***Escaping Notice***

**(What to Remember in Times of Difficulty and Persecution)**

**2Peter 3:1-13**

Peter’s *first* epistle was largely about preparing the saints for *various trials, persecution,* and *suffering as a Christian,* cf. 1Pet.1:6,13-16; 2:20-23; 3:13-17; 4:1-2,12-19. And now, in the *second* letter, he is *stirring them up by way of reminders,* cf. 2Pet.1:12-15; 3:1 to ***remember***certain things and to not let them ***escape their notice****.*

So, if we are facing *various trials, persecutions,* and *suffering as Christian,* what should **we** ***remember*** and **not let *escape our notice?***

1. ***The Word of God,* v.2**

Whether it was by the *holy prophets,* our *Lord and Savior,* or the *apostles* (or other *inspired writers*), in times of trial, persecution, and suffering, we **must** remember the Word of God. Why? Because He told us…

1. ***That Mockers/Mocking would come,* vv.3-6**

In the *last days* (which we are *now* in, cf. Isa.2:2ff; Joel 2:28ff; Acts 2:16ff) *mockers* have come, just as predicted, *following their lusts,* v.3; cp. Phil.3:18-19;

That they would assume *Uniformitarianism,* v.4;

And that in *maintaining this,* it *escapes their notice* (*lanthano-* to *not recall* information, or *lose sight* of its *significance,* cp. Acts 26:26 and Heb.13:2, *e.g.*) that:

* God is *Creator,* v.5; and that *in the past*,
* He has ***destroyed*** His own creation for their *sinfulness* and *evil,* v.6; Gen.6-9! Therefore,
1. **The *present heavens and earth will be destroyed also,* v.7**

Notice that they *are* being *reserved for fire* (*by His word,* cf. v.2); and *kept* for the *judgment* and *destruction* of *ungodly men.* But also remember, from last week’s lesson, that the Lord *knows how to rescue, spare,* and *preserve the righteous,* cf. 2:5-10.This *judgment* and *destruction* is inevitable because God said so, and He does not and cannot lie, cf. Heb.6:18; Titus 1:2.

1. **That *time* is not the same for God, v.8**

God can *tell time.* He originated it, Gen.1:14,18; and He utilizes it, cf. Ps.90:10. He is just not *bound* by it as is earth and all that dwells on it. He is *eternal;* the first and only *uncaused Cause!*

1. **That God is *not slow,* but *patient,* v.9**

He is *patient with the wicked* for them to *repent,* just as in the days before the Flood, cf. Gen.6:2; and He is *patient with the righteous,* waiting for them to *do their part,* cf. 2:5 (remember Noah was also a *“preacher of righteousness”* as well as an *ark-builder!),* cf. 2Cor.4:7 and 1Pet.1:18-20.

1. **That *the end* will come, v.10**

It may be *sooner* or *later;* indeed *no one* but the Father knows, Matt.24:36. But it will come based on the: *timing,* v.8; *promise,* v.9a; *desires,* v.9b;and *surety* of God, v.10!

**Conclusion(s): *“Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way,”***

* **We need to *remember* and *consider “what sort of people”* we *“ought to be in holy conduct and godliness,”* v.11;**
* **We need to *look for* and *hasten*** (*speudo-* to *desire earnestly*) ***the coming of the day of God,* v.12;**
* **And, *according to His promise,* we need to *look for* the *“new heavens and earth in which righteousness dwells”* instead of *clinging to the old, forgetful/willfully ignorant,* and *wicked* one, v.13!**