


# THE SECOND EPISTLE OF PETER

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*Commentary completed on 20th June 2010*

***Though this letter is short it is highly significant. The word "haste" appears several times in the letter – because the apostle realises he has not got long to stay here. He urges the first century believers to live expecting the LORD'S Parousia and fixes this visit firmly in the divine economy. His third chapter takes us through to what *Eric Saucier* would have called "The Dawn of World Redemption" or "out-redemption" as Paul terms it – to the day Christ takes the church home and beyond to the day of God and the fiery end of the world as we know it. In the light of popularised teaching that this world simply continues through all Apocalyptic judgments without any millennium this epistle joins Micah and Isaiah and the book of Revelation with plain evidence to the contrary.***

***For those who do not warm to prophecy there is a fine first chapter which puts before the reader just what the Lord wants to see in us when He appears. The seven characteristics of the full orb'd Christian ought to be extensively taught and earnestly studied; indeed every Christian ought to keep these before him or her daily in living out the faith. It may be surprising to some that these are the priorities the LORD seeks in us.***

## CHAPTER ONE

**Address** The pragmatic claim of authorship is Peter's. Here is one of the twelve writing neither to the dispersion nor to any particular church – but to those currently coming to faith – to people equally precious as those of the first followers for it puts them in the circle of righteousness imputed. Added to that it acknowledges "our" Elohim and "our" Saviour as the one true God and his relationship with us as personal. Grace & peace he regards as "plenteous" so *multiplied* in the circle of umpiring pardoning and acquaintance *ἐπιγνώσις* of "the" (true) God and Jesus "the" (true) Adonai. We readily recall "How oft shall I forgive my brother?" *Until 70 X 7times* Matthew 18.22

**Establishment** A good Anglican term is 'confirmation'. Paul speaks of 'rooting and grounding' *Billy Graham* accustomed us to 'nurturing'. 'Christ's divine power – which has to be understood as communicated by the Holy Spirit to us – has given everything for new life *ζωή* and to be the kind of person who can reverence or please God (more than just "try naturally") *εὐσεβεία*.

## INTRODUCTION 1-3

Simon Peter – a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have obtained *λαλῶν* an equally precious faith with us in sharing the righteousness of our God and Saviour Jesus Christ. *Peter is addressing brothers whose faith is esteemed "equal". We should never disparage the faith of others. We are put together with others in the Christian family by the LORD and benefit commonly from His great salvation. May grace and peace be multiplied* or "wax large" (or) have resolved in the circle of deep acquaintance with God and of Christ Jesus our LORD.

## HIS POWER IS AVAILABLE – WE SEEK AND SUPPLY THE BENEFITS 4-7

**So that all things for spring-like life and godliness that are for us have been given through His divine power** on account of the decisive knowledge of the One

who called us on account of Glory and Valour or (His) merit and Virtue. On account of both of these **He has given us the very greatest and precious promises** that on account of these **you might come to share divine nature** as you flee from the corruption or seduction that is in the world in sexual longings (or) yearning desire. And to this very same end on the one hand you people who showed study or **haste** besides; trust His promises; share His nature – live for His glory, with His valour and virtue as life aims!

- (1) You have supplied or maintained as well the **virtue** or **courage** in the heart of your faith,
- (2) In the heart of your virtue the cognitive judgment or **personal acquaintance of Jesus Christ**
- (3) In the heart of knowledge the self-control or **mastery of self**,
- (4) In the heart of the self-discipline **patience**,
- (5) And in the heart of patience **piety** of character,
- (6) In the heart of piety the **brotherly friendship**,
- (7) And in the heart of brotherly friendship **SELFLESS LOVE**.

*Peter sets out the elementary characteristics of godly living – faith, virtue, knowledge, discipline, patience, piety, brotherliness and love. The supply of these aspects of the Christian life has been provided for in the gift of Christ's power or *δυναμις* and through that divine Spirit the essentials can be put in place. To cultivate such gifts is in itself a ministry and leads to a capacity for considerable undertakings among the children of God here as in entering heaven with them is to be equipped to serve and support the great undertakings there v.11. The notion of "**supply**" *χορηγεω* is associated with the provision of the chorus for Greek festivals or soldiers for the army of the state. So the possession of these aspects of character in the believer renders his or her part in the worship of God and the training of believers significant.*

## **THESE COUNTERACT STUMBLING & AFFORD A RICH ENTRANCE TO THE KINGDOM 8-11**

### **PREPARE FOR THE SCRUTINY OF CHRIST 8**

If these things have begun sprung up or already belong to you [*that is, "as your property"*] and go on increasing or are magnified [*even "exaggerated or "overflowing"*] you shall not be settled or rendered or accustomed to be idle or unemployed [*yielding no return*] or unfruitful **for the acknowledgment or scrutiny of our LORD Jesus Christ**.

