

<sup>5</sup> They come from a far country, from the end of heaven, even the Lord, and the weapons of his indignation, to destroy the whole land.

#### **Daniel 7:13-14**

<sup>13</sup> I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.

<sup>14</sup> And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

#### **Zechariah 2:10**

<sup>10</sup> Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion: for, lo, I come, and I will dwell in the midst of thee, saith the Lord.

#### **Zechariah 14:4-5**

<sup>4</sup> And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.

<sup>5</sup> And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the Lord my God shall come, and all the saints with thee.

#### **Psalms 96:13**

<sup>13</sup> Before the Lord: for he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth.

#### **Jesus said He was Coming back!**

#### **Matthew 25:31**

<sup>31</sup> When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

#### **The Angels said Jesus was Coming back!**

#### **Acts 1:10-11**

<sup>10</sup> And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

<sup>11</sup> Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

#### **Paul said that Jesus was Coming back!**

## **2 Thessalonians 1:7-10**

<sup>7</sup> And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

<sup>8</sup> In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

<sup>9</sup> Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

<sup>10</sup> When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

## **2 Thessalonians 2:1-2**

<sup>1</sup> Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

<sup>2</sup> That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

## **1 Thessalonians 3:13**

<sup>13</sup> To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

## **1 Corinthians 11:26**

<sup>26</sup> For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

## **James said that Jesus was Coming back!:**

### **James 5:7-9**

<sup>7</sup> Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.

<sup>8</sup> Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.

<sup>9</sup> Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door.

## **John said that Jesus was Coming back!:**

### **1 John 2:28**

<sup>28</sup> And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

## **Jude said that Jesus was Coming back! :**

### **Jude 1:14-15**

<sup>14</sup> And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,

<sup>15</sup> To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

In the 260 chapters of the New Testament, there are 318 references to the second advent of Christ—an amazing **1 out of every 30 verses**. Twenty-three of the 27 New Testament books refer to this great event. For every prophecy in the Bible concerning Christ's first advent, there are 8 which look forward to His second!

The revelation of the second coming of Jesus is one of the most important and most frequently mentioned doctrines of the New Testament. **One out of every twenty-five verses** in the New Testament refers either to the rapture of the church or to Christ's coming to reign over the world!

**\*\*Side Teaching Moment: The Bible describes the Rapture and Second Coming as different events.**

The Bible sees **The Rapture** (John 14:1-4; I Cor. 15:51-58; 1 Thes. 4:13-18) and **The Second Coming** (Zech. 14:1-21; Matt. 24:29-31; Mark 13:24-27; Luke 21:25-27; Rev. 19) as separate events, because when the verses are compared they describe two very different events:

1. Rapture — believers meet Christ in the air  
Second Coming — Christ returns to the Mount of Olives to meet the believers on earth
2. Rapture — Mount of Olives is unchanged  
Second Coming — Mount of Olives is divided, forming a valley east of Jerusalem
3. Rapture — living believers obtain glorified bodies  
Second Coming — living believers remain in same bodies
4. Rapture — believers go to heaven  
Second Coming — glorified believers come from heaven, earthly believers stay on earth
5. Rapture — world left unjudged and living in sin  
Second Coming — world is judged and righteousness is established
6. Rapture — depicts deliverance of the Church from wrath  
Second Coming — depicts deliverance of believers who endured wrath
7. Rapture — no signs precede it  
Second Coming — many signs precede it
8. Rapture — revealed only in New Testament  
Second Coming — revealed in both Old and New Testaments
9. Rapture — deals with only the saved  
Second Coming — deals with both the saved and unsaved
10. Rapture — Satan remains free  
Second Coming — Satan is bound and thrown into the Abyss

## **End Time Chronology:**

**1. First we get Raptured! We meet The Lord in the air and return to Heaven with Him, the Seven year Great Tribulation begins.**

### **Matthew 24:21**

<sup>21</sup> For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

**So, what are we doing in Heaven during The Great Tribulation?**

**2. We are being judged. This is called The Judgment Seat of Christ.**

### **2 Corinthians 5:10**

<sup>10</sup> For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

### **Romans 14:10**

<sup>10</sup> But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

**3. Then there's the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. This feast celebrates the spiritual marriage of Christ's Bride — the Church — to her Savior, The Lord Jesus.**

### **Revelation 19:7-9**

<sup>7</sup> Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

<sup>8</sup> And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

<sup>9</sup> And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

**4. Then following the Marriage Supper of the Lamb and is the Church's preparation to follow the King of Kings into the Battle of Armageddon at the conclusion of the Tribulation. This event is the Second Coming of Jesus Christ!**

### **Revelation 19:11-21**

<sup>11</sup> And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

<sup>12</sup> His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

<sup>13</sup> And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

<sup>14</sup> And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

<sup>15</sup> And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

<sup>16</sup> And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, King Of Kings, And Lord Of Lords.

<sup>17</sup> And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;

<sup>18</sup> That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.

<sup>19</sup> And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

<sup>20</sup> And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

<sup>21</sup> And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

### **Remember, The Lord will return after The Great Tribulation**

#### **Matthew 24:29-31**

<sup>29</sup> Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

<sup>30</sup> And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

<sup>31</sup> And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

**5. Christ Sets Up Millennial Kingdom** - The millennial reign of Christ will begin, a time during which the false prophet and the beast (Antichrist), the first to be thrown into the lake of fire, will begin to serve their eternal sentences. Satan will be confined in the bottomless pit, and there will be none of his minions to torment and tempt the millennial earth-dwellers. It will be a time much like the times of Eden, with the earth restored to its pristine beauty. After the 1,000 years, the devil will be released from the pit for a short space of time. He will lead millions of those who have been born during the millennium in an assault on Christ at Jerusalem. God will send down fire and consume them all. Satan will be cast into the lake of fire. The lost dead will be resurrected (their eternal bodies joined to their souls), and all will stand before the great white throne of Christ to be judged. All will be cast into the lake of fire for eternity. (Read Rev. 20:10-15.)

**6.** The Devil, the beast and false prophet are cast into The Lake of Fire and The Great White Throne Judgment begins which judges all people who rejected Jesus.



**Revelation 20:10-15**

<sup>10</sup> 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.

<sup>11</sup> 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.

<sup>12</sup> 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.

<sup>13</sup> 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.

<sup>14</sup> And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

<sup>15</sup> And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

**7. Eternity** with The Blessed Trinity, The Angels and all Believers!



## Pastor Hank's Notes on: 2 Peter

**Chapter 3 Outline:** The Apostle Peter declares it to be the design of both his Epistles to remind the brethren of Christ's coming to judgment, in opposition to scoffers, verses 1-7. Revelations concerning the "day of the Lord," with refutation of the mockers, verses 8-13. Exhortations and showing that Paul had taught the like in his Epistles. Being steadfastness with advice to beware of seduction, and to grow in Christian grace and knowledge, the doxology, verses 14-18.

