

Disciples Are Prepared For Christ's Coming (lesson #14)

2 Peter 3

*"From Creation To The Day Of Eternity" (Hailey)
Peter uses the term "Beloved" in 3:1-2, 8, 14, 17*

1. What is the promise of verse 9?

The Lord's Second Coming (1:4).

The prophets (of the New Testament), the Lord & the apostles spoke of His coming.

They also warned that many would scoff at the idea.

What statements of fact do we have that the Lord will come?

Acts 1:9-11 – Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, & a cloud received Him out of their sight. 10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, 11 who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? **This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.**"

Matt 24:29-30 (Mark 13:24-27; Luke 21:25-28) – Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, & the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, & the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 30 Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, & then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, & **they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven** with power & great glory.

Matt 26:64 – Jesus said to him, "It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter **you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, & coming on the clouds of heaven.**"

Rev 1:7 – Behold, **He is coming with clouds**, & every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.

1 Cor 11:26 – For as often as you eat this bread & drink this cup, **you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.**

1 Thess 4:16-17 – For **the Lord Himself will descend from heaven** with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, & with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive & remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

1 Thess 5:1-11 – But concerning the times & the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. 2 For you yourselves know perfectly **that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night**. 3 For when they say, "Peace & safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. 4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. 5 You are all sons of light & sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. 6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch & be sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, & those who get drunk are drunk at night. 8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith & love, & as a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 **For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.** 11 Therefore comfort each other & edify one another, just as you also are doing.

2 Thess 1:7-10 – and to give you who are troubled rest with us when **the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven** with His mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, & on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord & from the glory of His power, 10 **when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints & to be admired among all those who believe**, because our testimony among you was believed.

1 Cor 15:20-24 – But now Christ is risen from the dead, & has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. 23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are **Christ's at His coming**. 24 Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule & all authority & power.

1 Cor 1:4-9 – I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus, 5 that you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance & all knowledge, 6 even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you, 7 so that you come short in no gift, **eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ**, 8 who will also confirm you to the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Phil 1:9-11 – And this I pray, that your love may abound still more & more in knowledge & all discernment, 10 that you may approve the things that are excellent, **that you may be sincere & without offense till the day of Christ**, 11 being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory & praise of God.

Phil 2:14-17 – Do all things without complaining & disputing, 15 that you may become blameless & harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked & perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, 16 holding fast the word of life, **so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ** that I have not run in vain or labored in vain. 17 Yes, & if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice & service of your faith, I am glad & rejoice with you all.

Titus 2:11-14 – For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness & worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, & godly in the present age, 13 **looking for the blessed hope & glorious appearing of our great God & Savior Jesus Christ**, 14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed & purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

2. How do we know Jesus will not return to earth?

1 Thess 4:17 – Then we who are alive & remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to **meet the Lord in the air**. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

John 17:4 – I have glorified You **on the earth**. **I have finished the work** which You have given Me to do.

2 Pet 3:7-13 – But **the heavens & the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment & perdition of ungodly men**. 8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, & a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. 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, & the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth & the works that are in it will be burned up**. 11 **Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved**, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct & godliness, 12 looking for & hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which **the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, & the elements will melt with fervent heat?** 13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens & a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

What theory is based on the false teaching that He will return to earth?

Premillennialism: the theory has several viewpoints.

Historic Premillennialism. This view sees the return of Christ as a single event after a period of intense tribulation, which is going to be accompanied by the resurrection of the righteous, who are going to reign on earth with Christ for a thousand years. And then you're going to have the resurrection of the wicked and final judgment, and the ushering in of eternity.

This is one of the oldest views of end times in the church. As far back as men like Papias, Justin Martyr, Tertullian who lived in the first and second century, these views were promoted. This view goes back very far, and has been around for 1900 years.

A-Millennialism. This idea views the church as in the millennium now. Satan has been bound from preventing the gospel from spreading to the nations. And the saints who have died in Christ are reigning now with Christ in heaven. The return of Christ is going to be a single event. It's going to be a resurrection of the just and the unjust. It's going to have judgment. And then eternity.

