

earth someday. I believed that then, and I still do today.

Yet when bad things keep happening in the world and wicked people seem to be in control, I must admit that I can understand why some unbelievers would scoff at those of us who say that Jesus will return as He promised (2 Pet. 3:3-4). But, once again, appearances can be deceiving.

Because of the spiritual vision that God gives us when we believe in Jesus, we can see the bigger picture. We read in the Bible about His awesome deeds and all that He said and did. We sense the Lord's presence when we pray, and we experience His grace and peace in our trials. Each of us can therefore say, "Even though it may not look like it now, I believe Jesus is coming again." --HVL

*Though people may scoff and say that I'm wrong,
Lord, help me to witness with patience and love;
I know that You're coming, it may be today,
To execute justice from Your throne above. --K. De Haan*

Jesus' second coming is as certain as His first coming.

Think:

- ◆ Am I ready for the Lord's return?
- ◆ What do I need to do to be ready?
- ◆ Do I know Jesus in a personal way? Who could I ask to help me with this?



Central Mountains Baptist Church

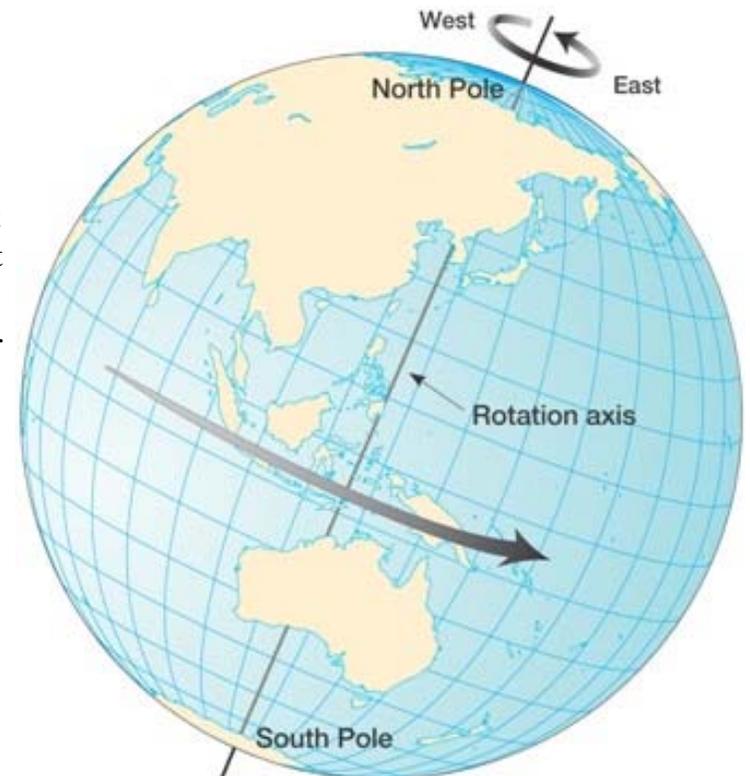
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Beyond What We Can See

Scoffers will come in the last days, . . . saying, "Where is the promise of His coming?" --2 Peter 3:3-4

When I was a child, I was taught that the earth is whirling on its axis. Teachers and textbooks told me that a person standing on the equator is rotating with the earth at 1,000 miles per hour. I believed it then, and I do today. But honestly, it doesn't seem that we are moving at all. Appearances can be deceiving.

In my childhood I was also taught that God rules over all things, and that Jesus, who died and rose from the grave and ascended to heaven, will come back to



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2 Peter: Overcoming Error Uniformitarianism or Catastrophism (Good News for Hard Times)

In 2 Peter 3:1-7 two different kinds of men are contrasted:

1. **S** _____,
verses 1, 3-4, 7, 10, 9

What Peter says about them:

#1. They will come in the _____,

(2 Timothy 3:1) "But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:"

(Jude 1:18) "...they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts."

#2. They walk _____,

(2 Timothy 3:1-5) "But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: {2} For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, {3} unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, {4} traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, {5} having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!"

#3. They deny the _____ of _____,

#4. _____ uniformitarianism,

(Psalms 14:1) "The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." ..."

(2 Thessalonians 1:4-8) "so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure,"..{6} "since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you,".... {8} "in flaming fire taking

vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ."

(Revelation 20:15) "And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire."

(Matthew 3:12) ""... He will .. gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.""

(1 Timothy 1:12-13) "And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry, {13} although I was formerly a blasphemer, a



persecutor, and an insolent man; ..."

2. **B** _____, verses 1-2, 2:14, 1:7, 10-11, 5-6, 10-13

How Peter describes them:

#1. _____ minds,

#2. Submission to the _____,

#3. They walk in _____,

(Ephesians 5:2) "..walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God ..."

#4. They believe and teach the _____ of Christ,

#5. _____ catastrophism,

(Genesis 1:3) "Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light."

(Genesis 1:6) "Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.""

(Genesis 1:9) "Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so."

(Job 38:4-7) ""Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? ..." {7} "When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy?"

(Genesis 6:5) "Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."

(Genesis 6:7) "So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast ... for I am sorry that I have made them.""

(Genesis 7:11-12) "In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. {12} And the rain was on the earth forty days and forty nights."

(Genesis 7:20-21) "The waters prevailed fifteen cubits upward, and the mountains were covered. {21} And all flesh died that moved on the earth: birds and cattle and beasts .. and every man."

(Genesis 7:24) "And the waters prevailed on the earth one hundred and fifty days."

(Revelation 21:3-7) "And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. {4} "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.""... {7} ""He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son."

(Romans 10:9) "that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

(Romans 10:13) "For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.""

(2 Corinthians 5:15) "..He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again."

(Revelation 3:20) ""Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me."



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