

Sunday March 20th 2011
The Second of Peter
Part Fifteen

1). 2Pe 3:1 ¶ *Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), 2 that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, 3 ¶ knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."*

a). Before we bring our study of 2 Peter to a close I would like to take the opportunity this week to take a slight diversion so as to stir up our pure minds by way of reminder concerning the promise of His coming so that our foundation may be even more sure.

2). We have I hope, in our previous studies seen that the scoffers message with regards to the promise of His coming is founded on the error that the heavens and the earth have continued and will continue uninterrupted since their initial creation - *For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."*

3). Although this erroneous message comes through the work of the scoffers we would also realize that this is a situation that has been brought about by the work of the enemy of our soul as He has from the beginning of this dispensation sought to destroy the word of the Kingdom by destroying the very foundation upon which this message is founded – that of creation, ruin, restoration and rest; with restoration taking 6 days, or 6000 years to be followed by a 7th Day a 7th 1000 year period during which a Man and a Woman will rule the earth together in a marriage relationship - Ge 1:27 *So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

a). Re 19:6 *And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying,*

"Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! 7 "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready."

b). Satan's efforts to destroy this foundation and thereby overturn the purpose of God can be seen in the events recorded in the Matthew 13 Parables which can be summed up in the following verse - Mt 13:33 *Another parable He spoke to them: "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened."*

c). And although our enemy would operate through deception we would also have to realize that many of those deceived, if not all, have received the deception willingly - 2Ti 4:3 *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.*

4). Now in direct answer to the scoffers' question, 'Where is the promise of His coming? We would have to say that the promise is everywhere, from Genesis to Revelation and so perhaps a more pertinent question for us might be, 'Where isn't the promise of His coming? And the promise itself is for not only the 'church' but also for Israel and ultimately the whole of creation – Ro 8:21 *because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.*

5). Jesus Himself gives us the key to understanding the origin of the promise in His conversation with His disciples on the Road to Emmaus. We will remember - Lu 24:25 *Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 "Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" 27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.*

a). 'Beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself.' And Moses, as we know, began in Genesis.

6). Ge 1:1 ¶ *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

a). And here at the very beginning point of God's revelation to man is the foundation of the promise. And then by comparing scripture with scripture we can build upon that which is laid in these opening words –

Joh 1:1 ¶ *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.*

b). Then to this we can add more detail still - Col 1:16 *For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.*

c). We cannot miss here the connection between creation and rulership as we see within the creation visible and invisible thrones, dominions, principalities, powers – which would refer us to the two realms of the Kingdom; the earth with its visible thrones, dominions, principalities, powers and the heavens where the same depiction of rulership would be in place but invisible, there being a direct correlation between the two.

d). And according to our scripture in Colossians, the rulership of the heavens and the earth, all things, were created through Him and for Him. – through Christ, just as we saw in John Chapter 1, and for Christ.

7). Now all things being created through Him and for Him, following the foundational pattern, would inevitably bring us to the 7th Day – Mt 25:34 *"Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:*

a). Notice please when the Kingdom, the 7th Day, was prepared – ‘from the foundation of the world’.

b). It has always been God’s Divine purpose from eternity past, for the second person of the Trinity, God the Son, to rule from the heavens connected with this earth, over the earth, with those Christians found worthy ruling with Him as joint heirs - Ro 8:17 ¶ *and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.*

c). And again scripture is quite clear as to when God set this in place - Eph 1:4 *just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,*

8). Not only was this God’s purpose from the beginning of creation, but His work to bring about His purpose was also completed from the foundation of the world - Heb 4:3 *For we who have believed do enter that rest, as He has said: "So I swore in My wrath, "They shall not enter My rest," although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.*

a). The works that were finished from the foundation of the world would of necessity include the means of redemption for all three parts of Man, spirit, soul and body – a being who at this point, at the foundation of the world, had not yet been created. And the work that would provide for redemption belongs entirely to God the Son - 1Pe 1:20 *He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you*

b). Re 13:8 *All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

c). In all of this is the promise of His coming – a promise that relates to His ‘second’ coming rather than His first. And once more, this was God’s intention from the outset – before there was a world, before there was a Satan, before there was a Man, before there was sin.

d). Now we might be tempted ask the question, ‘Why would God choose to bring about His purpose in this way?’ – To which there really can be no definitive answer that would satisfy our curiosity, just the evidence of scripture - Isa 55:8 *"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD.*⁹ *"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.*

e). It is impossible for us with a finite mind to comprehend that which is conceived in an infinite mind. God’s perspective must of necessity be eternal, whereas ours is always temporal. We don’t think like God so we need to leave it there, and rely entirely on that which He has chosen to reveal to us through the scriptures and nothing else.

