

2 Peter 3:1–18 (NKJV)

Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in *both* of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder),² that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior,³ knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts,⁴ and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of creation.”⁵ For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water,⁶ by which the world *that* then existed perished, being flooded with water.⁷ But the heavens and the earth *which* are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

⁸ But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

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

¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;¹⁵ and consider *that* the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you,¹⁶ as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable *people* twist to their own destruction, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures.

¹⁷ You therefore, beloved, since you know *this* beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked;¹⁸ but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory both now and forever. Amen.

Interpretation: *Read through the passage, and then review and make notes under the questions below.*

1. Why would Peter's stated goal in verse 2 be important for his original readers? Consider the significance of this goal in relationship to the warnings which Peter has just given in chapter 2.

2. What does this passage say in response to the contentions of the "scoffers" (described in verses 3–4)?

3. What does the creation of the world prove about God's promises (v. 5)?

4. Why does Peter choose to remind us that "with the Lord one day is as a thousand years" (v. 8)?

5. How would you answer Peter's question in verse 11 if he had asked you personally?

6. How can "the longsuffering of our Lord" be described as "salvation" in verse 15?

7. What can you learn from Peter's warning in verse 17, and how might that prevent you from falling?

8. What are the two ways in which we are to grow (v. 18)? Describe what that would mean for your growth in Christ.

Application: *Take time to reflect on the implications of 2 Peter 3:1–18 for your own life today.*

9. What does this passage mean for your walk with the Lord?

10. How does this passage challenge the way you think about situations in daily life? What should you do about that?
