

Grow in the Grace and Knowledge of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ

An Expository Journey Through **2Peter** 10- Where is the Promise of His Coming?- Part 1

July 19, 2020

2Peter 3:1-10

1 This is now, beloved, the second letter I am writing to you in which I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder,

2 that you should remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior *spoken* by your apostles.

3 Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with *their* mocking, following after their own lusts,

4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For *ever* since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation."

5 For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God *the* heavens existed long ago and *the* earth was formed out of water and by water,

6 through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water.

7 But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

8 But do not let this one *fact* escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day.

9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass

away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

To the Glory of God

One of the most common themes in the entire Bible- is the lack of patience among believers. Clearly and repeatedly, the Word of God instructs us to be people of great Patience. For example,

2Corinthians 6:4-6

but in everything commending ourselves as servants of God, in much endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, in distresses, in beatings, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in hunger, in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in genuine love,

Galatians 5:22

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Ephesians 4:2

with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love,

Colossians 1:11&12

strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.

Colossians 3:12

So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;

2Timothy 4:2

preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

Hebrews 6:12

so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

James 5:10

As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

1Peter 2:20

For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer *for it* you patiently endure it, this *finds* favor with God.

Yet, 61 times in the sacred writings- we see people asking God and other men, one of the most common Questions that exists in the minds of human beings,

"How long?"

... and we ask that Question because, by nature, we are people with little or no Patience. I mean, even the martyrs, who are under the Mercy Seat in heaven cry out,

The Revelation 6:10b

How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

We want things *now*- without any hesitation. And all of the conveniences, that we are so enamored with today, haven't helped us in this area. Time is now measured in "nano-seconds"; and what used to take weeks- now takes mere minutes. Just 130 years ago, the *fastest* that a human being could travel- was linked to however fast his horse could run. So, *everything* has speeded up to the point that many people get exhausted at the pace.

And this phenomenon has infiltrated into the Church and into the lives of God's people. And so, Pastors are under increasing pressure to conduct an entire Service on the Lord's Day in such a way that people can be back at home and sitting on the couch in time for the kickoff. We are becoming more and more captive to the clock; and more and more of our lives are conducted under the mantra of, "*Hurry up, let's go!*" So, even when we

pray- we usually seek for God to move; or to answer; or to heal; or to deliver; or to rescue; or to bless; or even to save- RIGHT NOW!

And so, it is mind-boggling to many of us that the God of the Universe; the God, Who holds all Power in Heaven and Earth; the God, Who created all things in 6- “evening and morning” divisions of time called, “days”; the God, Who is NOT distant from us- but is near- it baffles us that, many times, the Answer of God to His people is, “WAIT!” For example, 1,000 years before Jesus was born, King David wrote this in **Psalm 40:1**:

I waited patiently for the Lord; And He inclined to me and heard my cry.

Now most people see this as simply, “**God inclined to me and heard my cry**”.

... and they take from that that God hears our prayers and answers us. And that is, indeed, wonderful news. Yet, they usually leave out the *first* part that says,

I waited patiently for the Lord...

... which forces us to ask the Question, “*How long do we have to wait until it qualifies as “waiting patiently”?*” Let us agree that this is NOT talking about God moving fast; or answering speedily. No, this involves us being patient and waiting. And that would make a very interesting Sermon or even a Bible Study- but not for today.

Because I would guess that *most* of the time, when the subject of Patience is discussed- it is mostly centering around *us* trying to become more patient. It is usually about *us* waiting; or *us* suffering long; it is usually about *us* praying without ceasing; and *us* lingering long before the Mercy Seat. But what happens when God is patient? And just what is the, “Patience of God?” What about when God Himself tarries; or when God lingers long; or when God is long-suffering; or when God endures?

