

CHRIST'S SUDDEN APPEARANCE part 2

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2 Peter 3:1-14

I would like to this morning again speak on the subject on Christ's Second Coming, or if you wish: **CHRIST'S SUDDEN APPEARANCE!** There are 7 things I would like to present to you this morning from our text here in 2 Peter 3:

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| I. | THE STIRRED | CONSIDERATION. | (vss 1-2) |
| II. | THE SCOFFERS | CONFOUNDED. | (vss 3-5) |
| III. | THE STORED | COSMOS. | (vss 6-7) |
| IV. | THE SECOND | COMING. | (vss 8-10) |
| V. | THE SANCTIFIED | CONDUCT. | (vs 11) |
| VI. | THE SECURED | COMFORT. | (vss 12-13) |
| VII. | THE STAYING | CONCERN. | (vs 14) |

There is much to cover in dealing with the second coming of Christ and one of the things I really wanted to cover was: What should be our attitude as Christians as we wait for our Lord's Second Coming? I believe Peter clearly covers this in verses 11-14 in 2 Peter 3, "*Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, **what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness**, 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? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, **seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.**" Two things stand out, (1) we must have a sanctified conduct and (2) we must stay concern as we look for or make haste unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Sometimes we get so concern with the things of this world that we neglect and sad to say at times forget that our Lord could come at any moment. May these messages remind us to be mindful and to also be ready concerning our Lord's second coming! The first thing we want to look at is:*

I. THE STIRRED CONSIDERATION: (vss 1 & 2)

Peter writes this second letter to stir up their pure minds, to keep their minds focus, to keep them in remembrance of what he and the other apostles and the prophets had spoken. Why? Because they had the same problem we do, in that, we get negligent and forgetful at times. Thus, he wanted them and us to be mindful of the words of God. How unbelievable, are we forgetful and careless about the things of God and have to be constantly reminded, to be mindful of the things of God. As Paul would write in Col.3:2, "*Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth,*" we get so bog down with the things of this world, that our affections are sometimes too centered on this earth and not on things above. We have to work at setting our affections towards

heaven. So Peter gives us instruction to stir up our minds and consider the words, the commandments of the holy prophets and of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. Perhaps our problem also stems from being more interested in things new than that which is old. No one wants an old computer or an old TV or an old car or an old house, we want that which is new. We want whatever the new technology is, why? Because we see the old as inferior to that which is new, because we know that new is always better.

Well, Peter was not interested in what was new, but in what was old. The Word of God, the unchangeable, incorruptible TRUTH! With this concept in mind, the old wine is better than the new wine. Peter has nothing new for his readers and for us today, like the holy prophets of old and the apostles of his day, Peter, reminds us of the WORD of God! The Word of God changes not and is still as inspired and infallible and inerrant as when first written, we believe in the preservation of God's Word. Therefore, Peter gives us that old mantra of Jeremiah 6:16, "*Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.*" Peter is giving us the revealed word of God that has come to man through the course of history and this revelation is GOD'S FINAL WORD to us. Peter affirms and confirms the continuation of the Old Testament with the New Testament, that is, that which the holy prophets of old declared to us are on the same par as with what the holy apostles have declared unto us. The TRUTH of God is established upon the prophets and apostles, thus, no need for any new revelation or if you wish any new teaching. This is what Peter is reminding us of, this is what he is trying to convey to us, stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance. Remembrance of what? GOD'S HOLY WORD! Peter would have us to view the Scriptures in its authenticity and validity as the true and only word of God. To know that the Bible is sufficient and sacred, that is, being accurate, reliable and true!

