

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH BIBLE STUDY INSTITUTE

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2 PETER 3 VS 1-4

“ SCOFFERS “

INTRO: PETER HAS DEALT WITH THE CHARACTER AND THE CONDUCT OF THE APOSTATES IN 2 PET 2, AND NOW HE DEALS WITH THEIR FALSE TEACHINGS. PETER AFFIRMED THE CERTAINTY OF CHRIST'S COMING IN HIS GLORY(2 PET 1 VS 16). A TRUTH THAT THE APOSTATES QUESTIONED AND DENIED. IN FACT THEY WERE SCOFFING AT THE VERY IDEA OF THE:

- **RETURN OF THE LORD**
- **THE JUDGEMENT OF THE WORLD**
- **THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GLORIOUS KINGDOM**

IT IS IMPORTANT FOR US AS CHRISTIANS TO UNDERSTAND GOD'S TRUTH! TODAY WE ARE SURROUNDED BY SCOFFERS, PEOPLE WHO REFUSE TO TAKE THE BIBLE SERIOUSLY WHEN IT SPEAKS ABOUT CHRIST'S RETURN AND THE CERTAINTY OF JUDGEMENT. IN THIS SECTION PETER ADMONISHES HIS READERS TO UNDERSTAND THREE IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT GOD AND THE PROMISE OF CHRIST'S COMING:

I. GOD'S WORD IS TRUE – (1-4) PETER TELLS HIS READERS FROM THE VERY BEGINNING THAT HE IS WRITING THIS LETTER TO:

- **AWAKEN** (2 PET 1 VS 12-15)
- **AROUSE** (2 PET 1 VS 12-15)

NOTE: IT IS EASY FOR CHRISTIANS TO GET ACCUSTOMED TO GOD'S TRUTH

EXAMPLE : **EUTYCHUS** – (ACTS 20 VS 7-10) WENT TO SLEEP LISTENING TO PAUL PREACH. OUR HEAVENLY FATHER HAS SACRIFICED SO THAT WE MIGHT HAVE THE TRUTH OF GOD'S WORD AND THE FREEDOM TO PRACTICE IT, BUT TOO OFTEN WE TAKE THIS FOR GRANTED AND BECOME COMPLACENT. THE CHURCH NEEDS TO BE AROUSED REGULARLY LEST THE ENEMY FIND US ASLEEP AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR SPIRITUAL LETHARGY. BECAUSE GOD'S WORD IS TRUE WE MUST PAY ATTENTION TO IT AND TAKE IT SERIOUSLY. NEW CONVERTS MUST BE TAUGHT THE WORD OF GOD AND ESTABLISHED IN THE DOCTRINES OF FAITH, FOR NEW CHRISTIANS ARE THE APOSTATES PRIMARY TARGET.

THE DAY OF THE LORD

NOTE: WHEN THE APOSTATES WERE DENYING THE DAY OF THE LORD THEY WERE DENYING :

- **THE TRUTH OF GOD'S WORD**

- **THE TEACHINGS OF OUR LORD IN THE GOSPELS**
- **THE WRITING OF THE APOSTLES**

THE DAY OF THE LORD BEING MENTIONED GOES BACK TO

- **DAYS OF ENOCH** (JUDE 14-15)
- **HEBREW PROPHETS** (ISA, DAN , JER, JOEL, AMOS, ZEPH,ZECH)
- **THE LORD HIMSELF** (MAT 24-25 – THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT)

DEFINE “ THE DAY OF THE LORD “ – A TIME WHEN GOD’S WRATH WILL BE Poured OUT ON THE NATIONS, AND SATAN WILL BE FREE TO GIVE VENT TO HIS ANGER AND MALICE

VARIOUS DAYS MENTIONED IN THE BIBLE

1. THE DAY OF THE LORD – THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT THAT CLIMAXES WITH THE RETURN OF CHRIST ON EARTH

2. THE DAY OF GOD – WHEN GODS PEOPLE ENJOY A NEW HEAVEN AND THE NEW EARTH (WHEN ALL EVIL HAS BEEN JUDGED) (1 COR 15 VS 28)

3. THE DAY OF CHRIST – THE COMING OF CHRIST FOR HIS CHURCH (1 COR 1 VS 7-9; PHIL 1 VS 10 , 2 VS 16)

DIFFERENT THOUGHTS ABOUT THESE DAYS

1. BEFORE THE DAY OF THE LORD – THOSE WHO BELIEVE THE CHURCH WILL BE RAPTURED (CAUGHT UP TOGETHER) I THESS 4 VS 13

2. MIDDLE OF THE DAY OF THE LORD – SO THAT THE CHURCH EXPERIENCES THE FIRST HALF OF TRIBULATION

3. AT THE CLOSE OF THE DAY OF THE LORD – MEANING THAT CHRISTIANS WOULD EXPERIENCE THE ENTIRE TRIBULATION PERIOD

NOTE: WE SHOULD NOT ALLOW OUR DIFFERENCES OF INTERPRETATION TO CREATE A PROBLEM IN FELLOWSHIP OR CHRISTIAN LOVE

WORD OF GOD PREDICTS

- THE COMING OF THE LORD
- THE APPEARANCE OF THE SCOFFERS WHO DENY THE WORD

NOTE: THE PRESENCE OF THE SCOFFERS IS PROOF THAT THE WORD THEY DENY IS THE TRUE WORD OF GOD ! (ACTS 20 VS 28-31; 1 TIM 4; 2 TIM 3)

SCOFFERS DEFINED : **TREATS LIGHTLY, THAT WHICH OUGHT TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY**

EXAMPLES :

- PEOPLE OF NOAH'S DAY – SCOFFED AT THE IDEA OF JUDGEMENT
- CITIZENS OF SODOM – SCOFFED AT THE IDEAL OF FIRE AND BRIMSTONE

WHY DO THE APOSTATES SCOFF ?

- THEY WANT TO CONTINUE TO LIVE IN SIN (2 PET 2 VS 10)

ARGUMENT OF THE APOSTATES

- NOTHING HAS HAPPENED YET, ALL THINGS CONTINUE

CLOSE: THE WORD OF GOD IS THE LIGHT THAT SHINES I N THE DARK PLACE. (2 PETER 1 VS 19). WE CAN TRUST IT. NO MATTER WHAT THE SCOFFERS MAY CLAIM, GOD'S DAY OF JUDGEMENT WILL COME ON THE WORLD, AND JESUS CHRIST SHALL RETURN TO ESTABLISH HIS GLORIOUS KINGDOM !