

2 Peter Series

Lesson #059

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Dean Bible Ministries

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The Dissolution of the Earth
2 Peter 3:10



Guard Against False Teachers

**3A God refutes specific false teaching in light of the future return of Christ,
2 Peter 3:1–14**

**1B Peter's second reminder,
2 Peter 3:1–2**

**2B God refutes the false teachers denial of the literal Second Advent,
2 Peter 3:3–14**

**Conclusion: Warning and Challenge
Do not fall into error, but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
2 Peter 3:15–18**

2 Pet. 3:10, “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.”

What the Bible Teaches About

The Day of the LORD



What is the Day of the Lord?

- **A time of darkness and not light (Amos)**
- **A time of divine judgment**
- **A time when God directly (rather than providentially) shows up in history to bring judgment**

2 Pet. 3:10, “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.” (~NKJV)

2 Pet. 3:13, “Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.” (~NKJV)

καινός *kainos* masc sing acc

new, as in being in existence for a relatively short time, unused (BDAG), 2. Not being previously present (BDAG), 3. Recent (BDAG)

The Meaning of “New”

Rev. 21:1, “Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.”

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The Meaning of “New”

Rev. 21:1, “Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.”

2 Cor. 5:17, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

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Trench, R. C. *Synonyms of the New Testament*

New in time, quantitative, is νέος (quantitative = the annihilation/recreation view)

“Contemplate the new under aspects of time, as that which has recently come into existence, and this is νέος (see Pott, *Etymol. Forschung.* vol. i. pp. 290–292). Thus the young are οἱ νέοι, or οἱ νεώτεροι, the generation which has lately sprung up; so, too, νέοι θεοί, the younger race of gods, Jupiter, Apollo, and the other Olympians (*Æschylus, Prom. Vinct.* 991, 996), as set over against Saturn, Ops, and the dynasty of elder deities whom they had dethroned.”

Trench, R. C. *Synonyms of the New Testament*

New in quality, is καινός (qualitative = God renews or regenerates the Earth)

“But contemplate the new, not now under aspects of time, but of quality, the new, as set over against that which has seen service, the outworn, the effete or marred through age, and this is καινός: καινοὶ ἄσκοί, ‘new wine-skins’ (Matt. 9:17; Luke 5:38), such as have not lost their strength and elasticity through age and use; and in this sense, καινὸς οὐρανός (2 Pet. 3:13), ‘a new heaven,’ as set over against that which has waxen old, and shows signs of decay and dissolution (Heb. 1:11, 12).”

Conclusion:

Based on this analysis, it seems the renewal view is better. But ...

2. Thief in the night

2 Pet. 3:10, “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.”

Matt. 24:42, “Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.”

Matt. 24:43, “But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into.”

Matt. 24:44, “Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

Luke 12:39, “But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into.”

1 Thess. 5:2, “For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.”

Rev. 3:3, “Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.”

**Rev. 16:15, “Behold, I am coming as a thief.
Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his
garments, lest he walk naked and they see
his shame.”**

Conclusion

The preponderance of uses indicate this is the end of the Tribulation and Second Coming, and not the end of the Millennium.

3. Context of 2 Peter

2 Peter 3:4, “Where is the promise of His coming?”

Millennial view does not seem to take this into account

Tribulation view cites BDAG which states, “that this word almost always refers to his coming in glory to judge the world at the end of the age.”

παρουσία *parousia*

fem sing gen

coming, not a technical word, used for both Rapture and for Second Coming

παρουσία *Parousia*, is not a technical word. It is used in 1 Peter 1:16 for the coming of Jesus at the First Advent, it is used in other passages for the Rapture, and it is used in Matt. 24 and other contexts such as this to refer to the Second Advent.

Conclusion: The question isn't about the Rapture, but the Second Coming, it's a sarcastic put down assuming that it's been so long, so where is He? Some paraphrases: Christ has certainly not come back, and nothing has happened which would indicate that He ever will come back) [SSA],

Judgment references in chapter 2 are to divine interventions in history, and are types of the future judgment of the unbelievers at the Great White Throne.

This inclines to the Millennium view, but is not determinative.

4. New heavens and new earth

Isa. 65:17, “ ‘For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind.

Isa. 65:18, “ ‘But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; For behold, I create Jerusalem as a rejoicing, and her people a joy.