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### Verse 5

<sup>5</sup> **For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:**

**For this they willingly are ignorant of...** Their ignorance is voluntary and willfully; they do not *wish* to know. They do not care to know or consider **the word of God**.

First these scoffers mocked and scoffed at The Second Coming of Jesus in verses 1-4, now these **scoffers**, in their quest to avoid the doctrine of **judgment (verse 7)**, deliberately ignore the two major divine events being described here – The Creation and The Flood.

**by the word of God... Tow fold explanation:**

**(1)** They are willingly and ignorant of the command of God. Throughout the Six Day Creation in Genesis chapter one we read; "And God said"- this is the commandment of God!

**(2) by the word of God...** Jesus is The Word of God!

### John 1:1-3

**1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

<sup>2</sup> The same was in the beginning with God.

<sup>3</sup> All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

### Hebrews 1:1-3

**1** God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

<sup>2</sup> Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

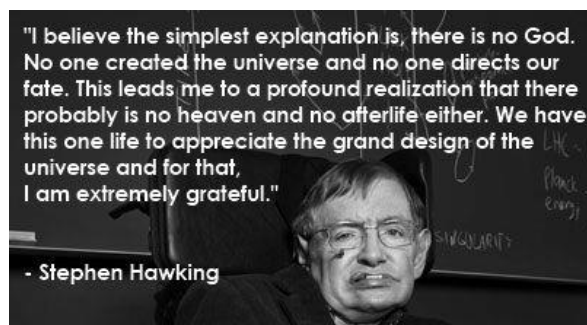
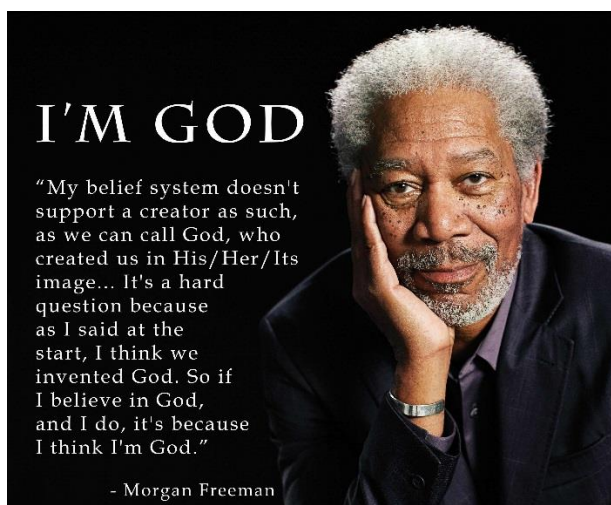
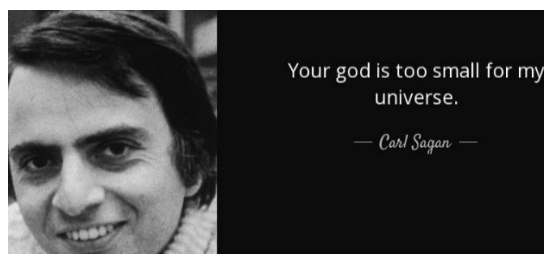
<sup>3</sup> Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, **and upholding all things by the word of his power**, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high:

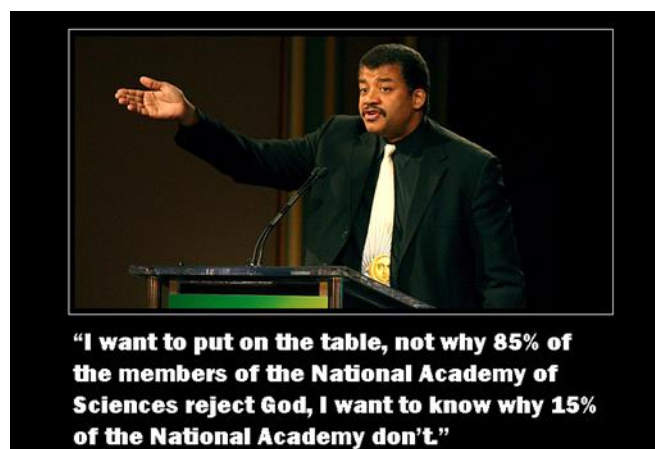
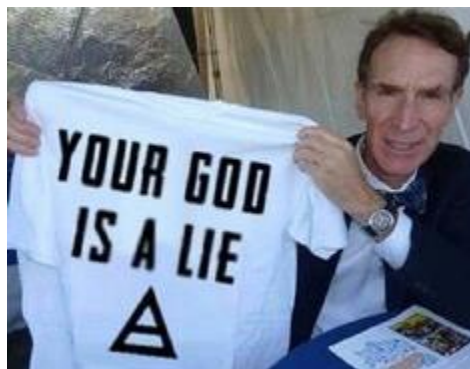
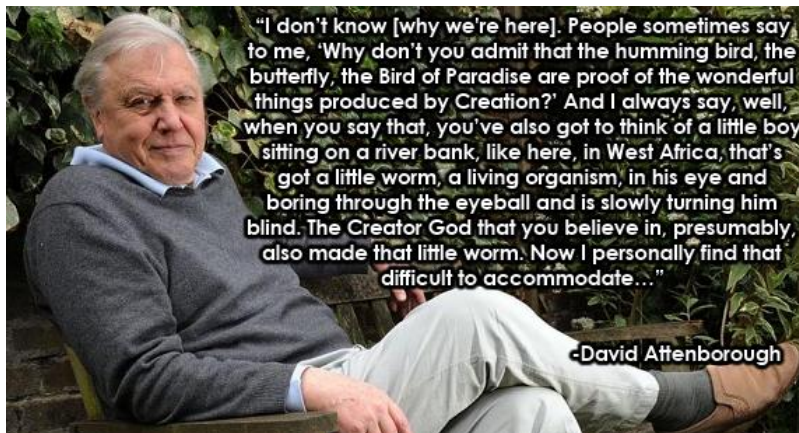
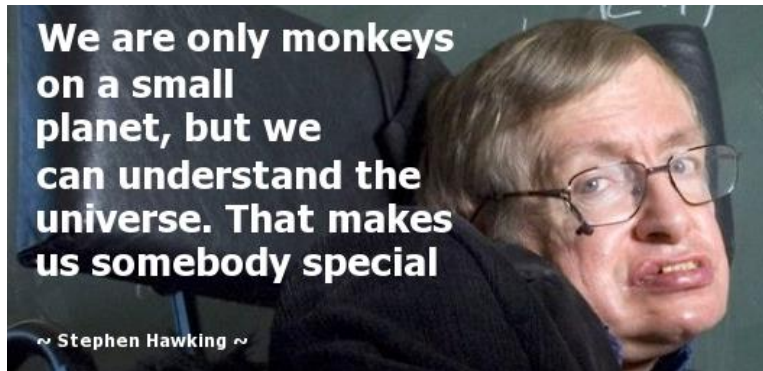
Peter's point is that things on this earth have not always continued the way they are now. The earth was different when God first created it and then it was different again after the flood. Therefore no

one should **scoff** at God's promise that He will make it different once again in the future, judging it not with water but with **fire**!

