

# Will All Things Continue as They Were?

## *2 Peter 3:1-15*

### I. Introduction

1. Tonight, I want to deal with some questions about the end times and the coming of the Lord.
2. The subjects I am going to cover only briefly tonight could really be a long series Bible study.
3. Questions:
  - a. Will all things continue as they were?
  - b. Has God delayed His coming?
  - c. What is the Lord's coming depending on?
  - d. What is the revealing of the antichrist waiting on?
  - e. Will we endure the coming reset of world economics including the mark of the beast, the rise and dominance of the

man of sin, the antichrist, the great tribulation, and the wrath of God?

- f. Or is the church destined to rise above that and be called out before that trouble is loosed on the world scene?
  - g. Will there be anyone saved during the tribulation?
- ii. Will all things continue as they were? No.
- 1. Things are changing, there is no doubt. Our world culture and national culture are shifting. And shifting fast. And as Bro. Cheatham said, things are looking more and more like it is the time of the coming of the Lord.
  - 2. Remember what the Apostle Peter said:  
*2 Pet 3:2-4*  
*2 That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:*  
*3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in*

*the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,  
4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, **all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.***

3. Notice how Peter identified it being the scoffers of the Lord's coming who say all things will continue as they were.
4. The point Peter is making is that the promise of the Lord's coming is nothing to be scoffed at.
5. But because God has not returned yet, some are indeed asking, "Where is the promise of His coming?"
6. I have detected among some Christians a shift in what they believe about the coming of the Lord.
7. Some are feeling more and more like we will have to endure to horrible things in the Book of Revelation.

- iii. Has God delayed His coming? Is really going to happen, or will all things continue as they are?
  - 1. Peter said those who don't believe in the Lord's coming are willingly ignorant. In other words, they choose to ignore the past.
  - 2. The chapter started off with Peter saying he was writing to stir up their minds to remember something in history—Noah's flood.
  - 3. Those who deny the reality of the promise of the Lord's return, only have to look back to the promises God made of destroying the earth with a flood:

*2 Peter 3:5-6*

*5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:*

*6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:*

4. He was saying, just as that promise came to pass, so will another promise from the Day of the Lord—a fiery destruction of the earth:

*2 Peter 3:7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.*

5. Peter added that we should not get discouraged by what appears to be delay.

First:

*2 Peter 3:8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*

6. God’s timing is not calibrated to our clocks, so just be patient in waiting on God.

#### IV. Why has God delayed His coming?

1. And speaking of patience, that is exactly what God is and that is the reason the Lord has delayed His coming until this age—God

is being patient with mankind:

*2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

2. Do you see it there? God's delay is not about slacking on His promises, but about being longsuffering to us-ward. That means He is being patient to people and does not want nay to perish but wants all to come to repentance.
3. That is hope for you if you are not following the Lord. He is giving you space to repent and come to Him.
4. That is hope for our children who are not serving the Lord. He is giving them space to repent and come to Him.
5. That is hope for our friends or extended family who are not serving the Lord. He is giving them space to repent and come to Him.

6. And in verse 15, Peter said this delay is actually the salvation of many:  
*2 Peter 3:15 And account that **the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation**; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;*
7. And there is at least one other reason the Lord has delayed His coming:  
*Matt 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.*
8. He is waiting on the church to do its job and tell everyone so that all the world will not be without a witness of His salvation message.
- v. What is the revealing of the antichrist waiting on? Will we endure the coming reset of world economics including the mark of the beast, the rise and dominance

of the man of sin, the antichrist, the great tribulation, and the wrath of God?

A. The Great Reset

1. The June 2020 World Economic Forum (WEF) had as its theme, “The Great Reset.” The forum was a joint initiative by the WEF and Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales, the heir to the British Monarchy.
2. Prince Charles suggests that the market should be more fair, include ecologically friendly investments, and start a fourth industrial revolution.
3. And since that forum, various politicians and business people have been using that phrase leading some to think it is either a communist conspiracy, or nothing more than wealthy, powerful elites making themselves look like they are helping the masses by making themselves even wealthier and more powerful.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great\\_Reset](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Reset)



4. If the Great Reset is a communist takeover, or wealthy people trying to look generous to poor people, or something altogether different, I just want to ask you, should we live in fear of what has changed and is changing in our world?

