

THE EXPLANATION OF THE APPARENT DELAY  
(2 Peter 3:8-9)

- I. Peter's REGARD for His READERS (2 Pet. 3:8a)
  - A. He REMINDS them of his AFFECTION (cf. 3:1, 14, 17; also 1 Pet. 2:11; 4:12)
  - B. He warns them to stop IGNORING what they know to be TRUE
- II. God's RELATIONSHIP to TIME (2 Pet. 3:8b-c; cf. Ps. 90:4)
  - A. God's use of TIME is sometime INTENSIVE (3:8b)
    - 1. He can accomplish in ONE DAY what we might expect to take a MILLENNIUM
    - 2. He did so at CREATION and at CALVARY (Rev. 4:11; 5:9)
  - B. God's use of TIME is sometimes EXTENSIVE (3:8c)
    - 1. He may take a MILLENNIUM to accomplish what we thought He would do in ONE DAY
    - 2. He did so concerning Christ's BIRTH and is doing so concerning His APPEARING
  - C. This implies that "the DAY of the Lord" (3:10) will last a MILLENNIUM (Rev. 20:2-7)
- III. God's REDEMPTIVE Purpose through TIME (2 Pet. 3:9)
  - A. He is not LATE in fulfilling His PROMISE

1. Some suppose He is LATE because He is NEGLIGENT
  2. Some suppose He is LATE because He is INCAPABLE
- B. He is DELAYING the exercise of His WRATH
1. He is KEEPING His own SCHEDULE
  2. He is demonstrating MERCY toward YOU
- C. His WILL is that ALL would REPENT and that NOT ANY would PERISH
1. Some hold this is His general DESIRE
    - a. "Any" and "all" refer to EVERY HUMAN
    - b. MANY humans will be CONDEMNED (cf. 3:7)
    - c. Therefore, in this matter God's WILL must be THWARTED
  2. Some hold this promises UNIVERSAL SALVATION (cf. 3:7)
    - a. All that God WILLS must be ACCOMPLISHED
    - b. "Any" and "all" refer to EVERY HUMAN
    - c. Therefore, EVERYONE must be REDEEMED
  3. Best to see this as a promise of salvation of ALL the ELECT (cf. Rev. 6:10-11)
    - a. All that God WILLS must be ACCOMPLISHED
    - b. "Any" and "all" refer to YOU (cf. 1:1, 3)
    - c. Therefore, NOT ONE whom He has CHOSEN can possibly be LOST