

A Living Hope...A Sure Salvation
Lesson 8

The Sure Promise In Which To Hope

2 Pet. 3:1-18

Introduction

Peter concludes his second and final epistle by exhorting his readers toward the sure promises of God, promises that should be believed because of the certainty of His word. False teachers, or “mockers,” try to malign God by mischaracterizing Him and what He has said. Peter gives his final exhortation by “stirring up our sincere minds” in reminding us of unalterable truths that silence any and all detractors. God will send His Son again (**vv. 4, 10a**), and His return will bring on the destruction of the world (**vv. 7, 10b, 12**). Both these events will usher in the “new heavens and the new earth,” or eternity (**v. 13**). For this we should eagerly seek and anticipate (**v. 14**). The only way to get there from here is to grow in our knowledge in order to avoid apostasy (**vv. 17-18**).

1. How does Peter restate the purposes for which he has written his two letters? (**3:1-2**) Whom does he reference in **v. 2**?
2. When are the “last days”? (**3:3a**) What will happen in those days, and why would such men be mocking? (**3:3b**)
3. What was the content of their mockings? (**3:4**) How did they come to conclude this? *Thought question:* using other passages, what reasons have believers been given that the Lord will indeed come again?
4. What was the problem with the mockers’ thinking? (**3:5**) In **3:5-9**, Peter seems to give 3 answers to the mockers’ error. What do you think are the 3 answers and comment in the spaces provided. Use other passages to corroborate:

vv. 5-7 _____

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v. 8 _____

v. 9 _____

5. *Thought question:* examining **3:6** and **3:10** together, how would these passages refute the Watchtower Witnesses and others who espouse premillennialism?

6. How will the “day of the Lord” come? (**3:10**) What is meant by such an expression, and where else is this metaphor used in the N.T.? Describe the events surrounding this great day.

7. What is Peter’s admonition in **3:11**?

8. Considering **3:12**, how are saints to view these future events? *Thought question:* when these future events become reality, how will the saint feel? The mocker?

9. What is the mindset of those who believe in God and His word? (**3:13**) Where else in the Scripture do we read of “new heavens and a new earth”? What will characterize this new realm?

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10. Given all these "certainties" from God, disciples of the Lord will show they live by hope. In **3:14-18**, what four things will children of God do that will demonstrate this hope is within them? (Hint: notice all are "action" verbs, signifying the doing of something)

a) **v. 14** _____

b) **vv. 15-16** _____

c) **v. 17** _____

d) **v. 18** _____