This 3rd Chapter of **2Peter** is about the Patience of God- pertaining to Jesus’ 2nd Coming. And the Subjects that this Chapter deals with are:

- The Promise of Jesus’ Coming (verse 4)
- The Heavens and Earth being reserved by (for) fire (verse 7)

- The Day of Judgment (verse 7)
- One Day with God being likened to 1,000 years (verse 8)
- The Lord being “slow” about His Promise (verse 9)
- The Lord will come as a thief (verse 10)
- The Heavens will pass away with a roar (verse 10)
- The elements will be destroyed with intense heat (verse 10)
- The earth and its works will be burned up (verse 10)
- The Heavens will be destroyed by burning (verse 12)
- The elements will melt with intense heat (verse 12)
- New Heavens and a new earth (verse 13)
- Since we look for these things- we are to be diligent to be found by Him spotless and blameless (verse 14)
- We are to regard the Patience of the Lord as Salvation (verse 15)
- Paul wrote Scripture (verse 16)
- Unstable people distort what Paul wrote (verse 16)
- We are to “be on our guard” (verse 17)
- If we are carried away by the Error of unprincipled men- we can fall from our steadfastness (verse 17)
- Believers are to grow in Grace and in the Knowledge of Jesus Christ (verse 18)

... so, the primary Issue that Peter deals with- in this 3rd Chapter is,

“Why is Jesus taking so long to come back?”

So, this Chapter is NOT about Evangelism. It isn't about how lost people are saved. This Chapter is NOT about how much God loves lost people and wants to save all of them. And so, even though most people in the modern Church interpret verse 9 of this Chapter as some “proof text” on the Doctrine of “Universal Redemption”- it isn't that at all. Verse 9 is part of a much *larger* discussion about the Patience of God in context with why Jesus has not already come back. So, verse 9 is NOT a “stand-alone” verse. Therefore, it should never be used as a stand-alone verse. Because to use verse 9 as a “stand-alone” verse to supposedly prove that God wants to save everybody- is taking this verse way out of context; and it is *distorting*

the meaning completely.

So, to get the full and correct meaning of this Chapter- let's go through each verse carefully together.

2Peter 3:1&2

1 This is now, beloved, the second letter I am writing to you in which I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder,

2 that you should remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior *spoken* by your apostles.

Now, as I told you in the last Sermon, it is more probable than not that Peter was illiterate his entire life. And so, Peter would have used scribes to pen down his Epistles. And it is very probable that Jude, the writer of the Epistle that bears his name, actually wrote this 2nd Epistle on behalf of Peter. So, Peter either dictated this to Jude or Jude wrote it down- after Peter's death- according to the Apostle's clear instructions.

Now there is no way to prove this conclusively, but as I told you- if we accept the fact that Jude wrote it- that clears up several problems for us:

- It explains the difference in writing style; vocabulary; and content between **1&2Peter**
- It explains the similarity to the **Epistle of Jude**
- It eliminates the problem of forgery
- It preserves the Apostolic Authority of the Letter

... without disturbing the infallibility; inerrancy; or inspiration of this Book. And, if that is true- then when verse one says,

This is now, beloved, the second letter I am writing to you...

... the *first* Letter would have been **Jude** rather than **1Peter**. And that possibility is actually *strengthened* by what the rest of verse 1 and verse 2 says:

... in which I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, that you should remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior *spoken* by your apostles.

Notice that the writer says he is “**stirring up**” their “**sincere mind**” by the way of a “reminder.” And that “reminder” that can be found in the writer telling his readers that they should remember two things:

- **Remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets (the Old Testament)**
- **[Remember] the commandment of the Lord and Savior *spoken* by your apostles**

... but if Peter wrote this Epistle, he would have never said, “*your* Apostles” at the end of verse 2- seeing as how Peter WAS an Apostle. But if Jude actually wrote this- he would have said that- because Jude was NOT an Apostle. But even if Jude actually wrote this Book- he was writing *on behalf of* Peter. And that makes it correct to say that Peter was the one God used to “write” this Epistle- while God the Holy Spirit was the Author.

So, in verses 1&2- Peter wants us to be reminded of the Words of both the Old Testament Prophets and New Testament Apostles. And the only place where we can find both- is in the 66 Books of the Holy Bible.

But then, beginning in verse 3- the old fisherman gets to the Point he wants to make in this final Chapter:

2Peter 3:3&4

Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with *their* mocking, following after their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For *ever* since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation."

This is the Issue that Peter deals with in this 3rd Chapter. So, this Chapter (including verse 9) is NOT about Evangelism; nor is it about God wanting to save everybody (Universal Redemption). No, this Chapter is about how believers are to understand WHY Jesus tarries; and how to defend the Faith against ungodly, pagan “mockers”.

