

Through the Bible

II PETER

Zac Poonen



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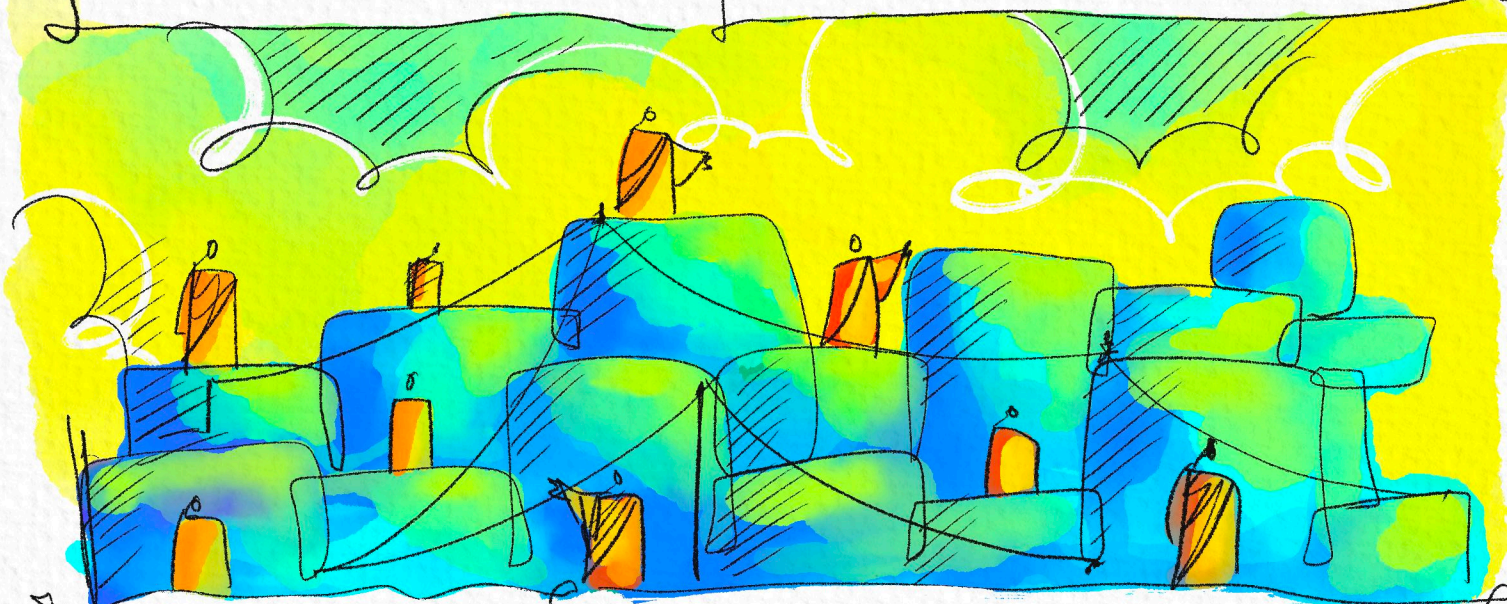
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

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THE OLD COVENANT OFFERED PEOPLE, **MATERIAL PROSPERITY, PHYSICAL HEALING, MANY CHILDREN, AN ABUNDANCE OF CATTLE AND SHEEP, RICH HARVESTS AND OVERFLOWING BARN OF GRAIN.**

BUT WE CAN NOW HAVE SOMETHING FAR BETTER THAN ALL THAT. WE CAN **ACTUALLY PARTAKE OF THE DIVINE NATURE** (1:4). THAT IS THE **GREATEST GIFT** THAT GOD CAN GIVE ANYONE. HERE IS ANOTHER PROMISE "GOD HAS GIVEN US **EVERYTHING NECESSARY FOR LIFE AND GODLINESS**" (1:3).



SINCE GOD HAS GIVEN US THESE PROMISES, WHAT SHOULD WE DO? FIRST OF ALL WE MUST BE **DILIGENT** (1:5). WE MUST WORK HARD TO ADD **MORAL EXCELLENCE** TO OUR FAITH.

THEN WE WILL **INCREASE** IN OUR **KNOWLEDGE OF GOD**. AS WE INCREASE IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD WE WILL DEVELOP MORE **SELF-CONTROL** IN OUR LIFE.. AND AS WE HAVE MORE SELF-CONTROL, WE WILL FIND THAT WE BECOME MORE **PATIENT**. THE MORE **PATIENT** WE BECOME, THE MORE **GODLY** WE WILL BECOME. THE MORE **GODLY** WE BECOME, THE MORE WE WILL BE ABLE TO **LOVE** OUR FELLOW BELIEVERS AND ALL PEOPLE.

