

"What do the False Teachers Believe?"

Part 2

2 Peter 3

Introduction: Last week in our study we started into 2 Peter 3 where Peter began to uncover the doctrine of the false teachers. He Used the first 2 verses of chapter 3 to remind his readers again of the need to be in the Word of God.

Notice 2 Peter 3:1-2

The Words of the prophets and the commandment of the apostles refers to the Old Testament and the New Testament writings. This is a unique verse because there are not many verses that confirm the New Testament writings as Scripture.

Notice 2 Peter 3:15-16

Here we see the writings of the apostle Paul are counted as part of the Scriptures.

Now I want to go back and pick up where we stopped last week.

I. The False Teachers Attack on True Doctrine

Notice 2 Peter 3:3-6

When we looked at this last week, we considered how the false teachers attack the second coming of Jesus Christ. They use scoffing and ridicule to cast doubt upon the earthly return of Jesus Christ. Peter tells us they walk after their own lusts which means they live attempting to satisfy the desires of the flesh, but they are never satisfied. We looked at what Paul said about the unsaved gentile in Ephesians and considered how the false teachers are very much the same.

Ephesians 4:17-19

¹⁷ *This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,*

¹⁸ *Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:*

¹⁹ ***Who being past feeling** have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.*

These people are past feeling meaning two things. First, they have seared their conscience as they have indulged in the lusts of the flesh and second, they are never satisfied with whatever they indulge in. You see the word "greediness" at the end of Ephesians 4:19? That means that they cannot get enough of the sin they are involved in. Anyone who is walking after their own lusts is a person who is sinking deeper and deeper into the pit of sin.

Notice 2 Peter 3:4

Here in the second half of this verse we see their reasoning, and this is what we touched on briefly last week. They are uniformitarians. This means they look at what they can see with their eyes right now and determine that this is the way it has always been. In other words they do not see any major catastrophic events that are changing the conditions of this world, so they say this is how it has always been. Let us notice the definition of uniformitarianism:

"The theory that changes in the earth's crust during geological history have resulted from the action of continuous and uniform processes."

Notice the words of Blum:

"The argument of the false teachers is essentially a naturalistic one — a kind of uniformitarianism that rules out divine intervention in history."

This by the way is exactly what is taught in public schools. This is evolution and that is why it is believed by many that the earth is millions and billions of years old. This teaching has resulted in the Gap Theory.

Genesis 1:1-2

¹*In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*

²*And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.*

Many will try to teach you that the word "WAS" in verse 2 should be translated "BECAME". So what they teach is that God created the world perfectly but after the first creation Satan brought sin in the world and it "BECAME" without form and void. But this teaching contradicts Romans 5:12.

Romans 5:12

¹²*Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.*

There is no gap between verses 1 and 2 of Genesis 1. The word "and" is a connective and it allows absolutely no gap of millions or billions of years.

Now the reason the false teachers attack the return of Jesus Christ is because they do not want to face a day of reckoning.

Matthew 25:14-19

¹⁴ For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.

¹⁵ And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.

¹⁶ Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.

¹⁷ And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two.

¹⁸ But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.

¹⁹ After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.

This is what the false teachers do not want to face. Let us now see what Peter says concerning their reasoning.

Notice 2 Peter 3:5-6

Peter tells us here that they are "willingly ignorant" of the flood. They not only deny the return of Jesus Christ, but they also deny the flood. Why is this? The answer is because the flood was God's judgment upon the world because of sin. They do not in anyway want to acknowledge that God judges sin because they then would become the subjects of His judgment.

If we look at verse 5 closely, we see that creation and the flood all came by the Word of God. God spoke and the world was created, God spoke, and the flood came upon the earth.

Psalm 33:6-9

⁶ By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.

⁷ He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap: he layeth up the depth in storehouses.

⁸ Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.

⁹ For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.

These false teachers will deny that the flood of Noah's day was global. They teach that it was only a local flood. But the Bible is very clear that it was global.

Genesis 7:19-23

¹⁹ And the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; and all the high hills, that were under the whole heaven, were covered.

²⁰ Fifteen cubits upward did the waters prevail; and the mountains were covered.

²¹ And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man:

²² All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died.

There is even more evidence that the flood was global. God told Noah to build an ark and God brought two of each animal on the ark. If the flood was local, then why build an ark. Just have everyone move to higher ground. Why bring the animals on the ark? Just have them migrate to higher ground.

Do you see what evolution and uniformitarianism does? It removes God out of the picture because it is His spoken Word that brought about both of these major events. They deny both the creation and the flood because they do not want to acknowledge a righteous God who judges sin. This is what we are seeing in the teaching of evolution in our schools. People are "wilfully ignorant" meaning that they simply choose not to believe that God created the world or that God judged the world. Anyone who is an "atheist" is a person who flat out rejects the Truth. They have the Truth, but it is rejected by them.

Romans 1:18-22

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

¹⁹ Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

²⁰ For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

²¹ Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

²² Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

There were three catastrophic events that have altered the world. The fall, the flood, and the Tower of Babel. These three have each changed the world in major ways but the false teachers will deny one each of these.

Notice 2 Peter 3:7

Here Peter tells us that the world is reserved "BY THE SAME WORD OF GOD" unto the judgment of ungodly men. Just as the world was drastically altered by three major events so it will be altered by three in the future also. Why would people deny these future events? Because they love this world and they do not want to see what they know here come to an end. Have you ever witnessed someone who did not want to hear about the Tribulation and what is going to fall upon this world? They love this world and their lives here and so they deny what is coming. But the past events are warnings of what is to come. If a person accepts the past events, then they will understand that one day this world will be purged by fire and judgment and then one day this world will be completely destroyed, and God will create a new heaven and a new earth.

Revelation 20:11, 21:1

¹¹ And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

¹And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

The three future events that are coming on the world by the Word of God are:

1. The Rapture

2 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

² *That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.*

³ *Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;*

⁴ *Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.*

⁵ *Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?*

⁶ *And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.*

⁷ *For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.*

⁸ *And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:*

When the Rapture happens the Restrainer will be removed, and the forces of evil will be set free in this world. This will certainly change the world as we know it today. There will not be one saved person on the planet for some time.

2. The Anti-Christ will establish his kingdom.

Revelation 13:1-2, 7

And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

² *And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.*

⁷ *And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.*

The Anti-Christ will rule over all the world.

Daniel 7:25

²⁵ *And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change the times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.*

3. The Return of Jesus Christ at the end of the Tribulation.

Matthew 24:29-31

²⁹ *Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:*

³⁰ *And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*

³¹ *And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.*

Conclusion:

The false teachers and anyone else who denies that God created the world through His spoke Word needs to be confronted with Job 38.

Job 38:4-7

⁴ *Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.*

⁵ *Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it?*

⁶ *Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof;*

⁷ *When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?*