

Eternity Is Closer Than You Think

Bill Brinkworth

We are getting closer to the “last days” before the coming of the Lord. What was prophesied in II Peter 3 is happening today.

It was foretold over 1,900 years ago that during the “last days,” many would mock (scoff) the Lord, saying, “... Where is the promise of his coming?...” (II Peter 3:4). Those poking fun at the earlier biblical promises that Jesus would come again are on the increase. Some of the scoffers are even those who claim to be Christian!

Peter explains here why the Lord has not returned yet. Although we may be eager for Jesus’ quick return, the Father is not. Time means little to Him. To the Creator, one day is the same as 1,000 years, and 1,000 years are the same as a day to Him (II Peter 3:8). His priority is not time.

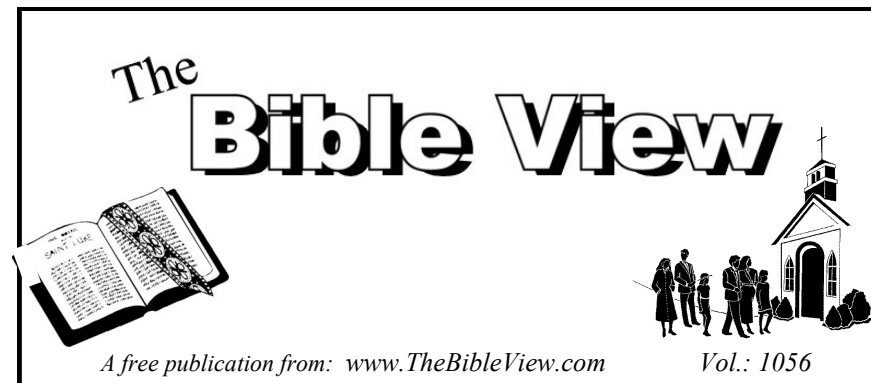
God’s priority is souls. He wants as few to go to Hell as possible (II Peter 3:9). The longer we have on Earth, the more opportunities there are for the lost to get saved. If He came over 2,000 years ago, when the apostles and early Christians were looking for His return, millions would never have gone to Heaven! You and I would not

have had the privilege to know that we are saved and on our way to eternity with Him.

God looks down from Heaven and sees our sins. He knows about the millions of babies being slaughtered by abortion, those proudly parading their open defiance to Him and their homosexuality in “Gay” parades, those who commit crimes against others and supposedly have escaped criminal prosecution, those who sin without restraint, and many other iniquities. God tolerates mankind’s evilness because He allows people opportunities to repent of their wickedness and turn to Him. God is long-suffering (II Peter 3:9) because He does not want any to suffer in Hell if it can be avoided.

However, there will be a day when God decides His toleration and long-suffering have been enough. Then, Jesus will come as a “thief in the night” when no one expects His coming (II Peter 3:10). There will no longer be opportunities for those who have heard the plan of salvation to be saved. God’s long-suffering will cease.

That time will finally come. It could be today, tomorrow, or twenty years from now. Are you ready for Jesus’ coming?



God’s Global Changes

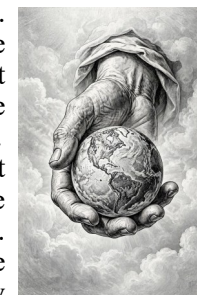
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In an attempt to “save” our planet, political scare tactics alarm people that our and Earth’s days are numbered. However, God will one day change this Earth, but not in the way the unbiblical theories predict.

The planet’s great transformation will not be soon, as many warn. Before God makes the prophesied changes, many things must first occur. Those events will include the Rapture of living believers, seven-year Tribulation, Second Coming of Christ, 1,000-year earthly reign of Christ, His judgment of believers, and the White Throne judgment for the unsaved, where many will be banished to the Lake of Fire for eternity (Rev. 20:14-15).

It is after those events that God will change Earth. First, all that we see will be destroyed by a fervent heat. Towering, resilient buildings will all be destroyed by a God-ordained fire. All the precious things man has so

proudly sought and hoarded will also be obliterated. Nothing will remain of what man toiled to create and covet. Even the seas will no longer exist (Revelation 21:1).



“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up... 12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?” II Peter 3:10-12

“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.” Rev. 21:1

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“Learn to hold loosely all that is not eternal.” — Royden

God's Global Changes

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However, it will not be the end of man's dwelling on our planet. The children of God will have a new place to dwell; it will descend from up high.

"And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband." Rev. 21:2

"And he carried me [John] away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God," Rev. 21:10

The new residence for believers will glow with the glory of God (Rev. 21:11). It will be surrounded by great walls and will have gates (Rev. 21:12-14)

The new Jerusalem will be massive (Rev. 21:16-18) and gleam with gold and other precious gems (Rev. 21:16-21). The biblical description indicates it will be a cube.

The biblical dimensions are in furlongs, which equals .13 mile. Saved mankind's new abode will be 1,560 by 1,560 by 1,560 miles. If those measurements are

accurate, it will contain 3,796,416,000 cubic miles for its inhabitants. There will also most likely be more habitable area outside the New Jerusalem, and after the seas are gone.

"And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal." (Rev. 21:16)

The New Jerusalem will have almost four trillion square miles. It will have more square mileage than we currently have on Earth. It has been calculated that Earth has only 197 million square miles on our planet.

In that brilliant city, there will be billions of believers who trusted Christ as their Savior. I am sure, that there will be plenty of room inside the Holy City and much more outside its walls.

As massive as God's creation will be there will certainly be room for more children of God. Have you been born into His family and will one day live in that beautiful creation? If you are not sure, this would be a wonderful day to trust Christ as your Saviour from the punishment due from your sins. There will plenty of room for you.

Read the commentary on

Revelation 21 at [http://](http://www.devotionsfromthebible.com/dvblog/revelation/revelation-21/)

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There Is An Eternity For All

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No one will escape the one part of life that is scary to many: death (unless the Rapture takes the Christians home to Heaven first!). Because of the uncertainty, most wonder what happens when their body dies.

For born-again people, there is hope for a wonderful life after death (II Corinthians 5:1-2, 8). The Bible does not mention, as some cults teach, that it will be the end when one dies. Physical death will not be the end because everyone has a soul that will live forever. It will live in either Heaven (eventually the new Earth) or Hell, and eventually the Lake of Fire.

"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." II Corinthians 5:1 Also: II Corinthians 5:8.

Because of God's promise of Heaven, and one day dwelling on the changed Earth, many "groan earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven." (II Corinthians 5:2). While battling infirmities, hardships, and heart-

aches on Earth, many Christians are looking forward to Heaven — a place of eternal joy and no suffering.

Paul was busy for the Lord while he was here on this Earth, but he was expectantly awaiting his eternity in Glory. One reason Paul looked forward to Heaven was one that today's believers should also share.

That reason is now we live by faith (II Corinthians 5:7), but in Glory, the believer will live by sight. Now, we must trust God's Word and not always physically see that its promises are true. One day, however, we will see all the glorious things God has promised come to pass.

With all the positive things to look forward to, Paul and all Christians should not be afraid of their eternal future. When our body gives its last breath in this world, we may be "absent from the body," but we will be instantly "present with the Lord" (II Corinthians 5:8). We have God's Word on that! *"We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord." II Corinthians 5:8*



"We talk about Heaven being so far away. It is within speaking distance to those who believe long there."

— D. L. Moody