AND IF WE **WORK HARD** TO ENSURE THAT THESE QUALITIES KEEP **INCREASING**, THEN OUR LIFE AND OUR **MINISTRY** WILL BE **ABUNDANTLY FRUITFUL** AND WE WILL **NOT BE USELESS** CHRISTIANS (1:8).

BUT IF WE **LACK** THESE QUALITIES, WE WILL GRADUALLY BECOME SPIRITUALLY **BLIND** (1:9).

WHEN BELIEVERS **FORGET** WHAT **FILTHY SINNERS** THEY WERE ONCE AND WHAT A **FILTHY PIT** JESUS PULLED THEM OUT OF, IT IS THEN THAT THEY BEGIN TO **DESPISE** OTHER PEOPLE. THAT PROVES THAT SUCH BELIEVERS HAVE BECOME **SPIRITUALLY BLIND!** (1:9)

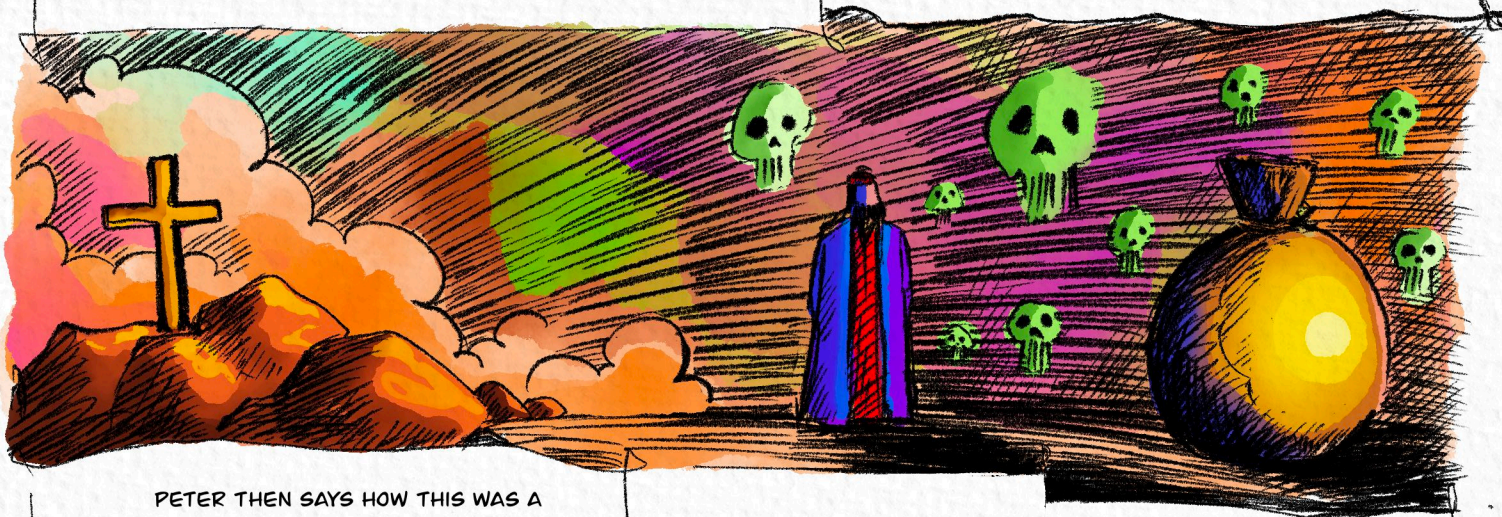
BUT IF WE **FOLLOW** THE **EXHORTATIONS** GIVEN IN 1:5--9, THEN WE ARE **ASSURED** THAT WE WILL **NOT ONLY NEVER FALL AWAY** AND LOSE OUR **SALVATION**, BUT WE WILL **RECEIVE AN ABUNDANT ENTRANCE** INTO **GOD'S KINGDOM** (1:11).

WE THEN SEE 1:13, 14 THAT THESE APOSTLES LIKE PETER AND PAUL LIVED SO **CLOSE** TO THE LORD THAT THE LORD SHOWED THEM **CLEARLY** WHEN THEIR **TIME** TO **LEAVE** THE **EARTH** WAS **NEAR** (2 TIMOTHY 4:6).



