

HANDOUT FOR “THE JUDGEMENT”

BIBLE STUDY 2 Peter 3:1-18

The apostle Peter is nearing the end of his life and he knows it (1:14). His concern is that the next generation of believers would hold on firmly to the apostolic truth.

These were difficult days for the Christian church, faced as it was by spiritual and cultural pressures that threatened to swallow it up.

Use these questions to prompt your study of this passage:

1 What main event is the apostle emphasising in this chapter? Verses 7,10 and 12 allude to it. Where did Peter get this concept from?

Look up Matthew 24:29-31. Observe its finality (verses 10,12).

2 What authority does Peter want his readers to rely upon for his teaching?

Look at verse 2, and compare Ephesians 2:20.

3 Verses 3-5 highlight the viewpoint of the critics with regard to the last times.

How similar is their argument to that of every generation? Compare Jeremiah 17:15.

4 How does the believer resist the propaganda that we are just part of a closed system and that nothing outside the life of this world can affect it? The answer lies in 1:12-13,15 and in 3:1-2,8.

5 Answering the scoffers, the writer points to three “outside” and unforeseen events affecting this world, two of which had already happened. What are they (verses 5-7)?

6 How can we practically prepare for the final day? Look for the references to patience, to godliness, to focusing and to “growing”.

REFLECTION

A Read Matthew 25:1-13. What is the main thrust of this parable of Jesus?

Contrast the two groups of girls.

What does this passage teach us about the end times, and about our choices in life?

B At the end, there will be a separation between evil and good.

Is the world getting better or worse? Compare your thoughts with Matthew 13:24-30.

C What does 1 Corinthians 3:12-15 teach people about their responsibilities and opportunities?

D What does Christ’s teaching about judgement tell us about the nature of humanity?

This is copied with permission and grateful thanks from Creative 4 International.

BIBLE CHECK

God will be declared as just:

Hebrews 9:27; Psalm 96:13; Acts 17:31

Christ will be acknowledged as Lord:

1 Corinthians 15:24-26; John 5:24; Philippians 2:11

Christians accountable for their service:

Romans 14:12; 2 Corinthians 5:9-10; 1 Cor. 3:10-15

Disobedient rejected for their unbelief:

John 3:19; 6:28-29; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9

Satan will be destroyed for ever:

Revelation 20:10

KEY TRUTH

The final judgement will be the climax of this world’s events.

It will set right the injustices of history, underline the choices of individuals, and demonstrate the righteousness of God and the victory of Jesus Christ.

POSTSCRIPT

Judgement is not a popular theme in societies which have become soft and indulgent.

However, we must recognize that by the choices individuals make, they sentence themselves.