

Metro Women's Bible Study

2 Peter 3:10-13

Lesson 7

One of the key words in this lesson is *look*. It means "to await eagerly, to be expectant." It describes an attitude of excitement and expectation as we wait for the Lord's return. Because we realize that the world and its works will be dissolved, and that even the very elements will be disintegrated, we fix our hope, not on anything in this world, but only on the Lord Jesus Christ. This expectant attitude ought to make a difference in our *conduct*. May the Lord use this lesson in your life to whet your appetite of expectancy in a deeper way.

DAY ONE: Read 2 Peter 3:10-13

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet and another Bible translation or paraphrase.
2. 2 Peter 3:10-13 is one section/paragraph. List below the subject(s) covered in this section.

OPTIONAL: From the list below record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

Used in previous lesson: *God* and *Jesus* (Lord)

New to this lesson: *look(ing)* and *heavens*

OPTIONAL: Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in 2 Peter 3:10-13. Remember, as you mark the words *God* and *Jesus*, to mark any personal pronouns that refer to Them.

3. The term of conclusion, *therefore*, is used in verse 11. What is the conclusion made and what is it based upon?
4. Peter used two contrasting terms – *but v. 10* and *nevertheless v 13*. Choose one of them and record the contrast that Peter made.
5. Peter used four different words to describe the dissolution that will take place on the *day of the Lord*. Underline the words *pass away*, *melt*, *burned up*, and *dissolved on your* Observation Worksheet. Summarize what is going to happen.

DAY TWO: Read 2 Peter 3:10

1. Verse 1 refers to the Day of the Lord. What day is Peter referring to? See Isaiah 2:11 & 17 & Acts 2:20. Underline or highlight what you discover.

Isaiah 2:11&17 “¹¹The proud look of man will be abased, and the loftiness of man will be humbled, and the LORD alone will be exalted in **that day**. ¹²For the LORD of hosts will have a **day** of reckoning against everyone who is proud and lofty, And against everyone who is lifted up, that he may be abased. ¹⁷And the pride of man will be humbled, and the loftiness of men will be abased, and the LORD alone will be exalted in **that day**.”

Acts 2:20 “²⁰The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-4 “¹Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, ²not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. ³Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, ⁴who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.”

What Will the Day of the Lord look like?

The **day of the Lord** is a familiar Old Testament image for the ultimate day of God’s judgment, His final day in court when He settles the injustices of the world.

Summarizing some of the descriptions in the Old Testament references, we see:

“This Day is coming, cruel, with fury and burning anger, to make the land a desolation; and He will exterminate its sinners from it” (**Isaiah 13:9**), “a day of vengeance, so as to avenge Himself on His foes...a slaughter for the Lord GOD of hosts” (**Jeremiah 46:10**), “a day of clouds, a time of doom for the nations” (**Ezekiel 30:3**), “near, and it will come as destruction from the Almighty” (**Joel 1:15**), “surely it is near” (**Joel 2:1**), “great and very awesome, and who can endure it?” (**Joel 2:11**), “the great and awesome day” (**Joel 2:31**), “near in the valley of decision” (**Joel 3:14**), “It will be darkness and not light” (**Amos 5:18**), “even gloom with no brightness in it” (**Amos 5:20**), “(a day when) your dealings will return on your own head” (**Obadiah 1:15**), “near and coming very quickly...in it the warrior cries out bitterly, a day of wrath is that day, a day of trouble and distress, a day of destruction and desolation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness” (**Zephaniah 1:14-15**), “the day of the LORD’S wrath and all the earth will be devoured In the fire of His jealousy, for He will make a complete end, Indeed a terrifying one, of all the inhabitants of the earth” (**Zephaniah 1:18**), “the day of the LORD’S anger” (**Zephaniah 2:2**), “His coming...is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap” (**Malachi 3:2**), “the great and terrible day” (**Malachi 4:5**), “will come just like a thief in the night” (**1 Thessalonians 5:2**).

One can conclude that both Peter and John are describing the time period, the day which Peter refers to as the Day of the Lord. And yet we know that the Day of the Lord has already commenced either at the beginning or the midpoint of the Tribulation following the revelation of the Antichrist, who is defeated by Christ at His return to set up His 1000 year kingdom on an earth, the same earth which Peter says will pass away in the Day of the Lord. It therefore is reasonable to conclude that the Day of the Lord is not a single day but is an extended period beginning at the time of the Tribulation and including the Second Coming of Christ to set up His earthly 1000 year kingdom and finally terminating in the destruction of the heaven and earth as described by Peter.

2. How will the Day of the Lord come according to verse 10a?

a. Look up the word as a *thief* in the night in your Concordance and write out the English translation.

Thief-

b. The **Day of the Lord** will occur suddenly and unexpectedly, resulting in surprise and irreparable loss for those who are unprepared. What emotions does this bring to the surface knowing this? See the passages below.

