

CHRISTIANS KNOW THE FUTURE

Part 30 of Foundations 260. 2 Peter 3:3-13.

Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. September 21, 2025.

ASTROLOGY IS BOOMING

In recent years, astrology has boomed..

- It's a \$3 billion a year online industry, expected to triple in next five years.¹
- 30% of US adults consult astrology, tarot cards, or fortune tellers.²

The Bible counsels us against using divination etc.

- Divination is associated with demonic oppression in Acts 16:16-18.

Deuteronomy 18:9-12 (CSB) 9 “When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you, do not imitate the detestable customs of those nations. 10 No one among you is to sacrifice his son or daughter in the fire, practice divination, tell fortunes, interpret omens, practice sorcery, 11 cast spells, consult a medium or a spiritist, or inquire of the dead. 12 Everyone who does these acts is detestable to the LORD, and the LORD your God is driving out the nations before you because of these detestable acts.

2 PETER 3:1-13

2 Peter 3 tells about the future and what to prepare for.

Above all, be aware of this: Scoffers will come in the last days scoffing and following their own evil desires, 4 saying, “Where is his ‘coming’ that he promised? Ever since our ancestors fell asleep, all things continue as they have been since the beginning of creation.” 5 They deliberately overlook this: By the word of God the heavens came into being long ago and the earth was brought about from water and through water. 6 Through these the world of that time

¹ www.cbsnews.com/news/astrology-growth-united-states/).

² www.pewresearch.org/religion/2025/05/21/3-in-10-americans-consult-astrology-tarot-cards-or-fortune-tellers/

perished when it was flooded. 7 By the same word, the present heavens and earth are stored up for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. 8 Dear friends, don't overlook this one fact: With the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. 9 The Lord does not delay his promise, as some understand delay, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief; on that day the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, the elements will burn and be dissolved, and the earth and the works on it will be disclosed. 11 Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, it is clear what sort of people you should be in holy conduct and godliness 12 as you wait for the day of God and hasten its coming. Because of that day, the heavens will be dissolved with fire and the elements will melt with heat. 13 But based on his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

THREE EVENTS TO PREPARE FOR

1. Prepare for the critics of Christianity, verses 3-9.

- In Peter's day, teachers scoffed at the return of Christ.
- Peter gave a three-part response:
 - History: Events show that God is present and active in the world.
 - Revelation: The Old Testament and Jesus's teaching reveal a day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly..
 - Philosophy: God exists outside of time and has his own timetable.
- Prepare for the critics by understanding the reasons to follow Jesus, which are rooted in Scripture, historical research, scientific findings, and philosophical reasoning, all of which support our faith.
- William Lane Craig: reasonablefaith.org and [DrCraigVideos](http://DrCraigVideos.com)

2. Prepare for God's response to evil, verses 10,12

- The day of the Lord is a time of terrible judgment on human sin.

- The Day of the Lord coincides with the return of Christ. He is the judge. Take a look at Acts 10:42-43 and 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8.

2 Thessalonians 1:7-8 (CSB) This will take place at the revelation of the Lord Jesus from heaven with his powerful angels, 8 when he takes vengeance with flaming fire on those who don't know God and on those who don't obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

- Peter highlights three aspects of the day of the Lord:
 - It is certain - the grammar in Greek.
 - It is sudden - like a "thief."
 - It is destructive - "pass away, burn up, be dissolved by fire."
- Research the meaning of key words or phrases.
 - "Submit" emphasizes respect and cooperation.
 - "Even if they disobey the word" refers to unbelieving husbands.
 - "Pure, reverent lives" means God-fearing lives.

3. Prepare for a new world - verses 11, 13.

- God will create a new heavens and a new earth ...
- Heaven is a place on the new earth. Read Revelation 21:3-4, 22-24, 27.

Revelation 21:3-4 (CSB) Then I heard a loud voice from the throne: Look, God's dwelling is with humanity, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and will be their God. 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; grief, crying, and pain will be no more, because the previous things have passed away.

- Peter tells us how to prepare for the future:
 - Cultivate a holy and godly lifestyle and faithfully follow Jesus.
 - Look forward to the new earth, so you have hope to sustain you through the hard times.

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Review

- Review Peter's September 21st teaching and study guide.
- What were the main insights of Peter's teaching?
- What questions do you have about the passage or Peter's teaching?
- What were the main applications or takeaways for your life?

Discuss

- Why do you think astrology and other forms of divination are booming in today's society, especially among young people?
- Why is the Bible's revelation of the future so important when life feels chaotic or out of control? How does it help those who do not believe and those who do?
- How does knowing that the Day of the Lord is a time of judgment against human wickedness influence your beliefs and behavior? How does it impact your endurance in faith or your concern for unbelieving friends?
- How does knowing the future from a biblical perspective motivate believers to pursue godliness, holiness, and great expectations?
- How have the insights of apologetics helped you face the critics of Christianity? Which apologetics resources have helped you the most?

Prayer Focus

- Pray for more grace to stand firm in the faith even when people criticize us.
- Pray for open doors to share the reasons for our confidence in the future.