

THE EARTH'S FINAL DESTRUCTION

2 Peter 3:1-13:

1 This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:

2 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:

3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after 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 the creation.

5 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:

6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

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.



8 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.

9 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.

10 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.

11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

12 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 with fervent heat?

13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

1 John 2:17: And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

Revelation 21:5: And He that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And He said unto Me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.



Revelation 21:1: And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

Will the USA go up in nuclear smoke?



Jesus said, as recorded in the following Scriptures:

Matthew 24:35: Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away.

Hebrews 2:5: For unto the angels hath He not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak.

Immortal words coming from the lips of one called Simon Peter, the fisherman, unlearned, ignorant as the Scribes and Pharisees called him. They are long gone and forgotten, while Peter's name has been spoken by thousands of lips in honor of his faith, consecration, and loyalty to Jesus. This revelation given Him from the Almighty can never die, although scoffers have sought to tear it to shreds.

It has only multiplied like the five loaves in the hands of the Master, as He broke this into thousands of pieces to feed a multitude of nearly 15,000 hungry mouths.

Atheists and infidels, educated above their intelligence, have hurled their hot air blasts at this passage of scripture as being impossible. Their efforts to

destroy its credibility have come as much to nought as the seas efforts to undermine the Great Rock Gibraltar. God's Word has stopped the mouths — and put to silence — the ignorance of foolish men.

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The language of Scripture calls for much more than renovating this earth by fire. Peter declares elements shall melt with fervent heat. Note the word *dissolved* in **verses 11-12:**

2 Peter 3:11-12:

11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

12 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 with fervent heat?

The only other time this strong word is found is in:

2 Corinthians 5:1: For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Man's sins and God's visitation upon it is:

Genesis 3:19: In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

The body is taken apart, piece by piece, so that the pieces are called dust, and that's getting mighty fine. No man can put the dust back together again. Only the Almighty can call the dust and raise it up into a new body. This He will do at the time appointed.

The final destruction of our world by fire is a doctrine found in the **Book of Revelation**. Nothing can be more clear or definite. Nothing is more positive in searching this subject than Peter's blunt, forthright language as recorded in **2 Peter 3:7-10**. This clear cut description is of the earth's doom:

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.

8 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.

9 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.

10 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.

Paul, in **Hebrews 1:1-2**, also gives some insight into earth's future doom:

Hebrews 1:1-2:

1 God, Who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the Prophets,

2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, Whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by Whom also He made the worlds;

In these verses, Paul was quoting from:



Isaiah 34:4: And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree.

Hebrews 1:10-12:

10 And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of Thine Hands:

11 They shall perish; but Thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment;

12 And as a vesture shalt Thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but Thou art the same, and Thy years shall not fail.



Another Old Testament writer had revealed to him the final destruction of this planet. Isaiah declares this in two places:

Isaiah 34:4: And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree.

Isaiah 65:17: For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

John, in the final pages of the Bible, confirms what the other prophets wrote, saying:

Revelation 20:11: I saw a Great White Throne, and Him that sat on it from Whose face the earth and heavens fled away, and there was found no place for them.

John 21:1, 5:

¹ After these things Jesus shewed Himself again to the disciples at the sea of Tiberias; and on this wise shewed He Himself.



⁵ Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered Him, No.

None ventured so far as Peter in giving the striking and most detailed declaration of the final destruction of this earth.

Note these descriptive words:

1: The heavens and earth which are now, are reserved unto fire.

2: The heavens shall pass away with a great noise.

3: The elements shall melt with a fervent heat.

4: The earth also and the works thereof shall be burned.

5: Seeing all these things shall be dissolved

6: The heavens being on fire shall be dissolved and elements shall melt with fervent heat.

“The elements shall melt”. The scientists and chemists search the application of sufficient heat; all substance will reduce to liquid, then to a gaseous state. Scripture doesn’t call for any more than chemistry to reduce the earth and the heavens to nothing.