Peter warns us that in the last days people are going to be saying “everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.” Evolutionists of course tell us that the earth has been in existence for billions of years, and that life started evolving on this earth billions of years ago. Unfortunately, some Christians also hold this same belief which says things have gone on for billions of years. The technical word used in geology for this belief is ‘uniformitarianism’. Geologists have the idea that the processes we see operating in the present world have been going on for billions of years at essentially the same rate, and will probably go on for billions of years into the future as well.

Man Worships Science, a lot of TV shows people spend a lot of time watching are **Science Shows**: Cosmos, Carl Sagan Atheist, Through the Wormhole, Morgan Freeman, Atheist, The Story of God, Morgan Freeman, Atheist, Into the Universe with Stephen Hawking, Stephen Hawking is an Atheist too, Planet Earth, The Blue Earth, Living with Dinosaurs, Galapagos 3D, Africa and another 25 or so Science Documentaries, David Attenborough, Atheist, Bill Nye the Science Guy and Neil deGrasse Tyson, Atheist...







**and the earth standing out of the water and in the water...** The earth was formed between two realms of watery mass. During the early part of the creation week, God collected the upper waters into a canopy around the whole earth, and the lower waters into underground reservoirs, rivers, lakes and seas with atmosphere between the two.

### **Genesis 1:6-10**

<sup>6</sup> And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.

<sup>7</sup> And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so.

<sup>8</sup> And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.

<sup>9</sup> And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so.

<sup>10</sup> And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good.

And these scoffers willing and ignorantly scoff and deny The Creation and The Flood...

### **Verse 6**

<sup>6</sup> Whereby the **world** that then was, being overflowed with **water, perished**:

The lesson taught by the flood was this is a **moral world** and that sin will not go unpunished. God used the **water** to punish a wicked **world and the world perished**. Jesus himself used the flood to point to this moral view (Matthew 24:37-39). But these men chose to neglect it and mock it.

The argument used by the **scoffers** is phony. **For this they willingly are ignorant** is that God did intervene in judgment at the time of the Flood. God's intervention and interruption of the orderly process of nature in the devastating event of the great flood proved several things, which sadly these **scoffers** willfully put out of their minds. **Some Simple Truths:**

(1) God did interrupt the steady rhythm of the earth. He did it once and certainly He can do it again.

(2) The excessive wickedness of men caused the first interruption/destruction, and it's prophesized that excessive wickedness will again cause another interruption/destruction.

(3) It is quite easy for God to do such a thing. It was the mere **word of God** that created all things. Only a word brought the flood. Another word will bring another judgment: fire.

(4) The flood came upon the promise of God to Noah that it would be done. God kept that promise.

(5) God has now promised that the world will be destroyed by fire; and God will keep that promise also.

### **Verse 7**

<sup>7</sup> But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, **reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.**

This verse is one of the clearest prophecy in The Bible of the final inferno of the universe.

## **Fire, Destruction, Judgment and Perdition of the ungodly:**

**Perdition means:** The state of being in hell forever as punishment after death.

### **Isaiah 64:2**

<sup>2</sup> **As when the melting fire burneth, the fire causeth the waters to boil**, to make thy name known to thine adversaries, that the nations may tremble at thy presence!

### **Isaiah 66:15**

<sup>15</sup> For, behold, **the LORD will come with fire**, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke **with flames of fire**.

### **Daniel 7:9-10**

<sup>9</sup> I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne **was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire**.

<sup>10</sup> A **fiery** stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.

### **Micah 1:4**

<sup>4</sup> And the mountains shall be **molten** under him, and the valleys shall be cleft, as wax before the **fire**, and as the waters that are poured down a steep place.

### **Malachi 4:1**

**1** For, behold, the day cometh, that shall **burn** as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall **burn** them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

### **2 Thessalonians 1:7-8**

<sup>7</sup> And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

<sup>8</sup> **In flaming fire** taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

### **Zephaniah 1:18**

<sup>18</sup> Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD's wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the **fire** of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land.

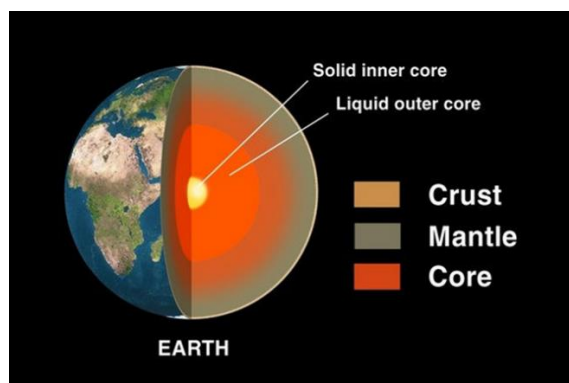
### **Zephaniah 3:8**

<sup>8</sup> Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the LORD, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger: **for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy**.

### **Psalms 75:2-3**

<sup>2</sup> When I shall receive the congregation I will judge uprightly.

<sup>3</sup> The earth and all the inhabitants thereof are dissolved: I bear up the pillars of it. Selah.



Earth has multiple layers: the crust, the mantle, the liquid outer core and the solid inner core.

*Credit: NASA*

A team of scientists has measured the melting point of iron at high precision in a laboratory, and then drew from that result to calculate the temperature at the boundary of Earth's inner and outer core — now estimated at 6,000 C (about 10,800 F). That's as hot as the surface of the Sun!

### **Some Concluding Thoughts:**

The Sciences should not be reserved only for atheists. There can and should be fields where Christians are actively involved. Here are a few reasons I believe Christians should be involved in science.

#### **1. Creation Speaks to a Creator**

First, creation speaks to a creator. **Because we know there is a creator, we should be the ones most concerned about his creation.** By this, I don't just mean caring for creation in a stewardship sense, though it certainly would include that. Creation speaks to the fact that God is, and He has created!

In Romans 1, Paul points out that attributes of God are made clear in creation:

#### **Romans 1:20**

<sup>20</sup> For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

If Scripture says creation, and therefore the sciences that explore it, point to God, why would we run away from that? We, above all others, should love, study, explore, examine and care for the creation that points to and provides evidence of God as The Creator.

## 2. Dismissing Science Undermines Witness

Second, dismissing science undermines our witness. Many Evangelicals are backing away from science. In a society driven by scientific achievement, it is unwise and counterproductive to our mission for Christians to embrace an antiscience label.

If we think being anti-science is a good platform for the Church, it should give us pause that Christians abandoning the sciences is a particularly modern phenomenon. In centuries past, people of faith, including Pastors, often engaged in scientific study because they were pursuing greater knowledge of The Creator, and it granted them greater influence within the culture.

Scientists of Faith have played a significant role in the founding of various scientific disciplines such as astronomy, genetics and chemistry.

Sir Isaac Newton is well known as one of the greatest scientists who ever lived. Less well known is his deep belief in God and his conviction that scientific investigation leads to a greater knowledge of God the Creator of the Universe.

