



Rice Memorial MBC

Pastor J. Harper, President of State Convention
Apostle Walter Camp, 1st Vice President
Pastor Michael Hansberry, Southern District Moderator

Rice Memorial Missionary Baptist Church
Apostle Walter F. Camp, Presiding Senior Pastor
Pastor David K. Baker III, 2nd Presiding
802 W. 15th, Little Rock, AR 72202, 501-301-8181
www.RiceMemorialBaptistChurch.org

The Hope of His Coming

Definitions in **bold** letters are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance
Other definitions are from **Webster's** Dictionary, 1828 Edition
or Roget's Thesaurus – **May 26, 2013**

Visit us on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/home.php?clk_loc=5#!/pages/Rice-Memorial-Missionary-Baptist-Church/382678518446566

2 Peter 3:3-15a

Introduction: Unbelievers frequently mock the lifestyle of Christians. Followers of Christ, they maintain, do not enjoy the world as much as they could. They are held back by too many rules and restrictions. Believers might respond by saying that they are **grateful** for the blessings (*gifts, benefits or advantages; that promote temporal prosperity and welfare, or secures immortal felicity [JOY]*) of **this** life and that the most likely way to enjoy life is to **live** according to the **purpose** for which it was created and in the light of how it's going to **end**.
(Source: *The Bible Expositor and Illuminator, Union Press Publication- Christian Life Series*)

2 Peter 3:1-3, *This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I **stir up** your pure minds by way of **remembrance**: That ye 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 Saviour: **Knowing** this **first**, that there shall come in the last days **SCOFFERS**, walking after their own **lusts (desires)**...*

Scoffers defined 1703, mocker (derider, one who laughs at another in contempt [hatred, ridicule, disrespect]).

2 Peter 3:4, *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 the **creation (original formation)**.*

Thought 1. They spoke what they believed was true about the creation of the earth, etc., but Peter had some knowledge of the "beginning" they lacked, which was very important.

2 Peter 3:5-6, *For this they **willingly** are **ignorant** of, that by the word of God the **heavens** were of **old**, and the **earth** standing out of the water and **IN** the water: Whereby the **WORLD** that then was, being **overflowed** with **WATER**, **PERISHED**...*

World defined 2889, orderly arrangement, the world (earth), **including its inhabitants.**
Perished defined 622, destroy [to demolish, ruin] **FULLY.**)

Thought 1. Peter is speaking of "from the beginning" when God, by his word, created the heavens, earth, and universe, (Heb. 11:3) and afterwards, the earth was covered with water. He said the earth was standing out of (above) the water and in the water. But then, the world, with its inhabitants, was overflowed with water and fully destroyed!

This is what Moses wrote of in Genesis 1:1-2. He said God made the heavens and the earth "in the beginning." But next, he saw it overflowed with water, with no land above the water! He also said he saw it without form and void! See also Jer. 4:23.

Genesis 1:1-2, In the beginning (first state; entrance into being) God created the heaven and the earth.

And the earth was **WITHOUT FORM**, and **VOID**; and **darkness** was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the **waters**.

Without form defined 8414, a desolation [a waste: a DESTRUCTION].
Void defined 922, an undistinguishable RUIN.

Thought 2. In order to get the proper context of what is meant by “the beginning,” I’ll remind you of John 1:1. It says, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God.” This tells us the time being spoken of is the beginning of all creation when all things were made. That’s Genesis 1:1.

The next thing we’re told is the earth is a waste and an undistinguishable ruin. The question now is, in the beginning, did God create it this way? Well, most Christians know when God creates anything, he creates it good, and very good! During Jesus’ ministry, when God turned water into wine, it was called good wine! (John 2:10) When God created Lucifer, who is now called Satan, he made him good. But he corrupted himself and became evil. (Isa. 14:12-15, Ez. 28:17) Later in the first chapter of Genesis, during the six day creation, everything God created is said to be good. When he finished his work, it is said in scripture that he saw it was “very good!”

Genesis 1:31, And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was **very good**.
And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

And since we know that God does not change, that means when he first made the earth, he created it **good!** So, as Peter said, something happened between the time it was first made and how it appears in Gen. 1:1. Moses said it was destroyed fully: made a waste and an undistinguishable ruin.

Jeremiah 4:23, I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was **WITHOUT FORM**, and **VOID**; and the heavens, and they had **no light**.

Thought 3. Genesis 1:2 said there was darkness. Both of these scriptures prove the earth experienced a major **flood** before Noah’s time that fully destroyed it. And after a very long time, for his pleasure, God decided to make it good again! It took six days! (Exodus 20:11)

Genesis 1:2-4 ...And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the **waters**. And God said, **Let there be light:** and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was **GOOD**...

Thought 4. Now, after reading these verses, ask the average Christian, What was the first thing God created when the earth was in its “original formation?” And they’ll answer, Light! But, with help from those who have studied more closely, obvious questions arise, like, On what day did God create water? And, On what day did he create the land that makes up the earth?

We see in Genesis 1:2 the water is ALREADY in existence and covering the earth BEFORE the Spirit moved and God said, “Let there be light! And even when we read down through **this creation**, we see he did **not** create water nor land. But, he did separate the waters. That was day two! (Genesis 1:6-8) And on day three he said, “Let the dry land appear.”

