

TUESDAY NIGHT AT THE CRESCENT

Tuesday 17th January 1989

Series: "The climax of the ages"

An in-depth study of 2nd Peter

Subject: "This is the way the world ends"

An introduction to the thought-flow of 2nd Peter.

1. The ground covered in this amazing three chapter epistle:
 - (a) The intervention of God in past history; the flood and the destruction of the cities of the plain in Lot's day. The first coming of Christ and the great significance of the transfiguration in showing the relationship of time to eternity.
 - (b) The intervention of God in the future; the second coming of Christ and the end of the world.
 - (c) The new heavens and the new earth; the goal for which our temporary planet was but a stepping stone.
2. If this world is temporary and will end what are we to make of progress? Is it all wasted? Peter teaches that there is "bad" progress and "good". The "new" morality is false and God will judge it with another intervention within history, namely, the second coming of Christ. History will continue for a time after his second coming until the final destruction of all things.
3. The thought-flow of 2nd Peter, put simply, is:
 - (a) The world is temporary.
 - (b) There is an eternal kingdom.
 - (c) All true progress here will have eternal consequences.
 - (d) Christians must co-operate with God so that they make such progress as will bring the maximum of benefit, enjoyment and potential in the eternal kingdom.
4. Peter sets out to remind and stir people about these truths in such a way that, even when he is dead they will never forget them (1;15). It is our desire that this series of Bible studies will enable, by the Spirit, every Bible Class member to give a summary of each chapter with their eyes closed! In the light of present world events no teaching could be more vital.

"In the first advent God veiled his divinity to prove the faithful; in the second advent he will manifest his glory to reward their faith"

Chrysostom

