

## The Final Countdown or “Signs of the Times” 2 Peter

### Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup> AM

God operates by a specific time table. (Mt. 24:35; Rev. 10:5,6) Many have tried to predict when the “end” would come, often with ridiculous results. While we don’t know the “day or the hour” we are given “signs” of end times events. Jesus spoke often and clearly about the end of the age. At one point the apostles asked him: *“what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?”* Mt 24:3 (also Luke 21:7) Jesus gave specific details about what would happen immediately before His return and told them: *“when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.”* Luke 21:28

## 2 Peter deals with the last days, containing:

### 1. A Prayer: *“Grace and peace be multiplied unto you”* 1:2

A. Grace: char’is: God’s divine influence on heart and how it’s revealed through our life.

B. Peace: Eirēnē: to join, to set at one again. *“through the knowledge of God, and Jesus our Lord”*  
Epig’nōsis: recognition, discernment, awareness

God’s Grace & Peace are related to our recognition and awareness of Him and His ways!

### 2. A Provision: vs 3 *“his divine power hath given us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge (awareness) of him*

A. A Calling: *“that called us”* (see 1 Pt. 2:9 *“Ye are a chosen generation...”*)

- 1) to glory (doxa: dignity, honor) It comes from dokeō: meaning to think!
- 2) and virtue: (aret’ē: manliness, valor!)

B. Precious Promises: vs 4 *“Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might*

- 1) *“be partakers of the divine nature,”* (see Gal. 4:6)
- 2) *“having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”* (See Phil. 2:15,16)

### 3. A Plea: *“giving all diligence,”* (spoude’: urgency!)

A. Grow Up! 5-7 *“add to your faith virtue; knowledge; temperance; patience; godliness; brotherly kindness; charity.”* 5-7

B. Settle Up! Vs 10 *“make your calling and election sure”* beb’aios: steadfast, strong, sure

- 11 *“For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”*

### 4. A Problem 2 Peter 2:1,2 *“But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you,*

A. Division: *“who privily shall bring in damnable heresies,”*

Apōleia hai’resis (ruinous choices & division)

B. Denial: *“even denying the Lord that bought them,*

C. Destruction: *“and bring upon themselves swift destruction”* (ruin)

D. Disciples: *“And many shall follow their pernicious ways;”*

2 Timothy 3:13 *“evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.”*

## 5. A Promise *"I will come again..." Jn 14:3*

2 Peter 3:2-7 *"be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the prophets, and apostles of the Lord: Knowing, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, (empaiktēs': deriders, false teachers) And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old... Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men."*

Example of "Willful Ignorance". Evolutionist George Wald (a Harvard biochemist and Nobel Laureate), wrote, *"When it comes to the Origin of Life there are only two possibilities: creation or spontaneous generation. There is no third way. Spontaneous generation was disproved one hundred years ago! That leads us to only one other conclusion, that of supernatural creation."*

**We cannot accept that on philosophical grounds;**  
*therefore, we choose to believe the impossible: that life arose spontaneously by chance!"*  
*("The Origin of Life," Scientific American, 191:48, May 1954).*

**"There is none so blind, as they that will not see!"**

*"having eyes they see not..." Jer. 5:21*

Ro 1:28 *"even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind..."* Literally "worthless understanding!"

Ps. 14:1; 53:1 *"The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God! They are corrupt..."*  
Shāḥat': ruined, destroyed!

## Conclusion:

- 1) Every day Jesus delays gives people a chance to repent. 2 Peter 3:8-9 *"But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years... The Lord is not slack concerning his promise... but is longsuffering, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."*
- 2) Someday will be the "Last" day! *He'll come without warning! Vs 10*  
*"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night!"*
- 3) This World is Temporary and will end! *"in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up."*  
(See also 1 John 2:17)

**Application:** Christ's Coming should MOTIVATE US! 2 Peter 3:11-15 *"Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be?"*

- To Godliness: *"In all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for ... the coming of the day of God."* (see also 1 Jn 3:1-3)
- To Partnership with God. *Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness... seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace" (from eiro: to join!)*
- To cautious vigilance! Vs 17 *"Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness."*
- To Personal Growth. Vs 18 *"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen."*