Now it is very important to understand a few things about this Issue:

- These people are NOT sincere- they are ungodly “mockers”, who are “following after their own lusts”

- Their Question needs to be answered rather than ignored

Now, it is easy to simply rebuke these “mockers” and chalk up their Question to them simply being carnal- and just ignore it. But Peter doesn’t do that. He goes into very great detail and uses 6 verses to bring them an Answer. So, let’s get into this and find out how Peter answered these people. The key to understanding Peter’s Answer is found in verse 9 that says:

The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

Now the Reality is that this verse is used by most people in the modern Church as a “proof text” for a Doctrine or Belief that goes something like this:

God wants to save *everybody*. It is not God’s Will that *anybody* goes to Hell. Yet people *do* go to Hell. But since it’s not God’s Will that anybody perish in Hell- there must be *another* factor involved as to *why* everyone is not saved- namely Man’s “free-Will”.

And based upon that interpretation- an entire theological System has been invented which, in effect, teaches that Salvation is a “*cooperative effort*” (Synergistic) between God and Man- in the sense that God is only able to “offer” Salvation to everybody- and it is left up to Man to either “accept” or “reject” God’s “free Offer” of Eternal Life based upon Man’s own so-called “free Will”.

Now even though this is the view of the overwhelming majority of those in the modern Church- we need to ask some Questions:

- To what “Promise” is Peter referring?
- Who are the “some/any” of this verse?
- Who are the “all” of this verse?
- Who is the “you/us/us-ward” in this verse?
- What did Peter mean when he said that God was not “slow/slack/does not delay”?
- What did Peter mean when he said, God was “patient/longsuffering”?

Since so much Teaching and Preaching today is based upon that interpretation of **2Peter 3:9**- a close examination of that verse is warranted. First of all- let's read that verse again- highlighting certain key words:

2Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

Now obviously, Peter was talking to *someone* here. So, *who* is Peter referring to in this verse by using the term, “**you**”? Is Peter referring to the *entire* Human Race? If so- why didn't he use words like “all men” or “everyone”? Why use the word, “**you**” unless he was *specifically* referring to the very *same* people with whom he began this discussion (Epistle)?

To find out who Peter was talking to in verse 9- we only have to go back one verse:

2Peter 3:8

But do not let this one *fact* escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day.

Beloved: [Greek: *agapetos* Strongs #27] Those who have personally experienced God's agape Love (ie “the saved”).

In other words- the “**beloved**” are those who are saved; and those who are “in Jesus”; as opposed to those who are lost and unsaved. So, it becomes obvious that Peter was speaking here to those who are saved in verse 8. And verse 9 is merely an *extension* of verse 8. Therefore, in verse 9- the “**you**” are the “beloved”- those who are already saved. Now let's *reconstitute* this verse with all that we know to be true about the actual words that Peter used here:

The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you [the saved], not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

So, in what way is God “patient” toward those already saved in the context of not being “slow” about His Promise? What “Promise” is Peter referring to? Let's look back to verse 4:

"Where is the promise of His coming? For *ever* since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation."

So, the "Promise" that Peter says that Jesus is NOT "slow" to fulfill- is the Promise of His Return to this earth. And that brings up the point as to *why* Jesus tarries. After all- He *did* make the Promise that He would come back nearly 2,000 years ago. And if the people in Peter's day thought God was being "slow" to fulfill that Promise at the time that Peter wrote this- we have even *more* reason to think so.

So, Peter is confronted with the Question as to *why* Jesus is taking so long to come back to this earth. And their Question is backed up with what they see every day,

... For *ever* since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation."

Now the word, "Fathers" here probably refers to the men God used under the Old Covenant- the Patriarchs; Moses; and the Prophets. And so, these mockers are telling Peter that, ever since those men died- nothing has changed. Everything continues just like it always has- since the beginning of Creation.

