

## 2 Peter 3:1-18

### Reminder

Introduction: Do you ever feel overwhelmed by the cultural tide that is sweeping across our land? Mass shootings continue to rise, the sexual revolution is reaching every corner of the globe, our government schools celebrate immorality, the world is drunk on pornography, drug use is through the roof, marriages are under constant attack, children are running the homes. Our universities are churches for humanism. There are whole political parties that platform their politics on immorality. They circle around evil instead of good and the tide continues to rise. I often feel overwhelmed when I think about how big an obstacle it would be to turn our cultural tide. The reality is I can not turn the culture.

But what we see in God's Word is that God does have a plan for our fallen world. And what is His solution? He is going to make a new one. The return of Jesus Christ and the establishment of a new heavens and earth is God's plan for our world and in 2 Peter chapter 3 we are given 4 keys for overcoming despair in a fallen world as we wait for the world to come.

### 4 keys for overcoming Despair in a fallen world

Introduce Peter: Chief apostle, Last letter, wants us to get this. He is going to die 2 Peter 1:12-15. Commissioned by Christ to feed sheep John 21:15-19. 2 Peter was written to call Christians to spiritual growth so they can combat apostasy as they look forward to the Lord's return.

Chapter 1 focuses on Christian growth

chapter 2 gives warnings against false teachers

chapter 3 Living in light of Christ's return

### 2 Peter 3:1-18

**(1-2) The first Key for overcoming despair in a fallen world is to Go to God's Word. Specific to the promises of Christ's second coming. God's word will tell us that truth, that this world is not the last state of things.**

Peter is looking to shake up a sleepy faith.

Observations: 2<sup>nd</sup> letter-this is important

Beloved: Beloved: used 5x in this chapter, 3:1,8, 14, 15, 17. Peter was commissioned by Christ Himself to feed the sheep and care for the flock John

21:15-17. This reminder from Peter is the love of Christ poured out to you. As Peter calls the saints beloved consider this Christ's confession as well. If you are His you are His beloved.

**Sincere mind:** A mind that has not been perverted or led into error like that of the scoffers and false teachers. Uncorrupted mind. A thinking mind in comparison to a mind driven by sensual passions like the scoffers.

**stirring up** what has settled. You may have some cold-pressed juice but it needs to be shaken well. The pulp has settled to the bottom, the same goes for your faith, often we let it sit in the fridge too long and although it is genuine it begins to separate, the things of God end up on the bottom of your life while the basic activities of life end up on top. You begin to reflect more of what is around you than what is in you.

3:2 Peter drives them to the Word. Both the Old Testament and the New Testament. It is not just the thoughts of the Bible but the very words themselves. If you disregard the word you disregard the content. You can't have an egg without a shell or you have a mess on your hands.

**the predictions:** What was spoken or told before hand. Having been previously spoken. This verb is a perfect-passive-participle. The perfect tense indicates that though these things were spoken in the past they are still valid in the present [NTC]. The perfect signifies permanence, through the Scriptures the prophets are continuing to speak

**Holy prophets:** Not false prophets or false teachers but holy (2:1, false prophets) These are God's spokesmen. What they say is true and God had appointed them to speak to the people on His behalf. Rejection of their prophecy is blasphemous it is a rejection of God.

Peter's desire is to get his readers to remember vital truths they already know from the teachings of the prophets and the apostles.

Do you know the word? Can you find comfort from it? Do you have a plan for reading and learning it? The Bible needs to be our sure foundation for analyzing life; it is the only perfect guide. How are you to make sense of the world if you do not have God's Word lighting your path. Like a cave dweller many Christians sit in the dark not ever turning on the light of God's word.

