

Escaping Notice
(What to Remember in Times of Difficulty and Persecution)

2Peter 3:1-13

Peter's *first* epistle was largely about preparing the saints for *various trials, persecution, and suffering as a Christian*, cf. 1Pet.1:6,13-16; 2:20-23; 3:13-17; 4:1-2,12-19. And now, in the *second* letter, he is *stirring them up by way of reminders*, cf. 2Pet.1:12-15; 3:1 to **remember** certain things and to not let them **escape their notice**.

So, if we are facing *various trials, persecutions, and suffering as Christian*, what should **we remember and not let escape our notice?**

1. The Word of God, v.2

Whether it was by the *holy prophets*, our *Lord and Savior*, or the *apostles* (or other *inspired writers*), in times of trial, persecution, and suffering, we **must** remember the Word of God. Why? Because He told us...

2. That Mockers/Mocking would come, vv.3-6

In the *last days* (which we are *now* in, cf. Isa.2:2ff; Joel 2:28ff; Acts 2:16ff) *mockers* have come, just as predicted, *following their lusts*, v.3; cp. Phil.3:18-19;

That they would assume *Uniformitarianism*, v.4;

And that in *maintaining this*, it *escapes their notice* (*lanthano-* to *not recall* information, or *lose sight* of its *significance*, cp. Acts 26:26 and Heb.13:2, e.g.) that:

- God is *Creator*, v.5; and that *in the past*,
- He has **destroyed** His own creation for their *sinfulness* and *evil*, v.6; Gen.6-9! Therefore,

3. The present heavens and earth will be destroyed also, v.7

Notice that they *are* being *reserved for fire* (*by His word*, cf. v.2); and *kept* for the *judgment* and *destruction* of *ungodly men*. But also remember, from last week's lesson, that the Lord *knows how to rescue, spare, and preserve the righteous*, cf. 2:5-10. This *judgment* and *destruction* is inevitable because God said so, and He does not and cannot lie, cf. Heb.6:18; Titus 1:2.

4. That time is not the same for God, v.8

God can *tell time*. He originated it, Gen.1:14,18; and He utilizes it, cf. Ps.90:10. He is just not *bound* by it as is earth and all that dwells on it. He is *eternal*; the first and only *uncaused Cause!*

5. That God is not slow, but patient, v.9

He is *patient with the wicked* for them to *repent*, just as in the days before the Flood, cf. Gen.6:2; and He is *patient with the righteous*, waiting for them to *do their part*, cf. 2:5 (remember Noah was also a "preacher of righteousness" as well as an *ark-builder!*), cf. 2Cor.4:7 and 1Pet.1:18-20.

6. That *the end will come*, v.10

It may be *sooner* or *later*; indeed *no one* but the Father knows, Matt.24:36. But it will come based on the: *timing*, v.8; *promise*, v.9a; *desires*, v.9b; and *surety* of God, v.10!

Conclusion(s): *“Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way,”*

- **We need to remember and consider “what sort of people” we “ought to be in holy conduct and godliness,” v.11;**
- **We need to look for and hasten (*speudo-* to desire earnestly) *the coming of the day of God*, v.12;**
- **And, according to His promise, we need to look for the “new heavens and earth in which righteousness dwells” instead of *clinging to the old, forgetful/willfully ignorant, and wicked one*, v.13!**