Genesis 1:9, And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be **gathered** together unto one place, and let the **dry land** **APPEAR:** and it was so.

Thought 5. The **second** flood, during Noah's time, did **not** fully destroy the sky and the earth with ALL of its inhabitants. When this flood was over, because of the eight people and the animals saved in the **Ark**, we have the same humans and **animals** that God made in **six days**. And when the waters receded, the earth still had light, and everything else that was made still existed. Even the trees and grass that was once covered by water greened up again!

Another point of consideration involves the different kinds of animals that lived on the earth prior to the six-day creation of the animals we now have in existence. God has blessed man to discover the remains of animals known as dinosaurs. They are called by many various names. And since we have the same animals today that God created when he made Adam and Eve, it's obvious these dinosaurs lived prior to the six-day-creation. Most scientists believe these animals lived millions of years ago. But, some Christians do not agree with this belief. Regardless, of the times in which they walked the earth, we know there are none on the earth now, nor does Genesis or any other scripture speak of a day during the six-day creation when God created them.

So, the truth about which Peter was speaking was that the scoffers (mockers) were willingly ignorant of the **judgment** that came on the earth before God created **man** and everything else in Genesis 1. Genesis 1:2 describes the extent of the destruction that took place when God's **judgment** came on the earth! And somebody says, Alright then, why and when did judgment happen? Scripture reveals it was decreed upon the earth because of **Lucifer's sin** when he ruled on the earth, had a throne, and **rebelled** against God! And as we know, he is now known as Satan!

Ezekiel 28:12-17, Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord God; Thou sealest up the sum, **full of wisdom**, and perfect in **beauty**. Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast **created**. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou was **perfect** in thy ways from the day that thou wast **created**, till **iniquity** was found IN thee... Thine **heart** was **lifted up** because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy **wisdom** by reason of thy brightness...

Isaiah 14:12-15, How art thou fallen from **heaven**, O **Lucifer** son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, **I will** ascend into heaven, **I will** exalt my **throne** above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: **I will** be like the **most High**. Yet thou shalt be brought down to **hell**, to the sides of the pit.

Revelation 12:7-9, And there was **war** in **heaven**: Michael and his **angels** fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the **Devil**, and **Satan**, which **deceiveth** the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Thought 6. After this, God created Adam and Eve and gave them dominion to rule the earth. Satan no longer ruled; but at one time he did rule the earth.

Genesis 1:26-27, And God said, Let us make **man (mankind)** in our image, after our likeness: and let them have **dominion (rule)** over the fish of the sea ...over the fowl of the air ...over the cattle, and over ALL the **earth**... So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; **male** and **female** created he **them**.

2 Peter 3:7, But the **heavens** and the **earth**, which are **NOW**, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto **FIRE** against the day of **judgment** and **PERDITION** of **ungodly** men.

Perdition defined 684, ruin or loss (phys., spiritual or eternal): damnation).

Thought 1. Again, we have the same earth and sky made during the six-day creation.

2 Peter 3:8-9, But, beloved, be not **ignorant** of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is **not slack** concerning his **promise**, as some men count **slackness**; but is **LONGSUFFERING** to us-ward, not willing that any should **perish**, but that all should come to repentance.

Longsuffering defined 3114, be long-spirited (long tenderness), **forbearing** (withholding from action; exercising patience [sufferance {toleration}] and indulgence.).

2 Peter 3:10-12, But the **day** of the Lord **will come** as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the **ELEMENTS** shall **MELT** with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that **all** these things shall be **DISSOLVED**, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be **DISSOLVED**, and the **ELEMENTS** shall **melt (liquefy)** with fervent heat?

Elements defined 4747, constituent [applied to parts of a thing that are essential to it; Oxygen and hydrogen are the constituent parts of water].

Melt & Dissolved defined 3089, unloose (to lose all connection or union), **dissolve** (1. to liquefy 2. to disunite [to disunite particles of matter]).

NOTE: People who will not believe in the second coming of Christ and the accompanying judgment of all the world inevitably have a tendency to live careless and sinful lives. There is a positive and definite connection between what one believes and what one does. It was to this principle that this verse is addressed. When people reject the knowledge of God and the revelation in his word, life for such persons automatically loses all real value. On the other hand, when people view life as a probation lived under the guidance and observance of the Father of all Creation, life becomes, for them, endowed with infinitely greater dimensions. (Source: Coffman Commentaries on the Old & New Testament classic.studylight.org/com/bcc/)

2 Peter 3:13, Nevertheless we, according to his **promise**, look for **new** heavens and a **new** earth, wherein dwelleth **righteousness** (conformity of heart and life to the divine law).

Thought 1. The key word here is righteousness. During the millennium there will still be sin and death in the earth. And there will be sinners also!

Isaiah 65:17-20, For, behold, I create **new** heavens and a **new** earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. But be glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create... ..There shall be no more hence an **infant** of days, nor an **old man** that has not **filled his days**: for the **child** shall **die** an hundred years old; but the **sinner** being a hundred years old shall be accursed.

Thought 2. This tells us Peter is speaking of a later time, after the millennium!

Revelation 21:1, 4, And I saw a **new heaven** and a **new earth**: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away... And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be **no more DEATH**, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more **pain**: for the **former** things are **passed away**.