

# A Practical Study of 2 PETER:

## A Winner's Game Plan

### “What It Takes to Break the Tape”

Key Verse: 1 Peter 5:10

*“But the God of all Grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, shall himself make you complete, shall establish you, shall make you strong, shall ground you as on a foundation.”*

### Study Number Six – “Here’s What You Need to Remember” – 2 Peter 3:1-7

We now come to the final chapter of the book. Tomorrow morning’s study will just be three verses and then we’ll wrap it up tomorrow evening.

Our key verses for tonight’s study—what you need to remember is the theme.

Study #6—1 Peter 3:1-2:

“This already, beloved, is a second letter I am writing to you, in which I am stirring up your sincere mind by way

of reminder, That you should remember the words spoken previously by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles.”

If you took the five studies we've had thus far, Peter's telling you how to win the game of life because he's one who is writing as one who did.

1. Here's What We Have: Everything We Need in Jesus Christ.
2. We are to grow and develop these seven virtues.
3. We make a commitment to be involved in the lives of others and to help them on their own journey by stirring them up by reminders.
4. We see the false prophets and the certainty of their judgment.
5. Here's How They Look and he describes the enemy for us.

And now:

6. Here's What You Need to Remember.

The word REMEMBER always has connotations of very special things that we would have a tendency to forget.

The Lord Jesus was deeply concerned about that in the Upper

Room when He took the bread and the cup and He said “This do in remembrance of Me.” (Luke 22:19)

Some of the most joyful and meaningful and intimate and personal communion services that I’ve had over all of these years has been right in this place. It’s just something special about spending the week together and before we say goodbye, take the bread and the cup.

Verse 1.

**v. 1 This already, beloved, is a second letter I am writing to you, in which I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder,**

Isn’t it interesting that he would use the word “beloved”? That’s the Greek word *phileō* and he’s saying he loves you deeply.

And because of the struggles that he had in John 21, every time he uses those words it brings me such joy.

He’s telling them that he wrote a first letter and thank God it’s been preserved and it’s a wonderful study by itself. So now he’s felt it necessary before he dies to write this second.

**v. 2 That you should remember the words spoken previously by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles.**

You notice he calls them the HOLY PROPHETS and then he calls the others FALSE PROPHETS. They are admonished here to remember two things:

1. “the words spoken previously by the holy prophets” and
2. “the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles.”

It’s just amazing to me that Peter, facing his own demise, continues to still think of us. He’s always thinking of others.

There’s nothing more inspirational and more thrilling in life [than] to be around people who you know love you and are always thinking about you. And they’re just built that way by the Spirit of God.

### John 13:34, 35

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love one for the other.

And so Peter is still admonishing, challenging them, asking them to be faithful and remember what the Lord has done for them.

There's another guy who has written some great songs too and that's Don Francisco. He wrote this song:

## Love is Not a Feeling

So you say you can't take it.  
The price is too high.  
The feelings have gone, it seems the river's run dry.  
You never imagined it could turn out so wrong.  
You give and give and give and still it's never enough.

Your emotions have vanished, that once held the thrill.  
You wonder if love could be alive in you still,  
But that ring on your finger was put there to stay.  
You'll never forget the words you promised that day.

Jesus didn't die for you because it was fun.  
He hung there for love because it had to be done.  
And in spite of the anguish His word was fulfilled.  
Because love is not a feeling, it's an act of your will.  
Love is not a feeling, it's an act of your will.

Now I wouldn't try to tell you that it's easy to stand  
When Satan's throwing everything that's at his command  
But Jesus is faithful, His promise is true,  
And whatever He asks He gives the power to do.

But you know He didn't die for you because it was fun.  
He hung there for love because it had to be done.  
And in spite of the anguish His word was fulfilled,

Because love is not a feeling, it's an act of your will.  
(source unknown)

Peter calls Him “Lord” and he calls Him “Savior.”

And what he's doing here, you've just got to get the feeling of the passage. He's already told you a couple of studies ago that he's going to die. And still he's continuing on to help them not only to understand what is happening but telling them what they need to remember and then to call them “beloved” makes you recognize that God has done a magnificent work in this person's life.

Here's what you need to remember:

1. “the words spoken previously by the holy prophets”

Psalm 119:9, 11

Where with all shall a young man cleanse his way?  
By taking heed thereto according to Thy word.

Thy word have I hid in my heart  
that I not sin against Thee.

