

2 Peter 3:1-5

3:1 – Peter returns to the Word of the Lord

“stimulate you to wholesome thinking”

“Thinking”, *dianoia*, frequent word in philosophical circles. This exact phrase *eilikrine dianoia* is used by Plato. Peter is using the Greek/Roman vocab to communicate his Christian truth to these Gentiles.

3:2 –

“recall the words spoken...by the holy prophets”

- Similar to Peter’s words in 1:20
- Drawing on the consistency between the prophetic word and the actual historic results

“the command given by our Lord and Savior through your apostles.”

- “command” is singular...a command from the Lord that was consistently reiterated by the true apostles. Unlike the false teachers who altered the Lord’s teaching, redirected the Lord’s intention and skeptically renounced the Lord’s return.

3:3 – Peter contrasts the Word of the Lord with the False Teachers

“First of all...” means the most important than for his readers to know. The Greek says *proton*, an adverb of degree which would mean “in the first place”

“you must understand”

- The “last days” (or, the time of the church age which included Paul and Peter’s day) would include many scoffers and doubters, not revival and repentance.
 - James 5:3; Jude 18;
 - The “last days” were Peter’s days... or, the church age

“scoffers will come”

- The false teachers (“scoffers”) stand in contrast to the apostles who spoke the same word as the Lord
- Matthew 24:5, “Many will come in my name...”
- Acts 20:29-30
- 1 Tim. 4:1 -

“following own evil desires”

- False teachers follow their own thoughts and desires
- Psalm 1:1 – blessed if you do not sit in the seat of the mocker (scoffer)
- Proverbs 1:22; 9:7-8; 13:1 – the righteous are told to avoid the mocker (scoffer)

3:4 –

“Where is this ‘coming’ he promised?”

- The coming of the Messiah was to be followed by the pouring out of the Holy Spirit in the Last days as understood in Acts 2:17-18 and Hebrews 1:2
- This question by the scoffers is similar to those in Jeremiah and Malachi’s day:
 - Jeremiah 17:15 – The people kept saying to Jeremiah, “Where is the word of the Lord? Let it now be fulfilled!”
 - Malachi 2:17 – “You have wearied the Lord with your words...by saying, ‘All who do evil are good’...’where is the God of justice?’ ”

“Fathers” is a reference to the men of old. The prophets who had spoken before and whose words had been fulfilled.

“sleep” or “fallen asleep” (*ekoimethesan*) was used not only by Christians, but by pre-Christian Greeks and Romans to refer to death.

3:5 – Peter returns to the False Teachers

A good translation is the REB (Revised English Bible) - “*There were heavens and earth long ago, created by God’s word out of water and with water.*”

“they deliberately forget”

“long ago by God’s word the heavens existed”

- Psalm 33:6 “By the word of the Lord were the heavens made.”

“the earth was formed out of water and by water.”

- Genesis 1:2 – water covered the earth and the Spirit was “hovering over the waters”
- Then God made sky and separated the land from the water.
-

3:6 –

“the world” – this word is **cosmos** referring to the people, the culture, the civilization of humans.

- This is a switch from the previous verse’s focus on the physical planet

“that time”

“deluged and destroyed.”

3:7 –

“same word”

“present heavens and earth”

“reserved for fire”

“kept for the day of judgment and destruction”

3:8 –

3:9 –

3:10 –

3:11 –

3:12 –

3:13 –

3:14 –

3:15 –

3:16 –

3:17 –

3:18 –