

Studies in 2 Peter (14)  
Mocking the Lord's Return  
**2 Peter 3:1-9**

## 2 Peter - Previously

- We have concluded our examination of false teachers in **2 Peter 2**. Peter gave a strong warning about their character, danger and fate.
- But in that text he did not specify what error was being advanced. The principles can apply to ANY error.
- As we read **2 Peter 3:1-9**, we possibly find the erroneous doctrine that prompted this letter

## Mocking the Lord's Delay - 3:1-4

- Another reminder this is his 2<sup>nd</sup> letter - **3:1 (cf. 2 Pet. 1:12-15)**  
We are reminded of the importance of reminders
- Also, Peter has just dealt with a difficult and unpleasant subject. His tone now changes to encouragement and confidence.  
“You don't have to be deceived by them” - **cf. Ephesians 4:11-16, esp. 14**

## Mocking the Lord's Delay - 3:1-4

- **3:1** - His goal is to stir up their pure (sincere) minds - Reminders sometime motivate to move where we ought to be (**Matthew 5:8**)

## Mocking the Lord's Delay - 3:1-4

- **3:2** - Remember the truth already taught
  - by the holy prophets - **cf. 2 Peter 1:19-21**
  - by the apostles of the Lord & Savior
- Be reminded of the process through which truth is shared - **John 14:26, 16:13**
- **Acts 20:20-21, 27** - Paul had taught “the whole counsel of God”. Peter had also. This was their commission - **Matthew 16:18-19, 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, etc.**

## Mocking the Lord's Delay - 3:1-4

- **3:3** – WARNING: Scoffers are coming in the last day
- Scoffer - one who mocks or jeers, treating something or someone with contempt.  
Noun (2x), Verb (13x) in NT  
**Matthew 27:41-42, Cf. Neh. 4:1-3**
- “Walking according to their own lusts” (**see ch. 2**) Also **Jude 18** - mockers

## Mocking the Lord's Delay - 3:1-4

- **3:4** – They scoffed at “the promise of His coming”
- Jesus revealed that He would return - **John 14:2-3, Acts :11**
- Many expected an immediate return - **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**. Paul addressed that in his 2<sup>nd</sup> letter - **2 Thess. 2:1ff** - it would not happen very soon (**vs. 3**)

## Mocking the Lord's Delay - 3:1-4

- **3:4** – They scoffed at “the promise of His coming”
- Many today scoff at His promised return. They live as if they have “all the time in the world”, but we cannot know that!
- Peter will address that later (next lesson)
- How many today believe His return is imminent?  
How many reject God because He has NOT returned?  
How many reject the warnings because “life goes on”?  
How many mock Christians because we anticipate His return? **Cf. 1 Peter 4:3-4**

## The consistency of God's word - 3:5-9

- **3:5** – Peter answers their scoffs
- **This they willfully forget** - there is a willful ignorance to God's warnings
- Sadly, the majority willfully knows nothing, and do not care!

**Cf. Matthew 13:4, 19** - the “wayside”

## The consistency of God's word - 3:5-9

- **3:5** – Peter answers their scoffs
- That by the word of God the heavens were of old
- God spoke and the world came into existence - **Genesis 1:1-3, 6, 9, Hebrews 11:3**  
the universe is here because of the power of His word - **Psalms 33:6**
- The naturalist CANNOT effectively explain the beginning of the universe, which nature forces them to acknowledge (a beginning)
- But I can explain it - by faith! **Romans 1:20**
- **Vs. 5** - the earth standing out of water and in water - **Genesis 1:7-10**

## The consistency of God's word - 3:5-9

- **3:6** – Peter answers their scoffs
- That God destroyed the world by flood
- There is irrefutable evidence that the world was totally flooded - mountains with sea fossils, etc.
- Peter notes God destroyed the world once, **cf. Genesis 6-9**. He spoke of it earlier - **1 Peter 3:20-21**, also **2 Peter 2:5**
- The point: God HAS kept His word in times past

## The consistency of God's word - 3:5-9

- **3:7** – Peter answers their scoffs
- But, the heavens...are now preserved by the same word...
- Why does the world to continue to stand?
  - Because it is God's will! **Isaiah 55:1**
  - BUT He has promised a coming destruction - by fire.

## The consistency of God's word - 3:5-9

- **3:8** – Peter answers their scoffs
- Beloved, do not forget...
- WHEN will He destroy the world?
  - We do not know!
  - God does not reckon time like we do.With God, 1000 years is as a day & vice versa
- **Cf. Psalm 90:4**
- This is why we can NEVER put a definite timestamp on His return!

## The consistency of God's word - 3:5-9

- **3:9** – Peter answers their scoffs
- The Lord is not slack... but longsuffering...
- In answer to these scoffers, Peter gives us good reason why he delays.  
He works in His own time  
And that is ALWAYS what is best -  
**Romans 8:28, cf. Luke 18:7-8**

## The consistency of God's word - 3:5-9

- **3:9** – Peter answers their scoffs
- The Lord is ... longsuffering...
- He bears long with us -  
**Luke 18:7**  
**Psalm 86:15**  
**Isaiah 30:18**
- I personally am grateful for what God puts up with in me and others

## The consistency of God's word - 3:5-9

- **3:9** – Peter answers their scoffs
- Not willing that any should perish
- This is the REAL reason for His delay!  
**1 Timothy 2:3-4**
- Hell is described as a place of eternal torments and as real as heaven - **Matthew 25:46**
- But God does NOT want man to go there - **Acts 17:30-31**
- AND as long as this world stands, there is time for someone to repent

## The consistency of God's word - 3:5-9

- **3:9** – Peter answers their scoffs
- Not willing that any should perish
- IF we are living righteous lives, we may desire for God's swift return, BUT understand that His delay is not about you, but your loved ones and others who have yet to respond to the gospel invitation.

**Cf. 2 Corinthians 6:2**

The Lord is going to return?  
Are you living for that day?

Let us pray!