

**"Refuting the Teachings of False Teachers?"**

**Part 1**

**2 Peter 3**

**Introduction:** Last week we were looking at a message in which we learned what it was that the false teachers believe. The false teachers that Peter was speaking of believed in uniformitarianism which is the teaching that states we can determine the past by what we see today. Blum says this about the false teachers:

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

This is what uniformitarianism does, it chooses to ignore God and what He has done in the past.

**Notice 2 Peter 3:4-5**

You see what they say? All things continue as they were from the beginning. They deny three major events in the past which were brought about by the Word of God.

1. Fall/Curse
2. Flood
3. Tower of Bable

These 3 events have each changed the world from what it was before.

The false teachers are willingly ignorant of what God has done in the past. This means they just simply refuse to acknowledge His hand in the past. Uniformitarianism which is taught in evolution just willfully chooses to deny God and His working in the past and the present and the future.

We also looked at why these false teachers deny the flood as well as the curse and the Tower of Bable, and that is because they refuse to acknowledge that God judges sin. If God really did work in the past in these events that means the false teachers would also face a judgment and they do not want to face that truth. This is by the way the depravity of man who believes if he ignores a Truth, it will not happen.

As we continue tonight, we are going to see how Peter refutes the teaching of the false teachers.

**I. History**

We have just looked at Peter's teaching concerning history. He pointed back to the flood as evidence that things do not continue as they were from the beginning. The point that Peter was making was, **you cannot evaluate the past and the future by what is seen in the present.**

Biblical Creationism completely refutes uniformitarianism and evolution. If a pastor or a church do not believe in Biblical Creationism (there are many who do not) then they are not following the Word of God. If Biblical Creationism is rejected by a pastor or the church, then how could they believe anything recorded in the Bible. The first eleven chapters of Genesis are the foundation which all of the Scriptures rest upon.

## II. The Infiniteness God

### Notice 2 Peter 3:4, 8

The false teachers cast doubt upon the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Jesus because of the time that has passed since proclamation has been made that He will return and set up His Kingdom. Peter makes it very clear that God is not tied to time as we are. To God a day is as a thousand years and a thousand years as a day. This means that God does not view things in time as we do but instead He sees everything from beginning to end. He is infinite we are finite. We live in a world that is tied to time. What seems like forever to us is nothing to God. To a child an hour or a week may seem like an eternity but as an adult the hours and the weeks go by rapidly.

Peter was probably looking back to Psalm 90 when he wrote this.

### Psalm 90:4

*<sup>4</sup> For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.*

I want to use a few verses to help us to see that God is not tied to time as we are.

### Ephesians 2:1-

*And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;*

*<sup>2</sup> Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:*

*<sup>3</sup> Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*

<sup>4</sup> *But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,*

<sup>5</sup> *Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)*

<sup>6</sup> **And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:**

In God eyes we are already seated in the heavenlies with our Lord. God sees it as already finished and done.

### **Romans 8:28-30**

<sup>28</sup> *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*

<sup>29</sup> *For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

<sup>30</sup> *Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, **them he also glorified.***

At the end of verse 30 we see that in God's eyes we are already glorified. There is no gap of time from here to there as far as God is concerned.

So what Peter is saying to the false teachers is that they cannot understand the delay because they do not see things as God sees them. God is not bound by time and they and we are. Notice the words of Spurgeon on this thought:

*"All things are equally near and present to his view; the distance of a thousand years before the occurrence of an event, is no more to him than would be the interval of a day. With God, indeed, there is neither past, present, nor future. He takes for his name the 'I AM.' ... He is the I AM; I AM in the present; I AM in the past and I AM in the future. Just as we say of God that he is everywhere, so we may say of him that he is always; he is everywhere in space; he is everywhere in time."*

Now before we leave this point I need to explain the major error that many make with 2 Peter 3:8. There are many who take this verse and carry it back to the Genesis record of creation.

### **Genesis 1:9-19**

<sup>9</sup> And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so.

<sup>10</sup> And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good.

<sup>11</sup> And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.

<sup>12</sup> And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

<sup>13</sup> And the evening and the morning were the **third day**.

<sup>14</sup> And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:

<sup>15</sup> And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so.

<sup>16</sup> And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also.

<sup>17</sup> And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth,

<sup>18</sup> And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good.

<sup>19</sup> And the evening and the morning were the **fourth day**.

There are those who teach that the days here are thousands of years. This is known as "The Day Age Theory". This is not what Peter is saying. You cannot carry creation into what Peter is writing because the context is NOT creation. Anytime the word "DAY" is used with a number as in Genesis it always refers to a twenty-four hour day, not thousands of years.

### **Exodus 20:11**

<sup>11</sup> For in **six days** the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

### **III. The Longsuffering of God**

**Notice 2 Peter 3:9**

Here we see the reason for the delay in the Lord's return. He is longsuffering and He desires to see people repent and be saved. Now, let us understand that the return of Jesus that the false teachers are speaking of is the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming or the EARTHLY return of Jesus Christ at the end of the tribulation. This return is delayed because when the time of the tribulation begins many will perish.

**Revelation 6:7-8**

*<sup>7</sup> And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see.*

*<sup>8</sup> And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.*

Here in this verse one-fourth of the world's population dies under the 4<sup>th</sup> Seal. Today's population is about 8 billion so when this Seal is broken 2 billion people will die. Let us notice what happens when the 6<sup>th</sup> Trumpet sounds.

**Revelation 9:16-18**

*<sup>16</sup> And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them.*

*<sup>17</sup> And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone.*

*<sup>18</sup> By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths.*

Here one-third of the people die. This would be another 2 billion people. So in two different judgments 4 billion people will perish. Then at the end of the tribulation is the Battle of Armageddon where who knows how many will perish in the battle.

Then there will be the Judgment of the Nations in Matthew 25 where the unsaved that are living at the end of the tribulation will be sentenced to hell.

Getting back to Peter's point, the Lord's return is delayed because He longs to see people saved.

**1 Timothy 2:3-4**

<sup>3</sup> *For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;*

<sup>4</sup> *Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.*

**Conclusion:**

**Notice 2 Peter 3:10**

Regardless of what the false teachers say the Lord will return and when He does the events will come upon people like a thief in the night. This verse speaks of TRUE GLOBAL warming. This is not speaking of the rapture. This is the Day of the Lord which starts with the tribulation and will lead up to the return of Jesus Christ.

Reginald E. Showers says that *"The Day of the Lord refers to God's special interventions into the course of world events to judge His enemies, accomplish His purpose for history, and thereby demonstrate who He is--the sovereign God of the universe."*

**1 Thessalonians 5:1-3**

*But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.*

<sup>2</sup> *For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.*

<sup>3</sup> *For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.*

We can be sure the Lord is coming back for us before the Day of the Lord. We will be caught up in the rapture if we do not die first. No matter what the scoffers say we have the sure Word of God.

**Titus 2:13**

<sup>13</sup> *Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;*