Psalm 1, we read those great words about accepting the word and being like a tree planted by the rivers of water.

Joshua 1:8, the very same thing.

2. “the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles.”

You know what you’re thinking right now is, what is that commandment?

Well, if he’s referring to that commandment in the Upper Room that I just read about “a new commandment I give unto you is to love one another,” that would be one thing. But you know I think it’s more than that because the apostles were so clear to spell out the gospel. And I think if he were trying to interpret what’s being said, he’d join the apostle John and say you must be born again.

It’s a divine imperative. It’s not an optional thing. Everyone must receive Jesus Christ personally and experience the new birth.

Verse 3.

**v. 3 Knowing this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own desires,**

Well, he’s saying the last days are coming.

I feel like we’re living in those days personally. And what’s going to happen?

Mockers are going to “come with their mocking” and oh are we

getting enough of that. And “following after their own desires,” free to do their own thing and it’s none of our business what they do because they have the right to do what they want to do.

That’s the kind of temperature that we face in the culture that we must confront with the fact that Jesus Christ is soon coming.

I wrote down chapter 2 verse 14:

2 Peter 2:14

Having eyes that are full of desire...

That’s the way those prophets were described.

And I wrote down:

Psalm 139:20

For they speak against thee wickedly, and the enemies take your name in vain.

Matthew 27:27-31

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole Roman cohort around Him. And they stripped Him, and put a scarlet robe on Him. And after weaving a crown of thorns, they put it on



His head, and a reed in His right hand; and they kneeled down before Him and mocked Him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” And they spat on Him, and took the reed and beat Him on the head. And after they had mocked Him, they took His robe off and put His garments on and led Him away to crucify Him.

Verse 4.

**v. 4 and saying, ‘Where is the promise of His coming?’  
For ever since the fathers fell asleep all things are remaining just as it was from the beginning of creation.**

Have you faced that? You know, you start teaching somebody about the coming of Christ and as you teach them, they’re saying “But these things were written 2,000 years ago and it’s like He’s supposed to come tomorrow”:

Where is He?

Is He real?

Is He alive?

Is He coming?

Don’t you love Peter? He’s so practical, he’s just going to come and confront it head-on because he knows this is going to be a problem that you and I are going to have when we start

talking about the promise of the coming of the Lord.

And so he says in response to this:

“[they say] ‘Where is the promise of His coming?’”

Because:

“For [REASON] ever since the fathers fell asleep all things are remaining just as it was from the beginning of creation.”

I love Larry Norman’s song “I Wish We’d All Been Ready”:

The Father spoke the demons died...

The Son has come and we’ve been left behind.

(source unknown)

It can happen just that quick and that’s the way that scripture describes what’s going to happen.

“Where is the promise of His coming?”

What a cynical question. What would be your answer to that if somebody asked you that?

Well, let’s go to the Upper Room for just a minute, shall we?

John 14:1-2

Quit being troubled in your hearts. You're believing in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; I'm just going to prepare a place for you.

All that's in the PRESENT TENSE.

### John 14:3

And if I am going to prepare a place for you, [WHAT?] I am going to come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

We need to recognize the fact that God, being an eternal being, is beyond time. And when you know the certainty of judgment—because we looked at it—and you know how swift it—because we looked at it in what took place in some of these previous statements—you realize that God has got a time schedule and He's not behind. You can never accuse Him of being late. You can never accuse Him of breaking a promise.

Do you remember when Lazarus died? The Lord waited 4 days to go back to Bethany. And what did Mary and Martha both say? "You're late! You're late!"

Why did He wait 4 days? Because Jews believe the guy would be in the tomb for 3 days before he died. His spirit would still go around the tomb, but on the fourth day he was really dead. He was getting ready to tell the world that He was indeed the authority over physical death. So He was on time.

What about the coming and the birth of Christ?

“...the fullness of time, God sent forth His Son...” (Galatians 4:4).

Don't accuse Him of being late and don't fall prey to these who say:

it's been too long,

time has run out on the clock,

He really is not coming back so la-de-da we just live the way we want.

No you can't.

Oh that statement while old Belshazzar's sitting there in the palace drinking wine out of the temple goblets to have the unseen hand write on the wall “Mene Mene Tekel Upharsin” — You're weighed in the balance and found wanting.

