

- Big Idea: The day of the Lord will come
- Structure:
  - vv3-7: God's Word is sure
  - vv8-10: The Lord Will Come
  - vv10-12: So, what now?
- Well, as much as I try to avoid the hype, there's no doubt that Christmas is coming.
  - Kids are off school
  - It's hot and humid
  - The Australian Cricket team are beating England in the Ashes
  - It seems like Christmas decorations have been up for months now
  - My co-workers are talking about their various plans
- People are obsessed with it!
- There's a point in time in the year that a lot of people look forward to.
- They will it on, they want it to come, because it's such a great time!
- Sometimes, it seems like nothing else matters!
- Likewise, for us as followers of Jesus, we get to look forward to something even more amazing than Christmas.
- A point in time that will occur
- And that is when Jesus comes again on the Day of the Lord because *he will come again*.
- This morning as we look at this passage from 2 Peter, we will see that:
  - God's Word is Sure
  - The Lord will come
  - So, what now?
- So firstly, God's word is sure.
- As we saw a few weeks ago, God is faithful to his word and we are to sit under it.
- Well, Peter here reminds us that not everybody will do this. He tells us that Christians will be mocked and ridiculed by scoffers
  - V3:
    - *"Above all, you must understand that in the **Last days** scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires"*
  - Now what are the last days and when will these scoffers come?
  - Well, the last days is a term that describes the time between Christ's initial coming and his coming again. So, it's now! We are now in the last days!
  - And it's now that we should be expecting this scoffers to come, mocking us and then doing whatever they want to do.
    - This isn't shouldn't be a surprise to us
    - We see and experience this all the more
  - And Peter goes on to describe what they are saying in V4
    - V4
      - *They will say, "where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation."*
    - These mockers are pretty much saying,
      - "This Jesus you talk about, didn't he say that he was going to come back for you?"
      - Where is he?!
      - Well, he's probably not going to come because ever since time began, everything has just happened as it always has.
      - He's not coming"
  - We see people try to mock Christians today for believing in a supernatural creator because of science, as if science has disproved God.
  - And then, they become blinkered by their own view.
  - And then they don't entertain the fact that God could be real, let alone come again.
    - V5:
      - *But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word, the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water.*
      - I wonder if you have tried to deliberately forget something?
      - When I first started driving, I was driving our Tarago, and I had a bit of an incident while parking at St Andrew's.

- I accidentally bumped the drivers door of a teachers new VW in the back carpark
  - To make things worse, there were people walking by, watching, and it was really embarrassing.
  - I've always wanted to deliberately forget that moment!
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- The scoffers that Peter is talking about here, deliberately forget that God is the creator!
    - People scoff because they suppress the knowledge that God is ruler and has all authority
    - And they reject his powerful word by which he created the heavens and the earth.
  - And also, Peter points out they they are flat out wrong!
    - By God's word and by waters, something happened which interrupted the flow of history, and that is the flood way back with Noah in Genesis.
    - The scoffers say that mother-nature just takes its course as it's done over the past billion years or so
    - But they forget that it all happens and is sustained by the power of God's word.
  - But there's even more here.
    - By the power of his word, God is going to do something both terrifying and amazing.
  - V7
    - *By the same word, the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgement and the destruction of the ungodly.*
    - Wow.
      - At home we have different sets of crockery for different times
      - One, we use all the time just for day to day
      - But the other set are really nice silver, that are set aside, or reserved for special occasions.
    - And it's the same idea here.
    - BUT The earth and the heavens have been set apart for fire, for destruction. By the power of God's word.
    - There will be a day when this will occur. When the ungodly will be destroyed.
    - Because God has said so, and God's word is sure...//
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- the Lord **will come**
  - Now, people may scoff and and say when is God coming.
  - And even we may wonder when God is coming. We long for it to come and we want it now!
  - But, Peter reminds us in Verse 8, that God isn't constrained by time.
    - He is outside of our timezone and our concept of time!
  - That means that what we may think of as slow may probably not be so for God because our idea of slowness is completely other to God.
  - Because of this, Peter writes in Verse 9:
    - *"The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance"*
  - We may really want the day of the Lord to come. I'm sure I do!
  - But God is more patient with people than I am!
    - And, The fact that God hasn't come yet, is actually a gift, a grace, of God!
      - Can you imagine the amount of patience that a parent has to have when their child is disobeying what they have told them to do?
      - Can you imagine the amount of patience that one would have to have, if the world's population was constantly sinning against you?
    - It's incredible!
  - God doesn't want people to perish; he's not out to get you!
  - But God wants everyone to come to repentance.
    - So as he waits, there is more time for people to turn, believe and be saved from destruction!
    - Glance down to V15 and you'll see that, "our Lord's patience means salvation."
  - So, as much as we want God to come back right now, it's a grace of God that he hasn't come yet.
  - But when he does come, it will be an awe-inspiring day.
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- Verse 10:
    - *But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.*
  - Since the Lord is outside our time, we can never know when he's coming back. Jesus himself says that only the Father knows. So he'll come unexpectedly, like a thief.

