

## “1 Day is as a 1000 Years!”

### I. **INTRO:**

- A. This chapter reminds me of the mood in the U.S. following 9/11. No planes in the sky. Fighter jets patrolling the skies. Police were on constant alert. Nobody dared ignore suspicious activity. Airline security reached its all-time peak. Everybody knew the threat of unexpected attack was real & pervasive. It could be at any time, anywhere, from anybody. But as months & years separated Americans from those devastating events, the original vigilance cooled, then virtually chilled. Back to business as usual.
- B. Our Theme as Peter starts wrapping up his 2nd epistle... *Christ's Return!*
1. The NT clearly teaches: Jesus *will* Return! His 2nd Coming *will* be physical & personal (just like his Res & Ascension). His Coming will be immediately preceded by cosmic & terrestrial distress. Christ's return *will* bring upon the world judgment that is sudden, unexpected, & inescapable. An antichrist figure is to arise prior to the 2nd Coming; who *will* be decisively overthrown. *And*, The kingdom of God, God's rule & reign, *will* be fully established at Christ's Return.
- C. A couple of reminders when it comes to End Times:
1. While God has revealed *some things* about the future, **much** still remains a mystery.
  2. When searching for answers, continue to leave room for questions.
  3. Try not to make *agreement* on the particulars of future events a basis for fellowship w/other believers.
    - a) If you agree on the fundamental, saving truths of the faith related to the triune God, the person & work of Christ in His incarnation, death, resurrection, & ascension, *then* cut each other some slack on just how Christ's return is going to pan out. Be tolerant of those who don't see things as clearly as you do.
  4. Though no one knows *all* the details, don't hesitate to stand firm on those clearly set forth in Scripture:
    - a) Christ will physically return; There will be a final judgment; Heaven & Hell are both real; The resurrection of our bodies is a certainty.
    - b) These are set forth plainly in the bible & therefore can be counted on.
    - c) 3-words: *Balance, Balance, Balance!* *Some* swing to **obsession to details**, *others* to **ignorance of even the big picture**. *Some* to **ultra dogmatism** which is unhealthy, *others* to **endless indecision to doctrinal views** which is unwise.

## II. **1 DAY IS AS A 1000 YEARS!**

A. (1) 4 reminders: *Documents; Derision; Destruction; Delay.*

B. **DOCUMENTS!** (2)

C. Note the **linkage** between OT & NT writings.

D. The apostles of Christ filled the **260 chapters** of the NT w/a about **300 references** to the **2nd coming**. It's important!

E. **DERISION!** (3,4) [*Derision = ridicule or mockery*]

F. Understanding that the 2nd Coming was **imminent**, many early Christians were making the mistake of **setting the date** of His Return during their lifetime.

G. What the false teachers couldn't destroy with lies(2:1), they start to **scoff** & ridicule.

H. (3) **Scoffers** - **Doubting** is a struggle to believe. **Scoffing** is a choice **not** to believe.

1. If we're *honest Christians*, we've all **doubted** something, at some time.

2. "Interesting, every time a **scoffer** opens his mouth to **deny** the truth, he will **help to confirm us** in our conviction of **the very truth** which he denies!"

a) A scoffer scoffs...& bible prophecy fulfilled again! :)

I. (4) They ask - **Where is the promise of his coming?** **All things continue as they were.**

1. They say **God's not going to break into history** & interrupt the progress of time.

J. **All things continue as they were** from the beginning of creation - **NOT SO!**

1. **That just isn't true.** Peter uses a **triad formula**, 3 examples to refute the scoffer's argument. **Creation(5a); The Flood(5b,6); & The final judgment(7).**

2. He explains...**No, God did break into history** as in the case of **the flood.** **And** He did so when men were convinced nothing would happen to them.

K. **DESTRUCTION!** (5-7)

L. They **willfully** forget – Plato said, "We can easily forgive a **child** who is afraid of the **dark**: the real tragedy of life is when **men** are **afraid of the light.**"

M. Peter now cites the 2 OT examples that **God does break into history.**

1. **1st** the created world; **2nd** the flood!

N. Gen.1:6-10 **And God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters."** And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was

morning, the second day. And God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

- O. They want you to forget that **the very Word** they deride is, in control of God’s universe. *God created everything by His Word; His Word holds it together; His Word caused the flood; His Word will one day bring judgment of fire to the ungodly world.*
1. Note how many times “word” is used.
  2. Last time by water, this time by fire!
- P. So, Why hasn’t this taken place yet....it has been about 2000 yrs now?
- Q. **DELAY!** (8,9)
- R. **THE TIMELESSNESS OF GOD!** (8)
- S. Peter discouraged *date setting*, explaining that **God’s schedule** is from a different perspective than ours & much more patiently worked out.
- T. **Time**, although considered a crucial commodity among human beings, **is not** a great issue with God.
1. **Story:** One of the first times to the P.I. we were told to put away our watches. This didn’t make sense till our first teaching (explain: We were late to leave the house. When does church start? When we get there. How will they know when church starts? When we pull up. And they did!)
  2. Of course God deals with time, but being “**outside of time**”, He just has a different perspective of it. Thus, *His time is not our time*. His time is always the right time, no matter what the 2 hands on our watch say!
- U. **One day is as a thousand years** - The *present church age* has lasted, in God’s eyes, not quite 2 days!
1. To God **time** is always in the **present tense**.
  2. **Is this teaching showing us how to “add up” end times?**
    - a) Some have tried to number back the existent of man to 6000 years ago. Thus if we still have 1000 years for the millennium they said, then God must be rapping things up (i.e. 7 days = 7000 yrs). And so some prophesied the beginning of the tribulation to be the year 2000! *Uhh, I guess not!*
  3. **But**, this verse has nothing to do with this at all, **nor** the verse in which it comes from in **Ps.90**.

