

2Peter 3:1-10

ANSWERS FOR MOCKERS OF THE 2ND ADVENT

Every 2nd epistle in the New Testament combats error, false teachers, and false doctrine. Correct doctrine, the thrust of 1st epistles gets denied or distorted, and the authors are impelled to correct the issues in their 2nd letters. 2Peter is no different. **THE VERY APOSTLES OF JESUS CHRIST FACED THE ISSUE OF FALSE TEACHING JUST AS WE MUST!** 2nd EPISTLES HELP US WITH THIS.

The teaching of 2Peter runs something like this:

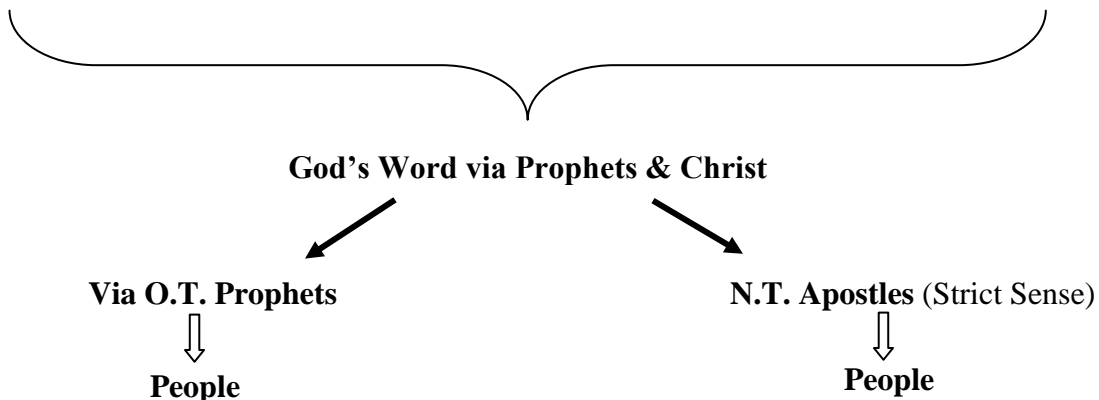
- Ch.1 _____ (ἐπιγνώσις, epignosis, v 2,3,6) that equips the believer for life and fruitfulness
- Ch.2 _____ (False Teaching) that leads to ruin and heartache
- Ch.3 _____ in conflict with error in the LAST DAYS (our focus in these sessions)

3:1-4 The Fact of Mockers in the Last Days

v 1-2 A Reminder for the Readers (exposition)

v.2 Peter's purpose = "that you may be _____ of..." (2 things...)

- 1) ... lit. "*the having been spoken words* (Articular Perfect Tense, Passive Voice Participle) *before by the holy prophets...*"
- 2) ... and "*the commandment of the Lord & Savior* (spoken) *by your Apostles*" (as in NASV)



v 3 The Fact of Scoffers in the "Last Days" (exposition)

"last days" = in scripture, these always relate to Messianic intervention with blessing to follow, Heb. 1:22; Tim. 3:1; Jude :18

"_____ " = ridiculers, cynics, scorners.

Literally, "*In the last days, in mocking, mockers shall come walking in their own lusts.*" (Jude says, "*walking in ungodly lusts...*" Jude :18)

v 4 The Focus and Argument of the Scoffers (a _____ conviction)

1) The promise of Christ's return (with its the associated events) is _____.

2) LOGIC of the scoffers:

- *"for since the fathers fell asleep,"* i.e., those to whom the promises were made

- *"all things continue as from beginning of the creation,"* i.e., even beyond the fathers.

LOGIC:

- "_____ processes control the universe"
- "the universe continually functions under a stable unchanging system"
- "God did not & does not _____ in this uniform historical process"
- "Since this is true historically, it will also be true in the future: THEREFORE, THE PROMISE OF HIS COMING IN CATAclysmic JUDGMENT IS _____!"

The Doctrinal Thought Flow So Far

1. The issue: the _____ words of O.T. prophets and those of Christ delivered by the Apostles. The focus in context are those prophecies that speak of Christ's 2nd Advent & the cataclysmic judgments associated with them.
2. Peter has already referred to authoritative prophetic scripture in _____.
 -1:20 Prophetic scripture did not become (γινομαί/ginomai) of one's own private interpretation: i.e., prophecy is not a prognostication made by man out of his own resources. THE _____ OF PROPHETIC SCRIPTURE IS IN VIEW.
 -1:21 How did it come? "NOT by the _____ of man: but men borne along by the Holy Spirit spoke from (apo) God." THIS RENDERS THEIR WORDS AS THE WORD OF GOD; THEREFORE _____!
3. Peter thus reminds his readers and us of the authoritative source of his information.
4. IN END TIMES, THE PROMISE OF THE 2ND COMING OF CHRIST WITH ITS ATTENDANT CATAclysmic (APOCALYPTIC) JUDGMENTS WILL BE MOCKED BY UNBELIEVERS BECAUSE OF THE UNBROKEN CONTINUITY OF UNIFORM PROCESSES IN EARTH HISTORY.

PETER'S TWO-FOLD REFUTATION FOLLOWS (3:5-10).