Matthew 24:42-43 ⁴²Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. ⁴³But 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. ⁴⁴Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

Revelation 16:14 “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.”

c. Read this excerpt written by John Calvin and respond by sharing how this speaks to you and to the church at large.

John Calvin has these thoughts by way of application about this verse: “**This has been added, that the faithful might be always watching, and not promise tomorrow to themselves...he now shakes off our sleepiness, so that we may attentively expect Christ at all times, lest we should become idle and negligent, as it is usually the case. For whence is it that flesh indulges itself except that there is no thought of the near coming of Christ?**”

3. 2 Peter 3:10 contains solemn words describing what is going to happen to the heavens and the earth. What are they?

4. The destruction of the earth as prophesied here in verse 10 sounds like nuclear fusion. When this letter was written these things must have sounded strange and unreasonable, but in the age of nuclear science we know that this is possible. Of course, anything is possible with God. How does the horror of this awaken you to the urgency of witnessing to the lost?

a. How do the following Scriptures encourage you in this?

Proverbs 11:30

Daniel 12:3

5. Colossians 1:17 affirms that Jesus Christ holds *all things* together. The *all things* would include the earth. What could happen to the earth if He let go?

6. The Day of the Lord is coming, and it will come suddenly and will be an awesome and terrible day. It is a day of gloom and of destruction from the Almighty. It is a day which includes **Christ's Second Coming to defeat the Antichrist** (Revelation 17:14, Revelation 19:11) and **to reign and rule**

on earth for 1000 years (Millennial Reign) as King of kings and as Lord of lords (Revelation 20:4; 20:5; 20:6). And finally Peter tells us that it is the day in which **the world as we know it will finally and irrevocably come to an end**. On the basis of these awesome events what should be our response? See 2 Peter 3:11-14

DAY THREE: Read 2 Peter 3:11

1. As we begin to dissect verses 11-13, 2 Peter 3:11 begins with a term of conclusion. In your own words write what this verse says.

a. Observe this paraphrase of verse 11: *Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be?* Using a dictionary define the word *ought* as it is used in this context.

Ought-

b. What does this say to you about the kind of lives we *ought* to live as believers?

The Living Bible translation says it like this: “And so since everything around us is going to melt away, what holy, godly lives we should be living!” “How astoundingly excellent you ought to be!”

2. What should characterize the life of every believer according to the last phrase of 2 Peter 3:11?

a. Define the words: *holy, conversation (conduct) & godliness*.

Holy-

Conversation- (Conduct)

Godliness-

The word “Be” here in this verse huparcho is distinct from the mere verb of existence (einai), for huparcho denotes a state or condition in which one is supposed to be. Huparcho is in the present tense indicating that these qualities are to be constantly present. Scoffers, questioning the Lord’s coming lead ungodly lives. By contrast, Jesus’ followers are to continually be in a state or condition of holiness and godliness.

3. How will obedience to Romans 12:1-2 assure you that you are being the kind of person you *ought* to be in relationship to Christ’s return?

a. **Holy Conduct** is God’s will for His children. This is a good time for us to examine our lives in response to this verse. What does it look like to demonstrate *holy conduct* and *godliness*?

b. According to verse 11, how does my life demonstrate *holy conduct* and *godliness*? If not, what changes do I need to make?

4. How might living a *holy* and *godly* life make a difference in your influence on those around you?

5. Each of us as Christians *ought* to be living a life consistent with 2 Peter 3:11. How do the following verses encourage you to do this? Highlight or underline what you learn.

Luke 1:74-75 ⁷⁴To grant us that we, Being delivered from the hand of our enemies, Might serve Him without fear, ⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life.”

1 Timothy 6:11 ¹¹But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.”

1 Peter 1:14-16 ¹⁴as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; ¹⁵but as He who called you *is* holy, you also be holy in all *your* conduct, ¹⁶because it is written, “*Be holy, for I am holy.*”

6. Sometimes the problem is not with the believer’s desire to be *godly*, but the problem is caused by an indifferent or careless attitude toward the things of the world. What does 1 John 2:15-17 teach us about this?

a. Concentrate on the phrase, *or the things in the world from 1 John 2:15*. How does this speak to you?

7. Share practical things that enable you to be obedient to 2 Peter 3:11.

8. If you knew a believer who was not living a life of *holy conduct and godliness*, how would you use 2 Peter 3:11 to alert them?

DAY FOUR: Read 2 Peter 3:12

1. Here Peter presents the concept of **expectation**. As we continue to break down 1 Peter 3:11-13, verse 12 continues the sentence that began in verse 11. Print 2 Peter 3:12a in all caps.

a. The phrase *looking for* means “means literally to look forward toward, to wait for, to look for, to anticipate. It means to give thought to something that is in the future and the context indicates whether one does this looking/waiting in a hopeful sense, with a longing, with fear (wait with anxiety, live in suspense), or in a neutral state of mind. It describes the attitude saints should have as anticipating, waiting with watchfulness, being in expectation.” In what way does that describe you today?

b. In what way does it not describe you today?

