



## Presenting Peter Who is this man called Peter? Week 12: The Eschatology of Peter

### Matthew 16:19

*"I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth is already bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth is already loosed in heaven."*

- Written to the house churches in the 5 Roman provinces of Asia Minor (Turkey)
- From Rome at the end of his life after Paul had left (Released from his first imprisonment in AD 62).

#### Purpose of the letter:

- Peter already 'wrote' his witness of the life of Jesus Christ in the Gospel of Mark through John Mark.
- In the epistle (letter), knowledge of the story of Jesus is assumed – It is NOT the Gospel of Mark rewritten.
- Instruct the church in the **apostolic interpretation of the gospel**. (Like Paul)
- **What we seen. What we heard. What we knew. What we did.**

This is how Peter "Fed the Sheep"

1. Shared his testimony. (**Peter's testimony** against the background of his own experience as Christ's disciple.)
2. Connected the **Old Testament promises** to Christ. (with which the letter is saturated.)
3. Outlined the apostolic **faith (Faith in action is trusting God's word)** like Paul and other authors of the New Testament.
4. Outlined application into The Hellenistic world in which his hearers lived. (**Understood the culture**)

Our job is to take these timeless truths and apply to our world.

#### Peter eye witnesses to the Grace of God

**Peter is moving US with the Five House Churches and infusing OUR mindset of WHO WE are as a Believer in Christ Jesus with:**

**What we've seen.**

**What we've heard.**

**What we've known.**

**What we've done.**

**WEEK #1:** Power in a name: Simon Peter. Social, Economic, Family Culture. What was it like to live life in Peter's neighborhood? What did this Family Culture ADD to the nascent, embryonic, incipient Church?

**WEEK #2:** Peter in the Gospels – The Confession "LORD, I am a sinful man!" & Walking with Jesus – Confessing Him as Messiah

**WEEK #3:** The Passover, The Prophecy & The Reinstatement

**WEEK #4:** Matthaïs, Pentecost, Abuse: Ananias & Sapphira

**WEEK #5:** PETER IN LEADERSHIP – Samaritan Pentecost, Gentile Pentecost (Cornelius), The Council of Jerusalem

**WEEK #6:** Pastor Peter #1 – An EYE witness to the GRACE of God. Expect trials. How to live the Gospel.

**Week #7:** The Discipline of Suffering

**Week 8:** The Family of God

**Week 9:** Priesthood of Believers

**Week 10:** Submission

**Week 11:** 1 Peter—his 1<sup>st</sup> last letter. If you're dying, trying to share your most important thoughts, what would you say? Let's hear what Peter says...

### Week 12: 2 Peter 3-the Eschatology of Peter

Week 13: Concluding Peter: extra-biblical sources and legends.

## The Eschatology of 2 Peter Chpt 3: After everything he'd been through & learned, what did Peter think was coming?

**READ the Scriptures: [highlights & emphasis mine]**

### 1 Peter 3

*God's Promise Is Not Slack*

1 Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), 2 that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, 3 knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the **last days**, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation." 5 For this they willfully forget: that by



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the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, 6 by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. 7 But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire **until the day of judgment and perdition** of ungodly men.

**8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.**

*The Day of the Lord*

**10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.** 11 Therefore, since **all these things will be dissolved,** what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which **the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?** 13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, **look for new heavens and a new earth** in which righteousness dwells.

*Be Steadfast*

14 Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; 15 and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, 16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.

17 You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; 18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

### What does Peter share about the End Times?

Vs 3: in the last days scoffers will come who walk according to their lusts and taunt “Where is the promise of His coming?”

Vs 7: the heavens & earth are now preserved by the same word of God that created them for fire until the day of judgment and perdition.

Vs 8: we who are the beloved are not to forget this one thing—

- time is different for the Lord. One day is like a thousand years and a thousand years is like one day.
- Also that He is not slack concerning His promise but longsuffering [to whom is He longsuffering? TO THEM & TO US. Why is He long suffering? ]...He is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Vs10: what will it be like when the day of the Lord arrives?

