

Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

2 Peter 3:1-9

Lesson 6

The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise to return, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to perish, so he is giving more time for everyone to repent. 2 Peter 3:9 NLT In this week's study we will be dealing with *scoffers* who reject the truth of Jesus' return. Begin this week's lesson with a prayer asking the Lord to *stir up your mind* to remember and rejoice in the *promise of His return*.

DAY ONE: Read 2 Peter 3:1-9

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?
 - a. 2 Peter 3:1-9 is one section/paragraph. List below the subject(s) covered in this section.

How would you title this section? Record your title on the **Chapter & Paragraph Division Titles Chart** provided with your Observation Worksheet.

2. At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Word** and **Symbol**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

Used in previous lessons: *God* and *Jesus*

New to this lesson: *forget*

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in 2 Peter 3:1-9. Remember, as you mark the words *God* and *Jesus*, to mark any personal pronouns that refer to Them.

3. Peter used the contrasting term *but* three times (verses 7, 8, and 9). Choose one of them and record the contrast that Peter made.
4. Notice the key word *forget*. What did the *scoffers willfully forget*?
 - a. What are we not to *forget*?

DAY TWO: Read 2 Peter 3:1-2

1. In contrast to the graphic terms in chapter 2 describing the false teachers, Peter's language softens as he addresses his readers in chapter 3 as *beloved*. According to 2 Peter 3:1, why did Peter write this letter to the *beloved*?
 - a. How does he say he will do this?
2. According to 2 Peter 3:2, what two things should believers be *mindful of*?
3. *The words which were spoken before by the holy prophets* is a reference to the Old Testament, and *the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior* refers to the New Testament. Peter's purpose in this third chapter is to awaken the reader's *pure minds* to what the *holy prophets* and *apostles* taught and commanded, so they would be able to recognize the errors of the false teachers and scoffers. *Stir up your pure mind by way of reminder* by reading Acts 10:42,43. What are you *reminded of* through these verses?
 - a. Why do you think it is important for a New Testament believer to be familiar with the words *spoken by the holy prophets* in the Old Testament?
4. Living in this age of information overload, how do you keep your *pure mind stirred up to remember* the truth that protects you from error?

DAY THREE: Read 2 Peter 3:3-4

1. Write 2 Peter 3:3 phrase by phrase.
 - a. Underline the words *last days*. The *last days* refers to the time beginning with Christ's first coming and will end with His second coming. We have been in the *last days* for two thousand years.

2. What does verse 3 say will happen in the *last days*?
 - a. Use synonyms for the word *scoff* to define what a *scoffer* does.
 - b. Describe in your own words the lifestyle of the *scoffers* from verse 3. (see also Jude 1:17-19)
 - c. Contrast the walk of the *scoffers* with the walk of those who are looking forward to Christ's return in 1 John 3:2,3. What affect does this *hope* have on their lifestyle?
 - 1.) How does this speak to you about the necessity of *keeping your minds stirred up* by way of remembrance?
3. What would the *scoffers* be saying? 2 Peter 3:4
 - a. The phrase, *since the fathers fell asleep*, refers either to the Old Testament patriarchs or to those first Christian "fathers" such as Stephen, the two James, and other Christian leaders. With what faulty logic do these *scoffers* try to prove their point?
4. The *scoffers* were aware of the *promise* of His coming. Choose one of the following references and write the *promise* next to it.

John 14:1-3

Acts 1:6-11

1 Thessalonians 4:16,17
5. Why do you think people would try to convince believers that Jesus is not coming back?

DAY FOUR: Read 2 Peter 3:5-7

1. The erroneous argument these *scoffers* use is *Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.* (2 Peter 3:4b NIV) What is wrong with this argument according to 2 Peter 3:5,6?
 - a. What do these *scoffers* willingly do?
 - 1.) Reflect on the word *willingly*. What does this imply concerning these people?
2. Identify, from 2 Peter 3:6, the event the *scoffers* deny.
 - a. Peter, in refuting their argument, refers to the flood described in Genesis 6-9. Write the words he uses to describe what happened to *the world that then existed*.
 - 1.) Review the following verses concerning the worldwide flood and record how they confirm the universality of it.
Genesis 7:19

Genesis 7:23

Genesis 7:24
 - b. What parallel do you see in the second coming of Christ and the flood in Noah's time? (See Matthew 24:37-39)
3. If you encountered a 2 Peter 3:4 *scoffer*, what would you say to them to refute their claims?
4. *The heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word...*(2 Peter 3:7). What word is Peter referring to? (see 2 Peter 3:5)
 - a. What are the heavens and the earth reserved for?
 - 1.) What does Romans 2:5 teach about those with *impenitent* (unrepentant) hearts?
5. How should the reality that the earth will one day be destroyed affect the way we live our lives from day to day?

DAY FIVE: Read 2 Peter 3:8-9

1. After Peter exposes the error of the *scoffers*, he now deals with what seems like a delay in Christ's return. What does 2 Peter 3:8 say we, the *beloved*, are not to *forget*?
 - a. We on earth live in the dimension of time. What do we learn about time from the eternal perspective in Psalm 90:4?
 - b. The *scoffers* computed time only from the earthly dimension. How does 2 Peter 3:8 help you answer the question, *Where is the promise of His coming*?

2. We are not to use this seeming delay in our Lord's return as an excuse for not living for what is eternally important. Choose one of the following parables to confirm this statement.
Matthew 24:48-50

Matthew 25:1-13

3. What example from Hebrews 11:13-16 can you apply to your life?

4. Write 2 Peter 3:9 phrase by phrase and underline the words that speak to you.
 - a. The word *slack* means to *delay, tarry, or slow*. *The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise as some understand slowness* 2 Peter 3:9a NIV. What *promise* is Peter referring to?
 - b. How does Hebrews 10:36,37 encourage you regarding this promise?

5. From our limited human perspective, it seems the Lord's second coming is *slow*. What two reasons are stated in 2 Peter 3:9 for this seeming slowness?
 - a. What do you learn about the heart of God from this verse?
 - b. Define the word *longsuffering*.

DAY SIX: Review 2 Peter 3:1-9

1. Why is it important to be reminded of the truths of God's Word?
2. What are some Biblical truths you have heard people *scoff* at?
3. In what way are *scoffers* and their lifestyle of *walking after their own lusts* another evidence of the fact that what a person believes directly influences his behavior?
4. How does the *promise of His coming* influence your life?
5. How have you personally benefitted from God's *longsuffering*?
6. In what way(s) has this study challenged you?

*For a thousand years in Your sight
Are like yesterday when it is past,
And like a watch in the night.*

- Psalm 90:4