

**“Long Suffering” pt2****2 Peter 3: 10-13**

The word longsuffering in the Bible is made up of two Greek words meaning “long” and “temper”; literally, “long-tempered.” A longsuffering person does not immediately retaliate or punish; rather, he has a “long fuse” and patiently forbears.

Think how our lives would be affected if longsuffering were exhibited in individual relationships, family relationships, church relationships, and workplace relationships.

The old nature can be very short fused at times, and we tend to strike back against offenses with unkind words and unforgiving spirits. By obeying the Holy Spirit, the believer in Christ must learn to say “no” to retaliation.

The ultimate example of God’s longsuffering is His waiting for individuals to respond in faith to Jesus Christ. God is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance 2 Peter 3:9. Ephesians 2:3-4

Verses 10-13: Peter urges his readers to look beyond this present world to the “new heavens and a new earth” characterized by “righteousness.

The “Day of the Lord” It ultimately refers to the future time of judgment whereby God judges the wicked on earth and ends this world system in its present form. Revelation. 6:17, Revelation 20:1 - 21:1

The Old Testament prophets saw the final Day of the Lord as unequalled darkness and damnation, a day when the Lord would act in a climactic way to vindicate His name, destroy His enemies, reveal His glory, establish His kingdom and destroy the world. Isaiah. 2:10-21; 13:6-22; Malachi. 4:1- 2, Thessalonians. 1:7; 2:2.

“As a thief”: The Day of the Lord will have a surprise arrival, sudden, unexpected and disastrous to the unprepared 1 Thessalonians. 5:2.

The “heavens” refer to the physical universe. The “roar” conveys a whistling or a crackling sound as of objects being consumed by flames. God will incinerate the universe, probably in an atomic reaction that disintegrates all matter as we know it (verses 7, 11-13).

“The earth also and the works that are therein”: The whole earth in its present form, with its entire universe will be consumed Isaiah 24:19-20; 34:4.

Just as the day of the flood finally came, the time of the end will come also. There is an appointed time that only the Father knows. The return of the Lord to the earth as King of kings and Lord of lords is not to be confused with the end of the planet. Revelation 21:1

2 Peter 3:11 “What manner of persons ought ye to be”: This is an exclamation rather than a question. It means, that Christians must conform their lives to God’s standards considering the reality of coming judgment and eternity 1 Corinthians. 4:15; 2 Corinthians. 5:9-10.

“Holy conversation and godliness” Conversation means conduct, the way a Christian should live their life, separate from sin. “Godliness” refers to the spirit of reverence a Christian’s attitude, that which rules the heart.

2 Peter 3:12 With a continuing expectancy in our hearts, believers should continue looking for the “grand finale” of history.

“Hasting” means eagerly desiring or enthusiastically anticipating the coming of the “day of God.” Christians are not to fear the future day of God, but eagerly hope for it. (1 Cor. 1:7; 16:22; 1 John 2:28; 3:3).

“The day of God”: The “day of God” is not the same as the “Day of the Lord.” The “day of God” refers to the eternal state, in preparation of which the heavens and the earth are burned up and the new creation is made. 1 Corinthians. 15:28

When the day of God comes, man’s “day” will be over. The corrupting of the universe by man and Satan will have been terminated and judged, finally and forever.

**The heavens being on fire shall be dissolved**": The new world in which righteousness dwells, (verse 13), requires the Lord to first destroy the old, sin-cursed universe [Romans 8:19-22](#).

Christians should not be caught up in the worries the world has. We look around us and see signs of the nearness of the coming of the Lord. The world's hearts are failing them for fear of the things that are coming upon the earth

The Christian should not fear, but have faith. In fact, we should see these signs and rejoice that the coming of the Lord is near. [Romans 8:18](#)

**2 Peter 3:13** **"New heavens and a new earth"** The "promise" of a new universe is rooted in the Old Testament [Psalm 102:25](#); [Isaiah. 65:17](#); [66:22](#)

A promised eternal realm consisting of new heavenly creations, pure from sin. A new city, where the Bride of Christ will live forever, the place Jesus went to prepare for us. [John 14:2-3](#); [Hebrews. 11:16](#); [12:22-24](#); [Revelation. 21:9-14](#).

Abraham spent his life dwelling in tents looking for that city whose maker is God. [Galatians 3:29](#)

We should be looking for that same city. This world is not our home. We are strangers in this land waiting for our Deliverer to come and carry us to our Promised Land. Christians receive the righteousness of Christ when they are saved.

This is a place of peace, and rest, and no tears. There will be no one, or nothing evil, in the new heaven and earth.