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The
Heavens
Will Pass Away
and
Works Exposed

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

The Heavens will Pass Away, and Works Exposed.

- **2 Peter 3:10:** But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

Amongst religious teachers there have always been various understandings of what Peter had in mind when he wrote the words, "The heavens will pass away, the heavenly bodies will be burned up and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed." Following are the two most common teachings

1. The sky, stars, sun, moon, the earth, and everything upon it will be totally-destroyed.
2. The heavens symbolise those who hold high religious positions of authority and who have great influence over a multitude of people, while the earth symbolises the secular world; based on this idea the heavens passing away would refer to the ruin of the city of Jerusalem and the destruction of the Jewish temple.

The heavenly bodies being burned up would refer to the total removal of the Levitical priesthood, and the Jewish religious system with all its ceremonial rites, religious customs and traditions, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed would refer not only to the corruptions of the people within the city of Jerusalem, but also of those in the land of Judah and the surrounding nations. It is certainly true that these events did occur. In 70 A.D. the armies of Rome brought ruin to city of Jerusalem, destruction to the temple and to the land of Judea, in the same manner as Moses at the foot of Mount Sinai had told the people of Israel that their land would be:

- Burned with brimstone and salt, nothing sown and nothing growing, where no plant can sprout, an overthrow like that of Sodom and Gomorrah which the LORD overthrew in his anger and wrath (Deut. 29:23-29).

If they abandoned the covenant they entered-into with the LORD and turned to other gods and gross wickedness, which they had done. Though history records Rome's destruction of Jerusalem, the temple, and the land of Judah, the ultimate sense of Peter's words are focused on the return of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the effect that glorious and majestic event will have on the global world, for this reason God's judgment on Israel and Jerusalem should be seen as a prelude of similar events that will not only affect Israel and its surrounding nations, but will also affect the entire world.

With this global view in mind the following would apply:

- The heavens passing away would not only refer to the ruin of all false religious temples (i.e., the Vatican City, Moslem Mosques, and other similar religious buildings), but also carry the idea that all that is destructive in nature (i.e., storms, floods, earthquakes, and such like things), would also pass away.
- The heavenly bodies being burned up would refer to the total removal of the world's false religious teachers and leaders, and to all man-made ceremonial rites, religious customs and traditions being made obsolete.
- The earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed, means that everything corrupt in the world would be exposed, such as deceitful governments, corrupt leaders of nations, the oppression of the banking system, the stock exchange and global trading. The rich

taking advantage of the poor for their own selfish gain for that sake of profit, the wickedness of war, all that is corrupt in our justice system and self-serving religious leaders will be clearly exposed.

There will be a far more suitable climate when Christ returns in glory as King of kings and Lord of lords to establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy, and peace on earth. It is certain there will be no earthquakes, storms, tornadoes; tidal waves or extremes in hot and cold temperatures which means that the climate as we know it must change and for this to happen the heavenly bodies will need to change also.

NOTE: to discuss the Lord's return in an atmosphere of spiritual adventure and peace can be enormously exciting, and is spiritually healthy, but to argue over the exact detail and every aspect of Christ's return dogmatically and aggressively results in spiritual sickness, because it causes strife, contention and worse still division. Though it is exciting to have a reasonable understanding of Christ's return, and it does add strength to our faith, it is not important to know or understand every detail of his return to be saved to eternal life.

It is interesting to notice: that after the resurrection of Christ most New Testament Bible writers simply say that we will be gathered-together to be with Christ in eternal glory. Every faithful brother and sister in Christ who looks forward to the Lord's return with excitement can be confident Christ will receive them with joy. The following comforting words of Jesus should always be kept in mind:

- He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out (John 10:3).
- He goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice (John 10:4).
- The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep (John 10:11).
- I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me (John 10:14).
- My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me (John 10:27).

No brother or sister will miss the Lord's trumpet call simply because they lack a full understanding of their Saviours return. Clearly it will be a very dramatic event, and as the events draw nearer it will become very clear to those who know the Lord Jesus Christ. It should be comforting to all faithful Christians that though Noah and Lot knew destruction was coming neither of them knew the exact moment when it would come.

Providing we are always ready, meaning always remaining in faith, trusting in God's grace, and endeavouring to live a godly life (none of us achieve this perfectly, if we could Christ died for no reason), and with an excitement of his return, we can be confident we will be gathered-together (whether we are dead or alive) to be with the Lord in everlasting glory.

What sort of lives should the beloved live: seeing that the heavens and the earth are going to be dramatically changed when the Lord returns, Peter tells the beloved in the Lord that they should endeavour to live, speak, and behave in a manner that honours God and brings a good testimony to the Lord Jesus Christ and the Christian faith (v11) with a sense that nothing is permanent on the earth, and an awareness that our citizenship is not of this world.

- **Revelation. 3:3:** Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you.

These verses that speak of the Lord coming as a thief in the night seem to contradict the following verse that says, "every eye will see him."

- **Revelation 1:7:** Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

However, these can easily be harmonised in the following two ways

1. The verses that speak about Christ coming as a thief in the night refers to those who are not watching, and not ready for him to return, they have no conscious thought of his return, but live their life as though his return is years away. In contrast to this those who are ready, live their life as though Christ could return at any time, and continually look forward to when he does return. They have an excitement and joy in their heart, when they think of being gathered-together to be with him. In this context, the expression, "every eye will see him," embraces both those who are watching and ready, and those who are not watching and not ready. Christ's return will be so spectacular that everyone will see it, those who are not ready will be stunned with shock and awe, while those who are ready will be filled with excitement and joy.
2. The verses that speak about Christ coming as a thief in the night, refers to the glorious moment he returns to gather the faithful to himself. The verse that speaks about every eye seeing him, refers to when he returns with the resurrected redeemed to establish God's Kingdom on earth.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.