We must lay hold of this fact that this is not just a book that contains some truths about God; no, it is the TRUTH of God. Jesus Christ Himself says, "*Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*" John 17:17. We must also remember that the New Testament had not been written during our Lord's earthly ministry and therefore His references to the Scriptures refer only to the Old Testament. He boldly asserted and related Himself to them as their fulfillment. Look at these two passages, "*And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified of all. And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. And he began to say unto them, **This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.**" Luke 4:14-21. "*Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: **and they are they which testify of me.**" John 5:39. Christ did not hold back in setting forth the authority, sufficiency and inspiration of the Scriptures. He gave His stamp of approval in asserting and affirming succinctly,**

“...thy word is truth.” John 17:17. In confronting the unbelief of the Jews, Jesus declared and defended that **“...the Scripture cannot be broken.”** John 10:35. While teaching in the temple courts our Lord Jesus Christ cited from Psalm 110:1 and declared the truth of inspiration in confirming that David spoke by the Holy Spirit. *“And Jesus answered and said, while he taught in the temple, How say the scribes that Christ is the Son of David? **For David himself said by the Holy Ghost, the LORD said to my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool.**”* Mark 12:35-36. In the beginning of His ministry our Lord is confronted and tempted by Satan and His response was, not once, not twice but thrice, **“...IT IS WRITTEN...”** Matthew 4:1-10. At the end of His ministry our Lord Jesus Christ said to His disciples, Luke 24:27, *“And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself. And in Luke 24:44-46, **“And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day...”**”* Our Lord Jesus Christ clearly authenticated and substantiated the authority and inspiration of the Scriptures. The Bible’s internal witness about itself is without question self-sufficient and autonomous!

All Christians in every age and in ours are challenged and called upon to defend and declare the truth of the Word of God. The contamination and corruption of the truth and purity of the Word of God is ever the goal of Satan who is most dangerous when he transforms himself as an angel of light. We must ever be on guard and not be ignorant of Satan’s devices. We must never give up one inch and/or capitulate our stand on the inspiration, revelation, preservation, authority and sufficiency of the Scriptures. Look at the bold statement made by Robert B. Lightner, which I concur with, regarding the word of God, *“...Biblical theology is very pertinent to the needs of the present day. It is pertinent first of all because of the importance of the doctrine of the Scriptures. **This is the most important of all doctrines.** Objection may be raised by some to such a claim. It is frequently argued that the person and work of Christ are the most important of all Biblical studies. Without any desire to detract from the Savior it must be said that unless **the Biblical record about Him is infallible** we have no sure way of knowing whether or not we are believing right things about Him. If God’s revelation in the Bible may not be trusted entirely how are we to know when it is to be trusted. If the fountain is corrupt and contaminated so is all the water which flows from it.”* (Bold and underline for emphasis only) He continues, *“Christ is the apex of divine revelation. He is the personification of truth and without Him the Bible would not be complete. If the study of theology could be visualized as a building, the doctrine of the Scriptures would serve as the solid foundation upon which the entire structure rested and the doctrine of Christ would be seen as the climactic capstone crowning the edifice.”*

Isn’t it amazing that when God first saved us, He quickened in our hearts a love and trust for His word. This is a basic fundamental truth that is given to us at the new birth. The Bible **‘IS’** the Word God, granted we may not know it, understand it or have knowledge concerning it, but by faith we believe it whole heartedly, **THIS IS THE WORD OF GOD!** God through His Holy Spirit does this for us, He gives witness to this in our hearts, we accept or receive the Bible as the **WORD OF GOD**, *“For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it*

NOT AS THE WORD OF MEN, but as it is **IN TRUTH, THE WORD OF GOD**, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.” 1Thess.2:13.

Verses 1 & 2 are packed with the authority and authentication of God’s Holy Word and Peter is reminding us again of this glorious truth. Read again verses 1 & 2, thus we have first for us, The Stirred Consideration, that is, consider strongly the absolute truth of God’s word which has been revealed to us in the Scriptures, by the holy prophets and the holy apostles! There is much here but we must press on. Secondly we have:

