

# ***Be Prepared for People to Mock Your Hope***

*2 Peter 3:1-10*

**Main Idea:** In the last days believers will eagerly long for the coming of Christ and his fulfillment of prophecy, but skeptics will also come mocking our hope. Therefore, we need to be patient and firmly trust in God's word.

## **1. *THE COMMAND – Believers in the last days need to be interested in biblical prophecy. 2 Peter 3:1-2***

- A. Note the command: "You should remember." 3:1
  - 1. Sometimes it's hard for American Christians to remember the return of Jesus.
  - 2. Peter writes to stir up our minds.
  - 3. Peter's intense desire is that our minds will be pure.
- B. First thing to remember: The command of the Lord Jesus and the apostles.
  - 1. Jesus' command was to watch.
  - 2. The apostles' commands were likewise to watch.
- C. Second thing to remember: N.T. commands about prophecy come from the O.T.

## **2. *THE WARNING – Believers in the last days need to be prepared for people to reject their hope. 2 Peter 3:4-6***

- A. Last days' skeptics will come into the church. 3:3
  - 1. We see this in the academic and university setting.
  - 2. We see this in various denominations and sects.
- B. Last days' skeptics have a strong argument. 3:4
  - 1. They believe the worldview of uniformity: no miracles!
  - 2. One example of this worldview is the theory of evolution.
- C. Last days' skeptics ignore two things: creation and the flood. 3:5-6
  - 1. Creation is an example of God initiating history.
  - 2. The flood is an example of God breaking into history.

## **3. *THE ENCOURAGEMENT – Believers in the last days need to be patient for the return of Christ and the climax of history. 2 Peter 3:7-10***

- A. God will bring history to a climax. 3:7, 10
  - 1. At the climax of history, God will undo the present universe.
  - 2. At the climax of history, God will renovate the new universe. (Mt. 24:35; Rv. 20:11)
  - 3. God will do this by fire. 3:7b, 10
  - 4. God will do this just before the eternal state.
  - 5. God will do this by the power of his word. 3:7a
- B. God's timing is not our timing. 3:8-9a
  - 1. Peter is likely thinking about Psalm 90 and Genesis 5.
  - 2. Our conception of time is both "universe-bound" and "culture-bound."
  - 3. Sometimes we think that heaven is timeless. Not true!
  - 4. God operates within a different conception of time.
- C. God's timing seems slow, but it's really an example of his love. 3:9b
  - 1. Have you wondered why Jesus hasn't returned yet?
  - 2. God is patient with sinners.
  - 3. God wants people to come to repentance.