Isaac Newton lived at a time when politics, religion and education were not separated. King Charles II commanded that everyone who taught at places such as Trinity College, where Church of England ministers were trained, must themselves be ordained as Church of England ministers after seven years.



Sir Isaac Newton used prisms to show that sunlight was made up of all the colors of the rainbow. This proved that the ancient Greeks ideas about light were wrong.

**Newton's law of universal gravitation** states that a particle attracts every other particle in the universe using a force that is directly proportional to the product of their masses and inversely proportional to the square of the distance between them.

When Newton was investigating the movement of the planets, he quite clearly saw the hand of God at work. He wrote:



“This most beautiful system of the sun, planets, and comets, could only proceed from the counsel and dominion of an intelligent Being. ... This Being governs all things, not as the soul of the world, but as Lord over all; and on account of his dominion he is wont to be called “Lord God”. ... The Supreme God is a Being eternal, infinite, absolutely perfect.”

His work in physics, mathematics and astronomy is of importance even today. His contributions in any one of these fields would have made him famous; collectively, they make him truly outstanding. But Newton remained a modest man who loved his Lord and Saviour.

He loved God and believed God’s Word—all of it. He wrote: “I have a fundamental belief in the Bible as the Word of God, written by men who were inspired. I study the Bible daily.”

### **3. Science Can Better Society**

We can thank Science for advanced: Medical Care, Pharmaceutical Medications, Diet, Travel, Air-conditioning, Farming, etc...

Societies are transformed for the better and the world looks and is more of what God intended it to be!

### **4. God used a Doctor to write Two Books of The Bible: Dr. \_\_\_\_\_?**

#### **Colossians 4:14**

<sup>14</sup> Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you.

**Dr. Luke** could have built up a comfortable practice in such a city as Antioch (where he probably met Paul), but he chose instead to serve the Lord in this sacrificial and much-needed capacity of helping Paul. Paul spoke of his "thorn in the flesh," (II Corinthians 12:7), for example, and his "infirmities" (II Corinthians 12:9). We don't know what these were, although they affected him "in the flesh," and thus presumably needed a Doctor's care from time to time. Paul had also suffered much actual physical persecution during his ministry (II Corinthians 11:23-27), and undoubtedly needed Luke's medical help on many occasions. As a scientist, it is interesting to me that the only one of Paul's followers who stayed with him to the end was also a Scientist (II Timothy 4:11).

#### **2 Timothy 4:11**

<sup>11</sup> Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.

**Dr. Luke**, it is good to remember that he was a creationist and delighted in reporting Paul's references to God as Creator. When the chief priests and elders first commanded the apostles "not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus" (Acts 4:18) they simply prayed, beginning their prayers by saying: "Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is" (Acts 4:24). Then they prayed to God "that with all boldness they may speak thy word" (Acts 4:29), and great numbers were won to Christ.

### **Just beware of “The Kooky Atheist Scientists”!**

#### **1 Timothy 6:20-21**

<sup>20</sup> O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of **science falsely so called**:

<sup>21</sup> **Which some professing have erred concerning the faith.** Grace be with thee. Amen.

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**Chapter 3 Outline:** The Apostle Peter declares it to be the design of both his Epistles to remind the brethren of Christ's coming to judgment, in opposition to scoffers, verses 1-7. Revelations concerning the "day of the Lord," with refutation of the mockers, verses 8-13. Exhortations and showing that Paul had taught the like in his Epistles. Being steadfastness with advice to beware of seduction, and to grow in Christian grace and knowledge, the doxology, verses 14-18.

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**Verse 8-13, Truths that scoffers deny, but God's people cling to: "The Day of The Lord"**

<sup>8</sup> But, **beloved**, be not ignorant of this one thing, **that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.**

**beloved...** This word is somewhat of a keynote in this chapter, occurring here, and in 2 Peter 3:1, 14, 15 & 17. It contrasts with the intense pronouncements against the false teachers and scoffers. **"Beloved"** This attitude toward the readers of his letter reflects Peter's pastoral concern (1 Peter 5:1-4).

**that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day...** Peter bases this verse from:

**Psalm 90:4**

<sup>4</sup> For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.

Peter did not give some prophetic formula, saying that a prophetic day somehow equals a thousand years. He instead communicated a general principle **regarding how we see time and how God sees time.**

When people use this verse as a rigid prophetic key it opens the door for great error.



**False Prophet and False Teacher** Harold Camping presented several arguments labeled "numerological" by the mainstream media, which he considered biblical proofs, in favor of the May 21, 2011 end time. A civil engineer by training, Camping stated he had attempted to work out mathematically-based prophecies in the Bible for decades. In an interview with the San

Francisco Chronicle he explained "... I was an engineer, I was very interested in the numbers. I'd wonder, 'Why did God put this number in, or that number in?' It was not a question of unbelief, it was a question of, 'There must be a reason for it.'"

In 1970, Camping dated the Great Flood to 4990 BC. Using this date, taking the statement in Genesis 7:4 ("For yet seven days, and I will cause it to rain upon the earth") to be a prediction of the end of the world, and combining it with **2 Peter 3:8** ("**with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day**"), Camping concluded that the end of the world would occur in 2011, 7000 years from 4990 BC. Camping takes the 17th day of the second month mentioned in Genesis 7:11 to be May 21, and hence predicts the Rapture to occur on this date.

...And we know the result: The Lord didn't return and Harold Camping is a False Teacher and False Prophet...

Peter's paraphrase from Psalm 90:4 encouraged his readers to not let this one fact escape **their** notice—that God's perspective on time is much different from humanity's. The amount of earthly time that passes is of no consequence from God's timeless perspective. A moment is no different from an **eon**, and **eons** pass like moments to the eternal God.

**Eon** = an indefinite and very long period of time.

What may seem like a long time to believers, **like a thousand years**, is actually short, **like one day**, in God's sight. In context, Peter is contending that, while Christ's return may seem far off to human beings, it is imminent from God's perspective. Finite people must not confine an infinite God to their time schedule. The Lord Jesus Christ will return at the *exact* moment determined by God in eternity past. Those who foolishly demand that God operate according to their time frame ignore that He is the "High and Lofty One who inhabiteth eternity" (Isaiah 57:15). Similarly, those who argue that Christ will not return because He has not yet returned demonstrate the height of folly and are **willingly ignorant**.

### **Isaiah 57:15**

<sup>15</sup>For thus saith the high and lofty One that **inhabiteth eternity**, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

Peter here opposed the **scoffers** with two arguments:

- (1) Time is of no consequence to God (verse 8), and
- (2) Through his love for men, God is keeping open the door of repentance for all mankind as long as possible, (verse 9).

### **\*\*Verse 9, very important verse!**

<sup>9</sup>**The Lord is not slack concerning his promise**, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, **not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance**.

**The Lord is not slack concerning his promise...** God is not late in concluding this age, since to Him it is but a brief span of time, but in His longsuffering He continues His plan to save the lost. In patience He allows time for people to repent, "**not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.**" Every promise the Lord made will be kept; with no exceptions.

