

The Heavens and Earth....Reserved unto Fire

2 Peter 3:1-13

The Scriptures refer to two kinds of political "heavens"—the Israelitish and the Gentile. Both are related to the earth. The former, at present, are styled "the heavenlies in Christ" (Eph. 1:3; 2:6); the latter are styled "heavenlies" in which dwells "wickedness" (Eph. 6:12). At present the former wages a war of doctrine and principles against the latter (Eph. 3:10; 6: 12-13), in anticipation of the time when they shall eject them from their seats of power and "ascend up thither" to assume power over the nations as king-priests with Christ (Revelation 5:9-10).

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In relation to Israel, Scripture refers to "three heavens," symbolizing three developments of the divine purpose. The "first" are the Mosaic heavens, referred to in such passages as Deut. 32:1; Isaiah 1:2, 10; 65:17; **2 Pet. 3:7**. These "heavens" were brought to an end in the destruction of the Jewish State in A.D. 70. The "second" are those yet to be established in the earth. They are referred to in Isaiah 65:17; **2 Pet. 3:13**, and are described as "new heavens and new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." The "third" comprise the new order of things on earth at "the end" of Christ's thousand years' reign, when the perfected Kingdom will be delivered up to the Father. Apoc Eptit, p.67-8

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2 Peter 3

1. Things Concerning Peter.
2. To Whom did Peter write his Epistles?
3. The Subject and Times about which he wrote.

Things Concerning Peter - Galatians 2:7-9 & John 16:7-11

Peter specifically sent to the circumcised

He would teach of things of interest to them

He addressed the things concerning Israel

He reminded them of the writings of the prophets

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To Whom did Peter Write – 1 Peter 1:1 & Acts 2:9

Christian Hebrews of Anatolia, modern day Turkey.

Jews who had been ecclesiastically separated from their countrymen

A division grew between the Israelites and the Judaizers who refused to accept the Messiah-ship of Jesus.

Acts 17:5-8

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Peter refers to these in the activity of their enmity against Christian Jews, as "their *diabolos*, or opponent - at - law,* the seducer, as a roaring lion, who walks about seeking whom he may devour" (I Peter 5:8). A conspiracy of one class of Jews against another, is styled by Ezekiel, "a roaring lion." In Ch. 22:25, *Yahweh* says to him, "Son of man, say unto Jerusalem, **there is a conspiracy of her prophets in the midst thereof, like a roaring lion ravening the prey**; they have devoured souls." So in Peter's day, the prophets and princes, or chiefs, of Israel, both in the Holy Land and in all other parts of the Goat-Dominion (*Anatolia, i.e. Turkey*), conspired against the Nazarenes, "like a roaring lion ravening the prey."

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Many of these conspirators were apostates from Christianity — dogs, who had returned to their vomit; washed hogs, who had gone back to their wallowing in the mire. These were they who, says Peter, "cannot see afar off, and have forgotten that they were purged from their old sins".

But besides apostates, there were Jews who still maintained a profession of Christianity, and even set up for teachers in the churches of Anatolia. These teachers, "would pervert the gospel of Christ," as Paul says, are styled by Peter in 2 Epist. 2:1, "false teachers." These false teachers were the Judaisers, who sought to blend the Mosaic law and the Gospel for the justification of Jews and Gentiles.

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They first appear upon the page of gospel history in Acts 15. Of these perverters of the gospel, or fabricators of another gospel, Paul writes to the Galatians, saying, "As many as desire to make a fair shew in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised, only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For neither they themselves who are circumcised keep the law; but they desire to have you circumcised, that they may glory in your flesh"

Last Days of Judah's Commonwealth, p.15-16

Matt 7:15 ... beware of false prophets.... ravening wolves

Galatians 1:6-8 ... some pervert the gospel of Christ

2 Peter 3:3 ... there shall come in the last days scoffers

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The Subject & Times about which Peter wrote –

Acts 24:24-25 – the judgement to come

Romans 2:8-9 – tribulation and anguish upon every soul of man that doeth evil.

John 4:22 – Salvation is of the Jews

Romans 2:10 – glory, honor and peace, to the Jew first, then to the Greek

Acts 3:22-24 – every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed.

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2 Peter 3:1-2 compared to Micah 3:9-12

Deut 32:1, 21-22...

Give ear, O ye heavens.... and hear, O earth...for a fire is kindled... and shall consume the earth.... and set on fire the foundations of the mountains.

Deut. 28:15... if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.... all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee.

Deut. 28:48-52... a yoke of iron upon thy neck.... a nation from far.. swift as the eagle flieth.... a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand.... he shall besiege thee in all thy gates

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(403) So the Romans being now become masters of the wars, they both placed their ensigns upon the towers, and made joyful acclamations for the victory they had gained, as having found the end of this war much lighter than its beginning; for when they had gotten upon the last was, without any bloodshed, they could hardly believe what they found to be true; but seeing nobody to oppose them, they stood in doubt what such an unusual solitude could mean. (404) But when they went in numbers into the lanes of the city, with their swords drawn, they slew those whom they overtook, without mercy, and set fire to the houses wither the Jews were fled, and burnt every soul in them, and laid waste a great many of the rest; (405) and when they were come to the houses to plunder them, they found in them entire families of dead men, and the upper rooms full of dead corpses, that is of such as died by the famine; they then stood in a horror at this sight, and went out without touching anything.

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(406) But although they had this commiseration for such as were destroyed in that manner, yet had they not the same for those that were still alive, but they ran every one through whom they met with, and obstructed the very lanes with their dead bodies, and made the whole city run down with blood, to such a degree indeed that the fire of many of the houses was quenched with these men's blood. (407) And truly so it happened, that though the slayers left off at the evening, yet did the fire greatly prevail in the night, and as all was burning, came that eighth day of the month Gorpieus [Elul] upon Jerusalem; (408) a city that had been liable to so many miseries during the siege, that, had it always enjoyed as much happiness from its first foundation, it would certainly have been the envy of the world. Nor did it on any other account so much deserve these sore misfortunes, as by producing such a generation of men as were the occasions of this its overthrow.

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Peter spoke of the imminence of the Roman Invasion of Jerusalem..

2 Peter 3:10 & Acts 2:16-20

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Acts 2:19 & 20

High places = Heavens or Judiazers at 70 AD

Wonders = casting down of the host and of the stars to the ground

Taking away of the daily = the destruction of the temple and the daily sacrifices

Sun turned into darkness = the putting out of the supreme power of the state in the abolition of its principalities and its powers

Turning of the moon into blood = the end of the ecclesiastical order that held power in the Temple of Jerusalem

Amos 8:3, 9-10

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Deuteronomy 28:15... if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God....all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee.

Acts 3:22-24...A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up....every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed...

Mat 21:37-41...They will reverence my son.... and they caught him.... and slew him....What will He do unto those? He will miserably destroy those wicked men...