

وَصِيَّةٌ مَجِيءُ الْمَسِيحِ الثَّانِي

¹هَذِهِ أَكْتُبُهَا الْآنَ إِلَيْكُمْ رَسُولًا ثَانِيَةً، أَيُّهَا الْأَجْبَاءُ، فِيهِمَا أَنْهَضُ بِالتَّذْكِرَةِ ذَهْنَكُمْ التَّقِيَّ² تَذْكُرُوا الْأَقْوَالَ الَّتِي قَالَهَا سَابِقًا الْأَنْبِيَاءُ الْفَذِيصُونَ وَوَصِيَّتَنَا نَحْنُ الرُّسُلُ، وَصِيَّةُ الرَّبِّ وَالْمُخْلِصِ³ عَالَمِينَ هَذَا أَوَّلًا، أَنَّهُ سَيَأْتِي فِي آخِرِ الْأَيَّامِ قَوْمٌ مُسْتَهْزِئُونَ سَالِكِينَ بِحَسَبِ شَهَوَاتِ أَنْفُسِهِمْ⁴ وَقَائِلِينَ: أَيْنَ هُوَ مَوْعِدُ مَجِيئِهِ؟ لَأَنَّهُ مِنْ جِبْنٍ رَقَدَ الْآبَاءُ كُلُّ شَيْءٍ بَاقٍ هَكَذَا مِنْ بَدْءِ الْخَلِيقَةِ.⁵ لِأَنَّ هَذَا يَحْفَى عَلَيْهِمْ بِإِرَادَتِهِمْ، أَنَّ السَّمَاوَاتِ كَانَتْ مُنْذُ الْقَدِيمِ وَالْأَرْضُ بِكَلِمَةِ اللَّهِ قَائِمَةٌ مِنَ الْمَاءِ وَبِالْمَاءِ⁶ اللَّوَاتِي بِهِنَّ الْعَالَمُ الْكَائِنُ جَبَنِيذٍ قَاصٍ عَلَيْهِ الْمَاءُ قَهْلَكَ.⁷ وَأَمَّا السَّمَاوَاتُ وَالْأَرْضُ الْكَائِنَتَانِ الْآنَ فَهِيَ مَحْرُوتَةٌ بِتِلْكَ الْكَلِمَةِ غَنِيهَا مَحْفُوظَةٌ لِلنَّارِ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ وَهَلَاكِ النَّاسِ الْفَجَّارِ.

⁸وَلَكِنْ لَا يَخَفْ عَلَيْكُمْ هَذَا الشَّيْءُ الْوَاحِدُ، أَيُّهَا الْأَجْبَاءُ، أَنَّ يَوْمًا وَاحِدًا عِنْدَ الرَّبِّ كَأَلْفِ سَنَةٍ، وَأَلْفُ سَنَةٍ كَيَوْمٍ وَاحِدٍ.⁹ لَا يَبْطَأُ الرَّبُّ عَنْ وَعْدِهِ كَمَا يَحْسِبُ قَوْمٌ التَّبَاطُؤَ، لَكِنَّهُ يَتَأَنَّى عَلَيْنَا، وَهُوَ لَا يَسْأَأُ أَنْ يَهْلِكَ أَتَانُ بَلْ أَنْ يُقِيلَ الْجَمِيعَ إِلَى النَّوْتَةِ.¹⁰ وَلَكِنْ سَيَأْتِي كُلِّصٌّ فِي اللَّيْلِ، يَوْمَ الرَّبِّ، الَّذِي فِيهِ تَرْوُلُ السَّمَاوَاتُ بِضَجِيجٍ وَتَنْحَلُّ الْعَنَاصِرُ مُحْتَرِفَةً وَتَحْتَرِقُ الْأَرْضُ وَالْمَصْنُوعَاتُ الَّتِي فِيهَا.

¹¹فِيمَا أَنَّ هَذِهِ كُلُّهَا تَنْحَلُّ، أَيُّ أَتَانِ يَجِبُ أَنْ تَكُونُوا أَنْتُمْ فِي سِيرَةٍ مُقَدَّسَةٍ وَتَهْفَوُ¹² مُسْطَرِّينَ وَطَالِبِينَ سُرْعَةَ مَجِيءِ يَوْمِ الرَّبِّ، الَّذِي بِهِ تَنْحَلُّ السَّمَاوَاتُ مُلْتَهَبَةً وَالْعَنَاصِرُ مُحْتَرِفَةً تَذُوبُ.¹³ وَلَكِنَّا بِحَسَبِ وَعْدِهِ نَنْتَظِرُ سَمَاوَاتٍ جَدِيدَةً وَأَرْضًا جَدِيدَةً يَسْكُنُ فِيهَا الْبَرُّ.¹⁴ لِذَلِكَ، أَيُّهَا الْأَجْبَاءُ، إِذْ أَنْتُمْ مُسْتَظَرُونَ هَذِهِ، اجْتَهِدُوا لِيُوجَدُوا عِنْدَهُ بِلَا دَسٍ وَلَا عَيْبٍ فِي سَلَامٍ،¹⁵ وَاحْسِبُوا أَتَاةَ رَبَّنَا خَلَاصًا، كَمَا كَتَبَ إِلَيْكُمْ أَخُوْنَا الْحَبِيبُ بُولْسُ أَيْضًا بِحَسَبِ الْحِكْمَةِ الْمُعْطَاةِ لَهُ،¹⁶ كَمَا فِي الرِّسَالِ كُلِّهَا أَيْضًا مُتَكَلِّمًا فِيهَا عَنْ هَذِهِ الْأُمُورِ، الَّتِي فِيهَا أَشْيَاءُ عَسِرَةٌ الْفَهْمِ يُحَرِّفُهَا غَيْرُ الْعُلَمَاءِ وَغَيْرُ الثَّانِيينَ كَبَاقِي الْكُتُبِ أَيْضًا لِهَلَاكِ أَنْفُسِهِمْ.

¹⁷فَأَنْتُمْ، أَيُّهَا الْأَجْبَاءُ، إِذْ قَدْ سَبَقْتُمْ فَعَرَفْتُمْ، اخْتَرِسُوا مِنْ أَنْ تَنْقَادُوا بِضَلَالِ الْأَرْدِيَاءِ فَتَسْقُطُوا مِنْ تَبَانِكُمْ،¹⁸ وَلَكِنْ ائْمُوا فِي النِّعْمَةِ وَفِي مَعْرِفَةِ رَبَّنَا وَمُخْلِصِنَا يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ، لَهُ الْمَجْدُ الْآنَ وَإِلَى يَوْمِ

¹This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:²That 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:³Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,⁴And 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.⁵For 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:⁶Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:⁷But 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.⁸But, 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.⁹The 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.¹⁰But 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.¹¹Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,¹²Looking for and hasting unto

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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 steadfastness.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.