

Fulfilled Prophecies

[Home](#)

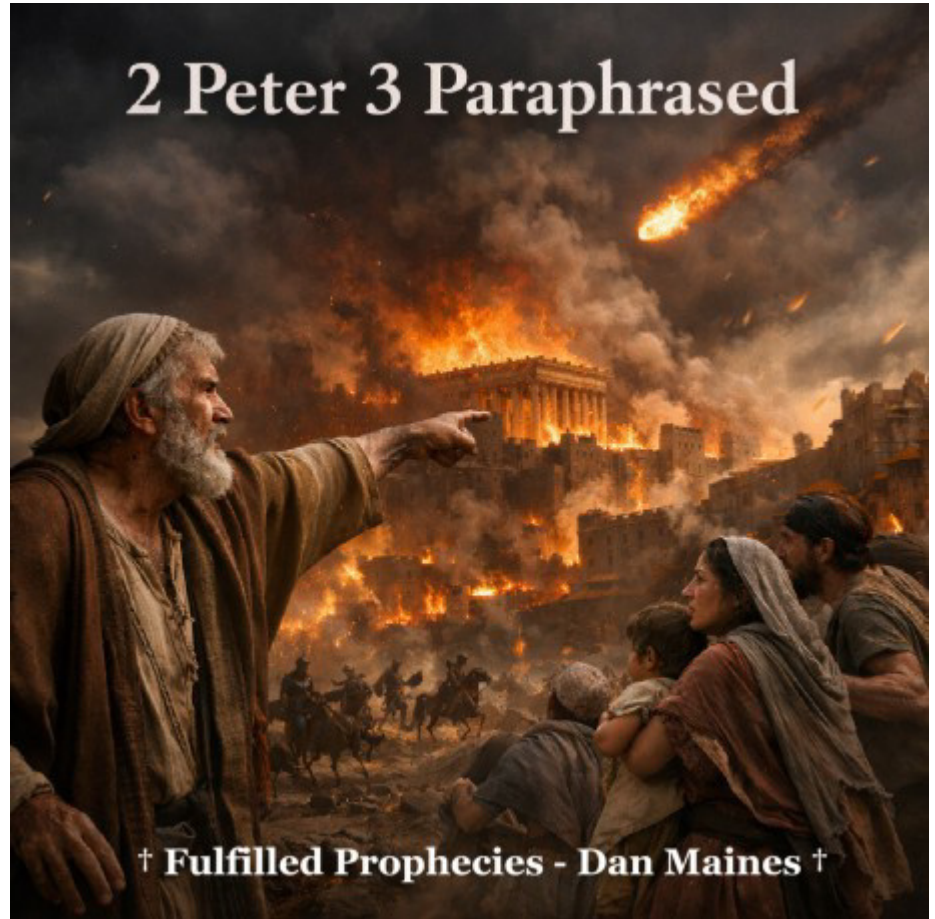
>

[Other](#)

>

[Share on Facebook](#)[FACEBOOK LINK](#)

2 Peter 3 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

2 Peter 3 Paraphrased

Introduction

† Peter wrote this second letter to stir up the believers' memory and remind them of what the prophets and the apostles had already warned about. The early church was facing mockers who claimed nothing had changed and that the promise of Christ's coming judgment would never happen. Peter answers them directly. He shows that God's past judgments prove His future promises. The flood was real history, and the coming

judgment on Jerusalem in that generation was just as certain (Matthew 24:34; Luke 21:22).

† From the fulfilled perspective, this chapter speaks about the approaching end of the old covenant world centered in Jerusalem. Peter wasn't warning about the destruction of the physical planet. He was warning about the passing away of the old covenant order that governed Israel (Hebrews 8:13).

† Peter repeatedly reminds his readers that these things were near in their time. The audience lived in the first century and would soon witness the fulfillment of what Jesus had already foretold concerning the end of that age (Matthew 24:1-3, 34).

2 Peter 3:1

I'm writing this second letter to you, beloved, and in both of them I'm trying to awaken your sincere thinking by reminding you of what you already know.

† Peter says his purpose is to remind them, not reveal something new. The apostles constantly brought believers back to the words already spoken by the prophets and by Christ (Jude 17).

