

RELEVANCE OF THE FUTURE

2 Peter 3:3-15

Emergent Prophecy: Importance



“If Revelation were a blueprint of the distant future, it would have been unintelligible to its original readers...In light of this, Revelation becomes a powerful book about *the kingdom of God here and now*, available to all.”

Brian McLaren, cited in Oakland, 158.



Emergent Eschatology Importance

“An eschatology of abandonment, which is how I would characterize certain streams of the left behind approach, has disastrous social consequences...Any project geared toward improving the world long term is seen as unfaithful, since we're supposed to assume that the world is getting worse and worse.”

Interview by Planet Preterist with Brian McLaren, cited in
Oakland, Kindle edition



Emergent Eschatology: Genre

“The book of Revelation is an example of popular literary genre of ancient Judaism, known today as Jewish apocalyptic. Trying to read it without understanding its genre would be like watching *Star Trek* or some other science fiction show thinking it was a historical documentary...instead of being a book about the distant future, it becomes a way of talking about the challenges of the immediate present.”

Brian McLaren, *The Secret Message of Jesus*, 175-76

Biblical Prophecy: Importance

- 27% of Scripture was prophetic at the time it was written

- 2 Pet 1:19



AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE

V. 19



- More sure than eyewitness testimony
- World is in the Dark, Scripture is the Light
- Morning Star = Jesus
Rev. 2:28; 22:16

FALSE TEACHERS are coming!

Heresies of Gnostics:

- Salvation via special knowledge “*gnosis*”
- License (indulgence)



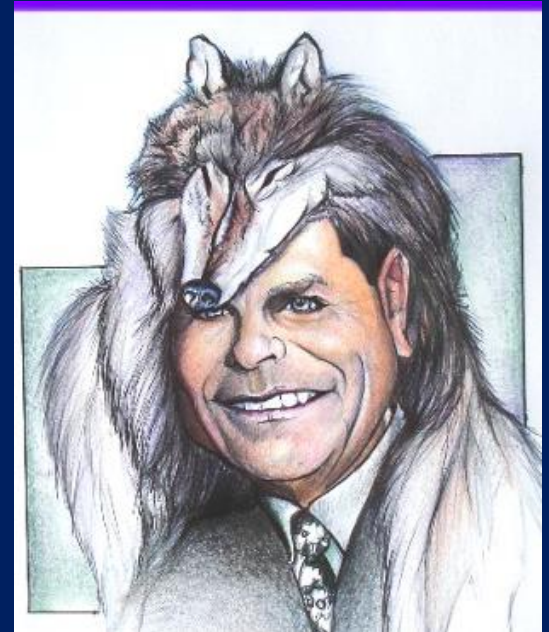
Purpose

To build up his readers in the faith so that they will be insulated from the coming false teachers



Message

Protection from the negative influence of the coming false teachers is accomplished through exhortation toward maturity and exposing the characteristics and doctrines of these coming false teachers



Structure



- 2 Peter 1-Call to maturity
- 2 Peter 2-Characteristics of false teachers
- 2 Peter 3-Doctrine of the false teachers

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Provisions for Growth (1:3-4)

- Power (1:3a)

- Knowledge (1:3b)

- Promises (1:4a)

- Participation in the divine nature (1:4b)



PORTRAIT OF GROWTH

1:5-7



LOVE

BROTHERLY KINDNESS

GODLINESS

PERSERVERENCE

SELF CONTROL

KNOWLEDGE

GOODNESS

FAITH

Structure



- 2 Peter 1-Call to maturity
- 2 Peter 2-Characteristics of false teachers
- 2 Peter 3-Doctrine of the false teachers

2 Peter 2 Outline

- Predicted arrival (2:1a)
- Devices (2:1b-3)
- Doom (2:4-9)
- Depravity (2:10-16)
- Emptiness (2:17-19)
- Regression (2:20-22)



Structure



- 2 Peter 1-Call to maturity
- 2 Peter 2-Characteristics of false teachers
- 2 Peter 3-Doctrine of the false teachers

Overview 2 Peter 3:3-15



- Heresy of the false teachers (v3-4)
- Motive of the false teachers (v3-4)
- Peter's rebuttal (v5-10)
- Application (v11-15)

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DOCTRINE OF FALSE TEACHERS v.3-4

- Deny 2nd coming

- ◆ Scoffing

- ◆ Future tense



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MOTIVE OF FALSE TEACHERS

V.3-4

■ Deny 2nd coming

- ◆ Lust & denial of judgment
- ◆ Uniformitarianism; naturalism



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Dominoes in a Row



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PETER'S REBUTTAL

V.5-10



Arguments from:

- History (5-7)
- Scripture (8)
- God's character (9)
- Divine promise (10)

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HISTORY v. 5-7

- Creation (5)
- Flood (6-7)
 - ◆ God will judge again via fire



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Reasons Against a Local Flood

- Analogy to global Second Advent (Matt 24:37-39; Rev 1:7; 2 Pet 3:5-7)
- Size of the ark (450 ft. long, 75 ft. wide, 45 ft. deep)?
- Animals and birds on the ark?

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They rose greatly on the earth, and all the high mountains under the entire heaven were covered. . . Every living thing that moved on the earth perished—birds, livestock, wild animals, all the creatures that swarm over the earth, and all mankind. Everything on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils died. Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out; men and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds of the air were wiped from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark.”

