

**King James Bible Study Correspondence Course**

*An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries*  
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

**2 Peter Lesson 8****2 Peter 3: 10-18****The Day of the LORD**

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How interested are you in your neighbor? Not just your next-door neighbor, but also your fellow - church member neighbor or your fellow job related neighbor? Would it surprise you to learn that, according to a survey by Barna Research, 32 percent of Americans who call themselves Christians say they have never experienced God's presence? As believers we have a responsibility to learn where our neighbors are spiritually and to minister to them in their need, whether it's salvation or encouragement or something else. If 32 percent of professing Christians have never experienced God's presence, something is terribly wrong with their profession of faith.

**A Motive for Godly Living**

It is sad that more than 30 percent of professing Christians have not experienced God's presence, because the truly born again Christian has the Holy Spirit indwelling him, and HIS presence should be experienced every day. Not only should we believers know God's presence, but also it should motivate us to godly living.

Another motive for godly living is our expectation of the great Day of the Lord. Peter challenged believers with this truth as he closed his second letter. He intended to stir up the pure minds of his readers to remember what they knew about the Lord's return. As we read his words, they should arouse our thinking about future events, for the future has relevance to what we do now. Peter reminded us that looking forward to the Lord's return and living godly lives are related.

**The Day of the Lord**

The Day of the Lord is a theme found in both Testaments of the Scriptures (Zephaniah 1:14-18; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-4).

"The Day of the Lord" is a Biblical term used to describe end-time events. In its widest scope "the Day of the Lord" will include at least 1,007 years. Toward the close of that period of time, God will make the new heavens and the new earth (Revelation 21:1). The disappearance of the present heavens and earth and the appearance of the new heavens and new earth is the focus of Peter's words in 2 Peter 3:10-18. The events of the Day of the Lord are associated with Christ's return.

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### Like a Thief

The Day of the Lord will begin sometime after the rapture of the church (I Thessalonians 4:13-18; 5:1-4 the unsaved will not expect, for it will come upon them like a thief in the night (I Thessalonians 5:2, 3; 2 Peter 3:10). On the other hand, we believers, who expect Christ to return, need to prepare for His return by living godly lives.

### A Great Noise

Peter vividly described the dramatic effects of the Day of the Lord on the present heavens and earth (2 Peter 3:10). The heavens will pass away with a great noise. The noise made by this passing away will sound like something passing swiftly through the air.

### Fervent Heat

The elements of the universe will melt due to a fervent heat (2 Peter 3:10). The word "elements" describes the "periodic table of elements" the component parts that make up the universe.

The intense heat of God's power will perform a melt down of the universe, as God completes His plan for that which He created.



### Scripture memorization

2 Pet 3:14

*14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.*

*(KJV)*

The intensity of our expectations for the future is reflected in how we live today.

The present heavens and earth will pass away at the conclusion of Christ's millennial reign on the earth (2 Peter 3:10). Although a great cataclysmic event will take place during the tribulation period, affecting Heaven and earth (Revelation 6:12-14), Peter's prophecy will take place a thousand years later. Peter provided us with some of the details about the reconstruction of the heavens and the earth.

### A Burning

The earth and all that it contains will be burned up by fire (2 Peter 3:10). The physical things of this creation are combustible. They are destined to be burned, and they shall be in the Day of the Lord. Those who hold on to the

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things of this creation have their hopes fastened to the temporal, which things are already consigned to oblivion.

### How to Live Now

Peter saw the impending disintegration of the universe as a motive for godly living (2 Peter 3:11). When we live godly, we live for eternity. The things of this creation are subject to inferno. Why should we fasten our dreams and hopes on the things that will not last?

### Hastening the Day

While looking forward to the Lord's coming, we can also hasten it (2 Peter 3:12). The root meaning of 'hastening' is "speed." God has His own timetable (Psalm 31:15); however, He allows us to actively participate in the accomplishment of His plan. As we do His will and thereby contribute to His plan, the completion of the plan draws nearer. The outcome of godly living (2 Peter 3:11) is the 'hastening' of the coming of the Lord (v. 12).

With the accomplishment of God's purpose, the Day will arrive with its fiery disintegration of the universe (2 Peter 3:12). Peter made it clear that we have much more to expect in the future than just entrance into Heaven and its bliss. Again, Peter wrote to stir up the minds of believers to remember the truth: the return of Christ and the events of the Day of the Lord should always be in the forefront of our thinking.

### The New Heavens and Earth

The rearrangement of the universe will result in the appearance of new heavens and a new earth (2 Peter 3:13). However, Peter was not describing a global nuclear holocaust that will result in nothingness. It's true that a fiery devastation of the present heavens and earth will take place, but it will be followed by the emergence of the new, according to God's promise (Isaiah 65:17; 66:22).

### Moral Purity

In 2 Peter 3:14, Peter returned to what it means to expect the Lord's return. He urged believers to be diligent about two things for which we must prepare individually. The first is to have peace with God, which is another way of making "our calling and election sure" (1:10). When we are confident in our relationship with Christ, we have peace with Him (3:14b).

The second is to be without spots and blemishes (2 Peter 3:14). Peter had earlier used this phrase to describe the moral blemishes and stains of false teachers (2:13). We must distance ourselves doctrinally and morally

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from their pernicious ways. Our pattern for living is Jesus Christ, Who is totally without any moral spots or blemishes (I Peter 1:19).