Do you have confidence in the promises of God? I do. The first coming of Christ was literal so will His second coming. John 14:1-3, Acts 1:9-11

120 Messianic Prophecies of the Old Testament

Seed of the woman	Gen. 3:15	Gal. 4:4; Heb. 2:14
Through Noah's sons	Gen. 9:27	Luke 3:36
Seed of Abraham	Gen. 12:3	Matt. 1:1; Gal. 3:8, 16
Blessing through Abraham	Gen. 12:3; 28:14	Gal. 3:8, 16; Heb. 6:14
Seed of Isaac	Gen. 17:19; 21:12	Rom. 9:7; Heb. 11:18
Blessing to nations	Gen. 18:18; 22:18; 26:4	Gal. 3:8
Of the tribe of Judah	Gen. 49:10	Rev. 5:5
No bone broken	Ex. 12:46	John 19:36
Blessing to firstborn son	Ex. 13:2	Luke 2:23
No bone broken	Num. 9:12	John 19:36
Serpent in wilderness	Num. 21:8-9	John 3:14-15
A star out of Jacob	Num. 24:17-19	Matt. 2:2; Luke 1:33, 78; Rev. 22:16
King of kings, Lord of lords	Deut. 10:17	1 Tim. 6:15; Rev. 17:14; 19:16
As a prophet	Deut. 18:15, 18-19	John 6:14; 7:40; Acts 3:22-23
Cursed on the tree	Deut. 21:23	Gal. 3:13

The throne of David established forever	2 Sam. 7:12-13, 16, 25-26; 1 Chron. 17:11-14, 23-27; 2 Chron. 21:7	1 Matt. 19:28; 25:31; Mark 12:37; Luke 1:32; Acts 2:30; 13:22-23; Rom. 1:3; 2 Tim. 2:8; Heb. 1:5, 8; 8:1; 12:2; Rev. 22:1
A promised Redeemer	Job 19:25-27	John 5:28-29; Gal. 4:4-5; Eph. 1:7, 11, 14
Declared to be the Son of God	Ps. 2:1-12	Matt. 3:17; Mark 1:11; Acts 4:25-26; 13:33; Heb. 1:5; 5:5; Rev. 2:26-27; 19:15-16
His resurrection	Ps. 16:8-10	Acts 2:27; 13:35; 26:23
Mocked and insulted	Ps. 22:7-8	Matt. 27:39-43, 45-49
Hands and feet pierced	Ps. 22:16	Matt. 27:31, 35-36
Soldiers cast lots for coat	Ps. 22:18	Mark 15:20, 24-25; Luke 23:34; John 19:23-24
Accused by false witnesses	Ps. 27:12	Matt. 26:59-60; Mark 14:57-58
He commits his spirit	Ps. 31:5	Luke 23:46
No bone broken	Ps. 34:20	John 19:36
Accused by false witnesses	Ps. 35:11	Matt. 26:59-61; Mark 14:57-58
Hated without reason	Ps. 35:19	John 15:24-25
Friends stand afar off	Ps. 38:11	Matt. 27:55; Mark 15:40; Luke 23:49
Came to do the Father's will	Ps. 40:6-8	Heb. 10:5-9

Betrayed by a friend	Ps. 41:9	Matt. 26:47-50; Mark 14:17-21; Luke 22:21-23; John 13:18-19
Known for righteousness	Ps. 45:6-7	Heb. 1:8-9
His resurrection	Ps. 49:15	Mark 16:6
Betrayed by a friend	Ps. 55:12-14	John 13:18
His ascension	Ps. 68:18	Eph. 4:8
Hated without reason	Ps. 69:4	John 15:25
Stung by reproaches	Ps. 69:9	Rom. 15:3
Given gall and vinegar	Ps. 69:21	Matt. 27:34, 48; Mark 15:23; Luke 23:36; John 19:29
Exalted by God	Ps. 72:1-19	Matt. 2:2; Phil. 2:9-11; Hebrews 1-8
He speaks in parables	Ps. 78:2	Matt. 13:34-35
Seed of David exalted	Ps. 89:3-4, 19, 27-29, 35-37	Luke 1:32; Acts 2:30; 13:23; Rom. 1:3; 2 Tim. 2:8
Son of Man comes in glory	Ps. 102:16	Luke 21:27; Rev. 12:5-10
Remains the same	Ps. 102:24-27	Heb. 1:10-12
Prays for his enemies	Ps. 109:4	Luke 23:34
Another to succeed Judas	Ps. 109:7-8	Acts 1:16-26

