

**WRITE DOWN THE REVELATION
AND MAKE IT PLAIN ...**

Then the Lord replied: "Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay."

(Habakkuk 2:2-3 NIV)

**THE DAY OF THE LORD WILL
COME LIKE A THIEF ...**

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

(2 Peter 3:10 NIV)



THE SORT OF PEOPLE WE SHOULD BE ...

1. Holy and godly people remember and stir our sincere (healthy) minds with what God has told us, 3:1-7.

- (2 Peter 3:1–7 ESV) 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, 2 that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, 3 knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. 4 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.” 5 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, 6 and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. 7 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.

A. To be holy and godly people we must discipline ourselves to remember what God has told us through the prophets and apostles, 3:1-2.

- (2 Peter 3:2 NLT) I want you to remember what the holy prophets said long ago and what our Lord and Savior commanded through your apostles.

B. To be reminded and stirred with what God has told us through the prophets and apostles we must have sincere minds, 3:1-2.

Sincere ... pure, sincere, unsullied; found pure when unfolded and examined by the sun’s light; being honest and straightforward in attitude and speech (the absence of affectation or pretense).
Affectation ... behavior, speech, or writing that is artificial and designed to impress.

C. To be holy and godly people we must know first of all that scoffers will scoff, and mockers

will mock, the promise of Jesus’s coming, 3:3-7.

- (2 Peter 3:3 ESV) Knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, **following their own sinful desires**.
 - i. We need to understand that the scoffing and mocking is an attack on the most important truth Peter calls us to remember—the second coming of Christ, 3:3a.
 - ii. We must understand the hand-in-hand relationship between mocking the truth and a person following their own sinful desires, 3:3b.
 - iii. No one is exempt from this principle: If you follow your desires, you will mock truth, thus you will be self-directed, thus you will be led neither by the Spirit nor by the Scriptures.
 - iv. Those who follow their own desires undermine their ability to receive truth, 3:4-5.
 - v. Those who follow their own desires deliberately overlook the facts spoken through the prophets and the apostles.

Example #1: The Scriptures led them to Christ and they refused to come to him for life ...

- (John 5:39–40 NIV) You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, 40 yet you refuse to come to me to have life.
 - vi. The person who follows his or her own desires loses the ability to remember/understand even basic truths such as forgiveness.

Example #2: The sinful woman knew what to do but the Pharisee didn’t ...

- (Luke 7:36–39 NCV) One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, so Jesus went into the Pharisee’s house and sat at the table. 37 **A sinful woman in the town ...** crying. She began to **wash his feet** with her tears, and she dried them with her hair, **kissing them many times ...** When the Pharisee who asked Jesus to come to his house saw this, he thought to himself, “If

Jesus were a prophet, he would know that the woman touching him is a sinner!”

- (Luke 7:44–47 NCV) Then Jesus turned toward the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? When I came into your house, **you gave me no water for my feet**, but she washed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. 45 **You gave me no kiss of greeting**, but she has been kissing my feet since I came in. 46 **You did not put oil on my head**, but she poured perfume on my feet. 47 I tell you that her many sins are forgiven, so she showed great love. But the person who is forgiven only a little will love only a little.”

D. To be the sort of people God would have us to be we must not sit with scoffers and deny the day of judgment of the ungodly, 3:4-7.

- (Psalm 1:1 ESV) Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers.

2. Holy and godly people do not overlook the fact that the Lord will fulfill his promise in his time, 3:8-10.

- (2 Peter 3:8–10 ESV) 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. 9 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. 10 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.

A. As fallen, finite beings, we cannot fully understand the Lord’s perspective concerning time, 3:8.

- (Psalm 90:1–4 NLT) Lord, through all the generations you have been our home! 2 Before the mountains were born, before you gave birth to the earth and the world, from beginning

to end, you are God. 3 You turn people back to dust, saying, “Return to dust, you mortals!” 4 For you, a thousand years are as a passing day, as brief as a few night hours.

We are absolutely dependent upon the Lord for our perspective concerning the timing of the events of Earth history.

B. The Lord’s timing is perfect and exact in regard to fulfilling his purpose and according to his mercy, 3:9.

- (Romans 9:14–16 ESV) What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God’s part? By no means! 15 For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.” 16 So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.
- (John 6:37–40 ESV) All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. 38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. 39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. 40 For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

Westminster Shorter Catechism: **Q. 87. What is repentance unto life?** A. Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience.

C. The day of the Lord will come ... and when it comes it will be unexpected, sudden and decisive—with fury and judgment, 3:10.

- (2 Peter 3:10 ESV) 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 [destroyed], and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.
- (Isaiah 13:6 ESV) Wail, for **the day of the**

LORD is near; as destruction from the Almighty it will come!

- (Ezekiel 30:3 ESV) For **the day is near, the day of the LORD is near ...**
- (Joel 1:15 ESV) Alas for the day! For **the day of the LORD is near ...**
- (Zephaniah 1:14–15 ESV) **The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast ...**
- (Revelation 6:17 ESV) For **the great day of their wrath** has come, and who can stand?"
- (Revelation 16:14 ESV) ... **the great day of God the Almighty.**

D. On the grand finale of the day of the Lord, this world will be destroyed—it will literally come apart, 6:10b.

λύω ... dissolved/destroyed in 3:10,11,12 ... to break apart v. — to break into parts or components or lose cohesion or unity. To unfasten, loose, release, untie, break up, destroy, set free, unbind, dissolve into parts.

- i. A possible explanation is that at this time Christ stops upholding the universe by the word of his power.
 - (Hebrews 1:3a ESV) He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and **he upholds the universe by the word of his power.**
 - (Colossians 1:17 ESV) And he is before all things, **and in him all things hold together.**
- ii. When the universe comes apart, those from every age in history will be naked and exposed before God in judgment.
 - (2 Peter 3:10 NIV) But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth **and everything done in it will be laid bare.**
 - (Hebrews 4:12–13 NIV) For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. 13 Nothing in all

creation is hidden from God's sight. **Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.**

- (Ezekiel 13:14 ESV) And I will break down the wall that you have smeared with whitewash, and bring it down to the ground, **so that its foundation will be laid bare.** When it falls, you shall perish in the midst of it, and you shall know that I am the Lord.

CONCLUSION: Since this whole world will one day come apart and disappear forever ... then what sort of people should we be ...

- (2 Peter 3:11–13 ESV) Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, 12 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! 13 But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.
- A. The very least we should get from this text is that our idea of holiness and godliness must be based on and completely dependent on what God has said through the prophets and apostles.**
 - B. To be holy and godly people per God's standards, we must live in the reality of the promised coming of Christ and the destruction of the visible universe.**
 - C. The destruction of this world is the backdrop for holy and godly living.**
 - i. Holy and godly people wait for—faithfully live in the reality of—the day of God.
 - ii. Holy and godly people wait for—faithfully live in the reality of—his promise of new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.