



The Promise of Christ's Coming (Part 1)

02122Pe3.3-4(31)

2 Peter 3:3-4



1 Beloved, this is already the second letter I have written to you in which I am trying to stir up your sincere mind by way of reminder: **2** that [you] remember the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles. **3** Knowing this first, that in the last days mockers will come with mockery, following after their own lusts, **4** and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they have from the

beginning of creation." **5** For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, **6** through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water. **7** But the present heavens and the earth by the same word are being stored up for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

— 2 Peter 3:1-7 (speaker's translation from the Greek NT)

The Passage is Also Found on Page 184 of the New Testament Section of the Pew Bibles

I. A Two-Part Accusation (3-4)

A. The Accusation Anticipated by Peter (3)

1. "Mockers with mockery"

2. Last days . . .

3. Sinful men who hate the idea of submitting themselves to a sovereign God will always find reasons to doubt and deride the faith

4. Bottom line: They are *following after their own lusts* (cf. Romans 1:18-19)

. . . the more God offers himself by the gospel to the world, and the more he invites men to his kingdom, the more audacious on the other hand will ungodly men vomit forth the poison of their impiety. . . . Thus, the first Psalm speaks of the seat of scoffers. So David, in Psalm 119:51, complains that he was derided by the proud, because he attended to God's law. . . . As, however, the Holy Scripture has foretold that they would come, and has also given us a shield by which we may defend ourselves, there is no excuse why we should not boldly resist them whatever devices they may employ. [Calvin]

B. The Two-Part Accusation (4)

1. Where is the Promise of His Coming? (4a)

a. Promise of His coming (cf. 1:16-17; 3:9-13)

2. The Basis for Their Argument: Uniformitarianism (4b)

a. Not in the sense of geology, but theology

b. The Fathers and creation . . .

(1) Which "fathers" fell "asleep"?

c. The error of Stability = Security

II. A Three-Fold Answer (5-9)

A. An Answer that Looks Back to the Past (5-6)

B. An Answer that Looks Forward to the Future (7)

C. An Answer that Looks Heavenward to the Promise (8-9)