

12N Bible Study

SESSION 6

Feb. 8, 2023

# WITH ANTICIPATION

A believer's hope is in the return of Jesus.



## ➤ UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT

USE THE FOLLOWING PAGES TO PREPARE FOR YOUR GROUP TIME.

Peter started his second letter by encouraging his readers to grow in their faith. God had given them everything they needed for "life and godliness" (2 Pet. 1:3). Peter also encouraged those who saw no spiritual growth in their lives to examine themselves to make sure they really knew the Lord (see v. 10).

To grow in knowledge, hope, and a godly life, Christians needed to be able to discern truth. While facing pressure from the world around them, believers were vulnerable to spiritual attacks within the church. Peter wanted them to recognize and to be strong in combating false teachers who were distorting the Word of God.

Peter let the churches know that they could trust the authority and promises of Scripture. He taught that they could trust the writings of the apostles because they were based on eyewitness accounts of the life and ministry of Jesus. He retold the highlights of the transfiguration of Jesus to demonstrate the accuracy of the eyewitness accounts (see vv. 16-18). He also pointed out fulfilled Old Testament prophecies as examples of reasons they could trust Scripture (see v. 19).

Not only did Peter recount what he had seen in the past, but he also reminded the churches of Scripture's description of the future. The hope of all believers in their present circumstances is that God is aware of suffering and that He will also bring justice and salvation in His perfect timing.

In chapter 2 Peter exposed the false teachers and assured his readers that those teachers wouldn't escape punishment for their arrogant opposition to the truth. In the final chapter of his letter, Peter turned to the topic perverted by the false teachers: the return of Jesus Christ. He wrote the final section to explain the truth about Christ's coming, to identify the reason for His delay, and to warn unbelievers to be ready and Christians to live holy lives.

"I'VE READ THE LAST PAGE  
OF THE BIBLE, AND IT'S  
ALL GOING TO TURN  
OUT ALL RIGHT."

—Billy Graham



## ➤ 2 PETER 3:3-13,17-18

### Think About It

*Notice the actions  
believers are to take  
in anticipation  
of Jesus' return.*

*How do those actions  
demonstrate faith in Jesus?*

**3** First, be aware of this: Scoffers will come in the last days to scoff, living according to their own desires, **4** saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? Ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they have been since the beginning of creation." **5** They willfully ignore this: Long ago the heavens and the earth were brought about from water and through water by the word of God. **6** Through these waters the world of that time perished when it was flooded. **7** But by the same word, the present heavens and earth are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. **8** Dear friends, don't let this one thing escape you: With the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. **9** The Lord does not delay His promise, as some understand delay, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance. **10** But the Day of the Lord will come like a thief; on that day the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, the elements will burn and be dissolved, and the earth and the works on it will be disclosed. **11** Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, it is clear what sort of people you should be in holy conduct and godliness **12** as you wait for and earnestly desire the coming of the day of God. The heavens will be on fire and be dissolved because of it, and the elements will melt with the heat. **13** But based on His promise, we wait for the new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness will dwell.

**17** Therefore, dear friends, since you know this in advance, be on your guard, so that you are not led away by the error of lawless people and fall from your own stability. **18** But 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. Amen.

FEBRUARY 8

## Overcoming Barriers to Feeling God's Love

*He said, "Go and tell this people: 'Be ever  
hearing, but never understanding; be ever  
seeing, but never perceiving.'"*

ISAIAH 6:9 (NIV)

HAVE YOU EVER felt like Isaiah, unworthy of God's holiness? When Isaiah realized the error of his ways, a holy seraph placed a burning coal at Isaiah's lips and gave him the gift of forgiveness. Take a moment and search your heart for any feelings of resentment or shame holding you back. Ask God for His forgiveness.

*Heavenly Father, thank You for Your compassion and for reminding me that as Your child, I am worthy of Your love and forgiveness.*

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