A priest like Melchizedek	Ps. 110:1-7	Matt. 22:41-45; 26:64; Mark 12:35-37; 16:19; Acts 7:56; Eph. 1:20; Heb. 1:13; 2:8; 5:6; 6:20; 7:21; 8:1; 10:11-13; 12:2
The chief cornerstone	Ps. 118:22-23	Matt. 21:42; Mark 12:10-11; Luke 20:17; John 1:11; Acts 4:11; Eph. 2:20; 1 Pet. 2:4
The King comes in the name of the Lord	Ps. 118:26	Matt. 21:9; 23:39; Mark 11:9; Luke 13:35; 19:38; John 12:13
David's seed to reign	Ps. 132:11; see 2 Sam. 7:12-13, 16, 25-26, 29	Matt. 1:1
Declared to be the Son of God	Prov. 30:4	Matt. 3:17; Mark 14:61-62; Luke 1:35; John 3:13; 9:35-38; Rom. 1:2-4; 2 Pet. 1:17
Repentance for the nations	Isa. 2:2-4	Luke 24:47
Hearts are hardened	Isa. 6:9-10	Matt. 13:14-15; John 12:39-40; Acts 28:25-27
Born of a virgin	Isa. 7:14	Matt. 1:22-23
God with us	Isa. 7:14	Matt. 1:23
A rock of offense	Isa. 8:14-15	Rom. 9:33; 1 Pet. 2:8
Light out of darkness	Isa. 9:1-2	Matt. 4:14-16; Luke 2:32
Full of wisdom and power	Isa. 11:1-10	Luke 2:52; 1 Cor. 1:30
Reigning on the throne of David	Isa. 16:4-5	Luke 1:31-33
The key of David	Isa. 22:21-25	Rev. 3:7

Death swallowed up in victory	Isa. 25:8	1 Cor. 15:54
A stone in Zion	Isa. 28:16	Rom. 9:33; 1 Pet. 2:6
The deaf hear, the blind see	Isa. 29:18	Matt. 11:5; John 9:39
Healing for the needy	Isa. 35:5-6	Matt. 9:30; 11:5; 12:22; 20:34; 21:14; Mark 7:30; John 5:9
Make ready the way of the Lord	Isa. 40:3-5	Matt. 3:3; Mark 1:3; Luke 3:4-5; John 1:23
The Shepherd dies for his sheep	Isa. 40:11	John 10:11; Heb. 13:20; 1 Pet. 2:24-25
The meek servant	Isa. 42:1-6	Matt. 12:17-21
A light to the Gentiles	Isa. 49:6	Luke 2:32; Acts 13:47; 2 Cor. 6:2
Scourged and spat on	Isa. 50:6	Matt. 26:67; 27:26, 30; Mark 14:65; 15:15, 19; Luke 22:63-65; John 19:1
Rejected by his people	Isa. 52:13-53:12	Matt. 27:1-2; Luke 23:1-25
His word not believed	Isa. 53:1	John 12:37-38
Suffered vicariously	Isa. 53:4-5, 11-12	Matt. 8:17; John 11:49-52; Acts 10:43; 13:38-39; Rom. 5:18-19; 1 Cor. 15:3; Eph. 1:7; 1 Pet. 2:24; 1 John 1:7
Silent when accused	Isa. 53:7	Matt. 27:12-14; Mark 15:3-4; Acts 8:28-35; 1 Pet. 2:23
No deceit in his words	Isa. 53:9	1 Pet. 2:22