- But we will certainly know about it when it happens!
- Now Peter here is probably using metaphorical language here because frankly, that's all us as humans can probably cope with when talking about the day of the Lord!
- But that doesn't make this passage wrong or insignificant! The message is clear!
  - The heavens will disappear with a roar
    - the sound will be terrifying
  - The elements will be destroyed by fire
    - The things that were created with water, will be destroyed and burnt up. Yes, everything.
  - And the earth and everything in it will be laid bare for everyone to see.
    - Back at school, we had lockers and at the end of the year, they would have to be completely cleaned out.
    - But then there would always be someone, with some mouldy, old sandwich in the back corner of their locker.
    - They could only see it, because it has been uncovered and laid bare!
    - In our Parliament recently, we've seen politicians being held to account for reasons such as being a dual-national or having suspicious links with China.
    - Because, what they have done, is being laid bare. Uncovered for everyone to see.
  - But When the Lord comes, **everything** done on earth will be laid bare.
    - The curtains will be open
    - The horrendous actions of people will be seen
    - The ungodly will be revealed
    - People will have to give an account for their actions
    - And evil will be brought to justice.
- So, now what?
- Now that we know that Jesus is going to come back;
- Now that we know that these heavens and earth is going to be destroyed, what should we do? What do we do with this information?
- Well, V11
  - *Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.*
  - That is our calling as Christians waiting for Jesus to come.
  - To live holy and godly lives.
  - To say no to sin and to faithfully live as God wants us to live
  - To grow in knowledge of God through the studies of his word
  - To grow in relationship with God through constant prayer,
  - We are to live as people who know that this world is temporary.
    - This Ashes series summer has been sponsored by an international investment firm.
    - Now I'm not too savvy with investing and finances and stuff, BUT imagine that this firm was going to go broke in a couple of months and you knew about it? What would you do?
    - Well, you wouldn't invest in it would you?
- This world is going to end and we know about it.
- So, we shouldn't invest too highly in this world!
- But we should be living lives where we know that there are greater things to come!
- We should be looking ahead to the Day of the Lord!
- Peter tells us to speed its coming, to urge it on and to pray for it to come.
- Because on that day, the heavens and the earth will be destroyed.
  - Now you may be thinking, "Michael...you're telling me that I should be looking forward to the destruction of the heavens and the earth...that's not really the happiest message to hear on a Sunday morning"
- Well, you're right!
- The destruction of evil is one thing but when we realise that there is no one good, not even one, it doesn't seem so pleasant does it?
- When we read about the destruction of the ungodly and judgement, we shouldn't exactly be overly overjoyed.
- When I'm preparing a sermon, I sometimes go to a cafe and I look around and see lots of people walking through who probably have no idea about God's Word and God's authority.

- But I see people who are no more godly than me, I see people who, just like me, deserve judgement.
  - I see people who, just like me, need God's grace and mercy.
  - This Christmas, we will have people walking through our doors, coming to carols services who desperately need God's grace and mercy
  - You may have family members who desperately need God's grace and mercy
  - Because without God's grace, we are all destined to destruction! We are all destined for Judgement!
- But all who receive God's grace, have so much to look forward to.
- Why?
  - Well because of Verse 13
    - *But in keeping with his promise, we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.*
- All those who are followers of Jesus, have something so much better than this earth to look forward to.
    - Because of the beautiful Gospel of Jesus Christ through his death and resurrection;
    - Where my ungodliness and unrighteousness was put on him and taken away;
    - And where death itself was defeated;
    - In keeping with THIS promise of salvation, all who believe in the Lord Jesus will be saved!
  - All who turn away from their sinful ways and follow him are destined to a new heaven and new earth!
  - And brothers and sisters, this is what we are looking forward to on the Day of the Lord.
  - Judgement will come, justice will be done, and those who are followers of Jesus will be going to a place where there is no ungodliness, no scoffers but where righteousness dwells.
- It's this day that we are to cheer on and to pray for
  - It's this day that we pray for when we pray "your kingdom come"
  - It's this day that we should always have in mind when we live our lives here on earth.
- Sure, people will come, mocking and scoffing and rejecting God's word
    - But the reality is, is that God's word is sure.
    - What he says happens
    - And by his word, this earth and heavens are set aside for judgement and destruction
  - Because the Lord will come.
    - No one knows and no one can know when this will happen, because God is patient.
      - Because he wants all to repent and live with him as King
    - But the day will come unexpectedly
    - And everything on this earth will be laid bare, plain for all to see.
  - So, what now?
    - Well we live godly lives, we look forward to the day to come and we cheer it on and pray for it to come
    - Because on that day, all those who repent and follow Jesus will be destined to a new heavens and new earth.
    - Where there will be no ungodliness and only righteousness.
- If you aren't a follower of Jesus, what now?
    - Well, God doesn't want you to perish.
    - He isn't out to get you.
    - But he wants you to turn to him.
    - Don't be left on that day unsaved!
    - God's offer of salvation from judgement is open!
    - So, turn to Christ, say sorry for living your own way and live with him as King.
    - With him as the king who will come again like a thief.
  - Come again, Lord Jesus. Amen.