IN 1:12-14 WE SEE PETER AND THE APOSTLES WERE LIKE THE OLD TESTAMENT **PROPHETS**. THEY KEPT ON PREACHING THE **SAME THINGS AGAIN AND AGAIN**. THEY DID NOT SEEK FOR A **REPUTATION** TO ALWAYS PREACH SOMETHING **NEW**, LIKE MOST **MODERN-DAY** PREACHERS.

PETER THEN TELLS THEM HOW HE **PERSONALLY** SAW THE **GLORY OF JESUS** ON THE **MOUNT OF TRANSFIGURATION** AND THAT HE WAS NOT TELLING THEM **FAIRY-TALES** (1:17).



PETER THEN SAYS HOW THIS WAS A **FULFILMENT** OF THE **PROPHECIES** IN THE **OLD TESTAMENT** WHICH WERE LIKE A **LIGHT SHINING IN THE DARK**. IT WAS THE **HOLY SPIRIT** WITHIN THESE **GODLY MEN** WHO GAVE THEM **TRUE MESSAGES FROM GOD**" (1:19-21)

THEN PETER SAYS: "BUT THERE WERE **FALSE PROPHETS**, TOO, IN THOSE DAYS, JUST AS THERE WILL BE **FALSE TEACHERS** AMONG YOU."

HERE THE TWO MAIN WAYS IN WHICH A **FALSE TEACHER** CAN BE DETECTED -- **SEXUAL SIN** AND **LOVE OF MONEY** (2:2, 3).



THEN PETER SAYS THAT JUST LIKE GOD PUNISHED 1. THE **ANGELS** WHO SINNED IN NOAH'S TIME, AND 2. THE **WHOLE WORLD** OF **UNGODLY PEOPLE** (EXCEPT NOAH'S FAMILY), AND 3. THE PEOPLE OF **SODOM** AND **GOMORRAH**, AND 4. **BALAAM** THE **FALSE PROPHET** -- EVEN SO, HE WILL **SEVERELY PUNISH** ALL **FALSE TEACHERS** AS WELL (2:4--16).

FALSE TEACHERS MAY HAVE KNOWN THE WAY OF **RIGHTEOUSNESS** AT ONE TIME. BUT THEY HAVE **TURNT** AWAY FROM IT NOW (2:21).



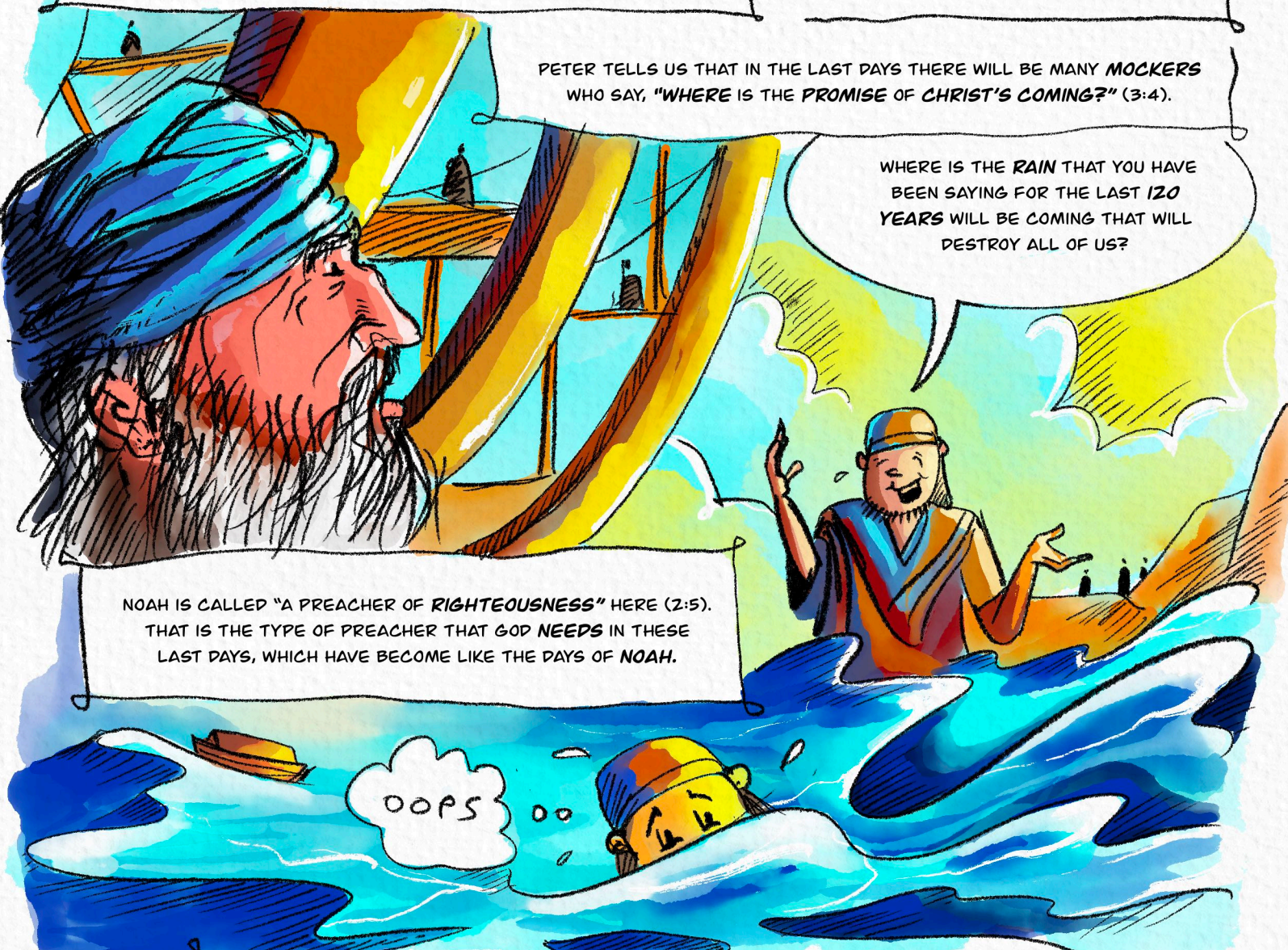
THERE ARE MANY FALSE TEACHERS WHO STARTED OUT AS VERY **SINCERE** PEOPLE, AND WERE LIKE **WASHED PIGS**. THEY REMAINED AS **CLEAN PIGS**, INSTEAD OF **PARTAKING** OF GOD'S NATURE

