



Epistle of 2 Peter

2 Peter 3:8-12 - End Time Events

As an overview, Peter in this last segment of his 2nd letter is emphasizing several important points:

- Reminds us of the words of the prophets.
- Certainty of Christ's return and what accompanies Him in the process including new heavens and new earth.
- Predicts opposing view of scoffers to His return.
- Refers to God's longsuffering as a motive to repent.
- Concludes by urging our growth in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

•2 Peter 3:8 – “But, beloved, do not forget this one thing (be not ignorant), that with the Lord (kýrios) one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.”

- How often have you quoted this verse, and to you what does this mean?



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- Let's first look back at *verses 5-7*.
 - Don't be as the *scoffers!*
- Can we interpret verse 8 literally?
 - Do you agree with Constable – ‘This verse does not mean that God operates in a timeless state. Time is simply the way He and we measure the relationship of events to one another. The idea of a timeless existence is Platonic, not biblical. God's relationship to time is different from ours since He is eternal, but this does not mean that eternity will be timeless. Eternity is endless time.’
 - *Psalm 90:4 – For a thousand years in Your sight like yesterday when it is past, and a watch in the night.*
 - But this all will happen when?
 - *‘Peter 4:7 - But the end of all things is **at hand**; therefore, be serious and watchful in your prayers.*
- ***2 Peter 3:9 – “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering***



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toward us, not willing (boulomai - intelligent) that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”

- Haven't you sometimes thought of the *Lord (kýrios)* being *slack (tardy)*; and if so when and why?
 - But the verb tense here is in the indicative mood – a fact *He is not slack!*
 - So, from our human point of view, why does He seem *slack*?
- But what does the verse say in terms of *His promise*?
 - If this is His purpose, *that none should perish but that all should come to repentance*, why doesn't He simply save everyone then?
 - What about our own free will?
 - How will His glory be most realized?
 - » *2 Cor 4:7-9 - But if the ministry of death, written and engraved on stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which glory was passing away, how will the ministry of the Spirit not be more glorious? For if the ministry of condemnation had glory, the ministry of righteousness exceeds much more in glory.*



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• *2 Peter 3:10 – “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.”*

– *Day of the Lord* can sometimes relate to the rapture but for the most part relates to the ‘end times’ as described by Peter here.

• Can you picture these events?

– *thief in the night*

» *Joel 2:31 – The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord.*

» *Luke 12:39, 40 - “But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into.*

» *1 Thess 4:2 - For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.*

– *great noise* - with a rushing noise, like that of a whizzing arrow – *Logos*



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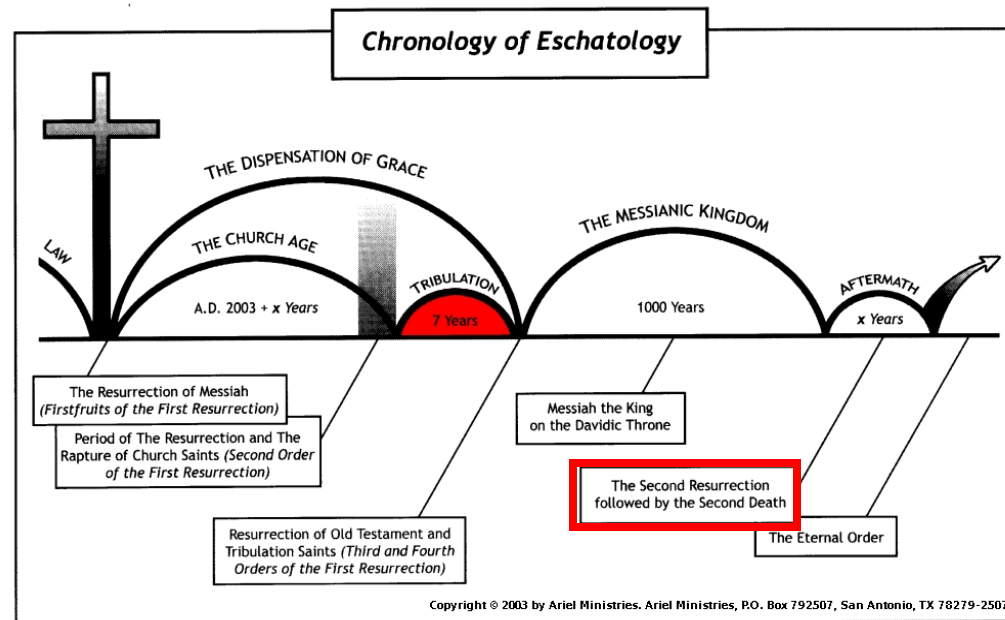
(Wikipedia)



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Wuest – ‘That aspect of the Day of the Lord which will come suddenly and unawares as a thief will be the second half of the seven-year period in which Anti-christ turns against the human race to become the ruthless dictator, and the judgments of God fall upon a Christ-rejecting world. Not only will the beginning of the Day of the Lord come suddenly, but its end at the close of the Millennium will come unexpectedly. The Great White Throne judgment and the great conflagration will come upon the earth dwellers who are unsaved as suddenly as the judgment of the Great Tribulation.’





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• 2 Peter 3:11,12 – “Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct (conversation) and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?”

– So, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God ?

- Is this for us today and if so, is this motive one of fear?*
- Is the *day of God (theos)* the same as *day of the Lord (kýrios)*?*
 - Constable – ‘The "day of God" may be a reference to the time yet future in which God will be all in all (1 Cor. 15:28). This will follow the creation of the new heavens and new earth (Rev. 21:1). On the other hand, this phrase may be another way of describing the day of the Lord. The antecedent of "on account of which" (NASB) is the day of God. God will burn up the present heavens and earth because of that day.’*



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- How will this *hasten the coming of the day of God* and all the events to follow?
 - *hasten* is probably best translated as *desiring earnestly*
 - » *Isa 16:5 - In mercy the throne will be established; And One will sit on it in truth, in the tabernacle of David, Judging and seeking justice and **hastening righteousness.***”
 - » *Isa 34:4 - **All the host of heaven shall be dissolved,** And the heavens shall be rolled up like a scroll; All their host shall fall down As the leaf falls from the vine, And as fruit falling from a fig tree.*
 - Do we change God’s timing by our faithfulness?
 - » *Matt 24:14 - And this **gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.***
 - Whatever, we live by faith Godly lives.
 - » *1 Tim 3:16 - And without controversy great is the **mystery of godliness:** God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.*
 - » *2 Peter 1:3 - as His divine power has given to us **all things that pertain to life and godliness,** through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,*