- Men are born and they die
- Women are married and are "given" in Marriage
- Children are born and they grow up
- There are both saved and lost people living on the earth- and the natural tension between them is still active
- Evil is still seemingly flourishing and those who love God – seem to be in the minority

So, it sure looks like God is very "slow" to fulfill the Promise of Christ's Return. So, why doesn't God just end all this? Why doesn't Jesus come back and end all of the wars; and the many injustices; and the crime; and the diseases; and the suffering? Why does God allow all this to continue- on and on and on? And Peter answers that Question in the *first* part of **2Peter 3:9a**:

The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness...

Now the words, “slow/slowness” here comes from a Greek word (*bradunoo*; Strongs#1019), which means: *to be long; to delay; to be slow; to tarry*. So, Peter is answering their Question by saying that, it isn't that 2,000 years is NOT a long time- because it is. And it isn't that Jesus isn't tarrying- because He is. It is that the Lord is NOT slow- AS SOME COUNT SLOWNESS. So, the Lord's “slowness” is NOT like the slowness of Man. There is a difference in how God is tarrying and the way that human beings tarry.

So, even though, it *seems* as though the Lord is slow to come back; and even though it *seems* as though Jesus is *delaying* His Return; and even though it *appears* that Jesus is *tarrying* and NOT coming back- the Truth is that God is NOT being slow- in the same way- that some men understand “slowness” or “tarrying” or “delaying”. And this would explain why the writer of Hebrews said,

Hebrews 10:35-39

35 Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward.

36 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.

37 FOR YET IN A VERY LITTLE WHILE, HE WHO IS COMING WILL COME, AND WILL NOT DELAY.

38 BUT MY RIGHTEOUS ONE SHALL LIVE BY FAITH; AND IF HE SHRINKS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM.

39 But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.

Now here in verse 37, the writer of Hebrews was quoting from Habakkuk 2:3, which says:

For the vision is yet for the appointed time; It hastens toward the goal and it will not fail. Though it tarries, wait for it; For it will certainly come, it will not delay.

... which *seems* to speak a contradiction:

Though it tarries... it will not delay

Now, lest some think that I am taking what Habakkuk said out of context- we must remember that it was the writer of **Hebrews** himself, who was “moved” by God the Holy Spirit to pen down **Hebrews 10:35-39**. And he is the one, who was equating what Habakkuk prophesied- with the 2nd Coming of Jesus.

So, back in Peter’s day- in *some* of the unsaved people’s minds- they think the Lord *has* tarried- and therefore, has NOT fulfilled His Promise to come back. And according to what they see with their natural eyes; and according to their own human logic- God *is* “delaying” and is “tarrying” and is “slow” to fulfill His Promise to come back. And

So, these people want an Answer from this Apostle as to *why* this is so. Yet that is only true when measured by Man’s timetable. So, according to Man’s ways and Man’s agenda- Jesus is way overdue and so, because He has not yet come back- they are ready to throw the whole thing out.

But what we must understand- is that God is NOT obligated to operate according to *our* logic; or according to *our* plans. God has His *Own* Logic; His *Own* Will and His *Own* Plan- concerning, not only the 2nd Coming- but everything else as well. But as it pertains to the 2nd Coming of Christ- God has an “appointed time”. And so, when measured by His *Own* timetable- God is always right on time!

So, the real Issue here is, “*Why does Jesus tarry?*”. What is taking so long? Is Jesus up in Heaven “getting ready” to come back? Many teach this. Is Jesus *unable* to come back due to some failure on the part of His Church? Many more teach this. So, what is the problem as to *why* Jesus has not already Returned? There are, literally, thousands of books offering an explanation, but perhaps, one reason lies in what Habakkuk said,

... the vision is yet for the appointed time; It hastens toward the goal and it will not fail ... wait for it; For it will certainly come...

So, the Return of Jesus to this earth is “**for the appointed time**”. And even Jesus Himself confirmed that when He said,

Matthew 24:36

But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.

... and Jesus summed it up by saying,

Matthew 24:42

Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming.

... and the Reality is that when it appears to us that Jesus is “slow” to fulfill His Promise to come back- many take that as an opportunity to lay back; become more and more worldly; dabble with sin; become lukewarm; and cast off ‘hardships” like Prayer; Bible Study; Godly Fellowship; Fasting; the Sacraments; and Service to Others- and they find it too much trouble to assemble together on the Lord’s Day to stimulate one another to love and to good deeds (**Hebrews 10:24&25**).

