

Theme: Faith in Exile

Title: Scoffers Will Come - II Peter 3:1-13

Aim: Recognize that scoffers will always deny the truth of Scripture.

Intro: When our Lord Jesus hung on the cross, it wasn't enough for the religious leaders to get what they wanted in having Him put to death.

They also *“scoffed at Him, saying, ‘He saved others, let Him save Himself, if He is the Christ of God, His Chosen One.’ The soldiers also mocked Him, coming up & offering Him sour wine, & saying, ‘If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself!’”* (Luke 23:35-36). So began the “scoffing rude” of Jesus & His Church. That has continued throughout the history of Christianity & the Church & persists today. In 1966 the Beatles’ John Lennon famously said in an interview, “Christianity will end, it will disappear. I do not have to argue about that. I am certain. Jesus was ok, but his subjects were too simple, today we are more famous than Him.” Lennon also said, “God is a concept by which we measure our pain.” Evolutionary Scientist Carl Sagen is quoted as saying, “God for you is where you sweep away all the mysteries of the world, all the challenges to our intelligence. You simply turn the mind off & say, God did it.” Philosopher Voltaire wrote,

“Christianity is the most ridiculous, the most absurd & bloody religion that has ever infected the world.” Don’t hold back, tell us how you feel! Theme: Faith in exile. We who believe & follow Jesus Christ should not be surprised at the scoffing of the world against Christ & the Church.

Rather we should expect it & stand upon the truth in the face of it. II

Peter 3:1-13 [READ]. I) **Peter urged his readers (us) to remember what the prophets spoke/wrote & what the apostles taught.** As Christian

exiles, we need repeated reminders of the truth, because of the repeated & loud false teachings around us. If we don’t know the truths of Scripture, then the lies of false teachers will overrun us, cloud our minds & obscure our faith. Remember that the prophets, by God’s inspiration, foretold the coming of Christ; & He came. They foretold His death on our behalf, & He died for us. They foretold His triumph over death & sin, & He arose. The apostles passed on to us the commands of

Christ to believe & follow Him, to love one another & take the gospel to the world. It's important to note that Peter placed the teachings/writings of the apostles/all the NT on par w/the OT writers. He understood them to both be the inspired/God breathed Word of God/Scripture. In the midst of the clamor around us, we must know & remember & follow the truth of Christ/Scripture. II) **Peter warned his readers (us) that scoffers will come** – just as they surrounded Christ on the cross, just as they ridiculed the apostles as they preached the gospel. Dictionary: “A **scoffer** is a person who mocks or makes fun of someone or something, often of religion or moral values... From ibelieve.com: “**Scoffers** reject the wisdom and truth found in Scripture. Instead of biblical knowledge and godly wisdom, they rely on their own intuition, feeling, and experiences.” According to Peter, these scoffers “will come in the last days.” Technically, the last days are that period between the 1st coming of Christ & His 2nd coming. Obviously, after almost 2000 years, the last days have been concentrated as time goes by. I firmly believe we're definitely in the last of the last days! Peter also wrote that these scoffers would be “following their own sinful desires” or “walking according to their own lusts.” David Gudzik wrote, “Scoffers don't only have an intellectual problem w/God & His word. They also have a clear moral problem, wanting to reject the Lordship of Jesus Christ over their lives.” It's true; I've seen it in counseling. When one has a moral problem, the more likely he/she will tend to scoff at the truth, trying to divert attention from their lives which fall short or excuse themselves. If there is no God, then there will be no judgment, then I can live as I want, not having to answer to anyone. III) **Note the truths the scoffers of Peter's day denied**. A) Scoffed at the teaching of Jesus' return. They denied the 2nd coming of Christ. “They will say, ‘Where is the promise of His coming?’” In Peter's day, those scoffers could correctly say, “It's been 30 years (since death & resurrection of Christ) & Christ has not returned.” Today's scoffers have a greater, tho still erroneous argument. It's been almost 2000 years & Christ hasn't returned! But Jesus Himself promised to return – “***I will come again...***” (John 14:1-3). Therefore, such scoffing denies the integrity of the God's character & His word. The scoffers in Peter's day