3:5-10 Peter's Twofold Answer to the Cynical Mockers

Peter's answer is twofold:

- 1) First: GOD DID INTERVENE CATAclysmically in the PAST, v.5-7; and
- 2) Second: GOD WILL AGAIN INTERVENE in the FUTURE, v. 7b-10.

I. 3: 5-7 ANSWER # 1 God Did Intervene in the Past: the Noahic Catastrophe

v 5a **THE MOCKERS PROBLEM:** _____ Ignorance (of Genesis 1-9)

Lit. "*For this* (what follows) *escapes them* _____ or *willingly*"

v 5b-6 **THE HISTORIC FACTS IGNORED BY THE MOCKERS**

v 5b Fiat creation via God's Word of a universal _____ order (Gen. 1:6-10)

v 6 **The Noahic Catastrophe (that destroyed the cosmic order of Gen.1-5)**

Lit. "*Through which things...*": What things? _____ & _____.

"the world (cosmic order) *that then was perished*...*"

*apoleto: "was rendered inoperative"

"by being cataclysmatized with water"*

*kataklustheis (Aorist Passive Participle of means from katakluzo)

v 7a **Current Cosmology (since Gen. 8,9) & Future Judgment**

NOTE THE EMPHASIS IN V.7:

Lit. "*but the NOW heavens and earth...*" = THE _____ COSMOLOGY

"BY THE SAME WORD..." = "BY _____ WORD..."

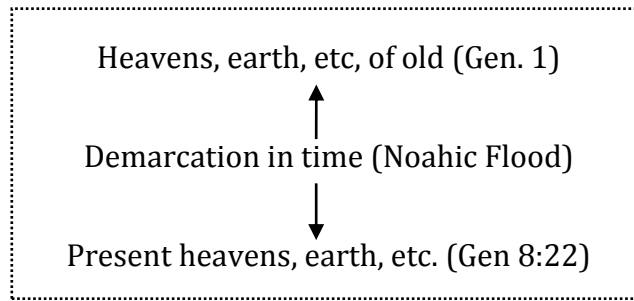
"ARE HAVING BEEN RESERVED FOR FIRE..."* (*a Perfect Passive Periphrastic verbal)

"being kept unto a day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly men."

THE TWO-FOLD EMPHASIS:

- 1) God did intervene in the past, and
- 2) He will again in the future. Moreover, His intervention via the Noahic catastrophe, **THE GREAT FLOOD**, is the _____ between:

- a. the heavens and earth of old (the original cosmic order), and



- b. the present heavens and earth (current cosmological & atmospheric conditions). Uniform processes as we know them apparently date from the Flood (cmp. Gen. 8:22).

II. 3:7b –10 ANSWER #2 God Will Intervene in the Future: the Day of the Lord

v 7b The future day of judgment is as _____ as God's Word.

v 8 A day is not as critical to Him Who inhabits _____ as it is to us.

v 9 The slowness of God in fulfilling the promise (2nd Advent) is due to His _____ so that men would _____.

v 10 The _____ of the _____ will come with all of its attendant judgments as prophesied in His word.
 Joel 2:1-10; Amos 5:16-20; Zeph. 1:14-18; Zech. 4:1-7; 2Thess. 2:2-8.

Summary

In last days (eschatological times)...

3:4 Mockers will question God's past and future interventions in human history.

3:5 The original cosmology ordered by God's Word will be doubted.

3:6 The original cosmology that perished by his Word (The Flood) will be mocked.

3:7 Regardless, the present cosmology which dates from Noah's time is kept in store reserved for judgment by His Word.

3:9-13 By the word of His promise, the present cosmology will be removed and replaced by the New Heavens and the New Earth.

THREE 19TH CENTURY ANTI-THEISTIC THEORIES: EACH SCOFFS AT DIVINE INTERVENTION IN HISTORY

I. Geological _____

- “Everything being formed in the surface of the earth has always been formed the way it is now being formed.”
- Therefore: “The present is the key to the past.”
- This Geological Theory of English scientists based upon empiricism took root in 18th Century Europe.
- Popularized by Charles Lyell’s *Principles of Geology*, Vol. I pub. 1830 (3 Vols. by 1833). Totally denies catastrophism & a universal flood. Contributes greatly to the “scoffers” of the 20th Century.

II. Biological _____

- Biological theory of the French naturalists (anti-theists) based upon a rationalism that presupposed progressive, upward development of all species.
- Popularized by the empirical data of British naturalist Charles Darwin through his *The Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection* published in 1859.
- Darwin failed to account for the origin of matter, of biological life from matter, and plant life from matter. Special creation is questioned, then denied. Leads to radical atheism.
- Popular maxim: “Survival of the fittest.”

III. Economic _____ (Communism; I.E., Sociological Evolution)

- Communism is simply evolution’s presupposition of upward progression applied to society, hence, “Social Darwinism.”
- When Carl Marx (atheist) wrote *Das Kapital* in 1867, he asked Charles Darwin to write an introduction (Darwin refused).

The presuppositions of these theories combine in the 20th C. so that despite their atheistic bent, evolutionary-uniformitarian ideas permeate every area of learning in our universities. Biblical ideas are ridiculed.