II. THE SCOFFERS CONFOUNDED (vss 3-5)

The next thing Peter presents to us is that there will be scoffers. There have always been scoffers, there will always be scoffers and no doubt we have many scoffers in our day. Perhaps there are some in our service this morning that are scoffers. May God be pleased to open your hearts and your eyes to the truth and validity of His glorious Word! 2 Peter 3:3-5, *“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.”* There are 2 specifics which scoffers and mockers attack, (1) The Lord Jesus Christ Himself, in particular His diety and also His Atonement and His resurrection. (2) The Word of God. Here is this section they are mocking the second coming of Christ. Peter says, *“...that there shall come in the last days scoffers...”* The Greek word for scoffers is, ‘*empaiktes*,’ (from *empaizo*) which means to play with, trifle with, deride, mock and scoff. When Christ began to walk to Jerusalem notice what He told His disciples in Matthew 20:17-19, *“And Jesus going up to Jerusalem took the twelve disciples apart in the way, and said unto them, 18 Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death, 19 And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify him: and the third day he shall rise again.”* Matthew 27:29-31, *“And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews! 30 And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head. 31 And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him.”* Verse 41, *“Likewise also the chief priests mocking him...”* If Christ was mocked, we also shall be mocked. If they mocked His first coming, they will also mock His second coming, so we should not be surprise that there is so much mocking concerning Christ in our day. They ridiculed and derided Him, therefore with certainty they will show contempt and continue to mock Him, His word, His people, His church, yea His second coming. One writer says, *“These individuals “trifle” with the things of God dealing with them as if they are of no temporal or eternal import. They show their contempt for Christ’s return by ridiculing and deriding that certainty, their derision motivated by their insolence, disrespect, incredulity and desire to justify their ungodly behavior. If you are not looking for Him, you will hardly be motivated to be living for Him!”* What these scoffers and mockers do not realize is that, in their denial of Christ and His second coming, they are basically denying the WORD of God as a whole, that is, the Old and New Testament alike. Can you imagine all the people that mocked and scoffed at Noah? For 120 years they made fun of him,

made jokes of that crazy man building an ark. They derided and ridiculed his message of judgment until the day, yes that on peculiar and particular day that God shut him in the ark and the floods came and destroyed them all. It will be the same when Christ comes back; many will be caught by surprise and shall be destroyed for not obeying the glorious gospel of Christ. How about you, will you be judge or received unto glory when Christ comes back? Read from 2 Peter 3:1-7. This brings us to our third point:

III. THE STORED COSMOS (vss 4-7)

I am convinced that the Bible is the Word of God and therefore my philosophy of life is set forth in a Biblical view. Because of this I must look to the Scriptures as my guide, as the rule and faith of my practice. Hence, I look to the Scriptures for answers for the future regarding myself and also the earth. There is also much in our day regarding global warming, but what needs to be set forth is a global warning. Many have fallen for the idea of the world ending because of global warming which is push in particular by Al Gore. Thus, the global warming propagated by Al Gore's "Inconvenient Truth," conveniently ignores the truth that the earth which we inhabit will not end because of global warming, i.e. the rising of global temperatures. I do not fear any threat to our world, whether it is global warming or a nuclear war or any other means of a man made destruction.

The world will only end when Jesus Christ comes back and destroys it and then creates a new heaven and a new earth. But Pastor Joe, how can you be so sure and assertive regarding this? How can you be so bold, in that, so many scientists would disagree with you, and will scoff and mock you? They have gone to college; they teach in prestigious universities and are well learned man. What are your credentials for such a bold statement? Well, I do have my credentials. No I am not Dr. Maldonado, Ph. D., but my credentials are 66 books, nothing more and nothing less. I submit and subject myself to these 66 credentials and we are considering this morning one of the 66 credentials. Here in 2 Peter 3 as in other passages of the Bible, it teaches the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Al Gore's film should be added to all the other possible end of the world disasters genre that has captivated many people and has turned away discernment as to what is really going to happen. Talk about mass deception, even like the new released movie 2012. Reminds me also of the Left Behind books and films which mislead people in turning away some from the truth of what really is going to happen, that is, Christ's sudden and certain appearance to judgment! Not only this, but that which is being allowed into the air, is not what will cause our final demise, it is not the physical pollution that will destroy us, no; it is the spiritual pollution, the inward pollution that will destroy sinners, that is, sin running rampant in our society.

Yes, we must be reminded that, that which is destroying this earth in not global warming or any greenhouse carbon dioxide emission of gases, but willful sin which runs rampant in our society. Now, I am not saying that we haven't done things to affect our atmosphere or the ozone layer, but one thing is for sure we will not, we will never

destroy this earth ourselves. Al Gore and his cronies are trying their best to incite fear in the hearts of the foolish in order to pocket their wallets. Al Gore is only interested in Al Gore and what Al Gore can gain monetarily by inciting false fear on many people. It is unbelievable how many follow global warming, as the mice did the pipe piper, as though there is some validity or truth to this. But bring up the Bible and they denounce it; they will not believe it, no, they mock it, they scoff at it by saying, man wrote it. Well who writes, talks and teach about global warming? "Man" and they believe it hook, line and sinker! Enough on this, let's continue my message.

