

: 1-2 *This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles,*

Although there are scholars that question the Petrine composition of this letter on linguistic grounds, I would argue that the Holy Spirit would not allow pseudographic deception. Also the whole letter sounds like it comes from Peter's heart.

Note that Peter once again affirms the Old Testament, and the teachings of the apostles, as authoritative and trustworthy guides in the faith. (See Acts 3:17-26).

: 3-5 *knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation."*

The scoffers scorn and despise God's revelation, both moral and prophetic, so that they can follow their own evil desires. Their problem is not intellectual concerns about the Parousia, but merely an excuse to avoid accountability to the moral law. Many intellectuals espouse Darwinism for the same reason.

**Can we have 'good desires' outside of faith and the influence of the Holy Spirit?
Does our 'total depravity' prevent even our good desires from being 'good'?**

Where is the promise? This question has been asked throughout history, for example: Mal. 2:17 *You have wearied the LORD with your words. But you say, "How have we wearied him?" By saying, "Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and he delights in them." Or by asking, "Where is the God of justice?"* Jer. 17:15 *Behold, they say to me, "Where is the word of the LORD? Let it come!"*

: 5-7 *For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the Day of Judgment and destruction of the ungodly.*

Peter appeals to the creation story for support of his case.

Aristotelian cosmology taught that the earth and the universe were eternal. This held sway until the 1960's, when the big bang theory was proposed.

Eastern cosmology is cyclical, and that we are recycled through various forms of existence until we reach Nirvana.

Biblical cosmology is linear, with creation, the flood, re-creation, fire, and then a new heaven and a new earth. God created the universe with a purpose that will be fully revealed in the new heaven and earth.

: 8-9 *But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise but some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.*

Ps 90:4 *For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.*

Jewish teaching says that after 6000 years there will be a thousand year Sabbath. This is in keeping with our understanding of the beginning of civilization, as we know it, around 4000 years BC. That with 2000 years since Christ came leaves us at the threshold of the Sabbatical millennium.

Hab 2:2-3 *Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it. For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end - it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay.*

: 10-12 *But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn!*

Is. 66:15-16 *“For behold, the LORD will come in fire, and his chariots like the whirlwind, to render his anger in fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. For by fire will the LORD enter into judgment, and by his sword, with all flesh; and those slain by the LORD shall be many.*

Matt. 24:43 *But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into.*

1Th. 4:16 *For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.*

Rev. 6:15-16 *Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, calling to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb.*

: 13-16 *But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.*

The new heavens and new earth will be a place of righteousness.

How would you define righteousness? Will it make heaven boring?

If righteousness is not our pursuit now, how will we tolerate it in heaven? You might like to read C. S. Lewis's *The Great Divorce* for insight into this.

Note that Peter here equates Paul's writings to scripture. I think Paul's teachings on grace vs. law, and freedom vs. libertarianism, are being distorted by the false teachers.

: 17-18 *You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.*

Be on your guard.

Grow in grace and knowledge.

Jesus Christ is indeed our Lord and Savior.

Peter ends this letter with a doxology: *To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.*