Buried with the rich	Isa. 53:9	Matt. 27:57-60
Crucified with transgressors	Isa. 53:12	Matt. 27:38; Mark 15:27[-28]; Luke 23:32-34, 39-41; John 19:18
Leader and commander	Isa. 55:4	Acts 5:31; Rev. 1:5
Calling of those who are not Israel	Isa. 55:5	John 10:16; Rom. 9:25-26
Deliverer out of Zion	Isa. 59:20-21	Rom. 11:26-27
Nations walk in the light	Isa. 60:1-3	Luke 2:32
Anointed by the Spirit	Isa. 61:1	Luke 4:18; Acts 10:38
Anointed to preach liberty	Isa. 61:1-2	Luke 4:17-19
Called by a new name	Isa. 62:1-4, 12	Rev. 2:17; 3:12
A vesture dipped in blood	Isa. 63:1-3	Rev. 19:13
The elect shall inherit	Isa. 65:9	Rom. 11:5, 7
New heavens and a new earth	Isa. 65:17-25	2 Pet. 3:13; Rev. 21:1
The Lord our righteousness	Jer. 23:5-6	1 Cor. 1:30; Phil. 3:9
Born a King	Jer. 30:9	John 18:37; Rev. 1:5
Massacre of infants	Jer. 31:15	Matt. 2:17-18
Conceived by the Holy Spirit	Jer. 31:22	Matt. 1:20; Luke 1:35

A new covenant	Jer. 31:31–34	Matt. 26:27–29; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:15–20; 1 Cor. 11:25; Heb. 8:8–12; 10:15–17; 12:24; 13:20
A spiritual house	Jer. 33:15–17	John 2:19–21; Eph. 2:20–21; 1 Pet. 2:5
A tree planted by God	Ezek. 17:22–24	Matt. 13:31–32
The humble exalted	Ezek. 21:26–27	Luke 1:52
The good Shepherd	Ezek. 34:23–24	John 10:11
Stone cut without hands	Dan. 2:34–35	Acts 4:10–12
His kingdom triumphant	Dan. 2:44–45	Luke 1:33; 1 Cor. 15:24; Rev. 11:15
The Son of Man coming on the clouds in glory	Dan. 7:13–14	Matt. 24:30; 25:31; 26:64; Mark 14:61–62; Acts 1:9–11; Rev. 1:7
Kingdom for the saints	Dan. 7:27	Luke 1:33; 1 Cor. 15:24; Rev. 11:15
Time of his death	Dan. 9:24–27	Matt. 24:15–21; Luke 3:1
Israel restored	Hos. 3:5	Rom. 11:25–27
Flight into Egypt	Hos. 11:1	Matt. 2:15
Promise of the Spirit	Joel 2:28–32	Acts 2:17–21; Rom. 15:13
The sun darkened	Amos 8:9	Matt. 24:29; Acts 2:20; Rev. 6:12
Restoration of the tabernacle	Amos 9:11–12	Acts 15:16–18

Israel regathered	Mic. 2:12-13	John 10:14, 26
The kingdom established	Mic. 4:1-8	Luke 1:33
Born in Bethlehem	Mic. 5:2	Matt. 2:1; Luke 2:4, 10-11
Earth filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord	Hab. 2:14	Rev. 21:23-26
The Lamb on the throne	Zech. 2:10-13	Rev. 5:13; 21:24; 22:1-5
A holy priesthood	Zech. 3:8	1 Pet. 2:5
A heavenly High Priest	Zech. 6:12-13	Heb. 4:14; 8:1-2
The King comes	Zech. 9:9	Matt. 21:5
Triumphal entry	Zech. 9:9	Matt. 21:4-5; Mark 11:9-10; Luke 19:38; John 12:13-15
Sold for pieces of silver	Zech. 11:12-13	Matt. 26:14-15
Money buys potter's field	Zech. 11:12-13	Matt. 27:9-10
Piercing of his body	Zech. 12:10	John 19:34, 37
Shepherd smitten, sheep scattered	Zech. 13:7	Matt. 26:31; John 16:32
Preceded by a forerunner	Mal. 3:1	Matt. 11:10; Mark 1:2; Luke 7:27
Our sins purged	Mal. 3:3	Heb. 1:3
The light of the world	Mal. 4:2-3	Luke 1:78; John 1:9; 12:46; 2 Pet. 1:19; Rev. 2:28; 22:16