Let us now see why we believe that man will not destroy this earth in any form shape or manner. Let look at one of my credentials, 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.*" Notice what Peter says so clearly and plainly, the heavens and earth which exists now, that is, the earth which now is points to the present cosmic system as it is today. It has not change; it has been the same since the flood. Before the flood the cosmic system was different where it is seen for example, in the life span of man which was +900 compare to the post flood era where man's life span is 70 to 80 years. So Peter says, the earth which now is; that is, this self same earth where in we live and have our being, is the earth that modern man says we will destroy. But God says, "*...**the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store...***" If God says that this earth is kept in store and that man will not destroy, then this is one of the credentials that I have and believe. Therefore, I do not believe that man will destroy this earth. It's either trust God or trust Gore, believe God or believe Gore? I think I'll believe God. God says, this earth which now is, is kept in store. I know it says heaven and earth, but I am focusing only on the earth. This earth is kept in store; that is reserved by God. The phrase 'kept in store' is the Greek word **thesaurizo {thay-sow-rid'-zo}**. This word means to gather and lay up, to heap up, store up, reserve, to treasure. We get our English words thesaurus and treasure from this Greek word. This then means that earth is kept in store, laid up, reserve and cannot be destroyed by man. This Greek word, '*thesaurizo,*' is in the present tense which denotes a definite action in the past, that is, God's decree, which indicates a continual keeping into the future.

Notice how it is kept? Let's read it again, "*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.*" The keeping of this earth in store is by the word of God. Lets look at the context again, "*This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: 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: Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, 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. 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: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: 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 Peter 3:1-7. Notice how Peter is so methodical is establishing his point.

In verse 2 again, Peter says be mindful of the words which were spoken before, in other words Peter points to the Word of God. He points us back to the Old Testament prophets and then brings in the New Testament, that is, the entire Word of God; the whole Bible is brought in as being equal and under the inspiration of God. In verse 5 he says that the scoffers are ignorant of the Word of God. Peter establishes the powerful creation of God by His Word. God created everything by His Word and His Word holds it all together. Notice the following verses, Ps.33:6-11, *“By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap: he layeth up the depth in storehouses. Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast. The LORD bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought: he maketh the devices of the people of none effect. The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations.”* Col.1:16 & 17, *For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.”* Heb.1:1-3, *“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 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; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.”* Heb.11:3, *“Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.”* Here we see in all these verses where they agree with what Peter is conveying to us in 2 Peter 3.

We see **how** the earth is kept in these verses, but now the second question, why is the earth kept? Again verse 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.”* Here we see why the earth is kept by the word and power God; this earth is reserved or kept for the Day of Judgment. In other words God is not going to allow man to destroy this planet, no; God Himself will destroy this earth one future day with fire in awful judgment. I know that some of us might disagree on the events that will precipitate the second coming of Christ, but I hope all of us are in agreement in the literal and physical appearance of His coming. Again, I believe in Christ’s sudden and certain appearance to judgment. Jesus Christ Himself promised that He would come back and many of the Apostles wrote about His glorious coming and triumphant return. He will come again in glorious power for His people and will also destroy this earth and will create a new heaven and new earth. What a day, what day that will be, when time shall be no more and we shall see Him as He is face to face and will be with Him for evermore! If this doesn’t excite you there is something wrong. When He comes back He will make all things new. Those outside Christ should fear His second coming for He will come in flaming fire in the Day of Judgment and destroy all the ungodly who will not obey the gospel. Notice the words of Peter in the rest of the chapter to verse 14, which we shall continue next week. 2 Peter 3:1-14. (read) May God cause you to see the importance of repenting from your sins and believing the gospel! Will you come to Christ this morning, will you not bow the knee to Christ and confess Him as your Lord and Savior!