Isa. 65:19, “ ‘I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in My people; The voice of weeping shall no longer be heard in her, nor the voice of crying.’ ”

Isa. 65:20, “ ‘No more shall an infant from there live but a few days, nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days; For the child shall die one hundred years old, but the sinner being one hundred years old shall be accursed.

Isa. 65:21, “ ‘They shall build houses and inhabit them; They shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

Isa. 65:22, “ ‘They shall not build and another inhabit; They shall not plant and another eat; For as the days of a tree, so shall be the days of My people, and My elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.’ ”

Isa. 65:23, “ ‘They shall not labor in vain, nor bring forth children for trouble; For they shall be the descendants of the blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them.

Isa. 65:24, “ ‘It shall come to pass that before they call, I will answer; And while they are still speaking, I will hear.

Isa. 65:25, “ ‘The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent’s food. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain,’ says the LORD.”

Isa. 66:15, “ ‘For behold, the LORD will come with fire and with His chariots, like a whirlwind, to render His anger with fury, and His rebuke with flames of fire.”

Isa. 66:16, “ ‘For by fire and by His sword the LORD will judge all flesh; And the slain of the LORD shall be many.”

Isa. 66:17, “ ‘Those who sanctify themselves and purify themselves, to go to the gardens after an idol in the midst, eating swine’s flesh and the abomination and the mouse, shall be consumed together,’ says the LORD.”

Isa. 66:18, “ ‘For I know their works and their thoughts. It shall be that I will gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come and see My glory.

Isa. 66:19, “ ‘I will set a sign among them; and those among them who escape I will send to the nations: to Tarshish and Pul and Lud, who draw the bow, and Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands afar off who have not heard My fame nor seen My glory. And they shall declare My glory among the Gentiles.’ ”

Isa. 66:20, “ ‘Then they shall bring all your brethren for an offering to the LORD out of all nations, on horses and in chariots and in litters, on mules and on camels, to My holy mountain Jerusalem,’ says the LORD, ‘as the children of Israel bring an offering in a clean vessel into the house of the LORD.

Isa. 66:21, “ ‘And I will also take some of them for priests and Levites,’ says the LORD.

Isa. 66:22, “ ‘For as the new heavens and the new earth which I will make shall remain before Me,’ says the LORD, ‘So shall your descendants and your name remain.’ ”

5. Heavens will pass away

2 Pet. 3:10, “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.”

**παρέρχομαι *parerchomai* Verb 3 plur fut mid
indic to pass by, pass away**

**① to go past a reference point, go by,
pass by w. acc. someone or something
(Aelian, VH 2, 35; Lucian, Merc. Cond. 15)
an animal Hv 4, 1, 9; 4, 2, 1;**

**③ to come to an end and so no longer be
there, pass away, disappear**

“The terms translated ‘to pass away’ do not mean ‘to be annihilated.’ The terms are neutral, referring simply to ‘going away,’ or ‘departing.’ One of these terms, παρέρχομαι, refers to the old things of the believer’s life that have ‘passed away’ (2 Cor. 5:17), drawing similarly on new creation imagery and implying a remolding of a person’s life and character, not an annihilation of the old and replacement by the new.”

~Michael Svigel

2 Cor. 5:17, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

2 Cor. 5:18, “Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,”

This indicates a total replacement, it isn't replacing the sin nature, but the old man, who is now gone.

Baughman states “it never means annihilated, but to pass over from one position in time or space to another position.”

Matt. 5:18, “For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.”

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**λύω *luō* 3 sing fut pass indic
to loosen, release; set free,
untie, not melt, or burn up**

Mal. 3:2, “But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner’s fire and like launderers’ soap.

Mal. 3:3, “He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer to the LORD an offering in righteousness.

Mal. 3:4, “Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasant to the LORD, as in the days of old, as in former years.”

Mal. 4:1, “ ‘For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, and all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up,’ says the LORD of hosts, ‘That will leave them neither root nor branch.

Mal. 4:2, “ ‘But to you who fear My name the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings; And you shall go out and grow fat like stall-fed calves.

Mal. 4:3, “ ‘You shall trample the wicked, for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day that I do this,’ says the LORD of hosts.”

Isa. 66:15, “ ‘For behold, the LORD will come with fire and with His chariots, like a whirlwind, to render His anger with fury, and His rebuke with flames of fire.

Isa. 66:16, “ ‘For by fire and by His sword the LORD will judge all flesh; And the slain of the LORD shall be many.’ ”