### **READY FOR HEAVEN 9-11 ⌘**

For with whom these things are not present or at your command or present to help he is blind – short-sighted or dim in vision carrying or possessed of forgetfulness or oblivious to the radical or swift cleansing [*καθαρίζω – clearing of the dirt and scum from his life*] of his former sins. Wherefore rather brothers hasten or study and hasten to make your calling and election sure for while you continue to do these things you should not ever make a false step or stumble [*πταίω*] for **so will your entrance to the eternal kingdom of our LORD and Saviour Jesus Christ have been richly supplied**. *Again the supplies that we apply to our lives come from the grace and by the work of the Spirit of God. Peter desires his readers to be first rate models of the practice of Christianity.*

### **REMINDERS HOUSED AROUND THE RAPTURE 12 ⌘⌘**

On account of this I will not overlook or neglect you. I will always remind you concerning these things although you have known them and you have been firmly fixed and tarrying on the unhidden arrival (of Christ).

*The "present truth" is a euphemism but the context of the teaching in v4 v11 v14 v19 and the teaching of 3.8-18 is the "arrival truth" or the "truth of His presence" □which relates to the Parousia and Martyrdom and Christian Living insofar as" the "being present" truth points up entrance to the LORD'S presence.*

*In this context and in v.13, v.15 and 3.2 Peter reassures the scattered Christians that he will be reminding them again of 4 things:*

*(1) Make your calling and election sure by the supply of character development as the LORD enables.*

*(2) The "arrival" truth" promotes such furnishing of our lives.⌘⌘⌘*

*(3) Seeing Peter would suddenly put off his tabernacle he would **haste** to remind them of the "putting off" of this body – the escape from it. **Like the old tabernacle it was not to be re-erected but replaced with a temple not made with hands.** He would remind them and us of how "**suddenly**" we go hence and fly away! He would encourage us to prepare for sudden departure be it by martyrdom or by rapture.*

*(4) He reminds the church that Christ will come as in Noah's day when human affairs are in full swing and routine mode and when few expect the LORD to return.*

## **PETER PREPARES THE CHURCH AS JESUS PREPARED THE THREE ON THE MOUNT OF TRANSFIGURATION 13-14**

*But I am guiding or taking the first step or think it right and fit for the time equal to my residence in this tent to awake you thoroughly in remembrance seeing that the putting off of my tent is to be swift quick or fast as our LORD Jesus Christ has made clear and plain to me. But I will hasten also to make or inspire remembrance of these things on all occasions with my Exodus.⌘⌘⌘⌘ Peter has no other vista as sharp as meeting again with the LORD and he is most keen to keep the reality of this before the Church and to promote the complete Christian supplied with the sevenfold panoply of spiritual virtues.*

## **THE PAROUSIA IS NOT A PRIVATE IDEA 15-21**

*For we were not outright disciples of cunningly dressed up fables or verbal fallacies when we made known to you the **growing power of our LORD Jesus Christ and the Parousia** ⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘ of our LORD but we have been eyewitnesses of the Majesty of that (LORD) For He was receiving or taking honour and glory alongside God the Father, when such a **unique cheerful load sharing voice** was with Him under the magnificent glory "This is my son the beloved in whom I have pleasure once and always"(aorist) *On the one hand the excellence of the Glory which the disciples saw and the sheer depth of sharing with the office and ministry of the Saviour was unforgettable – and neither did the glory eclipse the Grace and love in the voice nor the love eclipse the Glory of the divine presence. **And this (so unique) voice borne to Him from Heaven we heard once for all time when we were there alive in the holy mount.*** And we have **the yet more sure prophetic word**, to which you will do well or act rightly to continue to heed, as to a light shining in a squalid place until the glimmer of daylight or dawn shines through **and the "Light-bearer" arise in our hearts.** Know this first that all prophecy has not become of one's own private explanation solving or untying for prophecy has not ever before come by the will of man but **holy men of God spoke as they were being borne along by the Holy Spirit.** Peter's remark entails both the Holy Spirit's inspiration and interpreting of prophecy. The voice above & within are contrasted!*