The coming of Elijah

**(1-2) The first Key for overcoming despair in a fallen world is to Go to God's Word. Specific to the promises of Christ's second coming. God's word will tell us that truth, that this world is not the last state of things.**

**2. (3-4) The second key for overcoming despair in a fallen world is to Give up hopeless thinking**

The temptation for Christians is to buy into the world's hopeless thinking. It is more subtle, we accept that God will make a new heaven and earth yet we doubt it will happen anytime soon. Each generation has thought they were the last, "let's not get caught up in end of the world fever." Basically we say, "Let us continue on as if there is no hope of a future where righteousness dwells." Do not fall into hopeless thinking.

We are warned about this attitude coming.

- Driven by their lusts (sinful desires)
- questions God's character (where is His promise)
- Based in uniformitarianism
- They reject the second coming because they don't believe in any interaction with history: since the beginning of Creation, total naturalists.
- They Don't think God has any part in time and space. "In the Beginning God Created the heavens and the earth": Time and space.

Driven by lust the scoffer removes God from the equation and if you are not careful you can buy into this lie.

You need to give up this worldly thinking.

**-Go to the word of God**

**-Give up hopeless thinking**

**3. (5-10) The third key for overcoming despair in a fallen world is to Get your head on straight. You need to start thinking about the world to come from the Bible's point of view not the scoffers.**

Peter gives – rebuttals to the false thinking of the scoffers and we need to take these in as truth.

5-7: Peter exposes the ignorance of scoffers. Rebuttal: Everything happens according to what God says. God's Word is supreme not the scoffers. (all things are continuing as they were)

5. They reject His work in creation. Col 1:16 God's word created all things. God created the heavens and the earth by His word. The phrase "and God said" occurs nine times in Genesis 1.

The same God who created the world by His word can also intervene in His world and do whatever He wishes to do! It is His word that made it and that holds it together, and His word is all-powerful.

-We need to accept God's work in creation.

6. They reject His action in the flood. This is horrific. In 2004 over 200,000 people were killed in a Tsunami that hit the India ocean. By God's word the world was once destroyed.

-We need to accept God's action in the flood.

7. They reject His sustaining work of the world: "being kept" Col 1:17

The continuance of the world as a stable habitation for mankind has always depended and continues to depend on the will of God.

-We need to accept God as the sustainer of all things

7. They deny/reject/spurn His future judgment: Rev 19:11-16. By the current numbers close to 7 billion people will experience the fires of judgment. By God's word the world will be destroyed.

These are all performed by the word of God through special acts not lifeless naturalist processes.

God created through His word and he will destroy through His word.

A rejection of God's hand in creation, sustaining, and judgement is a rejection of the Works of Christ. No man can claim Christianity and deny them.

God created the world through His word separating the watery chaos to create the sky, land and sea. He submerged the world in judgement under the watery chaos of

the flood and then caused the waters to subside revealing land once more. God is currently sustaining all things until He will by fire bring total destruction. Nothing happens outside of God's timetable. He started the world and He will end it's current state.

7. The purpose of destroying the world by fire is not just for cosmological rearrangement but to destroy the ungodly.

Human history is not at the mercy of chance and meaningless catastrophe, God has established the world and He will continue according to His Divine timetable.

### **8-10 rebuttal 2 God's patients is a good thing (where is his coming?)**

Not only were they ignorant of what God had done in the past (2 Peter 3:5), but they were also ignorant of what God was like.