And the result is that the gravity of the world pulls them back down to the earth; their minds become carnal; their eyes become blind to the Beauty and the Glory of the risen Christ; their ears become dull of hearing Divine Truth; and the bright lights and the sounds of the perishing world that God delivered them out of- once again become attractive to them.

Yet Jesus harshly rebuked that attitude when He gave the Instructions in **Luke 12:35-48**:

35 "Be dressed in readiness, and *keep* your lamps lit.

36 "Be like men who are waiting for their master when he returns from the wedding feast, so that they may immediately open *the door* to him when he comes and knocks.

37 "Blessed are those slaves whom the master will find on the alert when he comes; truly I say to you, that he will gird himself *to serve*, and have them recline *at the table*, and will come up and wait on them.

38 "Whether he comes in the second watch, or even in the third, and finds *them so*, blessed are those *slaves*.

39 "But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what hour the thief was

coming, he would not have allowed his house to be broken into.

40 "You too, be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour that you do not

expect."

41 Peter said, "Lord, are You addressing this parable to us, or to everyone *else* as well?"

42 And the Lord said, "Who then is the faithful and sensible steward, whom his master will put in charge of his servants, to give them their rations at the proper time?"

43 "Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes.

44 "Truly I say to you that he will put him in charge of all his possessions.

45 "But if that slave says in his heart, 'My master will be a long time in coming,' and begins to beat the slaves, *both* men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk;

46 the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect *him* and at an hour he does not know, and will cut him in pieces, and assign him a place with the unbelievers.

47 "And that slave who knew his master's will and did not get ready or act in accord with his will, will receive many lashes,

48 but the one who did not know *it*, and committed deeds worthy of a flogging, will receive but few. From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more.

So, even though 2,000 years have gone by- every day, the Promise that Jesus made to come back- "**hastens toward the goal**" (Habakkuk 2:3). So, in reality, God is NEVER stagnant. He is very busy- every day, all day- working His Plan- that will *guarantee* that His Promise to return will be fulfilled.

Yet, for some reason- it is NOT yet time for Jesus to come back. And so, we trust that *whatever* is causing God to wait- is a good thing. And yet, as we wait- we are told to continually pray,

Luke 11:10a

Your Kingdom come...

... and ...

The Revelation 22:20b

... Come, Lord Jesus.

But we need to understand what we are asking God to do when we pray this. We are asking Jesus to hurry and come back to this earth and REPLACE our earthly Economic System; along with Western Civilization; and our Constitutional Republic (with all of our "Rights") with God and His Kingdom- to the degree that God's Will and Ways *dominate* the entire world.

We are asking God to *end* our lives as we know them. Forever. We are praying that Jesus will come and forever *eliminate* every aspect of our daily lives and replace them with God's Kingdom. And so, there will be no more military; no more war; no more voting; no more politics; no more poverty; no more injustice; no more crime; no more disease; no police force; no more jails; no more graveyards; no more hospitals; no more hunger; no more firemen; no more sports; and no more TV talk shows.

There won't be any more suffering; no crying; no sorrow; no sighing; no worry; no anxiety; no fear; and no division. None. No more Division! So, the Division between men and women; between old and young; the division between rich and poor; and between the educated and the uneducated; the division between the cultured and the uncultured; the division between races- will be totally eliminated- forever! And there will be no more Evil. Anywhere in anybody. Ever.

But the reason that there will be no more Evil- is because when Jesus comes back- He is going to destroy all unrepentant sinners and remove them from the earth and cast them into Hell.

And we will see Jesus. As He really is. With no filters. With no barriers. With no hinderances. With no limitations. And we will have unfettered access to Jesus- so that we may have all of Jesus- all the time- forever! And the noise that you hear will be the verbal Adoration of the redeemed- as they spontaneously utter their Delight and their Joy and their Happiness and their Satisfaction and their Love to the Lamb- Who lived and Who died and behold He is alive forevermore! And that sound will reverberate throughout the Universe. Cascading over the black holes and bouncing off the galaxies and it will be the loudest and the most important and the most significant sound of all time- nothing can compare to the Praise and the Worship of the saved souls to the 2nd Person of the Godhead- the Darling of the Trinity- and the Glory of God will fill the earth as the waters cover the sea! That's what we are asking when we pray like that.

