

THE CYNICISM OF MOCKERS IN RELATION TO CHRIST'S RETURN AND COMING JUDGMENT 2 Peter 3

A. The Purpose of the Letter 2 Peter 3:1-2

1. The reference to the readers: {1} This is now, beloved, 3:1a
2. The number of the letter: the second letter I am writing to you 3:1b
3. The motive of the writing: in which I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, {2} that you should remember 3:1c-2
 - a. The messages of the prophets: the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and
 - b. The commands of Jesus through the apostles: the commandment of the Lord and Savior *spoken* by your apostles

B. The Coming of Mockers Denying Christ's Return 2 Peter 3:3-4

1. The time of the mockers: {3} Know this first of all, that in the last days 3:3a
2. The arrival of the mockers: mockers will come with *their* mocking, 3:3b
3. The motivation of the mockers: following after their own lusts, ¹ 3:3c
4. The speech of the mockers 3:4
 - a. Their denial of Christ's return: {4} and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming?"
 - b. Their affirmation of uniformitarianism: For *ever* since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation."

C. The Failure of the Mockers in Denying Christ's Return: Their deliberate ignoring of God's creation and judgment 2 Peter 3:5-18

1. God's original creation of the universe by His Word 3:5
 - a. His speaking into existence the heavens long ago: {5} For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God *the* heavens existed long ago
 - b. His forming of the earth out of water and by water: and *the* earth was formed out of water and by water,
2. God's judgment of the earth through the waters of the Great Flood 3:6
 - a. Universal destruction: {6} through which the world at that time was destroyed,
 - b. Global deluge: being flooded with water.

¹ 2 Peter 3:3 - lusts: powerful desires

3. God's coming judgment of the heavens and the earth through fire by His Word 3:7-18
 - a. The preservation for the fiery judgment: The present condition of the heavens and earth 3:7
 - 1) Kept in store by the same Word [of God] for a fiery catastrophe: {7} But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire,
 - 2) Preserved for judgment
 - a) The day of judgment: kept for the day of judgment
 - b) The day of destruction of the ungodly: and destruction of ungodly men.
 - b. The reason for the delay of the judgment 3:8-9
 - 1) God's relation to time: {8} But do not let this one *fact* escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord 3:8
 - a) The duration of one day: one day is like a thousand years,
 - b) The duration of a thousand years: and a thousand years like one day.
 - 2) God's longsuffering nature 3:9
 - a) God's integrity: {9} The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness,
 - b) God's mercy
 - i His patience: but is patient toward you,
 - ii His unwillingness: not wishing for any to perish
 - iii His fervent desire: but for all to come to repentance.
 - c. The nature of coming judgment 3:10-13
 - 1) Its characterization: {10} But the day of the Lord 3:10a
 - 2) Its unexpectedness: will come like a thief, 3:10b
 - 3) Its catastrophic destruction 3:10c
 - a) Deafening noise: in which the heavens will pass away with a roar
 - b) Intense heat: and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat,

- c) Fiery conflagration: and the earth and its works will be burned up.
 - 4) Its perspective 3:11-13
 - a) Dissolution of matter: {11} Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, 3:11a
 - b) Perceptive living: what sort of people ought you to be 3:11b-12
 - i Holy: in holy conduct 3:11b
 - ii Godly: and godliness, 3:11c
 - iii Vigilant: {12} looking for 3:12a
 - iv Speeding: and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which 3:12b
 - (a) Burning heavens: the heavens will be destroyed by burning,
 - (b) Melting elements: and the elements will melt with intense heat!
 - c) Anticipatory living 3:13
 - i The basis for anticipatory living
 - (a) His promise: {13} But according to His promise
 - (b) Our response: we are looking for
 - ii The prospect of anticipatory living
 - (a) New universe: new heavens
 - (b) New earth: and a new earth,
 - iii The character of anticipatory living: in which righteousness dwells.
- d. The exhortations in view of the coming judgment 3:14-18
 - 1) The accompanying perspective: {14} Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, 3:14a
 - 2) The expected effort in character formation: be diligent to be found by Him 3:14b
 - a) At peace with God: in peace,

- b) Unstained: spotless
 - c) Without reproach: and blameless,
- 3) Perceive that the longsuffering of our Lord is for the purpose of salvation 3:15
 - a) Proper perspective: {15} and regard the patience of our Lord *as* salvation;
 - b) Apostolic corroboration: just as also our beloved brother Paul,
 - i Revelation: according to the wisdom given him,
 - ii Communication: wrote to you,
- 4) Apostolic correspondence: {16} as also in all *his* letters, 3:16a
 - a) Attestation: speaking in them of these things,
 - b) Enigmatic: in which are some things hard to understand,
- 5) Deliberate distortion 3:16b
 - a) Deliberate misrepresentation: which the untaught and unstable distort,
 - b) Characteristic with the whole Bible: as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures,
 - c) Self-extermination: to their own destruction.
- 6) Beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness 3:17
 - a) The description of the readers: {17} You therefore, beloved,
 - b) The background provided the readers: knowing this beforehand,
 - c) The warning to the readers: be on your guard
 - d) The dangers to avoid
 - i Being led astray by false teaching: so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men
 - ii Falling from perseverance: and fall from your own steadfastness,
- 7) But be growing: {18} but grow 3:18a
 - a) In grace: in the grace

- b) In knowledge of Jesus: and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- 8) Closing doxology: To Him *be* the glory, 3:18b
- a) Presently: both now
 - b) Throughout the future: and to the day of eternity.
 - c) Agreement: Amen.