

CrossWalk notes

Count on It

Count on a New Beginning

November 5, 2023 / Dan Solofra

Why is Jesus taking so long to come back?

¹Dear friends, this is now my second letter to you. I have written both of them as reminders to stimulate you to wholesome thinking. ²I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Savior through your apostles. **2 Peter 3:1-2 NIV**

Our new beginning is based on a _____ promise.

³Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. ⁴They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? . . ." ⁵But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water. ⁶By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. ⁷By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. **2 Peter 3:3-7, NIV**

Those who ignore God use an _____, _____ argument.

⁸But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. ⁹The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. **2 Peter 3:8-9, NIV**

God is not _____ – he is _____.

¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. ¹¹Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives ¹²as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. ¹³But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

2 Peter 3:10-13, NIV

Live for things that stand the test of _____.

¹⁴So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. ¹⁵Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. . . ¹⁷Therefore, dear friends, since you have been forewarned, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of the lawless and fall from your secure position. ¹⁸But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen. **2 Peter 3:14-18, NIV**

Use the time of waiting for Jesus' return to keep on learning and growing in appreciation of _____.

MEMORY VERSE

¹⁸But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **2 Peter 3:18^a NIV**

My next step: Nobody knows when Jesus is going to return. Be assured he will return, and spend your time growing in appreciation for his grace.

What's your next step?

Mark it on your connection card.