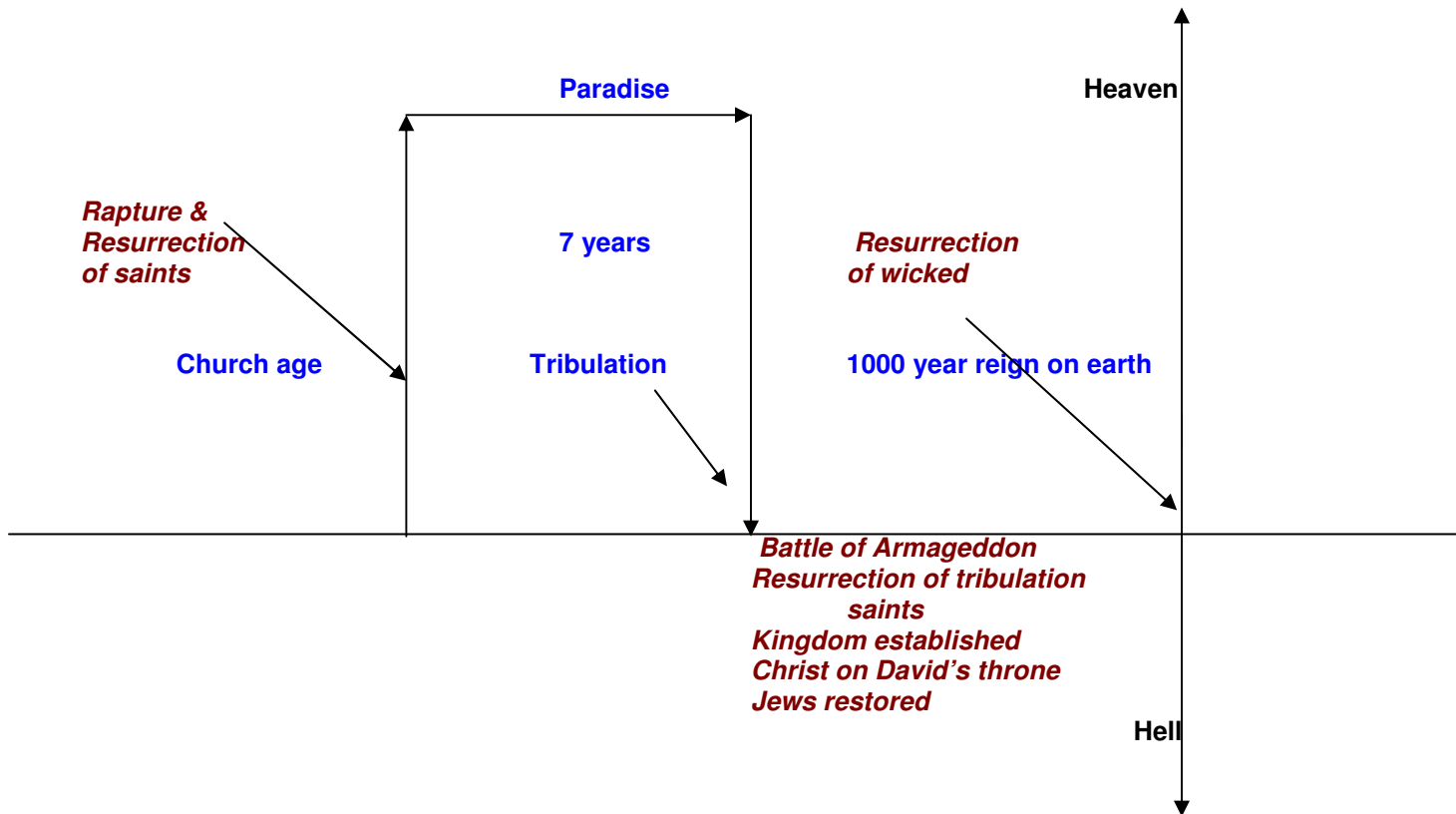
Now, these were the two dominant views in the first two or three centuries of the church: Historical Premillennialism and a-millennialism.

