

## 2 Peter 3:10-15a

<sup>8</sup> <sup>10</sup> *But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be destroyed with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.*<sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>11</sup> *Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup> waiting for and hastening<sup>[c]</sup> the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and destroyed and the elements will melt with fire? <sup>13</sup> But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.*

<sup>14</sup> *Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish, <sup>15</sup> and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.*

As we await Christmas, we read the warning that the birth of Jesus would ultimately bring about the second coming of Jesus. We are warned to prepare ourselves with righteousness. This passage makes sense, as we realize that it was likely written during or shortly after the Roman reign of Nero. Nero was a persecutor of the Christians, blaming them for a fire that destroyed much of Rome, and also the continual decline of the empire. The message was the familiar encouragement to be disciplined, faithful, and hang on because Jesus was likely soon to return.

Advent is the time of preparation, and realization that God had acted in their midst with the birth of the Christ child. If God had acted once in their midst, it was a good argument that he would act again. The Advent preparation is the same as people anticipating his second arrival: Be disciplined, be faithful and hang on when the world seems to be coming apart. God is in control. God will be present.

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