So, both Peter and Habakkuk want us to understand that the Promise

of Jesus to come back, “**will not fail**”- even though it DOES *seem* to tarry. So, what might be some reasons as to *why* Jesus has not yet come back? I offer two:

1) It is NOT God’s Will that Jesus simply come back to this earth- but that, when He returns, He present to Himself a Church in all her splendor- without any flaws or failures (**Ephesians 5:27**). So, God has been very busy- over the last 2,000 years- *sanctifying* His people, (and by extension His Church).

2) It seems that a very important *part* of the Christian Experience is that we develop godly Patience (Perseverance)- as we wait for God’s Word/Will to come to pass. And this is *why* Habakkuk said,

... wait for it ...

... and *why* Peter said,

[God] is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

... where the word, “**patient**” here comes from a Greek word (*makrothumeoo*; Strong’s #3114), which means: to *persevere patiently*. So, Peter is teaching, that God is

... patient (persevering patiently) toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. And this explains why the writer of **Hebrews** said,

... you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.

So, just who are the “some/any” of this Verse?

2Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

Now looking at what is highlighted- we see two different words:

- **Some**
- **Any**

Now very few of us would say that these two words are the same. And even *fewer* of us would say that these two different words actually *mean* the same thing. But let's go to the original language to examine those two words carefully.

The Apostle Peter originally wrote this Epistle in the Greek language- not English. All versions of the Bible that we use here in America are English *translations* of the original Koine Greek used in the New Testament. So, when we go back to the Greek- here is what we find:

- **Some** (Strong's #5100) Greek, *tis*, *a certain, a certain one*
- **Any** (Strong's #5100) Greek, *tis*, *a certain, a certain one*

That's right! These two words were translated from the very *same* Greek word! And when we put the definition of these two words back into the verse- it reads like this:

2Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some [certain people] count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any [certain people] to perish but for all to come to repentance.

Now we are beginning to understand this verse- correctly. But we're not yet finished, so, we have more work to do before we have properly and completely interpreted (exegeted) this verse. Who are the "some" and "any" of this verse? We now understand that these words mean the same thing. They both mean: "certain ones"- so, let's go back to **1Peter 1:1&2** to get the correct context of the "any" of **2Peter 3:9**.

1Peter 1:1&2

1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen 2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.

So, the “any” of **2Peter 3:9** are those who fit the following description:

- Those who reside as “aliens”
- Those who have been “scattered” throughout those regions (because of intense Persecution)
- Those who have been “chosen” according to the Foreknowledge of God the Father
- Those who have been “chosen” by the sanctifying Work of the Spirit
- Those who have been “chosen” to obey Jesus Christ
- Those who have been “chosen” to be sprinkled with Jesus’ Blood
- Those to whom Peter blessed with God’s Grace and Peace in the fullest measure

... so, the “any” of **2Peter 3:9** are the “elect”- those chosen by God for Salvation- yet who have not yet been saved. And so, the “any” of this verse relates to the “you”. Only the “you” are those who have already been saved- while the “any” refers to those who are chosen for Salvation- but who have not yet been redeemed. So, now we should understand this verse to say,

The Lord is not slow about His promise [to come back], as some count slowness, but is patient toward you [those chosen for Salvation], not wishing for any [of the elect, who have not yet been saved] to perish but for all to come to repentance.

Okay, but what about the “some” of this verse? Who are they? The “some” refers to the ones asking the Question back in verse **2Peter 3:3-6**:

3 Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with *their* mocking, following after their own lusts,

4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For *ever* since the fathers fell asleep,

all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation."

5 For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God *the* heavens

existed long ago and *the* earth was formed out of water and by water, **6** through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water.

So, Peter calls these people, “mockers”. These are people, who don’t believe or trust what the Scriptures teach. And so, when it *appears* that Jesus is “slow” to fulfill His Promise to come back- these mockers rise up to taunt the true believers. So, now we should understand **2Peter 3:9** to say,

The Lord is not slow about His promise [to come back], as some [the mockers] count slowness, but is patient toward you [the already saved], not wishing for any [the unsaved elect] to perish but for all to come to repentance.

