

**Class 6: Prepare for Your Departure (2 Peter 3)**  
**Kingdom Training: Aliens and Strangers, the Life and Letters of Peter**

**Review**

- **Introduction:** maintain your distinctiveness
- **Identification** (1 Peter 1): “Call Yourself an Alien”
- **Imitation** (1 Peter 2-3): “Walk in his steps”
- **Connection** (1 Peter 4-5): “He cares”
- **Destiny** (2 Peter 1-2): “Add to your faith”

**1. INTRODUCTION (V1-2)**

- Peter’s 2<sup>nd</sup> letter: Reminders intended to produce “*wholesome thinking*”
  - Voice: “sincere and pure way of thinking” | Message: “undistracted attention”
- The prophets of the OT, the apostles of the NT, and specifically Paul’s letters (3:15-16) are all considered Scripture (2 Peter 1:20-21)

**2. WORDS OF JUDGMENT (V3-13)**

- ***Last Days, 2nd Coming, Destroyed, Day of Judgment, Timetable, Repentance, Day of the Lord***
- People mistakenly concluded that since Jesus has not come yet, he is never coming
  - There was a judgment during Noah’s day, and there is another coming!
- The Bible consistently divides people into two categories according to their relationship with God: lost/saved, light/darkness, mercy/none, people/not of God, Sheep and Goats...
- God’s Timetable
  - The Bible uses language to help us understand time – from a human perspective.
  - We will not understand timelessness until eternity!
- Man’s Perspective: Bounded by time and space; one place at one time; created after the beginning; and will die before the end
- God’s Perspective:
  - 1000 years = 1 Day! Everyday = Today!
  - Outside of Time and Space because he created it!
  - Omnipresent: Everywhere at the same time and Anywhere at any time
  - Before the beginning and after the end! God can insert himself into our timeline!
- Time should be measured in opportunity
  - God is patient, wanting everyone to come to an understanding of truth (1 Timothy 2:4, 2 Peter 3:9,15). He doesn’t want anyone to perish.
  - Time is our opportunity to know God.



### 3. Understanding the Sequence of Events of the Final Judgment

- **The Last Days** serve as our time to show that we are faithful servants who know Jesus Matthew 24:43; 1 Thes. 5:2; 2 Peter 3:10 *“The day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.”*
  - Typically understood to be **the period between Jesus’ first and second coming**
  - Jesus, Paul, and Peter all warn us to **be watchful and prepared for Jesus’ return**
- **Jesus’ 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming = Unmistakable!** He’ll separate those who know him from those who don’t
  - The Lord will come down from heaven with a trumpet and loud voices (1 Thes. 4:16)
  - The Son of Man will return in glory: those who don’t know him (peoples of the earth) will mourn; those who know him (elect) will be gathered separately (Matt 24:30-31).
- **The “Day of the Lord” (Judgment Day) will come to everyone who does not know God**
  - Not a single event; any day when God intervenes in a supernatural way in history
  - Not a puzzle solved by connecting all such verses to develop an “end-times” speculation
  - Judgment on Judah (Joel 2), Jerusalem (Zechariah 14), or any nation (Obadiah 1:15)
  - Divides: Destruction for the unprepared/unrepentant; Restoration for God’s people
  - Connected to the “last days” and the coming church (Micah 4, Joel 2, Acts 2, 2 Peter 3)
  - Like the Kingdom, it has come **and** is yet to come

**The next “day of the Lord” is Jesus’ return** (1 Thes. 5:2; 2 Thes. 2:2; 2 Peter 3:10)

  - Heaven and earth (“elements”) will be destroyed by fire; everyone’s deeds exposed
  - God will appear: those not in the book of life will be judged by their deeds; death, Hades, and those who do not know God will be destroyed by fire (Rev. 20:11-15)
- **The righteous will be gathered** – to deliver them to the “New Heaven and New Earth”
  - The dead in Christ will rise and those alive in Christ will join them... to be with Jesus forever (1 Thes. 4:16-17)
  - The trumpet will sound and the dead (in Christ) will be resurrected in an immortal, imperishable body (1 Cor. 15:51-54)
  - The righteous will be delivered to the new Jerusalem to dwell with God (Rev. 22:1-3)



### 4. FINAL THOUGHTS (v14-18)

- **While we wait:** work hard, live in peace, be righteous (v14-16)
- **Hear my final words:** keep up your guard and grow in grace (v17-18)

### 5. CONCLUSION

- Peter: apostle, slave, Alien, and Stranger!
- Called us to live an obedient and distinctive life
- Challenged us to Imitate Jesus, walking in His steps
- Warned us to stay connected to God and one another
- Reminded us of God’s precious promises, including the Holy Spirit
- Exposed false teachers and their heresies
- Inspired us to “Grow into our Destiny” and to “Prepare for our Departure”
  - **To live with Jesus now and for eternity**