9). And what we find revealed in the scriptures is the fulfillment of God’s plans and purposes at Christ’s second coming – now, when we speak of the second coming we are dealing with an event that we can understand as progressive rather than a one time event.

a). Encompassed in the phrase ‘the second coming’, would be all events from the rapture of the Church, through the redemption of the inheritance (the Great Tribulation) to Christ’s literally setting foot again on the earth and the establishment of His Millennial Kingdom.

b). The fulfillment of God’s purpose at the Lord’s second coming is exactly that which is revealed through the types of Joseph and Moses, both of whom are a type of Christ.

c). It is the same pattern that the martyr, Stephen, under inspiration of the Holy Spirit, reveals to the Jewish council in the hope that they would

understand this very thing thereby making sense of the events that had just transpired in their midst - Ac 7:11 *"Now a famine and great trouble came over all the land of Egypt and Canaan, and our fathers found no sustenance. 12 "But when Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent out our fathers first. 13 "And the second time Joseph was made known to his brothers, and Joseph's family became known to the Pharaoh. 14 "Then Joseph sent and called his father Jacob and all his relatives to him, seventy-five people.*

d). Having first been rejected by His brothers it is the second time that Joseph is made known to his brothers. This is when they are delivered from the famine and the family of Jacob is blessed.

e). Ac 7:35 *"This Moses whom they rejected, saying, 'Who made you a ruler and a judge?' is the one God sent to be a ruler and a deliverer by the hand of the Angel who appeared to him in the bush. 36 "He brought them out, after he had shown wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, and in the Red Sea, and in the wilderness forty years.*

f). Again, it is Moses who was rejected by his brothers who comes a second time to be their deliverer; delivering them from the oppression of the brick yards of Egypt to take them to the land of promise at the head of the nations.

g). The Holy Spirit deliberately witnesses these two types in order to show the leaders of Israel that they have followed the same pattern of rejection as seen with Joseph and Moses - Ac 7:51 ¶ *"You stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you. 52 "Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers,*

h). And of course following the pattern, being in harmony with the types, what must logically follow is the promise of His second coming to bring deliverance and blessing to Israel as witnessed in the types. However, Israel's leaders would not see - Ac 7:57 *Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; 58 and they cast him out of the city and stoned him.*

i). The evidence of secular history shows that this event, Israel's deliverance and blessing has still not transpired yet, leaving the promise of His coming, in complete accord with the types, firmly intact - Heb 9:28 *so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.*

j). Heb 4:9 *There remains therefore a rest for the people of God.*

10). Now the types of Joseph and Moses are part of a larger pattern of rejection and acceptance that we find throughout scripture. It seems a facet of the Divine operation that the first is rejected and the second established.

- a). Ishmael, the firstborn is set aside in favour of Isaac
- b). Essau is set aside in favour of Jacob
- c). Saul is set aside in favour of David
- d). Our first birth is set aside in favour of our new birth
- e). Our corruptible body is replaced with an incorruptible.
- f). The first Adam is set aside in favour of the second Adam, the Lord Jesus Christ
- g). The first creation will be done away with in favour of the new heavens and the new earth.
- h). The first ruler of the earth will be set aside in favour of the Second

11). Now given that there would be no dispute that Christ was rejected and crucified at His first coming - Joh 19:15 *But they cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar!"*

Then what must still remain? – The promise of His coming – a second time.

a). Ac 3:19 *"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, 20 "and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, 21 "whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.*

Here is the promise of His coming

b). Isa 11:11 *It shall come to pass in that day That the Lord shall set His hand again the second time To recover the remnant of His people who are left, From Assyria and Egypt, From Pathros and Cush, From Elam and Shinar, From Hamath and the islands of the sea.*