## CHAPTER 2

*The remainder of this short Commentary was previously completed at Bexleyheath on Boxing Day 2003-12-26 and revised on Midsummer Day 2010*

### HERESY FORECAST 1-2

There have been *εγενοντο* false prophets in the circle of the people (*even when the tribes encircled the tabernacle*) who secretly brought in choices or heresies of destruction, and denying (*as having any bearing on them αρνουμενοι – middle voice*) the Master who bought them. These brought on themselves or “over” them swift destruction – *cf. the earth swallowed Korah*. Many will follow them closely in their destructive teaching, through whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.

### GOD IS NOT ASLEEP 3

They will sell you wax words or words they have modelled – exploiting for gain. *πλαστος* was associated with bad sculpture – and considered unfit for the gods. Their destruction will not linger like the unemployed in the square for long, their destruction will not nod off to sleep. Peter represents the view that God has tired of getting down to judgment.

### THREE INSTANCES OVER SEVERAL MILLENNIA 4-8

- (a) If God did not spare angels that sinned (*prior to the fall – over 6000 years ago*) but handed them over to be guarded ever since for judgment in bonds of gloom in the abyss below Hades or death.
- (b) And did not spare the world as it was originally – but sleeplessly guarded Noah – last of eight persons – herald of righteousness, bringing the purging flood on the world of the profane.
- (c) And condemned cities Sodom (*conflagration*) to be burned to ashes *τεφροσας* and Gomorrah (*immersion*) in a catastrophe – placing them as a warning to those ready to live profane – and rescued righteous Lot (*protection*) wearied & struggling in his soul over the revolving or continually living licentiously without law (*marriage law*) for through eye and ear that righteous man, living among them daily tortured his righteous soul through their unlawful deeds.

### THE PATTERN OF DESTRUCTION 9-22 υποδειγμα

*There are many ways of ruining your life. Peter gives notice of seven of these to make Christians aware of the moral and spiritual quick sands round about us.*

#### 1 REJECT THE LORD - DEAL IN FILTH 9

But the Lord knows how to save the godly from trials and on the other hand guard the unrighteous offenders towards a day of judgment – especially those who march after flesh in greedy desire of defiling others and deal contemptuously with lordship (*i.e. God's rule established among men*).

#### 2 LIVE BY INSTINCT NOT SCRIPTURE- EXPECT THE BONDAGE OF CORRUPTION 10-13A

Bold they are stubborn or remorseless *αυθαδης* – not trembling to blaspheme glorious ones. These though greater in strength and potential do not carry evil judgment against them in the Lord's presence.

But these – living without the word – physical or instinctive – they have been born for chains and *φθορας* corruption (*esp. a form of decay*) blaspheming those they don't

understand, they will be destroyed in their own decay (*φθορά* "corruption") – carrying in themselves the wages of their unrighteousness.

### **3 LIVE FOR SEXUAL GRATIFICATION BUT KEEP ON NODDING TERMS WITH CHRISTIANS 13B**

*Wanton* They think wantonness a pleasure in daytime, they are spots and blemishes, revelling in sexual wantonness they live idle while they feast with you.

### **4 BAIT THE WEAK AND SINK IN THE MIRE UNDER THE CURSE 14**

They have adulterous eyes and do not cease from sin. **They bait the souls of those not strengthened for (Christian) work.** They have a heart trained in greed, "accursed children" – *reflecting Hebraic use.*

### **5 LEAVE THE NARROW WAY FOR SPIRITISM 15-16**

They have erred, they have followed closely Balaam son of Bosor (*sour grapes*), who loved the wages of iniquity. He had his own reproof of illegality. A beast of burden that did not talk, whinnying aloud in the voice of a man, prevented the delirium or séance of the prophet.