- Comes as a thief in the night.
- The heavens will pass away WITH A GREAT NOISE
- The elements will melt [#1] with FERVENT HEAT. [#1]



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- Both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. [the planet itself and all on it, under in...?] ][burn/fire #1][melt#2]

Vs 11: continuing the thought in 10:

- All these things will be dissolved [dissolved #1], being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat [burn/fire #2] [melt#3] [fervent heat #2]  
[Also asking since all this will be happening, what kind of person should be be..? ]
- There will be a new heavens [plural #1] and a new earth [singular #1]

Vs 12:

- The day of God is coming; the heavens will be dissolved being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat [dissolved#2] [burn/fire #3] [melt #4] [fervent heat #3]

Vs 13: we look for new heavens [plural #2] and a new earth [singular #2] in which righteousness dwells.

#### **RECAP: # of times mentioned**

1x Thief in the night

1x Great noise

4x The elements will melt

3x Fervent heat

3x Burn/fire

2x All things Dissolve

2x New heavens & new earth

What does that say?

**It's going to be FAST, it's going to be LOUD,  
it's going to be HOT, & what we have now is TEMPORARY.**

#### **No need to be scared: Jesus, The Center Of It All\***

1 Corinthians 16:22c "Our Lord, come!" = Maranatha

\*Notes from When Jesus Comes Back:

Examining the Timeline of Eschatology Series,

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#### **Definition: What is the day of the Lord mean? [Happens at Christ's 2<sup>nd</sup> coming]**

**DAY OF THE LORD.** This is the protracted period commencing with the second advent of Christ in glory and ending with the cleansing of the heavens and the earth by fire preparatory to the new heavens and the new earth of the eternal state (Isa. 65:17–19; 66:22; 2 Thess. 2:2; 2 Pet. 3:13; Rev. 21:1). The Day of the Lord as a visible manifestation of Christ upon the earth is to be distinguished from the day of Christ. The latter is connected with the glorification of the saints and their reward in heaven prior to their return with Christ to inaugurate the Day of the Lord. The Day of the Lord thus comprehends specifically the closing phase of the Tribulation and



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extends through the millennial kingdom. Apocalyptic judgments (Rev. 4:1–19:6) precede and introduce the Day of the Lord.<sup>1</sup>

M.F.U.

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## WHERE DOES THE DAY OF THE LORD FIT IN THE TIMELINE?

### Review the Kingdom of God graphics

Review the supporting handouts.

Jesus mentions the day of the Lord: Mt 24:43; Lk 12:39; cf. Mk 13:32-33, 37

Jesus' use of the expression "day of the Lord" derives from the OT prophets.

READ THIS

Starting with Amos of Tekoa (mid-eighth century B.C.), the Hebrew prophets begin painting a picture of God's climactic intervention into human history to render justice to all and establish everlasting peace and righteousness (Amos 5:18-20; 9:11-15).<sup>19</sup> In my mind's eye, I visualize Michelangelo's magnificent painting of the last judgment, with its clearly demarcated panels and scenes, a helpful analogy, I think, when reflecting on this topic. The prophets who follow Amos add more paint strokes to a massive canvas that eventually depicts the grand culmination of God's kingdom in all its finality and glory. Amos focuses primarily, though not exclusively, on the judgment panel of this monumental masterpiece whereas others, such as Isaiah and Ezekiel, while also filling in more details in the judgment panel (e.g., Is 2:10-22; 13:6-13; 27; Ezek 38–39), make major contributions to the panel showcasing God's reward for the righteous (Is 2:1-4; 4:2-6; 65:17-25; Ezek 40–48). Remember, the day of the Lord is like a coin with two sides: a day of blessing and a day of blasting; the side you experience depends entirely on your relationship to the Lord. **The Life & Witness of Peter, Larry Helyer**

### We have a number of reminders about how to live looking toward the End Times:

James reminders:

#### James 5:7-8

<sup>7</sup> Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup> You also, be patient. **Establish** your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

**Be Patient** = longsuffering/loving attitude towards others welling form inner strength and determination.  
**Establish** = Take Courage because Jesus is returning.