Whatever He promised, He will do. It may seem to us as if it is a long time coming, but the little time each of us wait is nothing compared to all of eternity.

**What we learn from 2 Peter 3:9 is that:**

1. God does not want anyone at all to go to hell but that He wants **all** to come to repentance.
2. He wants **all** saved and none to perish for all eternity.
3. God's desire that **all** be saved and that none end up in the fires of hell.

**1 Timothy 2:4**

<sup>4</sup> Who will have **all** men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

**Ezekiel 33:11**

<sup>11</sup> Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that **the wicked** turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel? (the wicked=all that are lost)

4. God gave **all** Free Will:

**Question: "Do human beings truly have a Free Will?"**

**Answer:** If "Free Will" means that God gives humans the opportunity to make choices that genuinely affect their destiny, then yes, human beings do have a free will. The world's current sinful state is directly linked to choices made by Adam and Eve. God created mankind in His own image, and that included the ability to choose.

**Question: "Why did God put the tree of knowledge of good and evil in the Garden of Eden?"**

**Answer:** God put the tree of knowledge of good and evil in the Garden of Eden to give Adam and Eve a choice to obey Him or disobey Him. Adam and Eve were free to do anything they wanted, except eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Genesis 2:16-17:

**Genesis 2:16-17**

<sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

<sup>17</sup> But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

If God had not given Adam and Eve the choice, they would have essentially been robots, simply doing what they were programmed to do. God created Adam and Eve to be "free" beings, able to make decisions, able to choose between good and evil. In order for Adam and Eve to truly be free, they had to have a choice.

There was nothing essentially evil about the tree or the fruit of the tree. The physical fruit may have contained some vitamin C and some beneficial fiber, **but it was not spiritually nutritious**. However, the act of disobedience was spiritually deadly. That sin opened Adam's and Eve's eyes to evil. For the first time, they knew what it was to be evil, to feel shame, and to want to hide from God. Their sin of disobeying God brought corruption into their lives and into the world. Eating the

fruit, as a **Free Will act of disobedience against God**, was what gave Adam and Eve the knowledge of evil—and the knowledge of their nakedness (Genesis 3:6–7).

God did not want Adam and Eve to sin. God knew ahead of time what the results of sin would be. This is called God's Foreknowledge. God knew that Adam and Eve would sin and would thereby bring evil, suffering, and death into the world. Why, then, did God allow Satan to tempt Adam and Eve? God allowed Satan to tempt Adam and Eve to force them to make the choice. Adam and Eve chose, of their own free will, to disobey God and eat the forbidden fruit. The results—evil, sin, suffering, sickness, and death—have plagued the world ever since. Adam and Eve's decision results in every person being born with a sin nature, and a tendency to sin. Adam and Eve's decision is what ultimately required Jesus Christ to die on the cross and shed His blood on our behalf. Through faith in Christ, we can be free from sin's consequences, and ultimately free from sin itself.

### **Some Bible verses on Free Will:**

#### **Revelation 2:21**

<sup>21</sup> And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.

#### **1 Corinthians 9:17**

<sup>17</sup> For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me.

The Bible often expresses Free Will by human self by referring to the “heart.” Jesus says the heart is like a tree:

#### **Luke 6:45**

<sup>45</sup> A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

Jesus teaches that “For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies” (Matt. 15:19).

This contradicts **Reformed Theology/Calvinism** that everything in history reflects God's sovereign will. The Bible frequently reflects the will of creatures who oppose the sovereign will of the Creator. The Bible clearly teaches that God unequivocally does not will sin. But obviously sin still occurs. Similarly, the Bible explicitly states that it is not God's will that any person would perish (1 Timothy 2:4; **2 Peter 3:9**). But many nevertheless do perish. **Hence, it is clear that God's will is not always accomplished, and God's heart is frequently grieved.**

Only in this light does Jesus' lament over Jerusalem make any sense:

#### **Matthew 23:37**

<sup>37</sup> O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, **and ye would not!**

The heart of God, clearly, is a heart which grants freedom, and which sometimes suffers profoundly because of it. In the case of Matthew 23:37, what the Son of God longed for, the Son of God didn't get! Why? They “**would not**” (FREE WILL).

**What we learn from 2 Peter 3:9 is that: God died for **all****

**5.** Christ has died for **all** and that He wants **all** saved and none to perish for all eternity.

**1 John 2:2**

<sup>2</sup> And he is the propitiation for our sins: and **not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.**

**Romans 5:6**

<sup>6</sup> For when we were yet without strength, in due time **Christ died for the ungodly.**

**John 1:29**

<sup>29</sup> The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin **of the world.**

**Hebrews 2:9**

<sup>9</sup> But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

**2 Corinthians 5:14-15**

<sup>14</sup> For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:

<sup>15</sup> **And that he died for all**, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

**1 Timothy 2:5-6**

<sup>5</sup> For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

<sup>6</sup> **Who gave himself a ransom for all**, to be testified in due time.

**Titus 2:11**

<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to **all men**,

**1 Timothy 2:3-4**

<sup>3</sup> For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

<sup>4</sup> Who will have **all men to be saved**, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

**Luke 19:10**

<sup>10</sup> For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was **lost**.

**\*\*The "lost" refers to the entire world of lost humanity, not just the lost elect.**

**John 4:42**

<sup>42</sup> And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the **Christ, the Saviour of the world.**

**John 8:12**

<sup>12</sup> Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, **I am the light of the world:** he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

**\*\* Jesus is not the light of the elect, He is the light to the world!**

## 1 John 4:14

<sup>14</sup> And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.

## Isaiah 53:6

<sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of **us all**.

Those who do **perish** and go to hell, go because they are depraved and worthy only of hell and through **FREE WILL** have rejected the only remedy, Jesus Christ, **not because they were created for hell and pre-determined to go there**.

**all Lives Matter to God, only Reformed Theology/Calvinism teaches that only some lives matter to God!**



Peter's statement that God is “**not willing that any should perish**” (verse 9) reflects God's heart of love for the world! John 3:16!

"So wonderful is his love towards mankind, that he would have them all to be saved, and is of his own self prepared to bestow salvation on the lost." – John Calvin



## Pastor Hank's Notes on: 2 Peter

**Chapter 3 Outline:** The Apostle Peter declares it to be the design of both his Epistles to remind the brethren of Christ's coming to judgment, in opposition to scoffers, verses 1-7. Revelations concerning the "day of the Lord," with refutation of the mockers, verses 8-13. Exhortations and showing that Paul had taught the like in his Epistles. Being steadfastness with advice to beware of seduction, and to grow in Christian grace and knowledge, the doxology, verses 14-18.

### The Day of The Lord!

#### Verse 10

<sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

**The day of the Lord ...** This is The Second Coming and the judgment. This phrase occurs frequently in the Bible, reminding us over and over again that although God is merciful and longsuffering, He will not remain silent forever. Man's "day" will end someday, and the day of the Lord will come.

