

2 Peter 3

NLET

PETER STATES THE PURPOSE OF THIS LETTER

1 This already, beloved ones, *is* a second epistle *which* I am writing to you, in which I am arousing the Unalloyed Understanding *that is* yours by means of a reminder 2 to remember the Utterances having been previously *and* lastingly spoken by the Holy Prophets and the Injunction of the Apostles *that are* yours who *were commissioned* from the Lord and Savior;

PETER PREDICTS THE MOCKERY OF THE LAST DAYS

3 discerning this first, that in the time of *the last*¹ of the days ² mockers shall come – *that is*, ones who are going out in quest of their own desires 4 and saying, “Where is the promise of the *famous* Coming *that is* His?! For, after the *time that* the fathers fell asleep, all things continue in the same way from a beginning of creation.”

PETER LISTS THINGS THAT SHALL ESCAPE THEIR NOTICE

5 For, while wishing these *things*, *it* escapes *their* notice that heavens and earth were *existing* for a long time out of water and by water, having been lastingly put together³ by means the Word OF THE GOD, 6 in which *conditions* the Cosmos at that time was destroyed, having been inundated with water.

7 Now, *it also escapes their notice that* the present Heavens and the Earth, the ones having been lastingly

stored up by the Word *that is* His⁴, are ones being kept for fire, until a day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly people.

PETER IDENTIFIES THE GRACIOUS REASON

WHY JESUS' SECOND COMING IS DELAYED

8 Now, in regard to this, stop letting it escape your notice, beloved *ones*, that one day before YaHWeH⁵ *is* as a thousand years and a thousand years *is* as a day – *just* one! 9 The⁶ Lord of the Promise is NOT slow, as some reckon slowness. Rather, He is long-suffering toward us⁷, One Who does not want anyone to perish *utterly* – rather, *that* everyone move on toward a change of mind.

PETER DESCRIBES THE DAY OF YaHWeH

10 Now, the⁸ Day of YaHWeH⁹ shall come as a thief at night¹⁰, in which day ¹¹ heavens shall pass by with a rushing, whirring motion¹². Now, elements, after being burned *with intense heat*, shall disintegrate¹³. And, earth and the works in it shall be burned up¹⁴.

PETER TELLS HIS READERS

WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE THEY SHOULD BE

IN VIEW OF THESE THINGS

11 So then,¹⁵ when all these things are disintegrating, what kind of *people* is it necessary *that* you be? In a condition *characterized* by holy modes of life and by reverent *attitudes*, 12 while expecting and eagerly seeking the coming of the Day of the God, during which

¹ 87% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'in the last' (singular) here instead of 'in the last ones' (plural).

² 88% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), not include the prepositional phrase 'in connection with mockery' here. On the basis of 5.6% the NU includes it.

³ 23% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'were lastingly put together' (a nominative, plural, perfect participle) here instead of 'was lastingly put together' (a nominative, singular, perfect participle).

⁴ 90% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'the Word *that is* His' here instead of 'the same Word'.

⁵ 'YaHWeH' – The Greek word for 'Lord' appears here without being preceded with a definite article. Peter may well have had the same habit as Luke and other New Testament writers who indicated the sacred, personal, four consonant, Hebrew name for God – namely, YaHWeH – in this way.

⁶ 81% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the definite article 'the' here.

⁷ 80% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'us' here. On the basis of 13% the NU has 'you' (plural).

⁸ 82% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of

transmission (f35), include the definite article 'the' here.

⁹ 'YaHWeH' – The Greek word for 'Lord' appears here without being preceded with a definite article. Peter may well have had the same habit as Luke and other New Testament writers who indicated the sacred, personal, four consonant, Hebrew name for God – namely, YaHWeH – in this way.

¹⁰ 82% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35),

Include the prepositional phrase 'at night' here.

¹¹ 67% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), do not include the definite article 'the' here.

¹² 'whirring motion' – Or, 'noise'

¹³ 94% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'shall disintegrate' (a future plural verb, corresponding to the plural subject) here instead of 'it shall disintegrate' (a future singular verb).

