وصيّة مجيء المسيح الثّاني

[1]هَذِهِ أَكْتُبُهَا الآنَ إِلَيْكُمْ رِسَالَةً ثَانِيَةً، أَيُّهَا الأَحِبَّاءُ، فِيهِمَا أُنْهِضُ بِالتَّذْكِرَةِ ذِهْنَكُمُ النَّقِيَّ[2]لِتَذْكُرُوا الأَقْوَالَ الَّتِي قَالَهَا سَابِقاً الأَنْبِيَاءُ الْقِدِّيسُونَ وَوَصِيَّتَنَا نَحْنُ الرُّسُلَ، وَصِيَّةَ الرَّبِّ وَالمُخَلِّصِ،[3]عَالِمِينَ هَذَا أَوَّلاً، أَنَّهُ سَيَأْتِي فِي آخِرِ الأَيَّامِ قَوْمٌ مُسْتَهْزِئُونَ سَالِكِينَ بِحَسَبِ شَهَوَاتِ أَنْفُسِهِمْ[4]وَقَائِلِينَ: أَيْنَ هُوَ مَوْعِدُ مَجِيئِهِ؟ لأَنَّهُ مِنْ حِينَ رَقَدَ الآبَاءُ كُلُّ شَيْءٍ بَاقٍ هَكَذَا مِنْ بَدْءِ الْخَلِيقَةِ.[5]لأَنَّ هَذَا يَخْفَى عَلَيْهِمْ بِإِرَادَتِهِمْ، أَنَّ السَّمَاوَاتِ كَانَتْ مُنْذُ الْقَدِيمِ وَالأَرْضَ بِكَلِمَةِ اللهِ قَائِمَةً مِنَ المَاءِ وَبِالمَاءِ،[6]اللَّوَاتِي بِهِنَّ الْعَالَمُ الْكَائِنُ حِينَئِذٍ فَاضَ عَلَيْهِ المَاءُ فَهَلَكَ.[7]وَأَمَّا السَّمَاوَاتُ وَالأَرْضُ الْكَائِنَةُ الآنَ فَهِيَ مَخْزُونَةٌ بِتِلْكَ الْكَلِمَةِ عَيْنِهَا مَحْفُوظَةً لِلنَّارِ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ وَهَلاَكِ النَّاسِ الْفُجَّارِ.

[8]وَلَكِنْ لاَ يَخْفَ عَلَيْكُمْ هَذَا الشَّيْءُ الْوَاحِدُ، أَيُّهَا الأَحِبَّاءُ، أَنَّ يَوْماً وَاحِداً عِنْدَ الرَّبِّ كَأَلْفِ سَنَةٍ، وَأَلْفَ سَنَةٍ كَيَوْمٍ وَاحِدٍ.[9]لاَ يَتَبَاطَأُ الرَّبُّ عَنْ وَعْدِهِ كَمَا يَحْسِبُ قَوْمٌ التَّبَاطُؤَ، لَكِنَّهُ يَتَأَنَّى عَلَيْنَا، وَهُوَ لاَ يَشَاءُ أَنْ يَهْلِكَ أُنَاسٌ بَلْ أَنْ يُقْبِلَ الْجَمِيعُ إِلَى التَّوْبَةِ.[10]وَلَكِنْ سَيَأْتِي كَلِصٍّ فِي اللَّيْلِ، يَوْمُ الرَّبِّ، الَّذِي فِيهِ تَزُولُ السَّمَاوَاتُ بِضَجِيجٍ وَتَنْحَلُّ الْعَنَاصِرُ مُحْتَرِقَةً وَتَحْتَرِقُ الأَرْضُ وَالمَصْنُوعَاتُ الَّتِي فِيهَا.

[11]فَبِمَا أَنَّ هَذِهِ كُلَّهَا تَنْحَلُّ، أَيَّ أُنَاسٍ يَجِبُ أَنْ تَكُونُوا أَنْتُمْ فِي سِيرَةٍ مُقَدَّسَةٍ وَتَقْوَى[12]مُنْتَظِرِينَ وَطَالِبِينَ سُرْعَةَ مَجِيءِ يَوْمِ الرَّبِّ، الَّذِي بِهِ تَنْحَلُّ السَّمَاوَاتُ مُلْتَهِبَةً وَالْعَنَاصِرُ مُحْتَرِقَةً تَذُوبُ.[13]وَلَكِنَّنَا بِحَسَبِ وَعْدِهِ نَنْتَظِرُ سَمَاوَاتٍ جَدِيدَةً وَأَرْضاً جَدِيدَةً يَسْكُنُ فِيهَا الْبِرُّ.

[14]لِذَلِكَ، أَيُّهَا الأَحِبَّاءُ، إِذْ أَنْتُمْ مُنْتَظِرُونَ هَذِهِ، اجْتَهِدُوا لِتُوجَدُوا عِنْدَهُ بِلاَ دَنَسٍ وَلاَ عَيْبٍ فِي سَلاَمٍ،[15]وَاحْسِبُوا أَنَاةَ رَبِّنَا خَلاَصاً، كَمَا كَتَبَ إِلَيْكُمْ أَخُونَا الْحَبِيبُ بُولُسُ أَيْضاً بِحَسَبِ الْحِكْمَةِ المُعْطَاةِ لَهُ،[16]كَمَا فِي الرَّسَائِلِ كُلِّهَا أَيْضاً مُتَكَلِّماً فِيهَا عَنْ هَذِهِ الأُمُورِ، الَّتِي فِيهَا أَشْيَاءُ عَسِرَةُ الْفَهْمِ يُحَرِّفُهَا غَيْرُ الْعُلَمَاءِ وَغَيْرُ الثَّابِتِينَ كَبَاقِي الْكُتُبِ أَيْضاً لِهَلاَكِ أَنْفُسِهِمْ.

[17]فَأَنْتُمْ، أَيُّهَا الأَحِبَّاءُ، إِذْ قَدْ سَبَقْتُمْ فَعَرَفْتُمْ، احْتَرِسُوا مِنْ أَنْ تَنْقَادُوا بِضَلاَلِ الأَرْدِيَاءِ فَتَسْقُطُوا مِنْ ثَبَاتِكُمْ،[18]وَلَكِنِ انْمُوا فِي النِّعْمَةِ وَفِي مَعْرِفَةِ رَبِّنَا وَمُخَلِّصِنَا يَسُوعَ المَسِيحِ، لَهُ المَجْدُ الآنَ وَإِلَى يَوْمِ

[1]This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:[2]That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:[3]Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,[4]And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.[5]For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:[6]Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:[7]But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.[8]But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.[9]The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.[10]But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.[11]Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,[12]Looking for and hasting unto

the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?[13]Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.[14]Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.[15]And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;[16]As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.[17]Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness.[18]But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

الدَّهْرِ، آمِينَ.