And when Daniel comes into interpret that he says “Baby, your kingdom's over tonight. You'll be dead in the morning.” And he was.

The Babylonian kingdom fell that night.

You see, it's really serious when you know all the facts that

God is always on time. Yes, and He knows when the time should be done and the time was. God rendered judgment last night.

### Matthew 24:30

And then the sign of the Son of man will appear in the sky; and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory.

Do you believe that? That's the Olivet Discourse. That's His last sermon before He goes to the cross.

### Matthew 24:35-37

Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. But of that day and that hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. For the coming of the Son of man will be just like the days of Noah.

Oh man!

### Matthew 24:42

Therefore, be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is going to come.

The question is not "IF?"

The question is “WHEN?”

He IS coming! You can stake your life and your eternal destiny on it.

At the ascension of Christ, as He’s there ready to be separated from the disciples and caught into heaven, there were angelic beings there and Acts 1:9 records it:

### Acts 1:9-11

And after he had said these things, he was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received him out of their sight. And as they were gazing intently into the sky while he was departing, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. And they also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched him go into heaven.”

Now what more do you need? But the world thinks, because it’s been so long and we’re time-bound, that something happened to that promise.

There are two things you need to be really concerned about every day you live. And I’m saying they are equally possible:

1. This could be the last conference that you’ll ever come to. You’ll die on the way home.

2. The rapture of the church could come while we're on our way and we'll be gone.

Do you understand that? God in His marvelous program had a program for Israel. And that program was based on the Abrahamic covenant. It was based on the Davidic covenant. They are His people. The land over there is their land and if our politicians would understand the unconditional Abrahamic covenant, they'd drive the Arabs out of there and let the Jews have their land. That's God's plan for them. We don't have anybody that understands the Abrahamic covenant and the fact that it is unconditional.

Do you know how that was established? That night He put Abraham to sleep and the pieces of the sacrifice were laid there and Abraham had nothing to do with it. But God walked between the pieces saying UNCONDITIONALLY the land is yours! And your seed will be in that land! You can't question it. It is God's purpose and plan.

David wanted to build a house for God. God said "No, you're a man of blood. But I want to build a house for you."

And basically He told David, yours is going to be an eternal kingdom. So you've got a land and a seed over here. You've got an eternal kingdom here. And when Jesus Christ, the greater Son of David, was born, that was the beginning of the promises of the kingdom. They have not yet been fulfilled but they're going to be, you can stake your life on it.

So you've got the Abrahamic covenant, you've got the Davidic covenant, you've got the people of the promise—the Israelites.

Then what happened in Acts 2? First of all in the gospel of Matthew, Jesus said “upon this rock I WILL build my church. The church is still FUTURE in Matthew 16.

Now, so many Christians are confused on this. They take the promises to Israel and carry them over and apply them to the church and that's a “no-no.” And therefore you get totally confused about the future.

You need to keep Israel and the church apart. Israel is an earthly people with promise of land and covenant and seed.

We are heavenly people. We are the bride of Christ. And on the day of Pentecost when the Spirit of God came, that was the birthday of the church.

That church is still here intact. And it's not a denomination. It doesn't have a label. It's just like you and me. We're brothers and sisters that love Jesus. We're part of the bride of Christ. We're part of the church universal. And if that bothers you a little bit, just know that if the rapture occurred tonight you'd swallow your nametags and you wouldn't be a Baptist or a Presbyterian. You'd be a Christian surrounding the throne, glorying as Russell has so beautifully sung, singing “Holy” in the presence of Jesus.

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We made those things and they'll all be gone.

Now, since we're heavenly people, before the final prophecies and judgment against Israel—because of their sin because they've been out of the land for a long time—God is going to get the church out of here. We're heavenly people. Our judgment for sin has already been put on our sin-bearer—Christ—and you'll take the bread and the cup tomorrow tonight to signify that.

So we're not people who are going to be judged like the holocaust that's going to fall on this world. We'll be out of here. And prophetically I tell you tonight with all of my prophetic understanding, there is not one thing standing in the way of the rapture of the church tonight.

Christ could split the skies and the rapture would take place.

Explain the rapture to me is what you're saying. The rapture, the word rapture is not in the Bible. It's a Latin word *raptio*, to carry away. And so it was used.

Trinity is not in the Bible but used to explain the three Persons of the Godhead.