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<sup>1</sup> Unger, M. F. (1988). [Day of Christ](#). In R. K. Harrison (Ed.), *The new Unger's Bible dictionary* (Rev. and updated ed.). Chicago: Moody Press.



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5:7–11 James encouraged those who were oppressed to be “**patient**” (Gk. *makrothumon*, vv. 7, 8, 10; *hupomon*, v. 11). The former indicates a **longsuffering, loving attitude toward others**, while the latter generally denotes **inner strength and determination**. James encouraged Christians to “**establish**” their hearts, meaning to **strengthen the heart with the hope of Christ’s coming**. Focusing on that hope guards against a vindictive spirit and produces patience under oppression. The Lord is slow to anger; yet He *will* come, and He will not leave the guilty unpunished (Ex. 34:6, 7).<sup>2</sup>

#### Jesus speaking to John:

#### **Revelation 22:7, 12 -13**

*“And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.”*

<sup>12</sup> *“Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done.”* <sup>13</sup> *I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”*

Among the last words of Jesus recorded in the New Testament is His declaration, “Behold, I am coming soon!”

- Living in the tension of SOON but NOT YET:
- What do we do during this time of tension?
- What do I do while I wait for this day?

Understand the LORD’s measurement of Time.

Time, in scripture, is Referred to as:

- FUTURE: Must come to pass
- NEXT: Must shortly come to pass
- NEAR: At hand
- IMMINENT: Can happen any moment
- TRANSITIONAL: From man’s day to God’s day

Age is used as = Measurement of time or a description of the characteristics of that time.\*

#### Peter’s reminders:

He wants us to know:

- the LORD waits for a purpose **2 Peter 3:(8-9)**

<sup>8</sup> *But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*

*The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.*

Knowing there IS more

Knowing there IS an END

Knowing there ARE consequences

Knowing this AIN’T it

CHANGES HOW WE LIVE NOW.<sup>2</sup>

[which are the point of Peter’s reminders]

\*Notes from When Jesus Comes Back:  
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<sup>2</sup> Thomas Nelson, I. (1995). *The Woman’s Study Bible* (Jas 5:7). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.



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***Be Steadfast: 2 Peter 3:14-18***

<sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; <sup>15</sup>and consider *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, <sup>16</sup>as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable *people* twist to their own destruction, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures.

<sup>17</sup>You therefore, beloved, since you know *this* beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; <sup>18</sup>but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

To Him *be* the glory both now and forever. Amen.

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Collected Notes:

Day of the Lord notes:

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day of the LORD

The occasion of God's final intervention in human affairs to punish sin, restore the faithful of his people and establish his rule over the nations. It is linked with the Messianic hope and will be fulfilled at Jesus Christ's return. This future consummation is anticipated in historical acts of judgment and, although its time is unknown, it will be heralded and accompanied by signs and by great upheavals in nature.

The day of the LORD as a day of judgment

Of universal judgment Isa 24:21-22 *See also* Zep 1:14-18

Of judgment on the nations Isa 13:9-11; Jer 46:10 *See also* Job 20:28-29; Isa 13:4-6 *God's judgment on Babylon*

*God's judgment on Egypt:* Isa 19:16-17; Eze 30:3-4

Isa 27:1; Joel 3:12-14; Ob 15 *God's judgment on Edom;* Zep 3:8; Ro 2:16; Rev 6:15-17

Of judgment on faithless Israel Am 5:18-20 *See also* Isa 2:12; Joel 1:15; 2:1-2; Mt 7:22-23; Jn 12:48; Ro 2:5

