

Together on the Journey

HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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2 Peter 3:3-7 November 15, 2020

"It ain't over until the fat lady sings!"

In our series out of 2 Peter, we've come to chapter three where Peter cautions the believers and corrects the false teachers with the reality that...the fat lady is singing.

2 Peter 3:3

³Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires.

The Alexamenos graffito is a piece of Roman graffiti scratched in plaster on the wall of a room near the Palatine Hill in Rome, which has now been removed and is in the Palatine Hill Museum. It may be the earliest surviving depiction of Jesus, and if so is the earliest known pictorial representation of the Crucifixion of Jesus. The image seems to show a young man worshipping a crucified, donkey-headed figure. The Greek inscription reads something like, "Alexamenos worships his God." The graffito was apparently meant to mock Alexamenos, a Christian. The graffiti was first discovered in an excavation in the 1800s near the Roman site of the Circus Maximus.

The final chapter of the New Testament includes a very important promise. Four English words translating two Greek words (ἔρχομαι ταχύ) that are so important that they're repeated *three times* in that *single chapter*, and as a direct quotation from the Lord Jesus Himself!

"I Am Coming Soon"

Flawed doctrine eventually leads to flawed living. This was certainly the case for the "scoffers" mentioned in 2 Peter. In Chapter 2 Peter uses strong language to describe their waywardness, and in Chapter 3, we see what's behind their sinful lifestyles — *they didn't believe Jesus was coming back to judge them.* They figured that if Jesus wasn't coming back for a final judgment then there weren't any final consequences for their sin. Their flawed doctrine (no final judgment) led to their flawed living (did whatever they wanted).

1. Have you ever experienced anything like that? Can you think of a time in your life when your flawed living was connected to your flawed view of God? Another way of putting it: when we sin or behave in certain ways, what does it say about how we view God? How is our doctrine wrong?

God's judgment is certain. We know it's certain, first, because Jesus said so. And the apostles and prophets said so. The Bible is clear about it. We also have the historical examples such as the flood. God will judge every wrong — "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord" (Rom. 12:19).

2. Now, how does that make you feel? Is it terrifying? Is it comforting? Is it both? And why?

Sometimes we can accuse God for not doing something at all only because he hasn't done it *yet*. He hasn't done it on *our clock* and therefore we assume he just will not do it. This, of course, is problematic thinking, but even worse is that it can lead us to think terribly of God — we can think that somehow he is out to get us.

3. Has there been a time in your life (or maybe now?) when God has not answered your prayers in the timing that you preferred? Have you had to wait on him? What was that process like, including the highs and lows? How would you encourage someone who is in a season of waiting right now?

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**Digging
Deeper**