

## **THE END OF THE WORLD**

**Request:** “How do you think the world will be destroyed in the end?”

I am assuming that the person who submitted this request meant the destruction of the present heavens and earth at the end of human history.

Let’s begin by noting the three divisions of the final chapter of 2 Peter by the Greek word **agapetoi** or beloved (2 Pet.3:1, 14, 17).

- 2 Pet.3:1-13 Scoffers of the End (vs.3)
- 2 Pet.3:14-16 Scriptures of the End (vs.16)
- 2 Pet.3:17-18 Steadfastness of the End (vs.17)

Three different worlds are described in our lesson text: long ago or past world (2 Pet.3:5); present world (2 Pet.3:7); and new or future world (2 Pet.3:13).

- The past world was destroyed by water (2 Pet.3:1-6)
- The present world will be destroyed by fire (2 Pet.3:7-12)
- The future world will be the dwelling place of righteousness and God (2 Pet.3:13; Rev.21:3)

False teachers called scoffers or mockers were attacking the eschatological teachings of Peter and Paul regarding the End of the World (2 Pet.3:3-5, 15-17) “It escapes their notice that by the word of God’ (2 Pet.3:5, 8)

The Greek words for “escape their notice” is (thelo) (p.a.ptc.aplm); (lanthano) (p.a.ind 3plm) Negative Volition to common doctrinal truth of the word of God regarding this eschatology subject.

<b>This lesson will study four aspects of the End of the World.</b>
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**1. Peter explains that the present world will be destroyed in a similar manner as the antediluvian world (2 Pet.3:5-7).**

Antediluvian world was destroyed by reserved water from the heavens and from within the earth (2 Pet.3:5-6; Gen.7:11-12, 24; 8:2).

The postdiluvian and millennium worlds will destroyed by reserved fire from the heavens and from within the earth (2 Pet.3:7-8; Rom.8:19-23).

“But the day of the Lord will come (heko / f.a.ind.3ps) **like** (hos comparative) a thief, in which the **heavens** will pass away (parerchomai f.m.ind.3pl) with a roar (rhoizedon) [roaring flames] and the elements (stoicheion) [atomic structure of the universe] will be destroyed (luo / f.p.ind.3pl) with intense heat (kausoo / p.m.ptc.npln) [violent heat], and **the earth** and its works (ta ergon) will be burned up (heurisko / f.p.ind) [discovery].” (2 Pet.3:10)

“Looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, on account of which the heavens will be destroyed (luo/ f.p.ind) by burning, and the elements will melt (teko / p.p.ind) [liquid form] with intense heat (kausoo / p.m.ptc.npln) [nuclear fusion]!” (2 Pet.3:12)

**2. One possibility would be intense heat of nuclear fusion coming from the core of the sun and the core of the earth.**

Modern science as well as the Bible tells us that earth's core is a ball of swirling hot metals with immeasurable heat (Luke 16:24; Matt.12:40).

Science tells us that the sun's core is nuclear fusion with immeasurable heat and energy.

Both the earth and the sun are magnetic. "The inside of the sun and most of its atmosphere consist of plasma. Plasma is basically raised to such a high level that it becomes sensitive to magnetism. The Earth's magnetic field prevents it from reaching the surface of the earth." (World Book at NASA)

Something very powerful will be needed to **melt** (teko/ liquid form) **the elements** of both the heavens and the earth.

**3. The elements of our universe will be dissolved into some other matter form to produce the NEW heavens and earth.**

"But according to His promise we are looking for a new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells." (2 Pet.3:13; 1 Cor.15:35-58)

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea." (Rev.21:1)

"And the city has **no need of the sun or the moon** to shine upon it, for the glory of God will illuminate it, and its lamp is the Lamb." (Rev.21:23; 22:5)

"Behold, the tabernacle of God is among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them." (Rev.21:3)

**4. The reason the universe follows a fixed pattern of operation is because God's word holds it together.**

"But according to **His promises** we are looking for a new heaven and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells." (2 Pet.3:13, 5, 8) ["that by the word of God"]

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the **Word was God**. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being." (John 1:1-3)

"And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and **upholds all things by the word of His power**. When He has made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high." (Heb.1:3)

"And He is before all things, and **in Him all things hold together.**" (Col.1:17)

"Heaven and earth will pass away, **but My Word** shall not pass away." (Matt.24:35)

The only thing unchangeable in the universe is God and His word:

- "Until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke will pass away from the law, until all is accomplished." (Matt.5:18)

**Therefor our stability in the universe is the immutability of God and His living word (Heb.4:12).**

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