

Between Two Worlds

2 Peter 3:8-13

But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the

day of the Lord will come like a thief,
and then the heavens will pass away
with a roar, and the heavenly bodies
will be burned up and dissolved, and
the earth and the works that are done
on it will be exposed. Since all these
things are thus to be dissolved, what
sort of people ought you to be in lives
of holiness and godliness,

waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

2 Peter 3:4

They will say, “**Where** is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.”

But do not overlook this one **fact**, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

Psalm 90:3-4

You return man to dust and say,
“Return, O children of man!” For a
thousand years in your sight are
but as yesterday when it is past, or
as a watch in the night.

The desire of the Psalmist is to contrast the eternity of God with the short span of human life. What St. Peter wishes is to contrast the eternity of God with the impatience of human expectations.

– Rev. Charles Bigg

But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one **day is as a thousand years**, and a thousand years as one day.

God sees time with a *perspective* we lack; even the delay of a thousand years may well seem like a day against the back-cloth of eternity. Furthermore, God sees time with an *intensity* we lack; one day with the Lord is like a thousand years.

– Michael Green

The Lord is **not slow** to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is **patient toward you**, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

Romans 2:4

Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

We shall not grow weary of waiting
upon God if we remember how
long and how graciously He once
waited for us.

– Charles Spurgeon

not wishing that any should
perish, but that all should reach
repentance.

1 Timothy 2:3-4

This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Joel 2:12-13

“Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.

Ezekiel 18:32

For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live.”

But the **day of the Lord** will come
like a thief

Isaiah 13:6

Wail, for the **day of the LORD** is near; as destruction from the Almighty it will come!

Joel 2:1-2

Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the **day of the LORD** is coming; it is near, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness!

1 Corinthians 1:8

so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the **day of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Philippians 1:6

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the **day of Jesus Christ.**

But the day of the Lord will **come**
like a thief

1 Thessalonians 5:2-3

For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

and then the **heavens will pass away with a roar**, and the **heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved**, and **the earth and the works** that are done on it will be **exposed**. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness,

Isaiah 34:4

All the host of heaven shall rot away, and the skies roll up like a scroll.

Amos 9:5

The Lord GOD of hosts, he who touches the earth and it melts, and all who dwell in it mourn

Daniel 12:2

And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, **what sort of people ought you to be** in lives of holiness and godliness,

and the earth and the works that
are done on it will be **exposed**.

waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn!

But according to his promise we are waiting for **new heavens and a new earth** in which righteousness dwells.

This world, so far as we know, will not cease to be; it will pass through the purifying flame, and then it may be the soft and gentle breath of Almighty love will blow upon it and cool it rapidly, and the divine hand will shape it as it cools into a paradise more fair.

– Charles Spurgeon

It might seem that we are taking a massive risk in presenting such a God to our non-Christian friends, and we might fear that they will call us primitive and naïve. But the Bible starts and finishes with a God who creates a universe and then creates a new universe; who makes us in his image and then remakes us in his image.

– R. C. Lucas and Christopher Green