## 4. So what's He saying then?

a) God doesn't measure time by human standards. **We** must adjust ourselves to **His** way of time & not expect **Him** to live by **ours**.

(1) Like an impatient child on a trip, we must **wait**.

(2) We can't hurry God by constantly asking, "*Is it time yet?*"

V. **THE TENDERNESS OF GOD!** (9)

W. **The Lord is not slack** – "hesitate, linger, delay" (used only here)

1. What seems like **tardiness** or **slowness** is only in respect to **your** schedule!

X. **The Lord & His Promises!**

1. Every spring, the different species of trees in my yard put forth their leaves at different times. **And so the promises of God!** Some bloom in early spring, others I wait & wonder, "*maybe the frost got them this year?*" But then I wait, & sure enough the little buds appear on their branches.

a) *Mulberry trees* are very slow in putting forth their leaves.

b) **Q:** *Have you ever had a mulberry promise from the Lord?*

c) Wait for it to come. At the appointed time it shall surely come

Y. **The Lord & His Patience/longsuffering!**

1. God's waiting is **redemptive**. **Mercy's day is lengthened!** :)

2. **The Lord is not slow...He's patient; He's not tardy...He's deliberately delaying; He's not indifferent...He's merciful.**

Z. **The Lord & His Plan for repentance!**

1. This is not a **decree**, as if God willed everyone to be saved. *Universal salvation* is not taught in the bible (**re-read** 7b).

2. Peter says that God longs that all would be saved, **but knows** that many will reject Him.

3. God can't be waiting then for all people to be saved; **He is waiting to receive all His own though**. As Jesus said, "**And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.**" Jn.10:16

4. The Lord is still seeking for His **jewels** lost in **earth's mud!**

III. **Psalm 90!**

A. **Read** 1,2,4, 10, 12.

1. **Time is so important to us!** From **sundials** to **water clocks**. Then **hourglass** to **mechanical clocks**. Then **digital**(splitting time into 1000ths of a second). **To our**

**cell phone clocks** that automatically via satellite grab the exact time of day from the atomic clock over in Colorado. Our culture is definitely concerned w/time.

- a) Because of the earth shift w/the Japan quake, NASA estimated that the earth rotation speed increased **1.8 microsecond** (a unit of time for 1 per million seconds).

B. Here Moses compares **God's Eternity** to **man's frailty!**

1. (1,2) Here we have a **timeless** God!
2. (4) This isn't saying time passes quickly for **God**, **but** that time passes quickly for **us!**
  - a) If we lived for a 1000 yrs.(as Methuselah almost did) it is as if only 1 day went by... or even part of a night.
3. (10) Moses speaks here to the length of our days being 70/80 years.
  - a) "When **time** shall be no more, **you** will!"
  - b) This year in the **USA** the average man lives for 75 years, the average woman 80 years. **Big contrast** to **Haiti** Men-47; Women-51.
    - (1) Infant mortality rate: **USA** 7/1000; **Haiti** 107 out of 1000 births.
  - c) No matter where you live, with every living soul there comes a **built-in time fuse**. **Some** fuses burn **slow**, **others** **more quickly**.
  - d) **Every birth** signals the beginning of a **countdown**; which w/o variation, zeros in on a **forced exit** from this scene.
  - e) **Every day** **384 thousand** new people **arrive** on this planet (4.45 a second); **Every day** **156 thousand** **leave** it for eternity...their **time-fuse** burned out!<sup>1</sup>
4. (12) Moses gives us the secret of making life count! – Live it **1 day** at a time!
  - a) Mt.6:34 **Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.**
  - b) We count our **years**(birthdays) but not our **days!**
  - c) Of all that we count in life, it is hardest to count **our days**.
  - d) **Q: How can we make each day count for God?**
    - (1) **Recognize life's brevity.** "**Only one life twill soon be past. Only what's done for Christ will last**".
    - (2) **Live each day for God** – As if it were your last.

C. **How do we pray?** "Lord, Come Quickly!" **yet** Lord, "hold off, so more will come into Your kingdom!"

1. Its **desiring His coming**, **but also** being sympathetic for **the unbelievers**.

<sup>1</sup> According to the Population Reference Bureau's "2010 World Population Data Sheet"

- D. The Danish philosopher, *Kierkegaard*, tells a parable of a theater where a variety show is proceeding. Each show is more fantastic than the last, and is applauded by the audience. Suddenly the manager comes forward. He apologizes for the interruption, but the theater is on fire, and he begs his patrons to leave in an orderly fashion. The audience think this is the most amusing turn of the evening, and cheer thunderously. The manager again implores them to leave the burning building, and he is again applauded vigorously. At last he can do no more. The fire raced through the whole building and the fun-loving audience with it.
1. “And so,” concluded *Kierkegaard*, “will our age, I sometimes think, go down in fiery destruction to the applause of a crowded house of cheering spectators.”