

The Coming Day of the Lord:  
*How Should We Then Live?*  
2 Peter 3.10-13

Peter has just stated that while it may seem like Jesus is never coming again, God isn't *slow*, He's *patient* – He doesn't want anyone to perish in the coming judgment. But *that day is coming*, and Peter now urges us to be ready, and remember what we are looking forward to!

**The Day of the Lord: Judgment by fire on the world (10, 12)**

- A sudden, unexpected time of divine judgment
- It will culminate in the destruction of the present cosmos

**Since this is going to happen: How should we live?! (11)**

- *Holy conduct* = attitudes and actions *set apart* to God
- *Godliness* = devotion, reverence toward God

**What we're looking forward to: New heavens & new earth! (13)**

- New heavens and new earth: Eternity!
- Where righteousness will dwell forever.



1. The central assertion Peter makes in 2 Peter 3 is that the Day of the Lord *is coming* – the false teachers deny it, but prophets, and Jesus Himself, predicted it. It may seem like it is taking a long time, but that's because God is patient, not wanting any to perish. Peter says that the day of the Lord *will come like a thief*. Describe what this means in your own words. How does Jesus describe this in Matt. 24.36-43? Compare this with Paul's explanation of the coming of the day of the Lord in 1 Thess. 5.1-10. What do all these passages exhort us to do?
2. The word 'day' does not always mean a *literal 24-hour day*. It can mean this, but it can also refer to an longer period of time (even a *very long time* – see v.18, "the day of eternity")! What events are included in the coming *day of the Lord* in the Bible? In addition to v.10, see Isa. 2.12-22; 13.6-16; Eze. 30.1-9; Joel 1.15-20; Obadiah 10-20; Zeph. 1.14-18; 1 Thess. 5.1-3; and 2 Thess. 2.1-4. (Check your concordance for other references.) Considering all the events which occur in 'the day of the Lord,' when during this 'day' do the events of 2 Peter 3.10-12 occur?
3. The fiery destruction of the *cosmos*, Peter tells us, will usher in the 'new heavens and a new earth' (v13). At what time in the sequence of end times events do the new heavens and new earth appear (see Rev. 21.1)? If this is the culmination of 'the day of the Lord,' then that 'day' includes the thousand-year reign of Christ on earth (Rev. 20.1-6). What other biblical end-time events may be included in the *day of the Lord*? What do you see as the purpose of this time?
4. Of course, the reason Peter is focusing on the 'day of the Lord' is not just to prove the false teachers wrong, but to warn Christians against believing their lies, and falling into the sinful practices that they exhibited. Instead, believers should model *holy conduct and godliness* (devotion to God, reverence toward God; v11). What motivation and attitude toward God and His Word do these words suggest to you? What is our future home (v13) known for? Are you 'getting ready' *now* for your eternal home?