

Study 7

Read 2 Peter 3:8-13

SUMMARY OF THE PASSAGE

Many people mock the idea that Christ will one day return to judge the world. They may even wonder why “the end” hasn’t come yet. The truth is that God is not affected by time the way that we are. He is equally affected by a millennium as much as He is by one day. It may seem like God is taking His time, but really He is being patient with the world, calling people to repentance and faith. At His appointed time, God will completely destroy this fallen world and bring about new heavens and a new earth. Until that time, Christians should be marked by holiness, eagerness, prayer, and hope.

MEMORY VERSE

2 Peter 3:9 (NET)—The Lord is not slow concerning his promise, as some regard slowness, but is being patient toward you, because he does not wish for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. How does Peter say God is different from us, regarding time (3:8)?
2. What were some people wrongly saying about God’s promises (3:9)?
3. Why hasn’t God brought about “the end of the world” yet (3:9)?
4. How does Peter say the “day of the Lord” will come (3:10)?
5. What will happen on the “day of the Lord” (3:10)?
6. What reason does Peter give for Christians to be holy (3:11)?
7. What does Peter say will happen on the “day of God” (3:12)?

8. What is the basis for a Christian's anticipation of the new heaven and new earth (3:13)?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Have you ever been exposed to someone who denied God's plan for the future? What arguments did they give for their position?

What are your thoughts about the "end of the world"? How does the topic make you feel?

What is the connection between your personal holiness and the "end of the world"?

How much of your day is affected by your hope in God's promises?

What do you look forward to in the new heavens and new earth?

1. Read 2 Peter 3:8-13 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What one fact should they keep in mind, according to verse 8?

3. State the Lord's relationship to the "promise" and then His attitude toward us, according to verse 9.

4. What does the Lord want us to do, according to verse 9?

5. What is meant by the term, "the day of the Lord" in verse 10?

6. How will the “day of the Lord” come, according to verse 10?

7. What will happen to the “heavens” in the “day of the Lord,” according to verse 10?

8. What will happen to the “earth” in the “day of the Lord,” according to verse 10?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: We cannot put time limits on the promises of God.

LESSON #2: A day with the Lord is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

LESSON #3: The Lord of the promise is not delaying.

LESSON #4: God is patient and has no desire for anyone to perish.

LESSON #5: It is His desire that we repent.

LESSON #6: The day of the Lord will come when you least expect it and rob you of any further opportunities to get to know the Lord.

LESSON #7: The present heavens and earth are going to be dissolved, destroyed and disappear.

LESSON #8: Judging by past performance, we ought to have a present certainty of a fantastic future.