The day of the LORD as a day of hope

A day of restoration for God's people Jer 30:7-8 *See also* Joel 2:23-28

God will gather his people Isa 11:11; 27:12-13; Mic 4:6-7; Mt 24:30-31 pp Mk 13:26-27

God will save his people Zep 3:14-20 *See also* Isa 4:5-6; 26:1; Joel 2:32; 3:16-18; Ob 17; Zec 9:16-17

God will purify his people Isa 4:3-4; Zep 3:11-13; Zec 14:20-21; Mal 4:1-2

God will exalt his people Ob 21; Mic 4:8; 5:8-9; Rev 22:5

God will complete his saving work Php 1:6 *The "day of Christ Jesus" is the NT equivalent to the "day of the LORD" which refers to Jesus Christ's second coming. See also* Da 12:1-2; Jn 6:40; 11:24; 1Co 1:8; 2Ti 1:12; 4:8



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The siege and deliverance of Jerusalem on the day of the LORD

Nations will gather against Jerusalem Eze 38:14-16; Zec 14:2; Lk 21:20; Rev 20:8-9

The LORD will fight for Jerusalem Eze 38:18-23; Zec 12:2-5; 14:3-5,12-13

The establishment of God's kingdom on the day of the LORD

God's kingdom will be universal and everlasting Zec 14:9 *See also* Da 2:44; 7:13-14; Rev 11:15

God will be the object of universal worship Isa 19:19-24; Zep 3:9-10; Zec 14:16

God's rule will be centered on a restored Jerusalem Isa 2:2-4 pp Mic 4:1-3; Zec 2:10-12; Rev 22:3

The fulfilment of Messianic hope on the day of the LORD

Isa 4:2 *See also* Isa 11:10; Jer 30:9; Hos 3:5; Am 9:11; Zec 9:9; 12:10

Being prepared for the day of the Lord

The day will come unexpectedly 1Th 5:2-3 *See also* Mt 24:43-44 pp Lk 12:39-40; Mk 13:32; 2Pe 3:10

The need to be ready for the day 1Th 5:4-8 *See also* Eze 13:5; Zep 2:1-3; Mal 4:5; 2Pe 3:11-12

Signs heralding the day may be discerned Mt 24:33 pp Mk 13:29 pp Lk 21:31; 2Th 2:3

The day of the Lord will be accompanied by signs and great upheavals in nature

Ac 2:19-20 *See also* Joel 2:30-31; Isa 13:9-10; Joel 2:10; Lk 21:11,25-26

Historical events anticipate the day of the LORD

Disaster foreshadows final judgment Isa 5:29-30 *Judah invaded by Assyria; Eze 30:10 Egypt defeated by Nebuchadnezzar; Joel 2:2-4 Israel devastated by a locust swarm; Am 5:27 Israel defeated and exiled by Assyria; Mt 24:21 pp Mk 13:19 Jerusalem destroyed by the Romans*

Return from exile foreshadows final restoration Isa 11:12-14; Hag 2:23; Zec 3:8<sup>3</sup>

1 Pet 2:1-4 Desire the pure milk of the word

The saint never outgrows the need for spiritual milk. It is a fundamental necessity to healthy spiritual life. Revival addresses the need constantly to sustain the hunger of a newborn babe. Yes, we need to grow (Heb 5-6), but so often we become too mature for our own good. Once a believer feels he or she has attained maturity and no longer hungers after the fundamental truths, spiritual pride takes residence and a gradual numbing of conscience occurs. The hardened heart then disdains the need for basics and sets aside the primary fundamental doctrines mentioned in Hebrews 6:1-3 and the doctrines of Christ found in the Gospels.

1 Pet 2:9 Out of darkness into light

The greatest miracle God can do today is to take an unholy man out of an unholy world and make him holy. (LR)

1 Pet 2:21 In His steps

The cross is not a theory, not a doctrine; it is not a sentimental feeling. The cross is practical. It is God moving in love to meet violent men and women, facing violence and suffering for us. Your faith was born in violence. The Christian is not scared when the whole world is shaking. Your faith was born on Calvary—it can stand anything.... Your faith was born in blood and sweat

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<sup>3</sup> Manser, M. H. (2009). [\*Dictionary of Bible Themes: The Accessible and Comprehensive Tool for Topical Studies\*](#). London: Martin Manser.