THEY NEVER **CARED** ABOUT THEIR **INNER** DAILY WALK WITH **GOD**. AND SO, AFTER A WHILE THEY BECOME LIKE THE **PIG** THAT HAS **GONE** BACK TO ITS **WALLOWING** IN ITS **MIRE**.. (2:22).

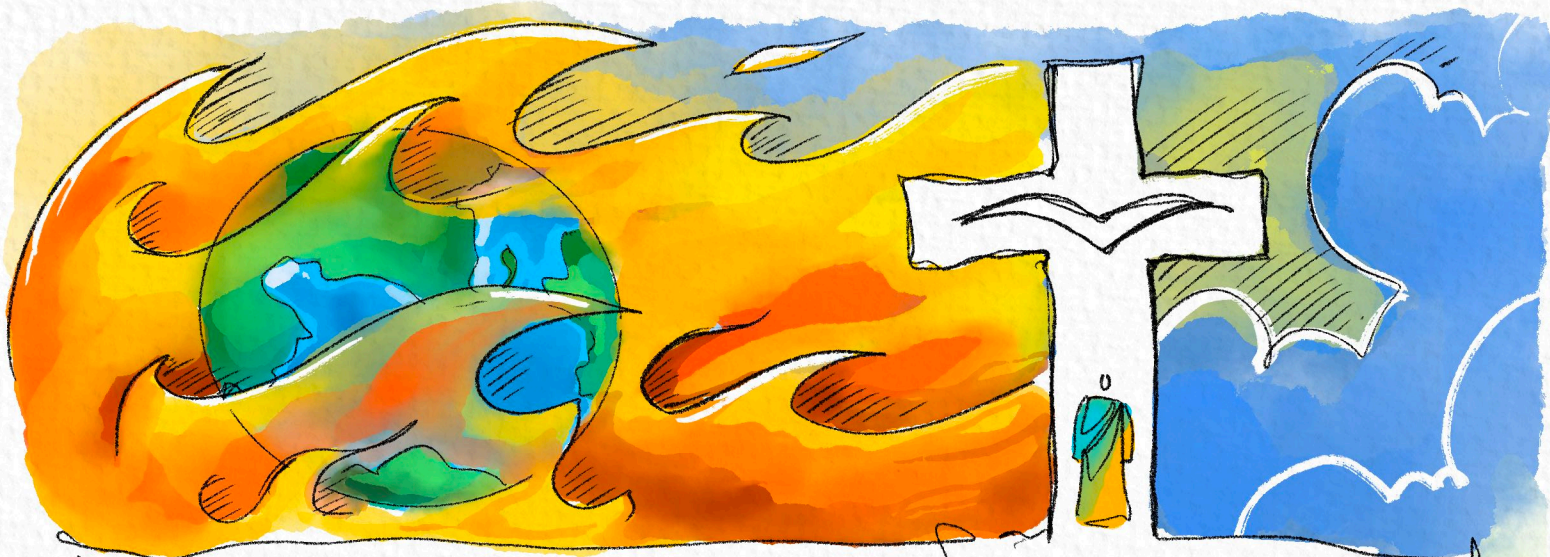
PETER TELLS US THAT IN THE LAST DAYS THERE WILL BE MANY **MOCKERS** WHO SAY, "**WHERE** IS THE **PROMISE** OF **CHRIST'S** **COMING**?" (3:4).

