



The Epistles of Peter  
2 Peter 3:1-7  
From Sermon 6.7.26

Read 2 Peter 3:1-7

Overview from Sunday's sermon: As Peter continues to both expose and warn about false teachers, he lists a new doctrine they will distort: the return of Christ. It's also fascinatingly notable that the Holy Spirit is letting the Church know Christ's return will be some time later. The first-century mockers could never claim everything continues as always. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming is a crucial doctrine of hope we must get right. Even the Lord's Supper points us to it. (See 1 Corinthians 11:26) The Church must ignore the mockers.

1. From the key text, who has prophesied and foretold of Christ's physical return to judge, rule, and reign? The Old Testament writers, Jesus Himself in the Gospels, & the Apostles assigned to write the New Testament.

2. What are some of the historic and contemporary takes on Jesus' return? It's all symbolic and only takes place spiritually. Jesus is only human love (rainbows, glitter, unicorns) and would never destroy most of humanity in wrath. The world only gets better and better and Jesus comes to an established kingdom.

3. Why is it important for the church (believers) to have an accurate theology on Christ's imminent return? Various answers. Because God commands us to. because it is the hope and anchor, especially for a persecuted Church. It bolsters our faith in the promises of God.

4. Discuss Peter's included reason the mockers give for dismissing the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming: "Everything continues as it always has been."

4a. Now, review Peter's reminder of history and God's faithfulness in...

- Creation...God's Word spoke all of Creation into being.
- Flood...God said He would destroy all life with a flood and did so.
- Our Epistle of Peter examples: fallen angels, culture of Noah's day, Sodom and Gomorrah, the rebellion in the Wilderness, the demise of Balaam.
- The prophecies and the fulfilled promises of Christ 1<sup>st</sup> Coming. See *Micah 5:2*

5. Read *Isaiah 30:1-2 & 8-11*. What message was Isaiah bringing to Judah? How did they receive it? Now, read *Jeremiah 19:14-20:8*. What message was Jeremiah bringing to Judah? How did they receive it? Was God faithful to bring about this exact judgment on unrepentant Judah? Yes. absolutely.

5a. How is the modern church culture falling into the same sinful pattern as ancient Israel? Making the truth-tellers the enemy. Ignoring both Scripture, history, and the signs all around us.

6. What is the danger of making sections like Matthew 24 and the book of Revelation purely symbolic and not literal? Various answers. But include: 1) inconsistent with God's character and practice. 2) opens it to wild, diverse interpretations 3) it causes the believer of any age (peace or persecution) to lose heart and hope.

7. What was the main cause/reasoning for historically dismissing the literalness of books/sections like Revelation? The absence of a national, ethnic, geographical Israel for some 2000 years.