



Pastor's Comments

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Doubting Christian?

I just received a letter stating, "I have been a Christian for my entire life (more than sixty years) but I'm finding that I'm doubting my faith and the believability of a Christ who doesn't return." It was signed "A concerned 'doubting' Christian, whose faith is lapsing" after asking, "When is something going to happen, or does the world go on ad infinitum?"

The whole chapter of 2 Peter 3 deals with this, predicting some will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation" (v.4). Peter recalls how God foretold the global flood to Noah who **believed** God and **kept faith** while he built the ark and preached repentance to an unbelieving world about the coming judgment for **120 years—twice that of the writer** of the letter. God's word proved reliable, "the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished" (v.6). In Matthew 24, Jesus related this fulfillment of God's word to the certainty of His return, "But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be" (v.37 see whole chapter). Of course, we see things from the perspective of a limited lifespan, whereas Peter states, "one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day" (v.8).

Is there a reason why God has delayed judgment and the return of Christ? Absolutely! Peter explains, "The Lord is **not slack concerning his promise...but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance**" (v.9). In Noah's day, God could have created the ark and sent the flood instantly, but He mercifully allowed 120 years for people to be saved. We all should be thankful He gave us time to be saved! While we "look for" His return, we should win others to Him (see Mark 16:15) and heed Peter's warning, "**beware lest ye...fall from your own steadfastness**" (v.17).

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