About the 4th century a man named Augustine wrote a book called "The City of God," that basically established a-millennialism as the almost exclusive view of the church for the next 1200 or 1300 years. All of the ancient creeds are basically a-millennial. All the way through the reformation the "Christian leaders" were a-millennialist. And these were the two basic views in the early days of the church.

Post-Millennialism. This view (17th & 18th century) sees the world becoming increasingly Christianized, ushering in a golden age of spiritual prosperity that's going to be called "the millennium." Which is going to be followed by the return of Christ—post-millennial—Christ will come after the millennium. Then you will have the resurrection of the dead, then judgment, and eternity.

This became one of the dominant views during the Enlightenment. John Wesley in England, and Jonathan Edwards in America were post-millennialist.

Dispensationalism (Modern Pre-Millennialism). It arose about 1830. A man named John Nelson Darby who broke from the Anglican church in England, and started a movement named "Plymouth Brethren" began to have a lot of prophecy conferences. He was a prolific writer, and he came to the unique conclusion that all these prophecies that were about Israel in the Old Testament had nothing to do with the church. They were two separate bodies. His view became increasingly popular. A man named Cyrus Scofield adopted his view, and in 1909 published the Scofield Bible with study notes. And the theory spread rapidly and dominated evangelical thought. And so, in a matter of a few decades the dispensational view became the dominant view.



3. Describe the attitude & the behavior of those who mock the Second Coming (vss. 3-5).

Scoffer: one who treats lightly what ought to be taken seriously (e.g., Lot's sons-in-law [Gen 19:14](#); see also [Psa 2](#)).

They “walk according to their own lust; they mock belief & believers in the coming of Christ, while they ignore the testimony that points to it (discussed later).

1 Tim 4:1-4 – Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times **some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits & doctrines of demons**, 2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron.

2 Tim 3:1-4 – But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For **men will be** lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, **blasphemers**, disobedient to parents,

unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

Jude 14-15 – Now **Enoch**, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "**Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, 15 to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, & of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.**"

4. Did the flood of Noah's time cover the world or just a small section (v. 6)?

Gen 7:19-20 – And the waters prevailed exceedingly on the earth, & **all the high hills under the whole heaven were covered**. 20 The waters prevailed fifteen cubits upward, & the mountains were covered.

Why is this introduced into the discussion of the 2nd Coming (cf. v. 7)?

To illustrate that the Lord will fulfill His promise, because of the power of His word, which **created** things seen & **flooded** the earth. **Therefore**, Christ will return & the earth will be destroyed by fire.

5. Discuss briefly the following:

a. "One day is with the Lord as a 1000 years" (v. 8).

The passage of time does not affect His promises.

Psa 90:1-4 (Prayer of Moses) – Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. 2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God. 3 You turn man to destruction, and say, "Return, O children of men." 4 **For a thousand years in Your sight are like yesterday when it is past, and like a watch in the night.**

b. "The longsuffering of God" (vss. 9, 15).

It is not to be mistaken for slowness or powerlessness, but rather the passage of time is to be understood by the longsuffering nature of God who would have all men to be saved & to come to a knowledge of the truth (1 Tim 2:4; Ezek 18:23, 32; 33:11; Rom 11:32).

c. "Looking for & earnestly desiring the coming of the day of God" (v. 12)

Synonymous with "his coming" – "his promise" – "Day of the Lord"

d. "Perish or repent" (v. 9)

These are our choices & they will determine our soul's eternal destiny.

Luke 13:1-5 – There were present at that season some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2 And Jesus answered and said to them, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered such things? 3 I tell you, no; but **unless you repent you will all likewise perish.** 4 Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem? 5 I tell you, no; but **unless you repent you will all likewise perish.**"

Acts 11:18 – When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, "Then God has also granted to the Gentiles **repentance to life.**"

2 Tim 2:25-26 – in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if **God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,** 26 and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.

Acts 20:21 – testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, **repentance toward God** and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

6. What does Peter tell disciples of the Lord about preparation (vss. 11-14)?

Holy conduct.

Looking for (expecting) the day of God (the end & the beginning).

Live in peace without spot & blameless (2 Pet 1:1-10; Luke 13:23-30)