

# TAKEAWAY



## BELIEFS MATTER

2 Peter 3:1-13 – Part Five

### INTRODUCTION

Running through Peter's words to early Christians in 2 Peter is the constant emphasis on truth – that what you believe matters because it shapes how you live. In this section of his letter, Peter shares the Christian view of history, framing it as a story with a beginning, middle and end. He asks "What kind of people ought you to be?" as we wait for the promised new heaven and earth.

### SHARE

- What was your favourite childhood story? What made it so great?
- Why do you think humans long for justice?

### READ

**2 Peter 3:1-13**

### DISCUSS

What are Peter's intentions for writing? What does he want his readers to remember?

Do you think most people today consciously live as if life is part of a bigger story? Why or why not?

Peter says that people "deliberately forget" (verse 5) that God created the world. What do you think he means by deliberately?

What are some of the cultural and religious ideas about human history and their beliefs about creation and the end of the universe? How do they shape the way people understand: human value, meaning in life, and morality? How do they compare with the Christian worldview? (*A brief overview given in table below*).

How does believing that you were created deliberately and lovingly affect the way you see: your own life? other people's lives?

Why do you think the idea of Jesus returning is so easy for people to mock?

What makes it hard not to become defensive when our beliefs are questioned? How can Christians hold onto truth without becoming argumentative or anxious about what others think?

Peter refers to three events (verses 5-7), framing history as having a beginning, middle, and end. He describes the present as the middle of the story. How does that help explain why the world feels 'unresolved'?

God's "slowness" is described as patience. How does that reframe the question: "Why hasn't God acted yet?" How does remembering that God exists outside of time challenge our assumptions about urgency and delay?

What does "everything being laid bare" (verse 10) mean for: injustice? Truth? Personal responsibility?

If this middle period is about preparation, what do you think God is trying to prepare us for? What practices help you live with a long-term, eternal perspective rather than just reacting to the present moment?

Peter asks: “What kind of people ought you to be?” (verse 11). How does the promise of a “new heaven and new earth” motivate holy and godly living rather than apathy?

What might “preparing for what’s to come” look like in everyday life (work, relationships, habits)? Share any insights that you may wish to use as a ‘try out’ for this week.

What would it look like to live with confidence that your life matters now and the long-term story is good?

## PRAY

## TRY OUT

- Any insights that were shared when discussing what “preparing for what’s to come” look like that you could ‘try out’ this week.
- Reflect on how you might respond if someone asked you “What’s the point of life?” How does this passage shape your answer?

## EXPLAIN

	CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW	PANTHEISTIC WORLDVIEWS	MODERN-WESTERN / SECULAR WORLDVIEW
<b>God(s)</b>	One, sovereign and moral	Ancient: Many, limited, flawed Hinduism: One deity expressed through many gods Buddhism: None	None
<b>Creation</b>	Formed from loving Intention	Ancient: Conflict, chaos, pre-existing matter Hinduism: Uncertain – the universe is not the first or the last universe. Buddhism: Existence beginningless and cyclical	Something has always existed. The universe is a result of time + space + chance.
<b>Humanity</b>	Dignified, image of God. Created for personal relationship.	Ancient: Servants to god(s) or created afterthought Hinduism: Created out of loneliness – manifestation of the deity. Buddhism: No beginning – human distinctness separates one from unity with everything.	Self-declared value
<b>Nature</b>	God’s good creation, but not divine	Ancient: Often divine or chaotic Hinduism: Considered divine Buddhism: Revered, life/nature is interconnected but impermanent	Inherently meaningless
<b>Moral order</b>	Grounded in God	Ancient: Inconsistent or arbitrary Hinduism/Buddhism: Inconsistent principles and code of conduct. Moral feelings are an illusion. Relatively laws of Karma.	Morality developed from evolution. Personal and societal responsibility. Personal choice.
<b>End of the World</b>	Jesus returns, final judgement. Justice, restoration and fulfillment	Ancient: Cosmic reset. Hinduism: Universe destroyed, new cycle begins Buddhism: No ‘end’, worlds rise/fade	Unguided cosmic event or extinction
<b>What happens when we die?</b>	New Heaven and Earth. Eternal life with God.	Ancient: Universe restarts Hinduism: Death returns a person to a cosmic cycle of reincarnation. Buddhism: Reincarnation	Nothing. Cessation of existence. Universe continues or new universe?

