

The Lord is Not Slow:  
*A Trip to the Fourth Dimension*  
2 Peter 3.8-9

False teachers deny Christ's return – and the terrible calamities that are prophesied to accompany it. They say that since it hasn't happened for thousands of years, it *never* will. They're wrong. *God isn't slow*, Peter says; *He just has a different view of time, and He is patient.*

***A Day with the Lord: Mr. Einstein, meet Saint Peter (8)***

- Time to us is not the same as time to God
- An omnipresent God in a space-time universe

***Not slow, just patient: God is not in a hurry (9a)***

- The Lord is not 'delayed,' and He will not be 'tardy'!
- God's patience reflects His *compassion* toward us.

***The long-suffering God: He doesn't want any to perish (9b)***

- Judgment *is* coming...but God is not 'rushing into it'
- His gentle call to repentance...for *all* to turn to Him.



**Digging Deeper**

1. 2 Peter 3.8 is often 'ripped out of context' and misused. Have you ever heard this verse used to support views on the time of creation? Have you heard theories about the time of Christ's Second Coming based on this verse? Why are these interpretations invalid? How does this verse relate to the previous context? What does Peter want his Christian readers to understand, that the false teachers had ignored (v.4)?
2. God's view of time is not the same as ours. While it is difficult for us to 'step into God's shoes' – and see things from His perspective, let's try for a minute. We live in a space-time universe created by God; He is both *outside* and *inside* of it – *eternal* and *omnipresent*. How would you describe the difference between our *perspective* of time, and God's *perspective*? Why is this important in the context of 2 Peter 3? How can this help us to think about prayer, how God relates to the world, and how we should live our lives?
3. In 2 Peter 3.9a, Peter writes that *The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness*. Who is he referring to when he says *some* (see v4)? Of course, it is possible for Christians to get 'sucked in' by this kind of teaching, too. The word translated *slow* can be translated 'slack' or 'tardy.' While this exposes the fallacy of the false teachers' view that Jesus is *never* coming back, it tells us something about God's character, too: He is in absolute control of history, and is never 'late' (see 1 Tim. 2.6; Tit. 1.3). How does this make you feel? Consider David's words in Psalm 139.7-12.
4. In 2 Peter 3.9b, Peter says that God is *patient* – the word in Greek indicates that God is not 'hasty to wrath or anger.' Instead, He is 'long-suffering' in the face of evil. What is His *motivation* in this? Since this is in the context of Peter affirming the return of Christ, and the terrible time of tribulation which will accompany it, what does God want people to avoid? How can they avoid it?