

2 Peter 3:1-14 - The Day of the Lord

- ❖ **3:1-2** - Peter's expressed purpose of reminding 'to stimulate wholesome thinking' (v1)
 - **What actually is wholesome thinking?**
 - (v2) Remembering and having faith in teaching of the prophets, Jesus and the apostles.
 - **Why could there have been a need for Peter to remind and stimulate wholesome thinking within his original audience?**
 - (1:12-15) v12-13 – Even though his audience had knowledge and were *'firmly established in the truth'* it was right to refresh their memory that they *'will always be able to remember'*.
 - (3:1-2) – Wholesome thinking explained to be identifying and recalling *'the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Saviour through your apostles'* as ultimate truths, not merely wishful thinking.
- ❖ **3:3-7** – Scoffers will come, scoffing. Deliberately forgetting ... God's word.
 - (v3) Peter commands readers to *'first of all, understand'* that scoffers (i.e. false teachers) will come during the last days following not Godly but evil desires.
 - **What are the characteristics of a scoffer in our cultural context?**
 - **Have you ever been exposed to scoffers? How was that overcome?**
 - False teachers within the church deliberately forgetting biblical integrity. Experts in greed', 'mists driven by a storm,' 'slaves of depravity'. (2:14, 17, 19)
 - False teachers deliberately forget the sureness of God's Word to suit their purposes. False teaching and persecution doesn't just come from outside the church community, but also from inside. Underneath an innocent question *"Where is this 'coming' he promised?"* is an underlying reason of Biblical illiteracy and lack of faith in the sureness of God's Word.
 - (v4) Underlying reasoning show the questioner believing that ever since the Creation, nothing has changed as *'everything goes on as it has'* – Jesus hasn't changed a thing. The point alludes to how God is unable to do what he has promised.
 - Common intellectual stumbling block. (Jer 15:17, Is 5:19, Ezk 12:22, Mal 2:17)
- ❖ **3:5-7** – Peter emphasizes the surety of God's Word and its integrity outlining three examples of how there has been divine intervention since creation. Creation>Flood>Day of Judgement
 - **How do these examples give weight to the Biblical claim that the Day of the Lord is coming?**
 - (v7) *'By the same word..'* The same word of God that brought the watery destruction of the wicked in Noah's time will bring the fiery destruction on today's wicked.
- ❖ **3:8-10** – *'But do not forget this one thing..The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise.'*
 - The delay in judgment is not God's impotence but instead a gift of a time extension for humanity.
 - (v9) **Key verse:** *'The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.'*
 - **Is God then so patient that everyone will be saved?**
 - **Does this contradict v7 – that the Day of Judgment will include the destruction of ungodly men?**

- Whilst Jesus died for everyone's sins, salvation is found only by those who have put their faith in him. 'Whoever believes in Him shall not perish and will have eternal life' (Jn 3:16). Whilst God wants everyone to come to repentance and has made that possible through Jesus, it will not be that all people will accept him as Lord. That does not change God's desire for everyone to be saved.
- **As Christians, what should our highest priority be as we wait for Jesus' second coming?**
- **3:11-13** – Application for us – The kind of people we are ought to be are those who:
 - Live holy and godly lives (v11)
 - Look forward to the day of God and speed its coming (v12)
 - Look forward to a new heaven and a new hearth, the home of righteousness (v13)
- **3:14** – **Key verse: 'So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.'**
- **Questions if time allows**
 - **Is there anything inherently wrong with questioning Biblical sureness?**
 - **How can we ensure that we do not sin in grappling with Biblical concepts?**