
Pursuit and Promise, Pt. 6

Saints, Scoffers, and the Second Coming

Steve Berger March 1, 2020

TODAY

Saints, Scoffers, and the Second Coming – intertwined!

Saints and Scoffers

- **2 Peter 3:1-3**

Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), 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, knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts...

Saints – remember to be mindful of the word of the prophets and apostles, Word of God!

- Word will keep you from being deceived, divided, departing from the faith.

Saints – **Scoffers** will come in the last days, those who openly and aggressively mock

- **Jude 1:17-19**

But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts. These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit.

- intentionally cause divisions – they scoff and mock in order to divide people from faith
- turn religion into ridicule, attack truth to cheering crowds
- they have no good arguments, they resort to mocking, name calling, exaggerations, misrepresentations and lies... **superficial thinkers laugh with them!**

Safety Saints – **remember what the Word says**, promised this, don't get dragged into it, deceived by it, divided from community – don't depart from faith, know and remember Word of God!

Scoffers- “Scoffers walk after own lusts”, this is key to understanding...

- scoffers scoffing isn't intellectual in nature, as much as its packaged that way – it's in the heart – carnal, base, lustful at its core. *It is the exaltation of self-rule and self-desire.*
- because they walk in their own lustful ways, they must try to rid themselves of the restraints God places on them – by mocking God and God's messengers.

- **Psalm 2:1-5**

Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, "Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us." He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The LORD shall hold them in derision. Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, and distress them in His deep displeasure:

**People plot scheme to break bonds, cast off cords to do own will,
GOD LAUGHS!**

Jesus said it like this...

- **John 3:19-20**

And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

- Scoffers, fueled by a love for darkness, mock and scoff at God, and **refuse to come to the Him lest their evil deeds get exposed!** *This isn't about intellect, it's love for iniquity!*

The Second Coming

Scoffers' focal point of mockery — Jesus returning to judge the world...

- **2 Peter 3:4**

... 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."

- doubt and dullness of heart — "Oh, come on, hasn't happened yet, business as usual."

- **Matthew 24:37-39**

But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

Application — Jesus said when He returns it will be a business as usual mindset, and then...

- Also — Noah divinely warned of things not seen, **Hebrews 11:7**, rain from sky...

More on Scoffers

- **2 Peter 3:5-7**

For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

- **willfully forget** — consciously deny the historical reality of Noah's flood and God's judgement. They force it out of their minds to ease their godless consciences and justify their evil deeds.

- **Romans 1:18-22**

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools.

Scary list — they suppress truth in unrighteousness, although they know God — He's revealed Himself, they are without excuse, didn't glorify or thankful, futile in thoughts, foolish hearts darkened, professing to be wise — became fools. WOW!

**Scoffers willful forgetfulness, suppression of truth
doesn't work out well for them!**

Back to Saints

- **2 Peter 3:8**

But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

- as it relates to how long it's been since Jesus was here or will return... God isn't on our timeframe, He's outside our time.
- 1 day = 1,000 years; 1,000 years = 1 day
- creation to Christ 4,000 years, Christ to today 2,000 years; (*playfully doing the math*) God has only been dealing with man for 6 days.

Important —

- just because Jesus hasn't come back in 2,000 years — doesn't mean He's not.
- just because He hasn't — doesn't mean we get lazy in our faith and compromise how we live our lives

- **Matthew 24:48-51**

But if that evil servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming, and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards, the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Next — *one of the greatest, best news verses in the Bible!*

- **2 Peter 3:9**

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

**The Lord isn't slack, indifferent, or uncaring about His promise to return,
He's being patient with mankind, scoffers and mockers included,
because He doesn't want them to perish
but that they would repent, be forgiven and saved.**

How wonderful, merciful, glorious is that?

God is waiting for you, wooing you, welcoming you into salvation!

Back to Second Coming

It will happen — will you be ready?

- **2 Peter 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.

**Jesus' return will come unexpectedly, as a thief in the night,
to the un-watching, un-waiting and un-wanting.
But not to those who are watching, waiting, and wanting Him.
1 Thessalonians 5:1-4.**

Saints

- **2 Peter 3:11-13**

Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 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? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

- since Jesus is coming back, and earth isn't the end all — in fact it will all end...

Live holy lives, godly, looking, watching, waiting, hastening, wanting His return.

Live looking for new heavens and new earth, where righteousness dwells and wickedness is finished.

Live with eternal perspective!

Saints — we live in difficult, troublesome times, it's going to get worse before it gets better, but then it will be inexplicably better, forever.

- **Let's not lose sight or lose heart in the battle**
- **Remember the Word of God**
- **Be filled with the Spirit**
- **Take a courageous stand**
- **Wait, watch, and want Jesus' return**

Scoffers, Mockers, Sinners

Your eternal future is hell apart from Jesus; Jesus loves you in your lost condition; He's waiting, wanting and welcoming you to repent, be forgiven and saved, your choice, He's done everything for you, you must decide.

Discussion Questions

1. Knowing that the spiritual purpose of scoffers and mockers is to cause division — how does this help believers know how to deal with them?
2. Why is scoffing not intellectual — but lustful at its core?
3. Why do those who practice evil hate the light (and those who bring it)?
4. Why did Matthew compare the coming of the Son of Man to the days of Noah?
5. Why is the Lord's perceived uncaring about His promise to return — actually His patience and love?
6. Jesus' return will come unexpectedly — are you ready?

NOTES