† The phrase awaken your sincere thinking shows the danger of forgetting prophecy. The believers already had the truth, they just needed to remember it (Luke 24:25-27).

† The warning about coming judgment had already been spoken many times by Jesus Himself (Matthew 24:6-8, 21).

2 Peter 3:2

I want you to remember the words spoken long ago by the holy prophets and the command of the Lord and Savior that came

through your apostles.

† Peter connects the prophets and the apostles as one united message. Both testified about the coming judgment on Israel and the establishment of the kingdom (Acts 3:21-24).

† Jesus had already given the command and warning about the destruction of Jerusalem and the end of that covenant age (Luke 21:20-22).

† The apostles repeated that same warning because it was approaching in their generation (Hebrews 10:37).

2 Peter 3:3

First of all, understand that in the last days mockers will come with mocking attitudes, following their own sinful desires.

† The last days refers to the final days of the old covenant age, not the end of the physical universe (Hebrews 1:1-2).

† Mockers denied that judgment was coming, just like many in Israel rejected Jesus' warnings (Matthew 24:48).

† Jude described the same group of mockers appearing in the last time (Jude 18).

2 Peter 3:4

They'll say, where is the promise of His coming? Ever since our ancestors died everything continues just the same as it has since the beginning of creation.

† Their argument was based on normal life continuing. They assumed judgment wouldn't come because nothing had changed yet (Matthew 24:38-39).

† This same false confidence existed before the flood, when people believed nothing would interrupt their world (Genesis 6:5-7).

† Jesus warned that people would ignore the signs and continue daily life right up until judgment came (Luke 17:26-27).

2 Peter 3:5

They deliberately ignore the fact that long ago the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God.

† Peter points back to creation to show God's authority over the world (Genesis 1:6-9).

† If God created the world by His word, He also has the authority to judge it (Psalm 33:6-9).

† The mockers were willingly ignoring God's past acts in history.

2 Peter 3:6

Through those waters the world that existed at that time was destroyed when it was flooded.

† The flood proves that God has already judged a world before (Genesis 7:21-23).

† Peter used the flood earlier as an example of divine judgment (2 Peter 2:5).

† Jesus also used the flood as a comparison for the coming judgment in that generation (Matthew 24:37-39).

2 Peter 3:7

By the same word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly people.

† Heavens and earth is covenant language often used to describe Israel's world order (Isaiah 51:15-16).

† Fire represents judgment, not literal cosmic destruction (Isaiah 66:15-16).

† Jesus described the same judgment falling on that generation (Matthew 23:36).

2 Peter 3:8

Beloved, don't overlook this one fact, with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day.

† Peter isn't changing the timeframe, he's explaining God's patience (Psalm 90:4).

† The promise wasn't delayed because God was slow, it was delayed because He was allowing time for repentance (Romans 2:4).

† Even so, Peter still said the end was near for them (1 Peter 4:7).

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord isn't slow about His promise as some think of slowness, but He's patient toward you, not wanting anyone to perish but for all to come to repentance.

† God's patience was directed toward that generation so more people could turn to Christ before judgment came (Luke 13:6-

9).

† The gospel was being preached throughout the Roman world before the end came (Matthew 24:14).

† The delay allowed many Jews and Gentiles to enter the kingdom.

2 Peter 3:10

The day of the Lord will come like a thief. In that day the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and the works in it will be exposed.

† The day of the Lord is a prophetic phrase used for covenant judgment (Isaiah 13:6).

† Jesus used the same thief imagery for His coming judgment in that generation (Matthew 24:43).

† Elements refers to the basic principles of the old covenant system (Galatians 4:3).

2 Peter 3:11

Since all these things are about to be destroyed, what kind of people should you be in holy conduct and godliness.

† Peter says these things were about to happen, showing the nearness of the event (Hebrews 10:25).

† The approaching judgment was meant to motivate holy living.

† Believers were called to separate themselves from the corrupt system that was about to fall (Revelation 18:4).

2 Peter 3:12

Looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning and the elements will melt with intense heat.

† The day of God refers to the same judgment day Jesus described (Luke 21:22).

† Believers hastened that day by spreading the gospel before the end came (Matthew 24:14).

† The language again reflects prophetic judgment imagery used throughout the Old Testament (Isaiah 34:4).

