

2 Peter Part 6 – The Pursuit of True Knowledge and Maturity – Aug 7th, 2026

Summary

This teaching explores the final chapter of **Second Peter**, focusing on the **divine timeline** of the end of the age and the necessity of **spiritual readiness**. The speaker highlights the **sovereignty of God**, contrasting the **mockery of scoffers** with the certainty of a **future destruction by fire** that will eventually lead to a **new heaven and earth**. A central theme is the **patience of the Lord**, as the delay in His return is presented as a merciful opportunity for believers to achieve **genuine repentance** and **growth in grace**. Listeners are warned against the **deception of false teachers** and are urged to maintain **holy conduct** and **steadfastness** while waiting. By referencing **biblical precedents** like the creation and the flood, the teaching reinforces the **authority of scripture** as the only reliable guide for the future. Ultimately, the text calls for **diligent preparation**, encouraging the faithful to be found **spotless and blameless** when the day of the Lord arrives.

Study Guide: The Hope of the Day of the Lord

I. Definitions of Key Words

- **Repentance:** Equates to the term "**change**". It is described as a **complete change of mind and direction**, rather than just a feeling of remorse or saying "sorry". It involves reaching a quantifiable state or turning point where one obtains the "full measure" of change.
 - **Knowledge:** Used in various forms **15 times** in 2 Peter, it refers to an **accurate knowledge of God's word** which leads to spiritual maturity, if God permits. (Hebrews 6:3)
 - **Euphemism:** A mild rendering or softer term used to substitute for a harsher reality; for example, the Bible uses "**fell asleep**" as a euphemism for the **death of a believer**.
 - **Protasis:** A linguistic term for the "**if**" or "**unless**" **clause** in a conditional sentence, representing the condition that must be met.
 - **Apodosis:** The **result or consequence clause** in a conditional sentence (e.g., "you will all likewise perish").
 - **Mockers (Scoffers):** Individuals who follow their **own lusts** and attempt to **discredit the word of God** by questioning the promise of His return.
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II. Expansion of Key Points

1. The Necessity of Spiritual Reminders Peter's primary objective in his second letter is to **stir up the sincere minds** of believers by way of reminder. He emphasizes that reinforcing fundamental,

foundational truths is essential because humans often retain very little after hearing a revelation only once or twice.

- **Biblical References:** 2 Peter 3:1-2; 2 Peter 1:12-21.

2. The Argument of the Mockers In the "last days," mockers will arise, driven by their own desires, to question the **Day of the Lord**. Their argument is based on **uniformitarianism**: the claim that since the "fathers fell asleep," everything has continued exactly as it was since the beginning of creation. They use the apparent stability of the world to mock the promise of Christ's return.

- **Biblical References:** 2 Peter 3:3-4.

3. Divine Sovereignty in Creation and Judgment Peter counters mockers by pointing to **God's sovereign intervention** in history. He reminds believers that the heavens and earth were formed **out of water and by water** through the **Word of God**. Just as the world at that time was destroyed by a **flood**, the "present heavens and earth" are being **reserved for fire**, kept for the day of judgment and the destruction of ungodly men.

- **Biblical References:** 2 Peter 3:5-7; Genesis 1:6-10.

4. God's Perspective on Time and Patience Believers must not let the fact escape their notice that **to the Lord, one day is like a thousand years** and a thousand years is like one day. God is not "slow" or "late" regarding His promises; rather, He is **patient**, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to **repentance**.

- **Biblical References:** 2 Peter 3:8-9; Exodus 20.

5. The Nature of the Coming Judgment The **Day of the Lord will come like a thief**. It will involve a cataclysmic transformation where the heavens and earth pass away with a roar, and the **elements melt with intense heat**. This destruction of the "old" makes way for a **new heaven and a new earth** where **righteousness dwells**.

- **Biblical References:** 2 Peter 3:10-13; Matthew 24.

6. The Qualities of Those Waiting Because the current world is destined for destruction, believers are exhorted to live with specific qualities: **holy conduct, godliness, peace, and being spotless and blameless**. They are to be **diligent** and **on guard** so they are not carried away by the errors of "unprincipled men".

- **Biblical References:** 2 Peter 3:11, 14, 17-18.

III. Study Questions

1. What is Peter's stated purpose for writing this second letter to the believers?
2. How does the teaching distinguish between the writings of Peter and the book of Jude?
3. According to the "mockers" in 2 Peter 3:4, why is the promise of Christ's return supposedly unreliable?

4. What historical event does Peter use to prove that God has previously intervened in the physical world?
 5. Explain the significance of the phrase "one day is like a thousand years" in the context of God's character.
 6. According to Jesus in Luke 13, what is the specific consequence of failing to repent?
 7. What does the teaching suggest is the ultimate destination for those who distort the scriptures?
 8. What two specific things should a believer "grow in," according to the conclusion of 2 Peter?
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IV. Answer Key

1. **To stir up their sincere minds by way of reminder** and to encourage them to remember the words of the holy prophets and the commandments of the Lord and the Apostles.
 2. The main difference is the **verbal tense**: Peter warns of false teachers who **will come** (future tense), while Jude warns that they are **already present** (present tense).
 3. They argue that **everything continues just as it was** from the beginning of creation and that nothing has changed since the "fathers" died.
 4. The **Great Flood**, where the world was destroyed by water and the total destruction of the city of **Sodom & Gomorrah**.
 5. It illustrates **God's sovereignty and patience**; He does not view time as humans do, and His perceived delay is actually an opportunity for people to repent.
 6. They will "**all likewise perish**".
 7. Distorting scripture leads to their **own destruction**.
 8. **Grace and knowledge** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
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V. Biblical References within the Sources

- **2 Peter 1:1-21** (Spiritual maturity and prophetic word)
 - **2 Peter 2:1-22** (Warnings against false prophets)
 - **2 Peter 3:1-18** (The Day of the Lord and the qualities of believers)
 - **Matthew 24:1-14, 23-25** (Signs of the end of the age and false Christs)
 - **Luke 13:1-5** (The necessity of repentance)
 - **Matthew 18:3** (The necessity of conversion/change)
 - **Genesis 1:6-10** (The creation of the expanse and separation of waters)
 - **Exodus 20** (Illustration of God's promise and slowness)
 - **Jude** (Parallel warnings about false teachers)
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VI. Exhortations

- **Be on your guard**: Do not be carried away by the **deceit of unprincipled men** who propound false knowledge.

- **Prioritize the Word:** Make the study of the **holy prophets and the commandments of the Lord** and The Apostles your priority, as these are the only trustworthy sources for the future.
- **Embrace Change:** Understand that **repentance is not optional**; it is the fundamental requirement for entering the coming earthly kingdom.
- **Live with Urgency:** Since the elements will melt with intense heat, ask yourself, "**what sort of person ought you to be?**". Strive for **holy conduct and godliness, living righteously** while you wait.
- **Rightly Divide the Truth:** Stick to the true knowledge of the scriptures to ensure you remain **steadfast** and do not fall from your own spiritual security.

The Day of the Lord: Readiness and Hope

God's Timing: 1,000 Years = 1 Day



The Lord is not slow; He exists outside human time and remains patient to ensure none perish.

Repentance Requires Genuine Internal Change



Entering the Kingdom is conditional upon a complete conversion of mind and direction.

Destruction by Fire, Promise of Newness



The current heavens and earth will dissolve with intense heat to make way for a righteous new creation.



Cultivate Holy Conduct and Godliness



While waiting, believers must be diligent to be found at peace, spotless, and blameless.

Guard Against Distorted Scripture



Be on your guard against false teachers who twist the Word to their own destruction.