The rapture of the church is described in 1 Corinthians 15:51-54. In this wonderful passage Paul tells the Corinthians:

1 Corinthians 15:51-54

I am going to tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep in physical death, but we shall all be changed [And you want to know if it's going to be fast?] in a moment, in the blinking of an eye, ... this mortal will put on immortality....and then I and this death will put on life and I'm going to be caught home to be with the Lord.

There's another passage that I use at every funeral graveside at my brothers and sisters in Christ and that's 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18. What we have here Paul says:

### 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

The Lord shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, with the trumpet call of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. And we which are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall we ever be with the Lord...

We're out of here! But we're going to be coming back with the King to set up the kingdom a little later in the scene.

But what we're looking for tonight is getting out of here and out of this mess and into the glorious realization that heaven is there. And you've sensed it in the songs that you've sung tonight and in the song that Russell has sung and the one that he is going to sing.

### Titus 2:12-13

teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts we should live soberly, righteously, in this world, ...

We are to be here because the Lord is soon going to come and take us home to be with Himself.

I trust that helps you a little bit. I almost feel like we should get Larry back up to the keyboard and let's go ahead and sing "The Roll is Called Up Yonder" one more time. That was the thrill of what Larry had prepared. He'd been reading ahead obviously. Or it was a God-thing again when it came to talking about heaven.

Verse 5.

**v. 5 For when they are maintaining this, it is escaping their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water;**

"For when they are maintaining this,"—these are the people that are criticizing it and saying that it's not ever going to happen—"it is escaping their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water;"

His defense is this, the simple fact that God is the creator of all of this and what He says is going to take place.

“the heavens existed long ago...the earth was formed out of water and by water.”

The “word of God” SPOKE and all of it happened.

**v. 6 through which the world at that time was destroyed by being flooded with water.**

“through which”—His Word, verse 6—“the world at that time was destroyed by being flooded with water.”

Well it had that on those three illustrations of judgment.

You’ll remember:

1. the flood was one of them,
2. the angels was the other one, and
3. then Sodom and Gomorrah was the third one.

He returns to that.

Get in the boat Noah! Shut the door and let it rain. And it happened so quickly.

**v. 7 But the present heavens and earth by His word have been reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.**

“But the present heavens and earth”—now it gets a little scary—“by His word have been reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.”

A lot of prophetic teachers would say this is an atomic warfare and the world is blown into oblivion.

There are other passages that would give you an indication that the power of that sort of thing is very real.

Probably one of the best writers, contemporary writers—there are three of them that I would recommend to you tonight, but we were talking around the table tonight about Joel Rosenberg. I’ve enjoyed getting to know him. I read him with great suspicion, ok.

Mark Hitchcock has a Ph.D. from Dallas and has written a great book called *The Late, Great United States* and that will really help you understand as much as we know from a prophetic point of view, about what’s going to happen to the United States.

The second book is written by David Jeremiah. He’s written so many wonderful books on different subjects. But *Ten Signs and Ten Questions We Need to Ask Ourselves*, this book was so well-done that the Billy Graham campaign has been giving it as gifts to donors who give to Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. Excellent, excellent book.

And the third is a series of books. Joel Rosenberg first wrote

the book *Epicenter*. *Epicenter* takes everything biblically and focuses it on Israel, because that's the epicenter of all God's plans. It's a textbook. You should read it first because it will help you.

This guy does more research and travels more miles and visits with more people than you could ever believe. I mean, some of you have read Tim LeHaye's series on the last days. And that's great. But they don't hold a candle to what Joel Rosenberg has done on research. I mean it is awesome.

Ok, then there are five books of fiction. You need to start with the first and go through sequence because there are two characters that start in the first and go all the way through the end.

The first book is *The Last Jihad*. The reason Joel was plunged into international community was he was sending the manuscript to the publisher on September 11th while the planes were flying over Washington, DC where he was, into the Pentagon and into the towers in New York.

Sean Hannity and Rush Limbaugh thought that he was a prophet come of age. So they got him national exposure immediately to buy a book.

He denied all that and just said it must have been something that was just a quirk of happening—very humble.

Secondly, he wrote then the book *The Last Days*.

You've got *The Last Jihad* and you've got *The Last Days*. The third book is so wonderful because it's called *The Ezekiel Option*. It's Ezekiel 38 and 39 and you put a Iraq and Russia and Iran in that and you're going to think that geographically we're ready for it to happen.