#### Isaiah 2:12

<sup>12</sup> For the day of the LORD of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low:

#### Joel 1:15

<sup>15</sup> Alas for the day! for the day of the LORD is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come.

Jesus 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 the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat**).

**As a thief ... Paul** used this figure of the thief's sudden coming:

#### 1 Thessalonians 5:2

<sup>2</sup> For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh **as a thief in the night**.

**The Apostle John** used it twice:

#### Revelation 3:3

<sup>3</sup> Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, **I will come on thee as a thief**, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

#### Revelation 16:15

<sup>15</sup> Behold, **I come as a thief**. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

But it was **Jesus** who first used it:

#### Matthew 24:43

<sup>43</sup> But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch **the thief would come**, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.



**in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise,...**The “heavens” refer to the physical universe. The “**great noise**” signifies a whistling or a crackling sounds of physical objects being consumed by fire and flames.

**and the elements shall melt with fervent heat...** God could destroy the earth again as He did in the days of the flood. There is still enough water to drown the earth, and there is SIN enough to provoke God to destroy it and its inhabitants. Yet God has promised to deal with this world with fire (**fervent heat**), not flooding.

**the elements...** The elements are the basic building blocks of all material things, the very atoms themselves. These words were written by Peter long before the atomic age, but they fit strikingly into the atomic vocabulary.

**the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up...** All the works of nature, cattle, trees, etc... All the works of wicked men, and all the works of men, cities, towns, houses, furniture, utensils, instruments of arts of all sorts, will be burnt by a fire.

### **Some Additional Thoughts on “That Day”, by Pastor Hank:**

#### **1. On That Day, The Almighty Power of The LORD GOD of Hosts will be displayed!**

**JEHOVAH SABAOTH** is the Lord of Hosts; and we are to understand the word hosts means, as including the host of heaven, the angels and minister of the Lord; the stars and planets, which, as an army ranged in battle array, perform the will of God, a truly great army, of which **The LORD GOD of Hosts** is the General and Commander! God as Lord over earthly or heavenly armies!

**Amos 4:13**

<sup>13</sup> For, lo, he that formeth the mountains, and createth the wind, and declareth unto man what is his thought, that maketh the morning darkness, and treadeth upon the high places of the earth, **The LORD, The God of hosts**, is his name.

**Isaiah 2:12**

<sup>12</sup> **For the day of the LORD of hosts** shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low:

**2. That Day is a Day of God's Fierce Anger:****Isaiah 13:13**

<sup>13</sup> Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, **and in the day of his fierce anger**.

**3. That Day is a Day of God's Vengeance!****Proverbs 6:34**

<sup>34</sup> For jealousy is the rage of a man: therefore he will not spare **in the day of vengeance**.

**4. That Day is a Day of God's Wrath!****Zephaniah 1:15**

<sup>15</sup> **That day is a day of wrath**, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness,

**5. That Day will be a Dark Day!****Amos 5:20**

<sup>20</sup> Shall not **the day of the LORD be darkness**, and not light? even very dark, and no brightness in it?

**6. You can't Bribe your way out of That Day!****Zephaniah 1:18**

<sup>18</sup> **Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD's** wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land.

**7. That Day is Near!****Zephaniah 1:14**

<sup>14</sup> **The great day of the LORD is near**, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the LORD: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly.

**8. That Day Cometh!****Malachi 4:1**

<sup>1</sup> For, behold, **the day cometh**, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

**9. Christians ought to warn a lost and dying World about That Day!**

**Joel 2:1**

**1** Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for **the day of the LORD** cometh, for it is nigh at hand;

**10. You better get SAVED before That Day comes!**

**Zephaniah 2:3**

<sup>3</sup> Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in **the day of the LORD's** anger.

Just as the day of the flood finally came, **That Day** of Fire and Judgment is coming!

**Verse 11**

<sup>11</sup> Seeing then that all these things shall be **dissolved**, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all **holy conversation and godliness**,

In light of the fact that this world order and the things associated with it will be **dissolved by Fire**, we should live our lives seeking first the Kingdom of God and its righteousness - that is, having **holy conduct and godliness. We should live right-Holy Living!**

**Verse 12**

<sup>12</sup> **Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God**, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

**Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God...** With a continuing expectancy in our hearts, believers should continue looking for the “grand finale” of history, as divinely planned and set forth in prophetic Scripture. “Hasting” means eagerly desiring or enthusiastically anticipating the coming of the “**day of God.**” Christians are not to fear the future day of God, but eagerly **Looking for** it.

**Revelation 22:20**

<sup>20</sup> He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. **Even so, come, Lord Jesus.**

**Day of God ...** in this verse is used of the very same day called "**the day of the Lord**" in 2 Peter 3:10, where Jesus Christ is clearly intended, being an accompanying and powerful witness of the apostolic identification of the Lord Jesus Christ with Deity, Jesus is God!

Peter called Jesus God in his opening verse of Second Peter:

**2 Peter 1:1**

**1** Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through **the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:**

**Verse 13**

<sup>13</sup> Nevertheless we, **according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.**

**according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth...** God had said through Isaiah that a new heavens and a new earth would be created, and that the former heaven and earth would be no more.

**Isaiah 65:17**

<sup>17</sup> For, behold, I create **new heavens and a new earth**: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

**Isaiah 66:22**

<sup>22</sup> For as **the new heavens and the new earth**, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain.

**wherein dwelleth righteousness...** The most glorious characteristic of this new heaven and new earth is that it is a place in which righteousness dwells. In God's plan of the ages, this happens after the millennial earth ruled by Jesus Christ.

**Revelation 21:27**

<sup>27</sup> And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

**Revelation 21:1-2**

<sup>1</sup> And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

<sup>2</sup> And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.



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### Verse 14

**<sup>14</sup> Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.**

**Wherefore, beloved seeing that ye look for ...** Peter is saying, in view of you have just read in his Epistle, you have now been forewarned, beware of mockers and scoffers in the last days. How then should we live? Peter will answer this at the end of the verse!

**Such things...** Christ's coming to judgment; the destruction of this world; a new heaven and a new earth, in which dwells righteousness.

**Of him...** Christ the Judge.

If we are truly a new creature in Christ when we are saved, then we should walk truly in the Salvation He has provided for us. We should be dead to the world and alive unto Jesus. He washed us in His blood and clothed us in His righteousness. We should never take the robe of righteousness off. Our walk in life should tell the world our standing with Christ. How then should we live?

**(Answer) in peace...** One with another; for peace makers and keepers are called the children of God, and so heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; or in happiness and glory, expressed by peace, which is the end of the righteous man, which he enters into at death, and will rest in to all eternity. **In peace** — in all its aspects, towards God, your own consciences, and your fellow man.

**(Answer) without spot, and blameless...** Christians should have a spotless character and a blameless reputation. These characteristics are in graphic contrast to the false teachers and false prophets (2:13), but like Christ (1 Peter 1:19).

