

A Brief Summary of Biblical Eschatology in Reference to 2 Peter 3:

1. Antichrist will be revealed – 2 Thess. 2:3,6,8; Rev. 13:1-10; Daniel 7:20,24-25
2. Briefly thereafter, the Great and Awesome Day of the LORD begins- 2 Thess. 2:2; 1:6-10; 1 Thess. 5:1; Rev. 6:17; Joel 2:31

The Day of the LORD is an extended period of time that begins with the 2nd coming of the LORD (i.e., the Lord Jesus Christ). It includes the 7 trumpet judgments and 7 bowl judgments in Revelation: a time of divine judgment and wrath that climaxes with the glorious return of Christ in Revelation 19, along with the transformed, glorified, bodily resurrection of ALL the saints! (Isaiah 40:10; 25:6-9; Phil. 3:20-21; 1 Cor. 15:50-58; 1 Thess. 4:13-17)

The Day of the LORD also then includes the 1000 year earthly kingdom reign of Jesus. Zechariah declares that “*on that day*” (i.e., the Day of the LORD) “*the LORD will be king over all the earth*” (Zech. 14:9). Beside the many references to this in Isaiah, both Joel (3:17-21) and Zephaniah (3:16-20) foretell the same.

The Day of the LORD will also extend to King Jesus’s final destructive judgment against those who Satan incites to rebel against His rule after the 1000 years (Rev. 20:7-10). According to the apostle Paul, “... *after destroying every rule and every authority and power ... [Jesus will deliver] the kingdom to God the Father. For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet*” (1 Cor. 15:24-25).

Prior to delivering the earthly kingdom to the Father, the Day of the LORD concludes with Christ Jesus’ Great White Judgment (Rev. 20:11-15), the dissolving – by fire - of the present heavens and earth (not the highest heaven, or abode of God), and the creation of New heavens and New earth (Psalm 102:25-27; Isaiah 65:17; 66:22; 2 Peter 3:13; Rev. 21 and 22)

3. The Creation of the New Heavens and New Earth ushers in the Father’s Eternal Kingdom rule. However, Revelation 22:1,3 reveals that this Kingdom rule of the Father on the Eternal Throne will be shared with the divine Son (Rev. 22:1,3).

In 2 Peter 3, Peter speaks of the coming “day of the Lord.” However, he only mentions the fiery finale that comes never the conclusion of “that day.” This raises the question: “Why?” The answer is that Peter purposely points to God’s climactic, final judgment on ALL the ungodly, unbelieving and unrighteous. No one escapes this cleansing of sin and evil from God’s world. No one; unless they have received God’s perfect righteousness, through faith in the shed blood of the Lamb. It was this concluding aspect of the “day of the LORD” that he used to press home the sobering fact that living for anything in this world, no matter how great, is absolute folly in light of these amazing Scriptural truths. For the heavens and earth, as we know them, will be dissolved in a fiery cataclysmic roar, which will prepare the way for God’s creation of New Heavens and New Earth wherein dwell righteousness alone! Peter leaves these believers with this vivid picture and this word: “*Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by Him without spot or blemish, and at peace*” (2 Peter 3:14)