2 Peter 3:13

But according to His promise we're looking for new heavens and a new earth where righteousness lives.

† This promise comes from Isaiah's prophecy about the new covenant order (Isaiah 65:17).

† The new heavens and new earth represent the restored covenant community in Christ (Revelation 21:1-2).

† The righteousness of Christ defines the new covenant kingdom.

2 Peter 3:14

Therefore beloved, since you're waiting for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless.

† Peter urges readiness because the judgment was approaching quickly.

† Believers were to remain faithful while the old system was collapsing (Hebrews 12:28).

† Peace with God through Christ was the true preparation.

2 Peter 3:15

Consider the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given to him.

† Peter affirms Paul's writings as authoritative teaching.

† Paul also taught about the passing away of the old covenant system (Hebrews 8:13).

† God's patience resulted in salvation spreading throughout the nations.

2 Peter 3:16

Paul wrote about these things in all his letters. Some parts are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people twist just like they twist the rest of the Scriptures to their own destruction.

† Even in the first century people were already twisting Paul's words.

† False teachers misunderstood the freedom of the gospel (Romans 6:1).

† Peter calls Paul's writings Scripture, showing their authority in the early church.

2 Peter 3:17

So then beloved, since you already know this, be on guard so that you aren't carried away by the error of lawless people and fall from your stability.

† The danger came from false teachers leading believers away from the truth.

† Jesus warned about deception increasing before Jerusalem fell (Matthew 24:11).

† Stability comes from holding firmly to apostolic teaching.

2 Peter 3:18

Instead grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity.

† Spiritual growth was the answer to deception.

† The kingdom established through Christ would endure forever (Daniel 7:27).

† Christ receives glory both in the present age and in the eternal kingdom.

Historical References

† Josephus recorded the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70, describing the fiery judgment that consumed the temple and the city.

† Eusebius wrote that the Christians fled Jerusalem before the destruction because they believed Jesus' warnings.

† Tacitus confirmed the Roman siege and devastation that fulfilled Christ's prophecy.

How It Applies To Us Today

† The fulfilled judgment reminds us that God always keeps His word.

† Just as believers in the first century were called to remain faithful, we're called to continue growing in Christ.

† The new covenant kingdom is already established, and our focus now is living faithfully within it.

Q & A Appendix

Q: Was Peter predicting the end of the physical universe?

A: No. Peter used prophetic language about the heavens and earth passing away, which refers to the end of the old covenant order centered in Jerusalem (Isaiah 51:15-16; Hebrews 8:13).

Q: What are the elements that melted with intense heat?

A: The elements refer to the basic principles of the old covenant system that governed Israel (Galatians 4:3; Colossians 2:20).

Q: What are the new heavens and new earth?

A: The new covenant kingdom established through Christ where righteousness dwells (Isaiah 65:17; Revelation 21:1-2).

Q: What did Peter mean when he said the day of the Lord would come like a thief?

A: Jesus used the same language when speaking about the coming judgment on that generation. The point wasn't a secret arrival but suddenness for those who weren't paying attention. The faithful were watching and expecting it (Matthew 24:42-44; Luke 21:34-36).

Q: Why did Peter remind them about the flood in Noah's time?

A: Peter used the flood as historical proof that God has already

judged a world before. Just as people ignored Noah's warning until the flood came, many in Israel ignored the warnings of Jesus and the apostles before Jerusalem was destroyed (Genesis 7:21-23; Matthew 24:37-39).

Q: What did Peter mean when he said the earth and its works would be exposed?

A: The phrase refers to judgment revealing and exposing the corruption of the old covenant system centered in Jerusalem. When the temple and the city were destroyed, the works of that system were fully exposed and brought to an end (Luke 21:22; Hebrews 9:8-10).

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

© Fulfilled Prophecies - Dan Maines.

Source Index

† 2 Peter 3; Matthew 24:1-3, 34; Luke 21:20-22; Hebrews 8:13; Isaiah 65:17; Revelation 21:1-2

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History; Tacitus, Histories 5.13

Share on Facebook

Links

Facebook Link <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/posts/>

Fulfilled Prophecies <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/>

Dan Maines

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/user/100001027365819/>

You may share this article freely without permission as long as you include credit to Dan Maines and/or a link to the Fulfilled Prophecies Group.