

2 Peter Series

Lesson #060

September 9, 2021

Dean Bible Ministries

[www.deanbibleministries.org](http://www.deanbibleministries.org)

© 2021, Dr. Robert L. Dean, Jr.

**What Are We Anticipating?  
2 Peter 3:10–13**



**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**



- 1. Begins with 2nd Coming, goes through the Millennium (Mill.) to Great White Throne (GWT). (Scofield)**
- 2. Day of the Lord from after the Rapture through the Mill. to GWT. (Ironside, L. S. Chafer, Walvoord, Ryrie, Pentecost, Thieme, Showers, Baughman)**
- 3. The 2nd Coming or the end of the Mill., but excludes most of the Tribulation and the Mill. (Mayhue, Price, Ice)**
- 4. The Tribulation only (Fruchtenbaum) (only the time of Daniel's seventieth week)**
- 5. The Rapture or the 2nd Coming (Barbieri)**

# **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)**

**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.**

**2 Pet. 3:11, “Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,**

**2 Pet. 3:12, “looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?**

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

**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.

**2 Pet. 3:11**, “Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

**2 Pet. 3:12**, “looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which **the heavens** will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?

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

**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 **be destroyed** with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

**2 Pet. 3:11**, “Therefore, since all these things will be **dissolved**, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

**2 Pet. 3:12**, “looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be **dissolved**, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?

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

# 1. 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.”

**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)**

# 1. 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.”

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)

## **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).”**

**“In secular usage *kainos* denotes that which is qualitatively new as compared with what has existed until now, that which is better than the old, whereas → νέος is used temporally for that which has not yet been, that which has just made its appearance. ... The New Testament also follows the secular usage of *kainos*. ~NIDNTT**

**“There is a qualitative distinction between the two world orders. καινός (“new”) usually indicates newness in terms of quality, not time; newness in time [quantity] is a typical nuance of νέος.”**

**~Greg Beale, *Revelation*, 1040.**

## **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

## 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. 66:15–22**

**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.”**

## **But what is meant by heavens?**

**a. Note that in both vs. 10 and vs. 12:**

**“heaven will pass away” is parallel to**

**“elements (*stoicheia*) will melt”**

## **But what is meant by heavens?**

**a. Note that in both vs. 10 and vs. 12:**

**“heaven will pass away” is parallel to**

**“elements (*stoicheia*) will melt”**

**What if “heaven” = “elements” as in  
synonymous parallelism?**

## **But what is meant by heavens?**

**b. Is “heaven” the stars, sun, moon, galaxies, etc.? Or, is it a figure of speech for the inhabitants of the heavens?**

## **But what is meant by heavens?**

**b. Is “heaven” the stars, sun, moon, galaxies, etc.? Or, is it a figure of speech for the inhabitants of the heavens?**

**One of the three options for the reference to “elements,” *stoicheia*, is “the angels in the heavens.”**

**Deut. 4:26, “I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that you will soon utterly perish from the land which you cross over the Jordan to possess; you will not prolong your days in it, but will be utterly destroyed.”**

**Deut. 30:19, “I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;”**

**Deut. 31:28, “Gather to me all the elders of your tribes, and your officers, that I may speak these words in their hearing and call heaven and earth to witness against them.”**

**“Heaven” = the inhabitants of heaven.**

**“Earth” = the inhabitants of earth.**

**This is a standard Hebraism, a typical Hebrew idiom.**

**στοιχεῖον *stoicheion* neut plur nom element**

**What are the “elements”? What are the interpretive options?**

- 1. Earth, water, and air, fire ~NIDNTT  
Classic Greek philosophy**
- 2. Basic components of something, ~BDAG**
- 3. Heavenly bodies, ~BDAG, 2 literal stars,  
moon, sun, etc.**
- 4. Transcendent powers that are in control of  
the events of this world, Gal. 4:3, Col. 2:8,  
20**

**Isa. 34:4, “All the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled up like a scroll; All their host shall fall down as the leaf falls from the vine, and as fruit falling from a fig tree.”**

**\* מִקַּק (māqqaq) decay, rot, fester, pine away.**

**Isa. 24:21, “It shall come to pass in that day that the LORD will punish on high the host of exalted ones, and on the earth the kings of the earth.**

**Isa. 24:22, “They will be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and will be shut up in the prison; After many days they will be punished.”**

**Isa. 34:4, “All the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled up like a scroll; All their host shall fall down as the leaf falls from the vine, and as fruit falling from a fig tree.”**

**\* מִקַּק (māqqaq) decay, rot, fester, pine away.**

**Deut. 4:19, “And take heed, lest you lift your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun, the moon, and the stars, all the host of heaven, you feel driven to worship them and serve them, which the LORD your God has given to all the peoples under the whole heaven as a heritage.”**

**Deut. 17:3, “who has gone and served other gods and worshiped them, either the sun or moon or any of the host of heaven, which I have not commanded,”**

**1 Kings 22:19, “Then Micaiah said, ‘Therefore hear the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing by, on His right hand and on His left.’ ”**

**2 Kings 17:16, “So they left all the commandments of the LORD their God, made for themselves a molded image and two calves, made a wooden image and worshiped all the host of heaven, and served Baal.”**

**(2 Kings 21:3, 5; 23:4, 5)**

**Neh. 9:6, “You alone are the LORD; You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and everything on it, the seas and all that is in them, and You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You.”**

## 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.”**

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

**John 2:19, “Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.’ ” NOT ANNIHILATION**

**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.”**

# Topographical Changes

**Isa. 2:2, “Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD’S house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; And all nations shall flow to it.”**

