



Now What?

2 Peter 3:1-14

Let's celebrate!

Give your mind a stir

"This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles," (2Pet 3:1-2 ESV)

- Stir up (diegeiro) = intensely arouse
- Sincere minds = tested by heat
- Spiritually tested but lulled to sleep

Wake up and smell the scoffers

"knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation." (2Pet 3:3-4 ESV)

- Scoffer or mocker = to play like a child
- Mock the idea of Christ's return
- Uniformitarianism = assumes that the natural processes that operated in the past are the same as those that can be observed operating in the present.

Oops, forgot about the flood

"For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly." (2Pet 3:5-7 ESV)

- These scoffers deliberately overlook the facts of the flood
- Ignoring the facts does not change their reality. Just as God's first judgment on the ungodly truly happened, so will His second.

Ok, why isn't god's judgment here yet?

"But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow

to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed." (2Pet 3:8-10 ESV)

- God is eternal and transcendent (outside the physical universe and not affected by it), and therefore on His own timetable.
- God is waiting to save all his elect.
- The destruction of the heavens and earth will expose the quality of our works.

OK, now what?

"Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells." (2Pet 3:11-13 ESV)

- Sort of people = "from what country" - be consistent with the country where our citizenship resides.
- Holiness = separation + consecration -> we are separated from sin, and consecrated to God. We are therefore sacred!
- Godliness = a Godward attitude that results in a lifestyle that pleases God.
- Waiting = expect the best to happen
- Hastening (speudo) = earnestly desire fulfillment

The grand finale

"Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace." (2Pet 3:14 ESV)

- Without spot and blemish = pure and blameless
- Accomplished through the knowledge of God from His word, and obedience to His commands
- Obedience brings peace, resulting in earnestness for Christ's return.

"Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning—" (Mark 13:35 ESV)

Are you ready?