

PROPHETIC WORDS DECLARE THE FUTURE

Introduction: Peter wrote chapter three to encourage the believers to stand firm on the prophetic words of God despite of the scoffers' ridicule of them. Mockers will perish in the fire of God's wrath, but believers will be blessed with His righteousness like the new heavens and a new earth in the future.

Lesson Aim: Look ahead to the blessings of the new heavens and a new earth promised by God.

Verse: " Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwells righteousness" (2 Pet 3:13).

Outline of the Lesson and Questions to Answer:

1. Find the four times that Peter used "beloved" in this chapter. (It will give the outline of his message.)

I. Scoffers' Ignorance — 3:1-7 (Many scoffers will act in a similar way today.)

2. What motivated these scoffers to ridicule the faith of the believers? 3:3

3. Why did these scoffers deny the coming of the Lord? 3:4

4. How did these scoffers show their ignorance? 3:5-6

5. How will the heavens and earth be judged in the future? 3:7

II. Sovereign's Promise — 3:8-13

6. What is God's reckoning of time like? 3:8

7. Put this phrase in your own words ("the Lord is not slack concerning His promise"). 3:9

8. Why is God patient and longsuffering toward sinners? 3:9, 15

9. What is the coming of the day of the Lord like? 3:10

10. Since the day of the Lord includes the Tribulation and the Millennial Kingdom, when will He destroy the heavens and earth by fire? 3:10; Rev 20:4-11

11. How should the coming destruction of the heavens and earth affect believers? 3:11-12

12. What promise of God should encourage the believers? 3:13

III. Sinner's Defilement — 3:14-16

13. In light of God's fiery judgment, how should believers live? 3:14

14. What people twist the Scriptures to their own destruction? 3:16

IV. Savior's Grace — 3:17-18

15. How could the errors of the wicked (false teachers) affect the believers? 3:17

16. Name two areas in which a believer should grow. 3:18

a.

b.