Now we have one more word to interpret- the word, “all”. Who are the “all” of **2Peter 3:9**? This English word came from the Greek word, “*pas*” (Strong’s #3956), and means: “*all or the whole.*” So, Peter says that God wants “*all or the whole*” to come to Repentance.

Now, on the surface, this *looks* like Peter means: *all men*; or *all humans*. But the *definition* of the word, “all”; and the *context* of this entire verse *prevents* us from coming to that conclusion. Instead, we should see this verse as follows:

The Lord is not slow [slack/forgetful/weak] about His promise [to come back], as some [the mockers] count slowness, but is patient [persevering] toward you [the beloved; all saved people], not wishing for any [of His elect, who are not yet saved] to perish but for all [of the elect] to come to repentance.

Dear friends, we must be very careful, as we read the Scriptures- that we don’t take verses out of context. Taking verses out of context gives an entirely different meaning than what the writer meant when he originally wrote the verse down. We must realize that **2Peter 3:9** is part of a much *larger* discussion that the Apostle Peter is teaching in the 3rd Chapter of **2Peter**- which is also part of a much larger discussion that he is having in the entire Book. The main focus of **2Peter** is on the issue that he brings up in verses 1-4:

2Peter 3:1-4

1 This is now, beloved, the second letter I am writing to you in which I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder,
2 that you should remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior *spoken* by your apostles.
3 Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with *their* mocking, following after their own lusts,
4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For *ever* since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation."

So, people were asking Peter, "*Where is the Promise of Jesus' Return to this earth? Because ever since the Fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of Creation.*" In other words- the mockers were complaining about why God (Who is both Good and Sovereign) allows such Evil and Wickedness to *continue* in the earth. Why doesn't God stop it? Why does a Good God allow Evil to seemingly *triumph*; and why doesn't Jesus just return and end it all?

And these "mockers" were using the long timeframe since Jesus ascended and had not returned- to discourage the believers into thinking that God had either forgotten about them; or that it was all a myth anyway.

And then in verses 5-8- the Apostle gives these people facts about Creation and *why* God made the Universe in the first place (to "house" Mankind until God's Redemptive Plan could be completed) as a basis for his main argument that he is going to give in verse 9

2Peter 3:5-8

5 For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God *the* heavens existed long ago and *the* earth was formed out of water and by water,
6 through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water.
7 But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.
8 But do not let this one *fact* escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day.

So, it is only in *this* context that Peter makes the statement of **2Peter 3:9**. And so he says:

The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

... so, what Peter is actually saying is:

“The reason why things go on and seemingly favor the evil ones; and the reason why God doesn’t end it all and come back right now; and the reason why things appear to be just like they have always been is because “God is not slow (or weak) concerning His Promise”.

So, once again, we see that God is *persevering patiently* with sinners and the Evil in the world- and allowing it to *seemingly* go on and on and on- with no end in sight. Why? Peter says,

... not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

Peter says here that the reason Jesus *seems* to tarry; and the reason that God perseveres patiently with sinners and the Evil they cause- is because God does not want “any” of those He has chosen for Salvation to perish, **but for all [of the elect] to come to repentance.**

And now- after all our labor to put this verse into its proper context- we should understand the meaning of what God the Holy Spirit “moved along” the Apostle Peter to pen down in **2Peter 3:9**- both *grammatically* and *contextually*.

God is not slow/apathetic/weak concerning His Promise [to come back to this earth], as some [the mockers/unbelievers] count slowness/apathy/weakness; but is patient [persevering] toward all His beloved; not wishing/willing that any [of those whom He chose to save, but who have not yet been saved] would perish, but for all [those whom the Father gives to Jesus] should/will come to Repentance and Salvation.

In other words- **2Peter 3:9** is the Bible to tell us that God sovereignly allows the sinful and evil world to continue on- even though there is much brutality and injustice and wickedness abounding- because all of those that

He has chosen to save- have not yet come to Salvation.

Conclusion: **2Peter 3:9** is *not* a verse that should be used to *reject* or *defeat* The Doctrines of Grace. But, when put into its proper context and by using the Greek grammar correctly- will *re-enforce* and *confirm* these wonderful Truths.

Amen. Let's pray.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.