“... ‘all the high mountains under all the heavens.’ One of these expressions alone would almost necessitate the impression that the author intends to convey the idea of the absolute universality of the Flood... Yet since ‘all’ is known to be used in a relative sense, the writer removes all ambiguity by adding the phrase ‘under all the heavens.’ A double ‘all’ (*kol*) cannot allow for so relative a sense. It almost constitutes a Hebrew superlative. So we believe that the text disposes of the question of the universality of the flood. By way of objection to this interpretation, those who believe in a limited flood... urge the fact that *kol* is used in a relative sense, as is clearly the case in passages such as Genesis 41:57; Exodus 9:25, 10:15; Deuteronomy 2:25; and 1 Kings 10:24. However, we still insist that this fact could overthrow a single *kol*, never a double *kol*, as our verse has it.”

Uniformitarianism is not Biblicism

	Era	Scripture	Distinctives
1.	Creation	Genesis 1-2	No death
2.	Fall	Genesis 3-6	Death, painful pregnancy & toil, long life spans, no human government
3.	Flood	Genesis 7-10	Shorter life spans, human government, one language, no nations
<u>4.</u>	<u>Babel</u>	<u>Genesis 11-present</u>	<u>No global government, multiple languages, nations, ethnicities</u>

Uniformitarianism is not Biblicism

	Era	Scripture	Distinctives
5.	Antichrist	Rapture to 2 nd Advent	Global government, restrainer removed
6.	Kingdom	Rev. 20:1-10	Long life spans, kingdom conditions, reality of death, renovated earth
7.	Eternal State	Rev. 21-22	No death, new earth

PETER'S REBUTTAL

V.5-10

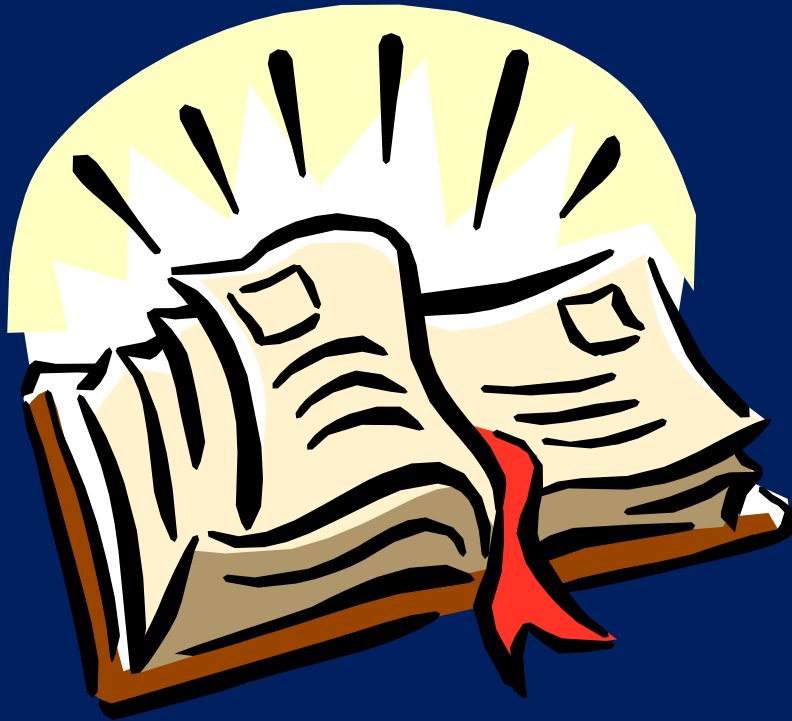


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SCRIPTURE

V. 8



- God's timing is not the same as ours

Romans 8:29–30

29 For those whom He **foreknew**, He also **predestined** *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; ³⁰ and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He **called**, He also justified; and these whom He **justified**, He also **glorified**.

Where's **sanctification**?

Where's sanctification?

these whom He justified, He also glorified.

PETER'S REBUTTAL

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GOD'S CHARACTER

V. 9

- Delay \neq no 2nd coming
- Delay = patience





Lewis Sperry Chafer, vol. 7, *Systematic Theology* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1993), 265-66.

- “This vital newness of mind is a part of believing, after all, and therefore it may be and is used as a *synonym* for believing at times (cf. Acts 17:30; 20:21; 26:20; Rom. 2:4; 2Tim. 2:25; 2 Pet. 3:9). Repentance nevertheless cannot be added to believing as a condition of salvation, because upwards of 150 passages of Scripture condition salvation upon believing only (cf. John 3:16; Acts 16:31).”

PETER'S REBUTTAL

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Arguments from:

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GOD'S PROMISE

V. 10



- Despite delay,
the day will come:
- Like a thief
- According to God's
promise

TRUE GLOBAL WARMING IS COMING TO PLANET EARTH!

2 Peter 3:10

**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. (NASB)**

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APPLICATION

V. 11-15

- Holy Living (11b, 14)
- Evangelism (12)
- Hope (13)
- Patience (15)



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Regard the Grace of God (3:15)

- 2 Pet 3:9

- Paul as an example of God's grace

- God even used Paul to author Scripture



Conclusion

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