

## **Know the Desire**

### **2 Peter 3:4-9**

*"They dress the wound of my people as though it were not serious. 'Peace, peace,' they say, when there is no peace." (Jeremiah 6:14 NIV)*

*"For thus says the LORD: Your hurt is incurable, and your wound is grievous." (Jeremiah 30:12 ESV)*

**Main Idea: God alone is on the right side of history. As followers of Jesus, we long for the appearing of our LORD Jesus. We warn those who reject Him of His soon return and we rejoice with those who love Him in the expectation of His appearing.**

### **Our Experience with the Skeptic's Persuasion**

*"Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing." (2 Timothy 4:8 ESV)*

*"But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ," (Philippians 3:20 ESV)*

*"Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure." (1 John 3:2-3 ESV)*

*"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." (Revelation 1:7 ESV)*

*"He who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming soon.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!" (Revelation 22:20 ESV)*

*"Wail, for the day of the LORD is near; as destruction from the Almighty it will come! . . . Behold, the day of the LORD comes, cruel, with wrath and fierce anger, to make the land a desolation and to destroy its sinners from it." (Isaiah 13:6, 9 ESV)*

**Application:** Christian, let us await with eagerness for the return of Jesus! Let us wake up in the morning and think, "Today could be the day!"

Three reasons Satan ridicules the second coming of Jesus:

1. To keep unbelievers from fearing God.
2. To persuade believers to leave the faith . . . or at least leave Jesus' church.
3. To intimidate believers from being bold in our faith.

## **Our Perspective of History**

*“But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left.” (Matthew 24:36-40 ESV)*

**Truth: God does not react to human history; God ordains human history.**

*“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. (Isaiah 55:10-11 ESV)*

**Truth: God is moving all human history to one glorious conclusion . . . the vindication of God’s righteousness in judgment and the display of God’s love in salvation.**

*“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’” (Matthew 25:31-34 ESV)*

*““Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels . . . And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.’” (Matthew 25:41, 46 ESV)*

## **Our Confession of God’s Person**

- God’s righteousness
- God’s eternity
- God’s patience
- God’s mercy

*“Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.” (Isaiah 55:6-7 ESV)*

**Application: The LORD Jesus is coming at a time and moment that we do not expect. Let us stay awake for it!**