¹⁴ 90.2% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'shall be burned up' (a future singular verb) here. On the basis of 3.2% the NU has 'shall be found' (although translators of the NU are hesitant to translate the Greek word as such).

¹⁵ 87.6% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'So then,' here. On the basis of 6.2% the NU has 'In the same way,'.

heavens, by being burned with fire, shall be disintegrated and elements, by being burned, shall melt.

¹³ Now, according to the Promise *that is* His, we are expecting newly-created heavens and an earth – a newly-created *earth* – in which *places*¹⁶ righteousness dwells.

¹⁴ Therefore, beloved *ones*, since you are expecting these *things*, eagerly seek to be found spotless and blameless by Him in a state of peace.

PETER TEACHES HIS READERS

HOW TO RECKON THE LONG-SUFFERING OF THE LORD

¹⁵ And, reckon the long-suffering of the Lord *Who is* ours to be salvation;

PETER DESCRIBES HOW THE UNLEARNED TWIST

PAUL'S LETTERS AND THE REST OF THE SCRIPTURES

just as also the beloved brother *that is* ours – *namely*, Paul – according to the Wisdom which was given to him, wrote to you, ¹⁶ as also in all the ¹⁷ Epistles, speaking in them concerning these things;

in regard to which *things*¹⁸ *there are*¹⁹ some *things* *which* are difficult to understand, which things the unlearned and infirm keep on twisting – as also *they do* to the rest of the Scriptures – toward the Destruction *that is* their own!

PETER ENCOURAGES HIS READERS TO BE GUARDING
THEMSELVES

¹⁷ So then, you, *for your parts*, beloved *ones*, knowing *these things* beforehand, keep on guarding yourselves, lest by the wandering of the lawless ones – ones who are being led away – you should fall from the firmness *that is* your own.

PETER ENCOURAGES HIS READERS TO GROW

¹⁸ Now, grow²⁰ with respect to grace and a knowing of the Lord *Who is* ours and of a savior – *namely*, Jesus *the Anointed*.

PETER BLESSES OUR LORD AND SAVIOR,

JESUS *the ANOINTED*

To Him *be* the Glory²¹, both now and for a day of an

aeon *to come!*

Amen!

The citation of f35 in the footnotes is based on forty-two manuscripts of 2 Peter – 18, 35, 141, 149, 201, 204, 328, 386, 394, 432, 604, 664, 757, 824, 928, 986, 1072, 1075, 1100, 1248, 1249, 1503, 1548, 1637, 1725, 1754, 1761, 1768, 1855, 1864, 1865, 1876, 1892, 1897, 2221, 2352, 2431, 2466, 2554, 2587, 2626 and 2723 – all of which were collated Dr. Wilbur Pickering himself.

35, 1725, 1864, 2554 and 2723 are perfectly pure representatives of f35 in 2 Peter, with not a single variant! The same is true for the exemplars (that is, the manuscripts copied by the copyists) of 18, 141, 824, 1072, 1075, 1503, 1865 and 1897!

For 35, 1725, 1864, 2554 and 2723 to have no variants after all the intervening centuries of transmission between them is surely an eloquent demonstration of the faithfulness and accuracy of that transmission.

Since these manuscripts come from all over the Mediterranean world (Sinai, Jerusalem, Patmos, Constantinople, Bucharest, Aegean, Trikala, Athens, Meteora, Sparta, Ochrida, Mt. Athos [nine different monasteries], Vatican, etc.) they are certainly representative of the family, giving us the precise family profile. It is reflected in the Text without exception.

¹⁶ 'in which places' – The relative pronoun here is plural.

¹⁷ 96.8% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the definite article 'the' here.

¹⁸ 83% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'which things' (masculine, referring to the things about which Paul spoke) here instead of 'which things' (feminine, referring to the letters).

¹⁹ 33% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of

transmission (f35), have 'are' (plural, corresponding to the plural subject 'some things') here instead of 'is' (singular).

²⁰ 27% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'grow' (an aorist imperative verb) here instead of 'keep on growing' (a present imperative verb).

²¹ 'the Glory' – that is, 'the High Esteem due to His divine attributes which shine forth'