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in the loneliness of Calvary—you can stand any test. That is why Jesus can meet a broken heart and set it free. That is why He can meet a young man full of shame and give him a new beginning. He can meet a young woman in the street and make her clean. A soft, sentimental God could not do it, but you do not meet a God like that on the cross of Calvary. The God of the cross is the God of the wounded hands, and therefore he can touch the wounds of humanity without fear. (FK)

#### What If You Had Only Twenty-Four Hours to Live?

##### 1 Peter 4:7–11

What would you change if you only had twenty-four hours to live? What would you do and what would you not do if you knew that a countdown had started? Peter writes here that “the end of all things is at hand.” And he gives us four attitudes to pursue in these end times.

##### Always Alert (4:7)

The word means to emphasize what is correct and to prioritize what is essential. The opposite of alert or sober is drunkenness. And Peter was saying, “Don’t let anything impair your judgment.”

Years ago, the Chinese built the famous Great Wall of China to protect them from the barbaric hordes from the north. It was so high they knew no one could climb it, and so thick no one could break it down. But during the first one hundred years of the wall’s existence, China was invaded three times. Not once did the barbaric hordes break down the wall or climb over the top. Each time they bribed the gatekeeper and marched right through the gates. Your eyes, ears, and mind are the gatekeepers to the heart; do not let them be bribed.

##### Always Affectionate (4:8–9)

To be fervent in love is to be stretched in love. If you want to know what this kind of love is all about look at John 15:12–17. The passage ends and begins with the same command to “love one another.” What is in between? Biblical love is always sacrificial, not a feeling but an activity, one of intimacy, initiated and productive.

##### Always Available (4:10–11)

No one is without significance in the body of Christ. Every gift counts. Good stewardship of the grace of God involves not just staying saved but being used by God. Peter says to employ that gift.

##### Always Adoring (4:11)

It always comes back to giving God the glory in what we do. (TD)

#### 1 Pet 4:12 Fiery trial

Every man wants to be saved by superficial faith, without fruits of faith, without the baptism of testing and trial, without love and hope, without right Christian practices. (Conrad Grebel, cofounder of the Anabaptists)

#### 1 Pet 4:12 Tried by fire

Smith Wigglesworth was the great apostle of faith. What was Wigglesworth’s own experience? How did he walk in such a degree of the love and power of God? This was his personal testimony:





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If you are to be really reconstructed, it will be a hard time ... not in a singing meeting, but when you think there is no hope for you ... tried by fire ... God purges, takes the dross away, and brings forth pure gold. Only melted gold is minted. Before God could bring me to this place, He broke me a thousand times. I have wept, I have groaned, I have travailed many a night until God broke me. It seems to me that until God has mowed you down, you never can have this longsuffering for others. There have been times when I have been pressed through circumstances, and it seemed as if a dozen railroad engines were going over me, but I have found that the hardest things are just lifting places into the grace of God. (MLB)

#### 1 Pet 4:17 Judgment begins with God's people

God must deal with the Church for her sins before He judges the world. The world excuses its sin by indicating that the Church also sins. How would the Lord judge someone who can point to us and say, "They do it, too!" As a last warning, Jeremiah received the word of the Lord a second time before the whole land was devastated (Jer 33:1). With such a second chance comes a more severe discipline. We are likewise in a precarious place. If He speaks to us again, let us not listen in presumption. He is not endorsing our present condition, but in kindness, He is calling us to repentance (Rom 2:4).

Pratney, W., Hill, S., & Winslow, T. S. (Eds.). (2010). *The Revival Study Bible* (pp. 1727–1740). Singapore: Genesis Books.

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