

# The Azimuth Institute

## Directional Study Notes

2 Peter 3:8-15

11/2/15

### Do Not Forget

**vv.8-10** *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. (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.*

In other words, what seems like a long time for us is nothing for God.

These scoffers are running around asking when he is coming back because it's been 2000 plus years now and he still has not returned.

Peter is actually quoting Psalms 90:4, *"For a thousand years in Your sight Are like yesterday when it is past, And like a watch in the night."*

We must not forget that God is the great, "I Am."

He is outside of what is called our time space continuum.

I.e. Past, Present or Future makes no difference to Him as that He is in all of them.

Please note that Peter is not saying literally that a thousand years are a day for the Lord.

He is simply saying that God does not see time as we do.

I say this because some try to misapply this verse to the creation account in Genesis to say that each day of creation was 1000 years in an effort to justify evolutionary theory.

I've got news for you, even if that was the case, the evolutionists need a whole lot more time than that for their concocted theories to have occurred!

But notice that Peter wants to reassure his readers that *the Lord is not slack concerning His promise.*

In other words, Jesus will come back just like He said that He would, but it will be on His time schedule and not ours.

Why? – Because he is *not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

This implies that the purpose of his delay is so that more more may be saved.

Where would you be today if Jesus had come five years ago? Ten years ago? For some of you, maybe a week ago?

Eze. 33:11 *Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord GOD, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?'*

But Peter goes on to say that when the Lord does come, it will be *as a thief in the night.*

In other words, it will not be expected or announced.

Cf. Matthew 24:44-51

And when He does return, Peter says that *the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with a fervent heat.*

I find it interesting that the gay rights movement chooses to use the rainbow as their symbol.

God gave it to man as a sign that he will never again destroy them with water because of their sin.

Well, he will not use water, but fire next time.

### **Things Will be Dissolved**

**vv.11-13** *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.*

In light of the fact that the Lord is going to destroy it all, *what manner of persons ought you to be?*

We need to be a people in live *in holy conduct* and walk in *godliness*.

That is the kind of people that we should be.

The only way to be ready any time is to be ready all the time.

Spurgeon said of this, “The king is coming; he is coming to his throne, and to his judgment. Now a man does not go up to a king’s door, and there talk treason; and men do not sit in a king’s audience-chamber when they expect him every moment to enter, and there speak ill of him. The King is on his way, and almost here; you are at his door; he is at yours. What manner of people ought ye to be? How can ye sin against One who is so close at hand?”

We live in hold conduct and walk in godliness while at the same time *looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God*.

Can we possibly hasten the day of God or the coming of the Lord?

I believe that we can for Paul said in Romans 11:25 *For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.*

In other words, one day the last Gentile will be saved, and when that happens, *the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with a fervent heat:*

What is Peter talking about here?

These verses just prove what we already know that this world in which we live in is held together by an “atomic glue”. It’s the Laws of Electricity. The world is made up of matter which consists of atoms which are made up of protons that are negatively charged and neutrons with no charge in the nucleus surrounded by negatively charged electrons.

Opposite charges attract and like charges repel.

<http://webs.morningside.edu/slaven/Physics/atom/atom2.html>

“Remember, the nucleus contains neutrons and protons. The neutrons are electrically neutral, and so the electric force won’t hold them in. Furthermore, the protons are all positively charged, and so they all repel each other. So if the electric force was the only force involved, you couldn’t create a nucleus. You could try to push all those protons and neutrons together, but as soon as you let go, the protons would all shoot away from each other, and the neutrons would drift apart as well. There has to be some other force that holds protons and neutrons together.

Of course, since the electric force is constantly trying to drive the protons apart, the force that holds them all in must be stronger than the electric force. And keep in mind, the electric force gets stronger as charged particles get closer together, and the protons in a nucleus are very close together. As a result, the force that holds protons and neutrons together must be very strong. Well, in a brilliant stroke of imagination, physicists have named this force that holds them together ‘the strong force’.”

This all begins to make sense when we read verses like Hebrews 1:3 and Colossians 1:15-17.

That word “consist” in Colossians 1:17 is the Greek word meaning sustained or held together.

The implication here is that one day the Lord is going to let it go, and I not talking about a Disney song.

### **Looking Forward**

**vv.14-15a** *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*

The encouragement for us who believe is that we should be ***“looking forward to these things”***.

Jesus said in Luke 12:37 *“Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them.”*

And while we are looking forward to these things, we should ***be diligent***.

We are diligent by setting our hearts on the things of Heaven and not of earth.

We are diligent by walking godly ***in peace, without spot and blameless***.

And while waiting patiently for our Lord’s return we must understand that the ***longsuffering of our Lord is salvation***.

While waiting patiently for Him, we should take advantage of His longsuffering to serve Him and to bring others in with us.

**Illustration:** Spurgeon said, “We are puzzled at the longsuffering which causes so weary a delay. One of the reasons is that we have not much longsuffering ourselves. We think that we do well to be angry with the rebellious, and so we prove ourselves to be more like Jonah than Jesus. A few have learned to be patient and pitiful to the ungodly, but many more are of the mind of James and John, who would have called fire from heaven upon those who rejected the Savior. We are in such a hurry.”