In contrast to the False Prophets and False Teachers and all who follow them:

### 2 Peter 2:13

**<sup>13</sup> And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you;**

### Verses 15 & 16, Showing that Paul had taught the like in his Epistles:

**Verse 15 And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation;** even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;

**And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation...** This is related to verse 9. The "scoffers" in verse 9 are wondering why the Lord has not already come back, and scoff at if He is truly coming. In verse 15 we see the reason for the delay. **Our Lord** is waiting patiently (**longsuffering**) for those who will receive Him as Savior.

Peter affirmed **Paul's** teaching in the warmest terms. He called **Paul a beloved brother** and said that **Paul** wrote with **wisdom**.

Peter calls **Paul** a "brother", on account of his being a believer in Christ and Peter calls Paul "beloved" expressing his affection for him.

This praise from Peter is even more wonderful when we remember that at one time Paul publicly rebuked Peter for public compromise:

### **Galatians 2:11**

<sup>11</sup> But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed.

### **Psalm 141:5**

<sup>5</sup> Let the righteous smite me; it shall be a kindness: and let him reprove me; it shall be an excellent oil, which shall not break my head: for yet my prayer also shall be in their calamities.

**From this reference to Paul the following things are clear:**

- (1) That Peter was aware with his writings;
- (2) That Peter recognized that those to whom he wrote were also acquainted with them;
- (3) That Peter regarded Paul as a "beloved brother," notwithstanding the solemn rebuke which Paul had had occasion to administer to him, Galatians 2:11.
- (4) That Peter regarded Paul as an authority in inculcating the doctrines and duties of religion; and,
- (5) That Peter regarded Paul as an inspired man, and his writings as a part of divine truth.

The writings of the Apostles were extensively circulated; and one Apostle, though himself inspired, could not but feel a deep interest in the writings of another. There would be cases also, as in the instance before us, in which one would wish to confirm his own sentiments by the acknowledged wisdom, experience, and authority of another. In Ezekiel, Ezekiel mentions of his contemporary Daniel. Peter and Jude as well.

### **Verse 16**

<sup>16</sup> As also **in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things**; in which are **some things hard to be understood**, which they that are **unlearned and unstable** wrest, as they do **also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction**.

**In all his epistles ...** This indicates that Peter was familiar with a number of the New Testament **epistles** attributed to Paul in the New Testament, all of them being considered "**Scripture**" and "**Inspired**." Peter praises the very Epistles which contain his condemnation!

**Speaking in them of these things ...** There are many subjects discussed in 1 & 2 Peter, which were also discussed by Paul in his letters. Among these are: (1) the great apostasy; (2) the eternal judgment; (3) The Second Coming of Christ; (4) the longsuffering of God; (5) the character of lawless and wicked men; (6) the need for watchfulness; (7) the fact of sinners being slaves of sin. (8) Husband-Wife relationship.

### **Ephesians 5:22**

<sup>22</sup> Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.



### 1 Peter 3:1

**1** Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;

**some things hard to be understood...** Though Peter praised Paul's ministry, he admitted that some things in Paul's writings were **hard to be understood**, and those who were **unlearned and unstable** could use some of the difficulties **unto their own destruction**. (Hello False Teachers and False Prophets)

**also the other scriptures...** This is one of the most clear-cut statements in the Bible to affirm that the writings of Paul are **Scripture**. Peter's testimony is that Paul wrote **scripture**, but the false teachers distorted it **unto their own (and others) destruction**.

### Verse 17

<sup>17</sup> Ye therefore, beloved, **seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also**, being led away with **the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness**.

**Seeing ye know these things before...** The things that Peter has written to them in his two Epistles.

Beware... means: to be cautious of or on guard against, guard (against), look out (for), mind, ware, watch out (for). Related Words: attend, heed, mark, note, notice; behold, discern, observe, perceive, see, watch.

**beware lest ye also...** as others did not beware. Opposite of beware: disregard, ignore, miss, overlook.

**the error of the wicked...** Of The False Teachers, False Prophets and the Scoffers...

**fall from your own stedfastness...** Do not fall from the firm devotion of your faith, beware from being led away. This admonition Peter gives them, is not to discourage them with fear of apostasy, but to awaken them as to prevent it.

Paul also spoke on this same subject:

### 1 Corinthians 10:12

<sup>12</sup> Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed **lest he fall**.

### 1 Corinthians 15:58

<sup>58</sup> Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye **stedfast**, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

God gives His people plenty of warning, God has prepared the Church for the trials and challenges of the future. We have been given all things pertaining to life and godliness and all things necessary to maintain a relationship with God! The **Scriptures** will enable any Christian to be prepared against any error which man will invent.

### 2 Timothy 3:16-17

<sup>16</sup> All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

<sup>17</sup> That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

**Bible Warning of Somethings to Beware of:**

**Matthew 7:15**

<sup>15</sup> **Beware** of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

**Philippians 3:2**

<sup>2</sup> Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision.

Dogs= impure filthy persons. Evil Workers= deceitful workers. Concision= contemptuous term for circumcision.

**Colossians 2:8**

<sup>8</sup> **Beware** lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

Philosophy= All the "ism's" of the world.

Vain deceit= That which is vain and empty, and has no solid foundation=Empty Religion.

Tradition of men= Either of the Gentiles, who had their traditions in religion; or of the Jews, called the traditions of the elders, and of the fathers, which the Pharisees were fond of.

Rudiments of the world= The ceremonial laws of the Jews.

Not after Christ= Not according to the simple doctrine of Christ= He died for our offenses; believe on the Lord Jesus, and thou shalt be saved.

**Luke 12:15**

<sup>15</sup> And he said unto them, Take heed, and **beware of covetousness**: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

What's The Tenth Commandment? \_\_\_\_\_

**Deuteronomy 8:11**

<sup>11</sup> **Beware** that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day:

**Benediction-Doxology-Conclusion:****Verse 18**

<sup>18</sup> But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

**But grow...** "Beware" in 2 Peter 3:17 and "grow" here, are seen as, "the essence and theme of this whole epistle." There are false teachers around; **beware!** A Call to **"grow"** has been sounded.

**But grow in grace...** "Increase in the image and favor of God; every grace and Divine influence which ye have received is a seed, a heavenly seed, which, if it be watered with the dew of heaven from above, will endlessly increase and multiply itself. He who continues to believe, love, and obey, will grow in grace, and continually increase in the knowledge of Jesus Christ, as his sacrifice, sanctifier, counsellor, preserver, and final Savior. The life of a Christian is a growth; he is at first born of God, and is a little child; becomes a young man, and a father in Christ. Every father was once an infant; and had he not grown, he would have never been a man. Those who content themselves with the grace they received when converted to God, are, at best, in a continual state

of infancy: but we find, in the order of nature, that the infant that does not grow, and grow daily, too, is sickly and soon dies; so, in the order of grace, those who do not grow up into Jesus Christ are sickly, and will soon die, die to all sense and influence of heavenly things.” -Adam Clarke

### **How are we to grow?**

First, and mainly, to keep very near to our Lord. Communion with Jesus Christ is the secret of all growth. If we are close by Him, He will pour Himself into our hearts. Food is needed for growth. If a Christian starves his soul by neglecting to feed on the bread which came down from heaven, no wonder that he is weak. Exercise is essential for growth. Unused muscles weaken. Use the grace that you have, and practice the truth that you are sure of, and the grace will grow and other truths will be made clear.

