

Gospel Life Communities Study Guide

2 Peter 3:1-13

The Day Of The Lord

Welcome to our study of 2 Peter! Before we get into the study it's good to understand the theme and audience of the book.

2 Peter was written by the Apostle Peter likely around 64-67 A.D, to the churches of Asia Minor (modern day Turkey). There are strong similarities with the book of Jude could mean that Peter and Jude discussed the issues facing the church prior to writing their letters, or that one used the other's letter as inspiration. Either way, it shows that the issues facing the church were serious enough for two Biblical authors to write about. While these issues were serious, Peter writes to encourage them that God will be with them to overcome these trials.

"Second Peter teaches that the grace of God in Christ truly transforms and empowers Christians to live righteously, even in the face of opposition." (ESV Study Bible Introduction to 2 Peter)

Therefore this book should encourage us in the same way: even though we may face trials and opposition for our faith in Christ, God will equip and empower us to persevere to the end.

Our weekly studies will have four parts, following the four categories that we've set for GLC's, and end with prayer.

exploring

we will explore God's word together, looking at the actual words of the passage each week.

digging

we will dig deeper into the word, discussing the context and meaning of the passage.

growing

we will discuss how the passage is applied to our own lives.

going

we will discuss how the passage informs, challenges, and encourages our gospel witness.

exploring

This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. 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." For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

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 3:1-13

1. Read the passage together. Which words do you see repeated?
2. What do scoffers scoff at?
3. What should the "beloved" not overlook?

digging

4. Read Matthew 24:36-51. Do you see a similar warning compared to what Peter warns in this week's passage? Discuss.
5. Read Jude 17-23. Discuss what you see.

growing

6. How can these warnings guide us as we live out King Road's mission to love God, love people, and make disciples?

going

7. Scoffers may come against Christians more regularly and boldly in the days and years ahead. How does the gospel inform our response to those situations? What does support for each other and our church leaders look like in the face of scoffing and/or persecution? Discuss.

Pray "Kingdom Prayers"

Kingdom prayers are prayers that don't only focus on the immediate need, but also on God's glory. For example, if someone has a sore knee instead of just praying "God, please heal Betty's knee", you would pray something like "God, please heal Betty's knee so that she can continue to serve you and your people; so that she can continue attend worship services pain free and give you glory for your healing hand." See the difference?

Some ideas of what to pray for:

- Each other's needs/requests
- King Road's ministries, missionaries, members, and pastors
- Opportunities to share the gospel