8. God's timetable is not man's. From Genesis 3:15 the promise of a Redeemer to the fulfillment in Jesus was 4,000 years, we have been 2,000 years. Psalm 90:4

3:8 They overlook God's time perspective. Psalm 90:4. Overlook: Do not forget, We must be careful to not let the scoffers thinking distort ours.

9. God is longsuffering offering salvation. "God's Grace period"

3:9 Why is God delaying? So you can repent and enter in. Isaiah 34:1-4 judgment of nations. God is not indifferent nor unable (split these points and use one in 3:9 and the other in 3:15)

10. This offer will not go on forever. Matthew 24:36-51

3:10 total exposure, nothing left bear. No fig leaf, no group to hide in, no alternative explanation of the world.

10. The day of the Lord. Man has his day now it is Jesus' day. You may have your day, think you are the king but there will be an appointed time when the Lord has His day with your life.

God has His purposes in delaying judgment and establishing a new heavens and earth. We need to know this and trust in His timing.

**(5-10) The third key for overcoming despair in a fallen world is to Get your head on straight. You need to start thinking about the world to come from the Bible's point of view not the scoffers.**

**-Go to the word of God**

**-Give up hopeless thinking**

**(11-18) The forth key for overcoming despair in a fallen world is to Get to work. We have something to live for, we know the outcome of our faith and we have hope in the future no matter the condition of our day.**

**11 Holiness and Godliness:** These terms are both plural and literally mean “in holy forms of behavior and godly deeds.”

12. Day of God. The sun has set on man’s day now the sun has arisen on God’s day.

**14 Be diligent:** We are not passive agents in God’s character-shaping endeavors. Take pains. *Spoudazo* 2 Tim 2:15 Workman not ashamed.

**14 Spot or blemish “Spotless and blameless”** should be understood together. They describe the character of Jesus Christ as seen in the lives of believers (see 1 Pet. 1:19 where these same terms are used to describe Jesus Christ). These terms do not suggest that the follower of Christ will live a perfect life, as did Christ; rather, they mean that what drives the Christian in our behavioral choices is a desire to be like Christ.

**15-16** Peter’s point of contact with Paul’s writings is simply this: all through Paul’s letters he, too, challenges Christians to live godly lives in light of the day of the Lord. That much is not difficult to understand. It could not be missed, unless deliberately. That is exactly what the false teachers have done. They have distorted or twisted the teaching of Paul, along with other parts of the Scriptures. Primarily, these teachers refused to submit their lifestyles to the scrutiny of Scripture, but instead twisted the Scriptures in order to condone their sinful lifestyles

**3:17.** Knowing this common tactic of false teachers, we should be sufficiently warned. We must be on guard against this kind of teaching. In essence, Peter advised his friends: “Don’t fall for them. You know that they are among you; now it is your responsibility to watch and to guard yourselves against their lies. You have been adequately warned and prepared so there is no reason to be swept off your feet by them. You have been firmly grounded in the Scripture; now stay there.”

This needs to be our responsibility now: Significance of Bible teaching: The word of God 3:2, 5, 8, 13, 15, 16,

**Stability: “Secure position”** describes the fact that they were stable, or firmly grounded in the Word of God, unlike the false teachers who were unstable and not grounded in the Scripture. They had a sincere mind.

3:17 Do not join in with skewed teaching. Do not associate. Music, books, blogs, Facebook. The grounds of healthy teaching is not your feelings, your experiences or your opinions but the proper study of God’s Word.

18. Peter’s prayer 1:2 and final messages to us.

Jesus personally commissioned Peter to feed us and for his last words He wanted us to focus on living properly in light of Christ’s return.

Peter knew difficult times would come and he wanted to give us hope no matter how dark the days may seem. We can be confident that perhaps even today it will be the day of the Lord.

As you look to overcome despair in a fallen world

-God to the word of God: to remember God’s future promises

-Give up hopeless thinking: Trusting Christ will return

-Get your head on straight: Knowing God has a plan

-Get to work: Knowing Christ will return