

A photograph of several ancient, weathered stone columns, likely from a classical or Roman temple. The columns are arranged in a row, with some showing signs of decay and moss. The background is a bright, overcast sky. A dark blue horizontal band is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing white text.

2 Peter: Established in the Truth

The background of the image shows the ruins of an ancient Greek temple, likely the Temple of Apollo at Delphi. Several tall, fluted columns are visible, some standing and some partially collapsed. The sky is overcast and grey. A dark blue horizontal band is superimposed over the top half of the image, containing the title and subtitle in white text.

Defined by the Day of the Lord

2 Peter 3:8-13

An Exposition through 2 Peter: Established in the Truth

***FOUR CLARIFICATIONS OF GOD'S ACTIVITY IN FUTURE JUDGMENT
ON THE DAY OF THE LORD***

FOUR CLARIFICATIONS OF GOD'S ACTIVITY IN FUTURE JUDGMENT

I. God's **Patience** (2 Peter 3:8-9)

*“For the Son of God, Christ Jesus, who was preached among you by us – me and Silvanus and Timothy – was not yes and no, but is yes in Him. For as many as are the **promises** of God, **in Him [Jesus] they are yes** [fulfilled]; therefore also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us.” (2 Cor. 1:20)*

FOUR CLARIFICATIONS OF GOD'S ACTIVITY IN FUTURE JUDGMENT

I. God's **Patience** (2 Peter 3:8-9)

*“Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to **fulfill**. For truly I say to you, **until heaven and earth pass away**, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until **all is accomplished**.”* (Matt. 5:17-18)

II. God's **Punishment** (2 Peter 3:10, 12b)

“In Scripture, the day of the Lord signifies the extraordinary, miraculous interventions of God in human history for the purpose of **judgment**, culminating in his **final judgment** of the wicked on earth and the destruction of the present universe.” *(John MacArthur)*

II. God's **Punishment** (2 Peter 3:10, 12b)

“The New Testament writers picked up on the eschatological use [end times] and applied ‘the day of the Lord’ both to the judgment that will climax the **tribulation** period and to the judgment that will usher in the **new earth**.” *(John MacArthur & Richard Mayhue)*

II. God's **Punishment** (2 Peter 3:10, 12b)

The phrase "*the day of the Lord*" or a variant of it is used nineteen times in the Old Testament, and four additional Old Testament references call this period "*the day of vengeance.*"

II. God's **Punishment** (2 Peter 3:10, 12b)

The “*day of the Lord*” is used in four clear references in the New Testament:

- **Acts 2:20** *“The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood, before the great and glorious **day of the Lord** shall come.”*
- **1 Thessalonians 5:2** *“For you yourselves know full well that the **day of the Lord** will come just like a thief in the night.”*
- **2 Thessalonians 2:2** *“...that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the **day of the Lord** has come.”*
- **2 Peter 3:10**

II. God's **Punishment** (2 Peter 3:10, 12b)

In three other New Testament references the “*day of the Lord*” is called:

- the “***day of wrath***” (Rom. 2:5)
- the “***day of visitation***” (1 Pet. 2:12)
- the “***great day of God the Almighty***” (Rev. 16:4)

II. God's **Punishment** (2 Peter 3:10, 12b)

We are looking at **two distinct times** in God's future plans to judge the ungodly, which Scripture calls the day of the Lord:

1. The day of the Lord refers to Christ's judgment at the **end of the seven years of tribulation.**

- John's teaching: Revelation 19:11-21
- Paul's teaching: 2 Thessalonians 2:2

*"...that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the **day of the Lord** has come."*

II. God's **Punishment** (2 Peter 3:10, 12b)

We are looking at two distinct times in God's future plans to judge the ungodly, which Scripture calls the day of the Lord:

2. The time of the **final** judgment at the **end of the millennium** – Jesus' one thousand year reign on earth.

- 2 Peter 3:10-13
- Revelation 20:7-10

II. God's **Punishment** (2 Peter 3:10, 12b)

We can summarize the day of the Lord as:

1. Involving judgment **only, not** judgment **and** blessing
2. Occurring **twice** in God's prophetic plan, not once
3. Occurring at the **end** of the **tribulation** period and not throughout its duration
4. Occurring again at the **end** of the **millennium** and not throughout its duration – this is Peter's reference in 2 Peter 3: 10, 12.

II. God's **Punishment** (2 Peter 3:10, 12b)

"I will display wonders in the sky and on the earth, blood, fire and columns of smoke. The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes." (Joel 2:30-31)

II. God's **Punishment** (2 Peter 3:10, 12b)

Notice the **three segments** of this terrible final destruction:

1. "...the **heavens** will pass away with a roar..."
2. "...and the **elements** will be destroyed with intense heat..."
3. "...and the **earth** and its works will be burned up."

II. God's **Punishment** (2 Peter 3:10, 12b)

"Heavens" can mean sky, and here it encompasses the universe from man's perspective.

"Roar" (*rhoizedon*) is a sudden, shrill, rushing sound.

"Pass away" = cease to exist.

"Elements" = the substances which make up the basic components of our physical world. In a **super-heated combustive cataclysm**, all of the physical properties of existence will disintegrate.

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