### **God's Patience**

In 2 Peter 3:15, Peter turned again to the perceived delay in Christ's return to the earth. When we remember that the apparent delay is due to God's patience with men and women, we are less likely to experience discouragement. Furthermore, our knowledge of God's patience should motivate us in our evangelistic endeavors. God is patiently and graciously offering HIS salvation to individuals right now. When we share the gospel, we participate in God's plan and speed HIS return.

Peter reminded his first readers that Paul had written to them about the apparent delay in Christ's coming (2 Peter 3:15).

### **Hard to Understand**

Referring to Paul's writings, Peter explained that Paul was difficult to understand at times (2 Peter 3:16), because he dealt with the difficult subjects with which we all struggle. These subjects include the triune Godhead, predestination, election, and sanctification, for example.

God gave His Word through Paul and the other writers of Scripture for our understanding (2 Timothy 2:15). The men were not inspired, only the scriptures were inspired. We come to an understanding of the Scriptures through diligent study in reliance upon the Holy Spirit's enabling (I Corinthians 2:13,14). Peter's reference to "the other Scriptures" (2 Peter 3:16) affirmed Paul's writings as Scripture.

### **Wrest the Scriptures**

The skeptics, however, had and have difficulty with Paul's writings (2 Peter 3:16). Skeptics have difficulty accepting his teaching because they are "unlearned and unstable." They are willfully ignorant of the truth (v. 5), and they have no spiritual life (2:17). They respond to Paul's writings by wresting the meanings to fit their own doctrinal views and moral perversions. This is sheer distortion.

The outcome of their misrepresentation and mockery of Scripture is "their own destruction" (2 Peter 3:16). They have rejected God's Word and substituted their own ways. Their irresponsible distortion will bring upon them the retributive judgment of God. God has the last word about how humans treat HIS Word. Those who wrest the Scriptures will receive exactly what they deserve.

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### Beware

As well as wresting Scripture, the wicked assault the truth with their error. Therefore, Peter warned Christians to beware of the assault on truth (2 Peter 3:17). Our defense against this attack is to study and remember God's truth, but, of course, we have to know it first. We can remember only what we know.

All of Peter's warnings, all of his efforts to stir up the minds of believers, were personal. The Holy Spirit is genuinely concerned for the well being of believers. We see this concern in the choice of the word "beloved" in verses 1, 8, 14, and 17. In verse 17, Peter wrote, 'Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.' False teachers can seem amiable and their teachings reasonable. The unthinking, those professing believers who do not study the truth, are game for them. They are prime candidates to stumble into the serious difficulty of being carried away from their steadfastness in the truth.

If they fail to heed the apostle's warning and fall from their apparent steadfastness, they will plunge themselves into destruction, the destruction into which false teachers and their followers fall (2:20, 21). Their fall will demonstrate that their profession was only a confession of their lips and not a faith rooted in their hearts. The writer of the book of Hebrews warned us about this same peril (Hebrews 2:1; 3:12-14).

### Grow in Grace and Knowledge

Peter's final exhortation is that we grow in grace and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18). The more we come to know about Christ, the more we live in dependence on His grace. When we constantly bring Christ to the forefront of our thinking we will grow spiritually. As we mature in our thinking about Him, we are better prepared to withstand the challenges of false doctrine.

Peter concluded his letter by praising Christ in the manner in which God is to be praised (2 Peter 3:18). Christ is God (1:1); therefore, He receives the glory that He shares with God the Father (vv. 16,17).

### Notes

#### Keep this page with you:

- Make a list of the names of people whom you know need to receive Christ as their Savior.
- Pray earnestly for them and then develop a plan to witness to them.
- Encourage you brothers and sisters in CHRIST to do the same

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**2 Peter Lesson 8**  
**The Day of the LORD**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. Based on your knowledge of the Bible, what are some future events that you know will take place?
2. What do Isaiah 34:4 and Joel 2:10 predict?
3. What will characterize the new heavens and the new earth?
4. According to the scriptures below what did Paul say about the delay in Christ's coming?
  - a. Romans 2:4
  - b. Romans 8:19-21
  - c. Philippians 3:19-21
5. Are you looking forward to the Lord's return? If yes, why? If not, why?  
(use the back page if necessary)
6. What is the theme verse of this Lesson ?
7. What is Peter's final warning to Christians ?
8. How does Peter describe those who wrest the scriptures?
9. How should the expectation of the LORD's return affect believers ?
10. What must believers recognize by the seeming delay in CHRIST's return ?

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11. Define the term "The Day of the LORD" (use the back page if necessary)
12. List and explain the events of the Day of the LORD (use the back page if necessary)
13. List and apply the demands of the Day of the LORD (use the back page if necessary)
14. State and value the final warning and exhortation of Peter (use the back page if necessary)
15. Why is moral purity so important ?(use the back page if necessary)

**True/False**

- If I have a Christian friend who has doubts about being saved I should encourage him.
- GOD saved me to take me to heaven, that's all, I have no other responsibilities.
- If someone says he does not believe in the virgin birth, the Deity of CHRIST, or the blood atonement, but he is a nice person and believes in God, he will go to heaven
- All Bibles are OK to read, it is not important to GOD if they only contain parts of what HE said.



Scripture Memorization (write these scriptures on the back page) 2  
Pet 3:14; Romans 2:4; Hebrews 3:12-14; 2 Timothy 2:15-16