Growth=Progress! Study Jesus, Fellowship with Jesus and Pray in Jesus’s Name!

### **There are Seven “Stages” of Spiritual growth for Christians:**

#### **1. Babes**

##### **1 Corinthians 3:1**

**1** And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto **babes** in Christ.

#### **2. Little Children (Throughout 1 John)**

##### **1 John 3:7**

<sup>7</sup> **Little children**, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.

#### **3. Children**

##### **Galatians 3:26**

<sup>26</sup> For ye are all the **children** of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

#### **4. Young Men**

##### **1 John 2:13**

<sup>13</sup> I write unto you, **fathers**, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, **young men**, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father.

#### **5. Fathers 1 John 2:13**

#### **6. Elders**

##### **1 Peter 5:1**

**1** The **elders** which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

#### **7. Aged**

##### **Philemon 1:9**

<sup>9</sup> Yet for love's sake I rather beseech thee, being such an one as **Paul the aged**, and now also a prisoner of Jesus Christ.



**To him be glory both now and for ever...** Who's the Him? Jesus!

Spurgeon noted that this second letter of Peter ends on "two trumpet blasts." One is from heaven to earth: **grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ**. The other is from earth to heaven: **To him be glory both now and for ever**.

**Doxology:** A form of words that offers praise to God, especially for his work of creation and redemption. Scripture records a number of these forms of praise which were used in both public and private worship.

#### **Doxologies used in the formal worship of Israel:**

##### **1 Chronicles 29:10-13**

<sup>10</sup> Wherefore David blessed the LORD before all the congregation: and David said, Blessed be thou, LORD God of Israel our father, for ever and ever.

<sup>11</sup> Thine, O LORD is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all.

<sup>12</sup> Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all.

<sup>13</sup> Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name.

#### **Doxologies used in the spontaneous praise of God's people:**

##### **Ephesians 3:21**

<sup>21</sup> Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

#### **Doxologies used in heavenly worship:**

##### **Isaiah 6:3**

<sup>3</sup> And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

**Luke 2:13-14**

<sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

<sup>14</sup> Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

**Revelation 4:8**

<sup>8</sup> And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, LORD God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

**Revelation 4:11**

<sup>11</sup> Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

**Revelation 5:9-14**

<sup>9</sup> And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

<sup>10</sup> And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

<sup>11</sup> And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;

<sup>12</sup> Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

<sup>13</sup> And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

<sup>14</sup> And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.

**Revelation 7:12**

<sup>12</sup> Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

**Revelation 19:1**

<sup>1</sup> And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God:

**Doxologies used as a Benediction Combination:**

**Doxologies**, offers praise to God.

**Benedictions**, though brief, offer words of assurance designed to bring joy, peace, comfort, and security to those who have placed their trust in God.

**Romans 16:25-27**

<sup>25</sup> Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,

<sup>26</sup> But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:

<sup>27</sup> To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen.

### **Ephesians 3:20-21**

<sup>20</sup> Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

<sup>21</sup> Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

### **Hebrews 13:20-21**

<sup>20</sup> Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

<sup>21</sup> Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

### **Jude 24-25**

<sup>24</sup> Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

<sup>25</sup> To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

### **2 Peter 3:18**

<sup>18</sup> But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Amen...** Under the law, Amen was only said at the declaration of the curses:

### **Deuteronomy 27:14-26**

<sup>14</sup> And the Levites shall speak, and say unto all the men of Israel with a loud voice,

<sup>15</sup> Cursed be the man that maketh any graven or molten image, an abomination unto the LORD, the work of the hands of the craftsman, and putteth it in a secret place. And all the people shall answer and say, Amen.

<sup>16</sup> Cursed be he that setteth light by his father or his mother. And all the people shall say, Amen.

<sup>17</sup> Cursed be he that removeth his neighbour's landmark. And all the people shall say, Amen.

<sup>18</sup> Cursed be he that maketh the blind to wander out of the way. And all the people shall say, Amen.

<sup>19</sup> Cursed be he that perverteth the judgment of the stranger, fatherless, and widow. And all the people shall say, Amen.

<sup>20</sup> Cursed be he that lieth with his father's wife; because he uncovereth his father's skirt. And all the people shall say, Amen.

<sup>21</sup> Cursed be he that lieth with any manner of beast. And all the people shall say, Amen.

<sup>22</sup> Cursed be he that lieth with his sister, the daughter of his father, or the daughter of his mother. And all the people shall say, Amen.

<sup>23</sup> Cursed be he that lieth with his mother in law. And all the people shall say, Amen.

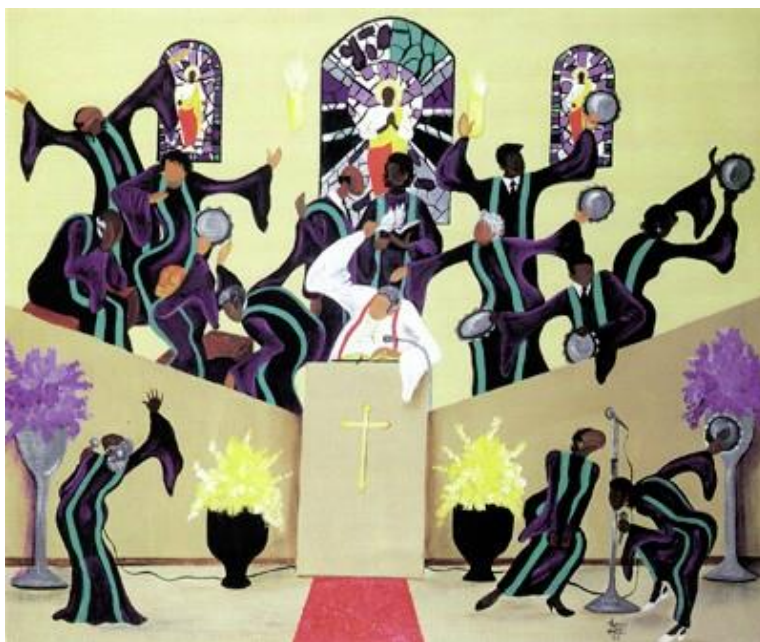
<sup>24</sup> Cursed be he that smiteth his neighbour secretly. And all the people shall say, Amen.

<sup>25</sup> Cursed be he that taketh reward to slay an innocent person. And all the people shall say, Amen.

<sup>26</sup> Cursed be he that confirmeth not all the words of this law to do them. **And all the people shall say, Amen.**

Under the New Covenant, we say "**Amen**" at the announcement of a great blessing and praise to God!

**And all the people shall say, Amen!**



**Amen!**