WHERE IS THE **RAIN** THAT YOU HAVE BEEN SAYING FOR THE LAST **120** YEARS WILL BE **COMING** THAT WILL DESTROY ALL OF US?

NOAH IS CALLED "**A PREACHER** OF **RIGHTEOUSNESS**" HERE (2:5). THAT IS THE TYPE OF **PREACHER** THAT **GOD** **NEEDS** IN THESE LAST DAYS, WHICH HAVE BECOME LIKE THE DAYS OF **NOAH**.

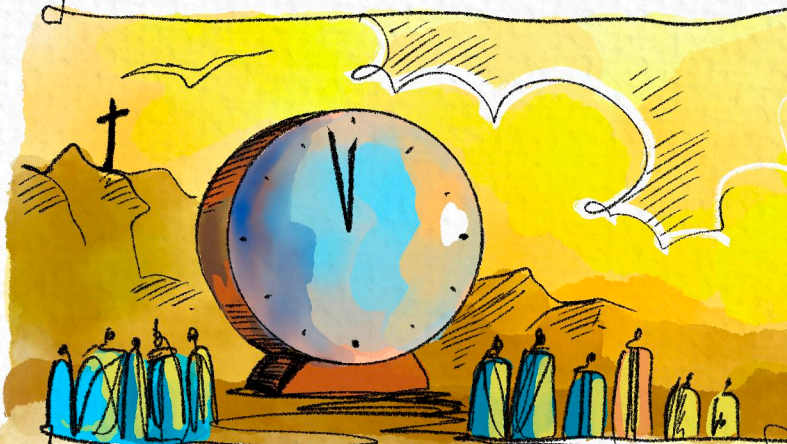


BUT THE **RAIN** **CAME** **SUPDENLY**. AND **CHRIST** TOO WILL **COME** **SUPDENLY**.



WE KNOW THAT THIS **EARTH** WILL SOON BE **BURNED UP**. HOW THEN SHOULD WE BE LIVING? WE SHOULD BE LIVING **GODLY LIVES**. IF WE ARE **NOT**, THEN WE ARE **NO BETTER** THAN THE **MOCKERS**.

LET US "BE **DILIGENT** TO BE FOUND BY HIM IN **PEACE**, **SPOTLESS** AND **BLAMELESS**" (3:14).



THE LORD IS **NOT SLACK** OR **SLOW** TO FULFIL HIS PROMISE. HE IS **WAITING** BECAUSE HE **WANTS ALL** PEOPLE TO COME TO **REPENTANCE** (3:9). THAT ONE VERSE TOTALLY **DISPROVES** THE **THEORY** THAT **GOD** **ELECTS** JUST **SOME** PEOPLE TO BE HIS **CHILDREN**.



THEN PETER REFERS TO **PAUL'S** WRITINGS IN WHICH THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT ARE "**HARD** TO UNDERSTAND, WHICH THE **UNTAUGHT** AND **UNSTABLE** **DISTORT**, AS THEY DO ALSO THE REST OF THE SCRIPTURES, TO THEIR **OWN DESTRUCTION**" (3:15, 16).



MORE PEOPLE HAVE GONE TO **HELL** THROUGH BELIEVING THE MESSAGE OF **FALSE GRACE** (WHERE "GRACE" HAS BECOME A **LICENSE** TO **SIN** WITHOUT **ANY FEAR**) THAN THROUGH BELIEVING ANY OTHER TEACHING.

SO PETER WARNS US TO "BE ON OUR **GUARD** SO THAT WE ARE NOT **CARRIED AWAY** BY THE **ERROR** OF **UNPRINCIPLED** MEN AND FALL FROM OUR **STEADFASTNESS**" (3:17). INSTEAD HE URGES US TO "**GROW** IN THE **GRACE** (THE TRUE GRACE OF GOD) AND IN THE **KNOWLEDGE** OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR **JESUS CHRIST**" (3:18).