The fourth one is called *The Copper Scroll*. I had a little difficulty with that one because they actually find the Ark in it and it's an exciting story, true. And the characters are wonderful. But finding the Ark, I don't know that we're ever going to do that. So you understand you're dealing in fiction.

The last one's called *Dead Heat*. And boy that will raise the fur on the back of your neck. And it'll stir you up because it's atomic warfare. And you'll really realize that when that final atomic warhead is going from the United States to North Korea, to literally start the holocaust that's going to come which is described here. It makes you really realize that it's very real, very possible.

Since that time he's written another great text that I told you about earlier: *Revolution Now*. And in the book he is getting all the research and updating on what's going on in all these countries so you've got two textbooks basically. And then you've got the five fictional books in-between. It's a delightful read. You'll enjoy it.

Did I give you all three of them? Yeah. David Jeremiah, Mark Hitchcock, and Joel Rosenberg.

“through which the world at that time was destroyed by being flooded with water.”—that’s verse 6.

Verse 7:

“But the present heavens and earth by His word have been reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.”

This world is going to go up in smoke. There will be a new heavens and a new earth. But that’s another story in Revelation 21 and 22.

You say, that’s horrible!

Well, did He create it? Yeah.

Did He reserve it? Yeah.

Did He destroy it? He’s got every right to do that.

And because of the sin of man, that’s what’s going to happen.

Final countdown before ignition, I think, is the picture that we see described here.

There are 7 lessons that come out of this study. They’re on your last sheet there.



Let me just summarize those and we'll have a prayer and then...

Lesson #1: It is Peter's purpose to stir them up by way of a reminder.

Lesson #2: We need to remember the words of the prophets and the commandment of the Lord.

Lesson #3: We should not be surprised by the mockery of those who do not know Christ.

Lesson #4: It is not always going to be business as usual because God is faithful to fulfill His promises.

Lesson #5: Judgment is certain because God has promised that it will happen.

Lesson #6: The best way to remember is to memorize and hide it in your heart.

Lesson #7: The best defense is to remember what you know.

You understand now, I'm sure, what we're looking forward to and what is about to come upon us.

I found myself singing this afternoon:

*All hail the power of Jesus' name  
Let angels prostrate fall.*

*Bring forth the royal diadem,  
And crown Him Lord of all.*

Father, thank You for this passage of Scripture which is only just a little snippet from the pen of Peter who's had so many subjects to cover in these two epistles. But he's given us so much hope tonight because he's helping us understand that You are an eternal being and we need not doubt in the midst of delay that Your purpose and plan is ready to be fulfilled. And that just like the judge that's standing at the doors, time is soon coming when our blessed Savior will split the skies and we would say "Even so come Lord Jesus!" In the Savior's name we pray. Amen.

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# **STUDY NUMBER SIX – “HERE’S WHAT YOU NEED TO REMEMBER” – 2 PETER 3:1-7**

## **NOTES**

v. 1 This already, beloved, is a second letter I am writing to you, in which I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder,  
v. 2 That you should remember the words spoken previously by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles.

v. 3 Knowing this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own desires,

v. 4 and saying, ‘Where is the promise of His coming?’ For ever since the fathers fell asleep all things are remaining just as it was from the beginning of creation.

v. 5 For when they are maintaining this, it is escaping their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water;

v. 6 through which the world at that time was destroyed by being flooded with water.

v. 7 But the present heavens and earth by His word have been reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

## **QUESTIONS:**

1. Read 2 Peter 3:1-7 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

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2. What is his objective, according to verse 1?

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3. What two things does he want them to remember, according to verse 2?

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4. What is going to be happening in the last days, according to verse 3?

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5. What question is going to be asked, according to verse 4?

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6. What is their main argument, according to verse 4?

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7. How was the world in the past destroyed, according to verse 6?

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8. What is the destiny of the “present heavens and earth,” according to verse 7?

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9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

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10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

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**LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:**

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: It is Peter’s purpose to stir them up by way of a reminder.

LESSON #2: We need to remember the words of the prophets and the commandment of the Lord.

LESSON #3: We should not be surprised by the mockery of those who know not the Christ.

LESSON #4: It is not always going to be business as usual because God is faithful to fulfill His promises.

LESSON #5: Judgment is certain because God has promised that it will happen.

LESSON #6: The best way to remember is to memorize it and hide it in your heart.

LESSON #7: The best defense is to remember what you know