### **6 BE A LOUD MOUTH DEMAND FREEDOM BUT STAY IN BONDAGE 17-19**

These are waterless wells, clouds driven by a squall (*the λαιλαφ was a Lake wind in Galilee – that turned & twisted – this is a mark of Petrine authorship.*) For them the blackness of darkness is kept for ever. Why? "Because shouting out loud great words of emptiness they bait in fleshly desires – in licentiousness those who are fleeing from those who live in error. **They promise freedom** while they are themselves slaves – the property *υπαρχοντα* of *φθορας* (*decay*) for by whom anyone is overcome to this one he is servant.

### **7 WANDER BACK INTO SIN & END UP IN APOSTACY 20-22**

If they have escaped the stain and taint *μιασμα* of this world through the *επιγνωσις* – forgiveness and acquaintance – of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour but as weak wander in *εμ-πλακεντες* again and are overcome by these, their last state is worse than the first. For it were better if they never knew the way of righteousness than that they knew it and turned away from the holy commandment that was passed on to them. The proverb is true of them, the dog is returned to his vomit, and the pig is washing herself rolling in her own dung.

#### **References – to OT scripture in the chapter**

V2 *Isa*52.5

V5 *Genesis*8.18

V6 *Genesis*19.24

V7 *Genesis* 19 1, 16

V15 *Humb*22.7

V16 *Numb*22.28

V22 *Proverbs* 26.11

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **THE SEVEN DAYS OF PROPHETIC HISTORY**

### **I HAVE COINED THE NAME "PETER'S PARADE OF HISTORY" (i.e. God's whole economy) FOR THESE ERAS**

This chapter supplies a reading of the story of man over seven periods

- 1 **v4** The head or first day of creation *αρχης κτισεως Genesis1.3*
- 2 **v6** The day of the flood – caused by the heavens  
*ο τοτε κοσμος κατακλυσθεις Gen.6.1*
- 3 **v4** The day the Fathers fell asleep *αφ ης οι πατερες εκοιμηθησαν Gen.49.33.*
- 4 **v2** The day of the Saviour's ministry  
*ακι της εντολης του Κυριου και σωτηρος Matthew1.21, "watch"*
- 5 **v10** The day of the Lord *η ημερα Κυριου* – as a thief – *sign – a shaking and nuclear fission.* ⚡⚡⚡⚡⚡⚡
- 6 **v12** The day of God  
*σπευδοντες την παρουσια της του θεου ημερας ημερα κρισεως v7 sign Fire*
- 7 **v18** The day of eternity *εις ημεραν αιωνος v13 sign new heaven & earth*

## **1 BELOVED - REMEMBER PROPHECY AND BE WATCHFUL**

*This second epistle was written shortly after the former. It picks up on 1Peter4.7 and takes us out of the failing Jewish dispensation to the "last things" Peter wants them wide awake to prophecy – "God's words on which He acts. He wants the Christian mind to be pure, clear on scripture, distinct from the world's ειλικρινη. The command of the apostles differs nothing from that of Jesus-"stay awake". Cf. Mark 13.34 He commanded the porter to watch. 13.35 "watch for you do not know the hour the householder comes" Also Matthew 24.42; 25.13; Lk21.36; Lk12.38; Mk6.48 της εντολης του Κυριου.*

## **ON THE LAST OF THE DAYS SCEPTICS & LOOSE LIVING WILL ABOUND**

*εμπαικται*

*What are we to expect in these people?*

- 1 Deceit
- 2 Sporting in the sweet pleasures of hedony – association with nakedness
- 3 An attitude of mocking and joking about serious things
- 4 We are to expect an army of them "marching πορευομενοι in a very independent style so as to carry the age in their path
- 5 People marked by a prevailing passion for sex *επιθυμια*
- 6 Their big challenge will be to the promised return of Christ – whose continued life and power they will reject – *που εστιν η επαγγελια της παρουσιας.* ⚡⚡⚡⚡⚡⚡
- 7 *Their greatest fraud will be to stress the uniform development of the earth – its evolution. They will conveniently forget the flood. Yes they will agree with the great antiquity of the universe (v5 ουρανοι παλαι) – but willingly forget that an earth once unified in structure – of one piece has yielded to a broken earth as of now – reflecting the brokenness of the fall. Sir Wm Dawson taught us that the Mediterranean is divided by land bridge from Africa. Atlantis once linked Europe & America...*
- 8 Finally they will not agree that the present earth is headed for judgment – but kept as a treasure by the preserving word of God, guarded indeed till the day of crisis and destruction of ungodly men.