Then **Peter** — as **John** and **Isaiah** — tells us about the new heavens and earth in **verse 13**, and adds a detail hereunto unexplained:

2 Peter 3:13: Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Peter also gives the only spiritual appeal in his unfolding of the end of time events with this:

1. The cause of this judgment is ungodly men.

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.

2. He advises us not to be ignorant concerning the times.

2 Peter 3:8: 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.

3. He further states why this catastrophe must come, because God wants lost souls to be saved before judgment falls.

2 Peter 3:9: 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

4. He exhorts all of us to the kind of conviction we should have, and how we are to live in view of these terrible events.

2 Peter 3:11: Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

5. His concluding exhortation is a warning.

2 Peter 3:14: Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of Him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

6. Remember why He is waiting. He is giving us time to get His message of salvation out to the lost in sin.

2 Peter 3:15a: And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation;

7. A word about Paul, Whom He calls “beloved”, speaks of these very things.

2 Peter 3:15b: even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;

8. The faults and disastrous failures of the unlearned and unstable.

2 Peter 3:16: As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

9. Since you know these things, BEWARE of the wicked leading you astray, that you not fall from your steadfastness.

2 Peter 3:17: Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.



BEWARE!

10. But there is a remedy: keep growing spiritually, in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus.

2 Peter 3:18: But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

May I also bring your attention to the following scriptures:

2 Corinthians 10:5: Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

Ephesians 4:11-20:

¹¹ And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

¹² For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

¹³ Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:

¹⁴ That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things, which is the Head, even Christ:

¹⁶ From Whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

¹⁷ This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,

¹⁸ Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

¹⁹ Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

²⁰ But ye have not so learned Christ;

2 Peter 1:2, 5:

2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

Romans 1:17-25:



17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from Heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

20 For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

23 And changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four footed beasts, and creeping things.

24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, Who is blessed for ever. Amen.

Colossians 1:10: That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Philippians 3:8: Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for Whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,

Philippians 2:20: For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state.

One of the great mysteries of the ages — even among the heathen nations whose writings teach that the ancient civilizations were destroyed by water — prophesy that there will be another destruction, but this time by fire.

The prevalence of this belief is otherwise an unexplainable mystery.

It is conceded by most writers who attempt to explain this universal concept, that God revealed it to the patriarchs before the tower of Babel when the whole earth had one language. The prevalence of this belief is otherwise an unexplainable mystery. This is keynoted by Peter in the following verse by the words: ***“by the same Word”***. Note:

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.

Peter is convinced by this most substantial of all arguments: *“God said it, therefore it is true. I believe it. That settles it.”* To those who really know God with understanding faith, this is substantial enough proof it will come to pass, and our faith secures an unwavering assent.

Yet there are those who reject wholly, or in part, this final destruction doctrine set forth by St. Peter in its most detailed form. This superficial skepticism, founded partly upon a false concept: *“What I desire not to be cannot be”*; or, *“It’s impossible! Contrary to the nature of things!”* This unbelief has lurked around the outskirts of the church and now is creeping in.



Yes, from the days of the apostles, satan has worked the same lie as he pulled on Adam and Eve; and the mockers of Noah’s day were but forerunners of what the early church warned about scoffers in the last day.

The skillful astronomer can tell the exact moment of an eclipse of the sun, the moon, and the re-entry of a planet into our solar system. This has been done for hundreds of years, so they conclude, *“All things continue as they did from the beginning”*, the uniform regularity and precision of our sun rising and

setting, until they tell the very minute for each. They forget the same God Who put them there, and into motion, still moves in the universe.

Science, rightly understood, has nowhere presented a problem to understanding Scripture. What were obstacles in the days of my youth are no longer mentioned by atheists, especially on this subject that Peter wrote about. In fact, they are declaring more loudly than the pulpit the fulfillment of this prophecy — strong evidence that this world is approaching its final doomsday.