Here is the promise of His coming.

c). Joe 3:18 ¶ *And it will come to pass in that day That the mountains shall drip with new wine, The hills shall flow with milk, And all the brooks of Judah shall be flooded with water; A fountain shall flow from the house of the LORD And water the Valley of Acacias.*

Here is the promise of His coming

d). Ps 110:1 ¶ <<A Psalm of David.>> *The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool." 2 The LORD shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies!*

Here is the promise of His coming

e). Eph 1:13 *In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.*

Here is the promise of His coming

f). Heb 10:12 *But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, 13 from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.*

Here is the promise of His coming

12). We find the promise of His coming also presented in parables -

a). Lu 19:12 *Therefore He said: "A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return. 13 "So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas, and said to them, 'Do business till I come.' 14 "But his citizens hated him, and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We will not have this man to reign over us.' 15 "And so it was that when he returned, having received the kingdom, he then commanded these servants, to whom he had given the money, to be called to him, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading.*

b). Mt 25:14 ¶ *"For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them... 19 "After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.*

c). Mt 25:1 ¶ *"Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2 "Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. 3 "Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, 4 "but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. 5 "But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. 6 "And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!'*

d). Mt 13:47 *"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, 48 "which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away. 49 "So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, 50 "and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth."*

13). We find the promise of His coming in the signs wonders and miracles of Christ's earthly ministry of which the following is but one example.

a). Joh 2:1 ¶ *On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. 2 Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. 3 And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." 4 Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come." 5 His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it." 6 Now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece. 7 Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." And they filled them up to the brim. 8 And He said to them, "Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast." And they took it. 9 When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom. 10 And he said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!" 11 This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.*

b). There are six waterpots – six being the number of Man, the waterpots are made from the earth, as is Man, who are filled with water, picturing the word of God and by a Divine intervention a change ensues, pointing to that future day when Israel will be saved – which will be three days from the cross and on the seventh day from the beginning of the restoration.

14). We find the promise of His coming on the mount of transfiguration, an event as we know that Peter makes reference to - 2Pe 1:16 ¶ *For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. 17 For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." 18 And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. 19 ¶ And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;*

a). Mt 17:1 ¶ *Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; 2 and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes*

became as white as the light. 3 And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.

15). With the promise of His coming however also comes the promise of judgment, something that both Peter and Jude as we have seen draw attention to; drawing from past events that are examples of what is to be expected in the future - *2Pe 2:6 and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; 7 ¶ and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked 8 (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds) -- 9 then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment, 10 ¶ and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority.*

a). *Jude 1:5 But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. 6 And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; 7 as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.*

16). Jesus Himself testifies to His coming - *Joh 14:3 "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.*

a). *Re 22:12 "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.*

17). His angels testify to His coming - *Ac 1:11"Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."*

18). The whole of that recorded in the Book of Revelation testifies to His coming - *Re 22:16 "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star." 17 And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!"*

a). And scripture ends, just as it began, with the promise of His coming - Re 22:20 ¶ *He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!*

19). There is no easy way to conclude this message as we have only begun to scratch the surface concerning the promise of His coming within the scriptures. And I am conscious of how inadequate my presentation to you of that promise has been.

a). But I hope as a result of the few scriptures we have looked at today we may be inspired to search out this promise for ourselves.

b). Where is the promise of His coming? – It's in the Bible, in every book.

c). Only the blind, deceived or willfully ignorant could fail to see it.

d). Isa 25:9 ¶ *And it will be said in that day: "Behold, this is our God; We have waited for Him, and He will save us. This is the LORD; We have waited for Him; We will be glad and rejoice in His salvation."*

e). 2Pe 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.*

f). Isa 46:9 *Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,' 11 Calling a bird of prey from the east, The man who executes My counsel, from a far country. Indeed I have spoken it; I will also bring it to pass. I have purposed it; I will also do it. 12 "Listen to Me, you stubborn-hearted, Who are far from righteousness: 13 I bring My righteousness near, it shall not be far off; My salvation shall not linger. And I will place salvation in Zion, For Israel My glory.*