**“A voice is calling, ‘Clear the way for the LORD in the wilderness; Make smooth in the desert a highway for our God. “Let every valley be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; And let the rough ground become a plain, and the rugged terrain a broad valley; Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all flesh will see it together; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” ’ ’**  
**(Isaiah 40:3–5, NASB95)**

**“In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south. You will flee by the valley of My mountains, for the valley of the mountains will reach to Azel; yes, you will flee just as you fled before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD, my God, will come, and all the holy ones with Him!” (Zechariah 14:4–5, NASB95)**

**“And in that day living waters will flow out of Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea and the other half toward the western sea; it will be in summer as well as in winter. ... All the land will be changed into a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem; but Jerusalem will rise and remain on its site from Benjamin’s Gate as far as the place of the First Gate to the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the king’s wine presses.” (Zechariah 14:8, 10 ~NASB95)**

**Nah. 1:5, “The mountains quake before Him, the hills melt, and the earth heaves at His presence, yes, the world and all who dwell in it.”**

**Amos 1:2, “And he said: ‘The LORD roars from Zion, and utters His voice from Jerusalem; The pastures of the shepherds mourn, and the top of Carmel withers.’ ”**

**Mic. 1:4, “The mountains will melt under Him, and the valleys will split like wax before the fire, like waters poured down a steep place.”**

**Isa. 2:19, “They shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, from the terror of the LORD and the glory of His majesty, when He arises to shake the earth mightily.”**

**Isa. 2:21, “To go into the clefts of the rocks, and into the crags of the rugged rocks, from the terror of the LORD and the glory of His majesty, when He arises to shake the earth mightily.”**

**Isa. 11:15, “The LORD will utterly destroy the tongue of the Sea of Egypt; With His mighty wind He will shake His fist over the River, and strike it in the seven streams, and make men cross over dryshod.”**

**Isa. 13:13, “Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth will move out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts and in the day of His fierce anger.”**

**Ezek. 38:20, “so that the fish of the sea, the birds of the heavens, the beasts of the field, all creeping things that creep on the earth, and all men who are on the face of the earth shall shake at My presence. The mountains shall be thrown down, the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground.”**

**Joel 3:16, “The LORD also will roar from Zion, and utter His voice from Jerusalem; The heavens and earth will shake; But the LORD will be a shelter for His people, and the strength of the children of Israel.”**

**Nah. 2:10, “She is empty, desolate, and waste! The heart melts, and the knees shake; Much pain is in every side, and all their faces are drained of color.”**

**ממנ *masas* nif part masc sing abs  
to melt, or dissolve**

**Amos 9:5, “The Lord GOD of hosts, He who touches the earth and it melts, and all who dwell there mourn; All of it shall swell like the River, and subside like the River of Egypt.”**

**Hag. 2:6, “For thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘Once more (it is a little while) I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land;’ ”**

**Matt. 24:29–30, “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”**

**Ezek. 22:20, “As men gather silver, bronze, iron, lead, and tin into the midst of a furnace, to blow fire on it, to melt it; so I will gather you in My anger and in My fury, and I will leave you there and melt you.”**

**Psa. 46:6, “The nations raged, the kingdoms were moved; He uttered His voice, the earth melted.”**

**Psa. 75:3, “The earth and all its inhabitants are dissolved; I set up its pillars firmly.  
Selah”**

**6. Both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.**

**“It” = not the earth’s works, but the inhabitants of the earth.**

**Isa. 9:19, “Through the wrath of the LORD of hosts the land is burned up, and the people shall be as fuel for the fire; No man shall spare his brother.”**

**Isa. 10:16, “Therefore the Lord, the Lord of hosts, will send leanness among his fat ones; And under his glory He will kindle a burning like the burning of a fire.”**

**Isa. 10:16, “Therefore the Lord, the Lord of hosts, will send leanness among his fat ones; And under his glory he will kindle a burning like the burning of a fire.”**

**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. 10:17, “So the Light of Israel will be for a fire, and his Holy One for a flame; It will burn and devour His thorns and his briers in one day.”**

**Isa. 29:6, “You will be punished by the LORD of hosts with thunder and earthquake and great noise, with storm and tempest and the flame of devouring fire.”**

**2 Pet. 3:11, “Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,”**

**“all these”**

**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)**

**“will be disclosed”**

**εὕρισκω heuriskō 3 sing fut pass indic to discover, to find, expose (ESV) disclosed (RSV, HCSB)**

**2 Pet. 3:11, “Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,”**

**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 or move to the next stage, with a great noise or roar, and the elements (*stoicheia*) will dissolve (*luo*) with fire, both the earth and the works that are in it will be exposed.” ~RD**

**2 Peter 3:11, “Therefore, since all these things (neut plural genitive, i.e., the *stoicheia*) will be dissolved, what manner of people ought you to be in your set apart lifestyle and spiritual growth.”**

**2 Pet. 3:12, “looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?”**

**Isa. 34:4, “All the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled up like a scroll; All their host shall fall down as the leaf falls from the vine, and as fruit falling from a fig tree.”**

**8. “The heavens will be dissolved, being on fire and the elements will melt with fervent heat”**

***Heavens* literal bodies in the heavens, stars, planets, moon, sun, vs. those who indwell the heavens, and dissolved now for the third time.**

**Watching for and earnestly expecting the coming (*Parousia*) Day of God, because of which the heavens (the host of heaven) will be loosed (released, loosed, destroyed, John 2:19)**

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