did not overtly deny that God created the world & the universe, as many deny today. However, they did deny God's intervention in the history of mankind, which has numerous ramifications. They said, "For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation. From the Institute for Creation Research we read: those scoffers "[held] that for all things and for all time, even from before the beginning of the universe, natural processes have operated without supernatural input. Readers familiar with the work of ICR will recognize this creed as the impotent principle of **uniformity**—the basic, underlying assumption of evolution. These latter-day scoffers are none other than evolutionary humanists, who deny God's grand work of creation and deny His ultimate return to bring His intent in creation to fruition." Taken to the logical conclusion, to deny the 2nd coming of Christ, when God will complete His eternal plan, one must deny God's work of creation & His sovereign rule over all. Peter said those scoffers "***deliberately overlook[ed]*** (willfully ignorant: means they didn't know & didn't want to know) ***this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, & the earth was formed out of water & thru water by the word of God...***" That is a description of the earth before the 1st day of creation (Gen.1:1-2). "***And God said, 'Let there be light...And God said...***" If everything had remained the same since the beginning then God didn't say & create. That's what the late physicist Steven Hawking believed. "Spontaneous creation is the reason there is something rather than nothing, why the universe exists, why we exist," he wrote in *The Grand Design*. "It is not necessary to invoke God to light the blue touch paper and set the universe going." B) Scoffers in Peter's day denied & scoffers today deny God's creation & His sovereign involvement. C) Therefore, scoffers in Peter's day denied & scoffers today deny God's judgment through the Flood. "***...and that by means of these (the water covering & over the earth) the world that then existed was deluged with water & perished.***" God most certainly was involved in lives of men when He saw their wickedness & decided to blot them out. God destroyed the earth & all that was in it by the flood, the earth & the heavens opening up in a deluge. All was lost, except Noah & his family & the

animals God commanded him to take into the ark w/him (Gen.6-9). Then God promised Noah & his family that He would never again destroy the earth by the waters of a flood. And He gave them the sign of a rainbow as a seal to that Noahic covenant. Scoffers today (& even many Christians) deny the phenomenon of a world-wide flood, tho the evidence is wide spread throughout the earth. D) Then, those scoffers denied the judgment to come, as do many today – ***“But by the same word (word of creation, word of judgment in the flood) the heavens & earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment & destruction of the ungodly.”*** Judgment is coming, not by flood, but by fire. This is the promise of God – Revelation 20:11-15 – ***“Then I saw a great white throne & Him who was seated on it. From His presence earth & sky fled away, & no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great & small, standing before the throne, & books were opened. Then another book was opened, which was the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. And the sea gave up the dead who were in it. Death & Hades gave up the dead who were in them, & they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. Then Death & Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the 2nd death, the lake of fire. And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”*** Make no mistake about it, judgment is coming. God will be just & fair, but He will not be mocked. This denial exposes the real reason to deny the 2nd coming. If Christ is not coming again, then there will be no judgment seat before which to stand. But to deny/scoff at the return of Christ & the judgment to come is essentially to deny the birth, death & resurrection of Christ, who came to carry out God’s perfect plan of redemption, taking on flesh, dying in our place & rising again as conqueror of sin & death for all who believe/receive Him. Deny Him to your eternal regret. If it was true when Peter wrote it, that scoffers would come

in the last days, it is certainly true today. Scoffers will come, but, hallelujah, the day of the Lord will come also (next week). We must endure scoffers as we live as exiles in this world. You may be mocked & thought a fool. Don't despair. Be God's fool! Know the truth & stand upon the truth & proclaim the truth. Live for Christ, being led by the Spirit. Help each other remember; stir up one another's minds to love & good deeds; make Christ known. It will take faith; faith in exile.