B. That which holds back

*2 Thess 2:1-7*

*1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,*

*2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.*

*3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;*

*4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that*

*he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.*

*5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?*

*6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.*

*7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.*

### **In the NET:**

*2 Thess 2:7 For the hidden power of lawlessness is already at work. However, the one who holds him back will do so until he is taken out of the way, NET*

### **[The rapture / second coming chart]**

- c. The taking out of the way
  - 1. The taking out of the way is a reference to the taking away, or rapture of the church:  
*1 Thess 4:16-17*  
*16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the*

*archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:*

*17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

2. If the revealing of the man of sin is being held back by the taking out of the way of the church, then that means the church will NOT have to face the economic control that the antichrist will impose on the world.
3. When Revelation speaks of the mark of the beast that people will have to take before they can buy or sell, that is not talking about a credit card with a chip, a vaccine for coronavirus, or paying for something online.
4. The mark of the beast is going to be associated with worshiping the beast (or his image), that had done lying wonders, calling fire down from heaven, making war on earth, blaspheming the God of heaven, and

killing those who would not worship the beast.

5. No. What we are seeing on earth right now is not the beast. It could very well be the “spirit of the antichrist,” that the Apostle John said was already at work in the world in his day:

*1 John 4:3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.*

6. And that spirit of antichrist perhaps has tried to reveal the antichrist on an individual at other times in the world.
7. Our world has certainly seen many men in history that could have very well been the antichrist, but he has been withheld by a force that has not yet been taken out of the way.

8. He will NOT be turned loose until the church is taken out of the way.
  9. That is one of many reasons why the church does not need to live in fear of that system.
- D. Revelation: come up hither
1. There are so many ways that God revealed that truth through scripture in symbols and types, which we will not look at tonight.
  2. I just want to point out one very prominent perspective in the Book of Revelation.
  3. The Book of Revelation, which is God's "revealing" of what the end times of this world will be, includes many pictures and symbols that give to the wise an understanding of how things will unfold.
  4. The first 3 chapters of Revelation contain messages to the church, warnings about their sin and encouragement about their faithfulness and sacrifices in serving God in truth and without compromise.

5. Those first 3 chapters are all about the church and Jesus giving guidance on what should be its priorities in the end times just before the world scene dramatically changes with that reset we spoke about.
6. But then the scene dramatically shifts in chapter 4.

*Rev 4:1-2*

*1 After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.*

*2 And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.*

7. Notice that a trumpet sounds, a door in heaven is opened, and John is called up into heaven before God's throne, and is shown which is about to come in heaven and earth.

8. It is a dramatic shift in world affairs and the activity from heaven.
9. And another dramatic shift occurs in Revelation at that point. The word church does not appear again in the book until the final chapter.
10. The bride is another word for the church, but during the tribulation period in the middle chapters of Revelation, the bride is found in heaven at the marriage supper of the Lamb.
11. And in the final chapter, the words church and bride, appear one final time.

*Rev 22:16-17*

*16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.*

*17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.*

- vi. Will there be anyone saved during the tribulation?
  - 1. Yes. Revelation 7 speaks of a group of 144,000 Jewish evangelists who are sealed for a work.
  - 2. The chapter also mentions a great multitude of the saved who came out of great tribulation and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.
  - 3. It is interesting that a different word is used to describe these—saints, and not the church.
  - 4. These are referred to as the tribulation saints, which chapter 13 reveals that the beast will make war with these saints, and some will be killed with the sword.
  - 5. And in heaven, the Lamb will feed them and wipe away all tears from their eyes.
- vii. Conclusion



1. But the hope of the church is that we will be in heaven with the Lord through the tribulation.
2. So, Peter asks the question: What manner of persons should we be?

3. *2 Pet 3:11-14*

*11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,*

*12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?*

*13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.*

*14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.*

4. After describing the rapture, Paul said:  
*1 Thess 4:18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.*