

^{3:1} Dear friends, this is now my second letter to you. I have written both of them as reminders to stimulate you to wholesome thinking. ² I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Savior through your apostles.

³ Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. ⁴ They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." ⁵ But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water. ⁶ By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. ⁷ By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

⁸ But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

Review the context.

- What is the connection between *forgetting* what God promised and *our thoughts*?
- Recommended video: "The Day of The Lord" - <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/day-lord/>

Understand it.

- **Wholesome thought** v.1 – The word here is *eilikrine* - it means "found pure when revealed by the sunlight." Why might Peter's hope for his "dear friends" (*beloved*) be fixated upon the correction and illumination of their thoughts on false teaching?
- **Read Philippians 1:10.** How does Paul's style of leadership reflect a similar yearning for believers to be tested and confident in their knowledge of God?
- **Danger of scoffing/doubt.** In an explicit example of a *false teaching*, Peter warns that "scoffers" will deny the second coming. In doing this, what else are they denying (or *forgetting*)? (v3-7)
 - How does the Bible weave together a story of fulfilled promises?
 - How does the second coming fit into this story?
- What was God's purpose in "destroying" the world in the Flood (Gen 5)? How is this destruction (and its purpose) similar to what is promised on the Day of Judgment?
- **Mystery.** How does Peter differentiate between slowness and patience? (v.9) How does this encourage God's people to view this period of *waiting*?
- **A sneak peek.** Peter gives several *glimpses* of Jesus' surprise arrival. What are some of the characteristics of this "Day of the Lord"? How should the people of God live in light of this knowledge?

Apply it.

- What are some ways to know and learn more about God's promises of what has yet to come? How can you practice the discipline of *remembering* when it comes to this promise?
- How do you desire what is to come? Share your thoughts (of joy, questions, even doubt) with another believer and pray for one another where there is a need for help.