

THE MOCKING OF THE NAY-SAYERS

(2 Peter 3:3-4)

- I. Their COMING (2 Pet. 3:3a)
 - A. Their coming will NOT be a SURPRISE
 - 1. DOUBTERS confronted the OT PROPHETS (e.g., Isa. 5:18-19)
 - 2. JESUS warned against those who DENY His RETURN (Matt. 24:48; Luke 12:45)
 - B. Their coming will CONFIRM Christ's PROMISE
 - 1. Their DENIALS confirm the promises they DENY
 - 2. They will be especially EVIDENT in "the LAST DAYS"

- II. Their CHARACTER (2 Pet. 3:3b)
 - A. They will INTIMIDATE through MOCKERY
 - 1. They are by nature "MOCKERS" or "SCOFFERS" (cf. Ps. 1:1)
 - 2. They are HOSTILE to God's Word
 - B. They will be MOTIVATED by their LUSTS (cf. 2:2-3, 10, 13-14, 18-19)
 - 1. They are driven by STRONG DESIRE to please THEMSELVES

2. This is the intentional COURSE of their LIFE

III. Their CLAIM (2 Pet. 3:4)

A. They will MOCK the PROMISE of Christ's RETURN

1. They contemptuously DENY there is any EVIDENCE that He's returning
2. They deride Christians' CONFIDENCE in His PROMISE (cf. Matt. 10:23; 16:28; 24:3, 32-36; Mark 9:1; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11)
3. They scoff at our expectation of Christ's GLORY
4. They RATIONALIZE their unbelief by REVISING history

B. They will DENY the POSSIBILITY of coming JUDGMENT

1. They are EAGER to deny our expectation of REWARD
2. They are DESPERATE to deny their personal ACCOUNTABILITY (cf. Rom. 1:18-20)