2. Focus on the word *hastening* by looking it up in your Concordance and write out the English translation.

Hastening-

3. One definition of this word means, “*to urge on or to eagerly await*”. Some Bible expositors believe the word *hastening* refers to the *day* being hastened by God’s people as they speed up the accomplishment of His purposes. Whatever meaning we choose, *hastening* certainly indicates an urgency to prayer, witnessing, and godly living. What do these verses say about this?

Ephesians 6:18 “¹⁸Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.”

Matthew 28:19-20 “¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.”

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

a. Pause and think about these things from verse 12 in relationship to *hastening the coming of the day of God* as you read the following:

The present tense of the Greek word “Looking,” *prosdokao*, calls for this to be a continual expectant looking—the habit of our lives should be to keep “looking up for our redemption draweth night”. Are you eagerly awaiting the day of the Lord, but even more importantly are you living like it could be today?

****Godward looking...
motivates godly living**

Instead of living in fear of the future and fear of judgment and fear of the day of the Lord, you live in holy eagerness, you live with that 1Cor 16:22 word *Maranatha* on your lips, come, Lord, living constantly in desirous expectation.

4. The Bible has many references to the responsibility of the believer in *looking* for Jesus’ return. Record what Titus 2:11-13 has to say about this and see how 2 Peter 3:11-12 coincides with this.

5. In what way does Titus 2:14 increase your desire to live according to 2 Peter 3:11-12?

6. The glorious return of the Lord Jesus is the believer’s greatest hope and expectation in these perilous times. What do the following verses say about this? Underline or highlight what stands out to you.

1 John 2:28 “²⁸And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.”

1 John 3:2-3 “²Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. ³And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”

Philippians 1:27 “Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.”

Looking for and hastening the coming of the “Day of the Lord” in verse 10 is not the same as “the day of God” recorded in verse 12. When the day of God comes, man’s “day” will be over. The corrupting of the universe by man and Satan will have been terminated and judged, finally and forever. To reiterate the day of God refers to the eternal state which follows the final phase of the Day of the Lord when the heavens and earth will be destroyed. The day of God is the Day of God’s complete and final triumph and for this reason it is a day we should wait for and earnestly desire.”

DAY FIVE: Read 2 Peter 3:13

1. In contrast to the judgment of the unbeliever, what glorious *promise* is given to believers in 2 Peter 3:13?

a. What does Isaiah 65:17 add to this promise?

****The English word promise conveys the idea of assurance such as the assurance that one will do something or that something will happen.**

b. Joyfully print 2 Peter 3:13c. Use other versions if you desire.

3. Define the word *righteousness* by looking it up in your Concordance or a dictionary.

Righteousness-

****Righteousness** is all that God is all that He commands, all that He demands, all that He approves, & all that He provides through the gospel of Jesus Christ. It means the new heavens and the new earth order will have a rightness about it and will be as it should be, holy and upright, in accordance with God’s standard.

4. What did Jesus say about the righteous in Matthew 13:41-43?

5. John describes *a new heaven and a new earth* in Revelation 21:1-8. Next to the following verses, underline or highlight any specific descriptions that capture your attention:

Revelation 21:1-3 “¹Now 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. ²Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and* be their God.”

Revelation 21:4-5 “4And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”5Then He who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” And He said to me, “Write, for these words are true and faithful.”

Revelation 21:6-8 “6And He said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. 7He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. 8But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

6. Look at the blessed future of the believer through the lens of 1 Thessalonians 1:10. What do you see?

DAY SIX: Review 2 Peter 3:10-13

1. If Christ returned today for the church, what would you want to be:

a. being

b. doing

c. sure you had done

2. Contrast the Lord’s return for:

The Christian

2 Pter 3:13

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

The Ungodly

2 Peter 3:12

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9

a. What did you notice between the two?

3. How has this study challenged you to live daily for what is eternally important?

A Storm Is Coming!

Several years ago in Florida, I watched the ominously black sky as a howling wind drove the rain in stinging sheets across angrily churning baywaters. A hurricane was approaching! All day long, radio and TV stations gave urgent instructions on how to guard against the destructive winds and surging tides of the impending storm.

As residents were frantically preparing for the storm, I asked myself, “Why do people take the warnings issued by the weather bureau so seriously, yet stubbornly refuse to hear God’s warnings?” In His Word, God has told us that a much greater disaster will come upon the entire world. The Bible says, “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 Peter 3:10).

Yes, that dreadful day is coming. But there is a sure way of escaping God’s judgment. It’s found in Christ. Those who have placed their faith in Him enjoy His peace here on earth and are assured of spending eternity with Him in heaven. Jesus is coming back and

He is on schedule!

Are you prepared to meet your Maker?

If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

Romans 10:9-10