They point out these facts: If this globe is destroyed by fire, it's nothing more than what has already happened to other stars like the constellation Cassiopeia — a new star that appeared in 1572 of unsurpassed magnitude, surpassing Jupiter in brilliance. Visible for six months, it continued to blaze and shine, then faded away. Within the last three centuries, 13 fixed stars have likewise disappeared from the heavens. Exploding like a rocket, wrapped in fire, even we have seen these, as we call them shooting stars. Was this their day of judgment?



Such an event will appear more probable if we turn our attention to the geology of the globe. The interior of this earth is a molten ocean of liquid fire. The heat increases as one descends into the earth. The average is 1 degree per 50 feet. Scientists differ as to how thick the earth's crust is, some from 30 miles to 800 miles.

Taking the highest figure, then, the center is 6000 miles of liquid fire. That's a lot of fire penned up beneath our feet! Where does all the natural gas come from which heats our homes by billions of cubic feet? What about the oil, gas, and coal?



Volcanoes and earthquakes are living evidence that there are pressures build up down there, and let us know in no uncertain terms. Why all this fire below? Peter tells us: They are kept in store. These open craters issue smoke, steam, sulfurous gas, cinders, flames, and torrents of red hot lava. Nearly 400 of these volcanoes have been in operation. They serve as safety valves to lessen danger to our planet.

Mt. Vesuvius, in 1794, flooded lava over 5,000 acres of beautiful vineyards and cultivated land. Pompeii exploded, and the sun was darkened two days

throughout Naples; and ash was carried as far as Rome and into the Mediterranean Sea almost 300 miles away.

In Iceland, in 1783, one of the worst torrents of burning lava flowed for six weeks, 60 miles to sea, 60 feet deep; and 12 river beds filled up. In Sicily in 1693, 54 towns and cities, along with 300 villages, were overthrown by an earthquake, and the city of Catania with a population of 1800 completely disappeared. There were 742 earthquakes in Israel, Syria, and Asia Minor; 500 cities were destroyed, and the destruction surpassed all knowledge and calculation. This states the world progress on earthquakes.



Noting the water we drink — hydrogen and oxygen — according to the testimony of science, both can be, and are, separated into their original gases and can become highly combustible. Even the air we breathe is a mysterious union between hydrogen and oxygen. The heavens shall pass away with a “**great noise**” (**verse 10**). God has allowed the inhabitants of earth enough knowledge that we might know what to expect and fear.

If we carefully read scripture, we will find that God says in **Revelation 21:5**: “**Behold I make all things new.**” According to the promise, Peter declares that we look for new heavens and a new earth wherein dwell righteousness.

2 Peter 3:13: Nevertheless we, according to His Promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Before the eye of the revelator (John), the New Jerusalem, the city of saints, comes down from God out of Heaven, for the first heaven and earth are



passed away and there was no more sea. The heavens shall pass away and the earth, too, as elements melt and are dissolved by fervent heat.

The language of Scripture allows for more than external burning. No word can be found in the

Greek language which could express more perfectly, or scientifically, than the word selected by Divine inspiration — **dissolved**. **2 Corinthians 5** speaks of the body taken apart piece by piece, particle by particle, until dust is all that’s left.

2 Corinthians 5:1-21:

1 For we know that if our earthly house of this Tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens.

2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from Heaven:

3 If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked.

4 For we that are in this Tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.

5 Now He that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, Who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.

6 Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:

7 (For we walk by Faith, not by sight:)

8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

9 Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of Him.

10 For we must all appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.



11 Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.

12 For we commend not ourselves again unto you, but give you occasion to glory on our behalf, that ye may have somewhat to answer them which glory in appearance, and not in heart.

13 For whether we be beside ourselves, it is to God: or whether we be sober, it is for your cause.

14 For the Love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:

15 And that He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him Who died for them, and rose again.

16 Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we Him no more.

17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

18 And all things are of God, Who hath reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the Ministry of Reconciliation;

19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the Word of Reconciliation.

20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

21 For He [God the Father] hath made Him [Jesus — the Son] to be sin for us, Who knew no sin; that we might be made the Righteousness of God in Him.

17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Revelation 21:1: And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

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