## **2 BELOVED- REMEMBER THAT THE LONG HAUL OF HISTORY DOES NO PREJUDICE TO THE PROMISE 8-13**

*Peter quotes Moses in Psalm90. He says, in early life blessing, in later establish our work, in all balance it out with gladness – for "in your presence a day is a thousand years and 1000 years a day" Psalm90.4.*

*Moses is speaking of the "return of the sons of Adam" – which may be interpreted of their death and their rapture. Cf. Also Hosea 6.2 – where the prophet uses the*

*may[yom] in exactly this sense – although we take it as a figure of the resurrection. Peter continues “God’s taking it gently is not slackness, though He loiters he is not too late to fulfil His promise – cf. Luke 24.21 “What is more this is the third day”. It is for our sake – he is desirous that all should “have space” [χωρεω] for repentance. Nor is He inclined to “certain” only [τινας] but to “all”. On the other hand the covenanted day of Christ’s return will come – “as a night thief”.⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘*

## **SIGNS – THREE THINGS WILL BE LOOSED**

(a) On the one hand "the heavens" – involving a star-fall – is in a "paralysis" παραλυσις – *part will not work – it is linked to a ροιζεδον – a whirring or rushing sound of something going through the air. All this is a surprise.*  
 (b) On the other hand – the elements (*atomic building blocks – only discoverable to the mind and scientific research*) will be loosed as they burn.  
 (c) And the earth and the works in her circle will be discovered (*Sinaiticus, Vaticanus MSS family*) "burned" (*Alexandrinus*) *These discoveries are another loosing – i.e. a taking from earth secrets long unknown – linked to the day of Christ when He too will find out the deeds of man.*  
*All these "loosings" demand of us who live before these things holy living & godliness as we expect beyond these times a more fearful crescendo ...the "day of God" v12 – also covenanted in the O.T. Then God will visit so that the heavens will burn throughout this time δι ην ουρπανοι πυρουμενοι and the elements will melt τηκεται but we expect a new heaven and earth according to His promise – in which righteousness will settle down and be at home.*  
*The church can "hasten" σπευδοντας v12 His appearance and advent of our new home as one party to the great marriage of Gods Son and God’s Church – in so far as it evangelises so as to give all as God desires opportunity to know Jesus – thus the day of Christ will best be promoted.⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘*

## **3 BELOVED MORE ON HASTENING HISTORY 14-17A**

*We all realise only too well that the days are flying past – tempus fugit. Peter lived as a man unsure of tomorrow but very sure of eternity.*  
 That the "discovery" of v10 involves "works" of saints and sinners is clear. In fact the use of ευρισκω in v14 rather prejudices against κατακτεινω (*which in AV was translated "destroy" but comes from κατα+κτεις (thorough combing) "to comb out separate loom threads" – for this is a day of separation*). We are to study our holy living to be without spot and blame in peace. And think of the longsuffering or waiting in history of our Lord as salvation (*for more believers somewhere!*)...Here Peter refers to his "BELOVED brother Paul", who, though sometimes difficult to understand, **in all his letters has "last days" teaching coupled with teaching on holy living.** ⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘ Unlearned and unprepared readers of Paul "alter the set course of the ship" of Paul’s writing (*A seaman’s phrase for "bad navigation"*) as they do other writings and this to their own loss.

## **4 BELOVED – WATCH SLEEPLESSLY 17B-18**

Being familiar with the doctrine of the return of the Lord and of error the "beloved" are directed to watch lest they be seduced by the deception of lawless (especially sexually lawless) relationships – and so fall from your own support – which is scripture and the Holy Spirit’s help and prayerful walking with Christ. *Peter bids them "grow in grace" and "grow in knowledge" of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. He ends with an adaptation of the Lord’s Prayer "To him be glory both now and into the day of eternity. Amen". This fabulous final day of eternity will never end and is the heavenly*

*experience we all look forward to. Then we shall never need to sleep again. Then there will be no sin. Then we will be in the presence of our strong redeemer and we will know Him.*

**THE END**