

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

وَصِيَّةُ مَجِيءِ الْمَسِيحِ الثَّانِي

¹هَذِهِ أَكْتُبُهَا الْآنَ إِلَيْكُمْ رِسَالَةً ثَانِيَةً، أَيُّهَا الْأَحْيَاءُ، فِيهَا أُهَيِّضُ بِالذِّكْرِ ذَهْنَكُمْ النَّقِيَّ² لِتَذْكُرُوا الْأَقْوَالَ الَّتِي قَالَهَا سَابِقًا الْأَنْبِيَاءُ الْقَدِيسُونَ وَوَصِيَّتَنَا تَحْنُ الرُّسُلِ، وَصِيَّةَ الرَّبِّ وَالْمُخَلَّصِ،³ غَالِمِينَ هَذَا أَوَّلًا، أَنَّهُ سَيَأْتِي فِي آخِرِ الْأَيَّامِ قَوْمٌ مُسْتَهْزِئُونَ سَالِكِينَ بِحَسَبِ شَهَوَاتِ أَنْفُسِهِمْ⁴ وَقَائِلِينَ: أَيْنَ هُوَ مَوْعِدُ مَجِيئِهِ؟ لِأَنَّهُ مِنْ حِينَ رَقَدَ الْأَبَاءُ كُلُّ شَيْءٍ بَاقٍ هَكَذَا مِنْ بَدْءِ الْخَلِيقَةِ.⁵ لِأَنَّ هَذَا يَحْفَى عَلَيْهِمْ بِإِرَادَتِهِمْ، أَنَّ السَّمَاوَاتِ كَانَتْ مِنْذُ الْقَدِيمِ وَالْأَرْضُ بِكَلِمَةِ اللَّهِ قَائِمَةً مِنَ الْمَاءِ وَالْمَاءِ،⁶ اللَّوَانِي بِهِنَ الْعَالَمِ الْكَائِنِ حِينَئِذٍ قَاصٌّ عَلَيْهِ الْمَاءُ فَهَلَكَ.⁷ وَأَمَّا السَّمَاوَاتُ وَالْأَرْضُ الْكَائِنَتَانِ الْآنَ فَهِيَ مَحْزُونَةٌ بِتِلْكَ الْكَلِمَةِ عِنْدَهَا مَحْفُوطَةٌ لِلنَّارِ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ وَهَلَاكِ النَّاسِ الْفَجَّارِ.

⁸وَلَكِنْ لَا يَحْفَظُ عَلَيْكُمْ هَذَا الشَّيْءُ الْوَاحِدُ، أَيُّهَا الْأَحْيَاءُ، أَنَّ يَوْمًا وَاحِدًا عِنْدَ الرَّبِّ كَأَلْفِ سَنَةٍ، وَأَلْفُ سَنَةٍ كَيَوْمٍ وَاحِدٍ.⁹ لَا يَتَبَاطَأُ الرَّبُّ عَنْ وَعْدِهِ كَمَا يَحْسِبُ قَوْمٌ الْبَاطِلُونَ، لَكِنَّهُ يَتَأَنَّى عَلَيْنَا، وَهُوَ لَا يَنْشَأُ أَنْ يَهْلِكَ أَنْاسٌ بَلْ أَنْ يُقْبَلَ الْجَمِيعُ إِلَى التَّوْبَةِ.¹⁰ وَلَكِنْ سَيَأْتِي كَلِصٌّ فِي اللَّيْلِ يَوْمُ الرَّبِّ، الَّذِي فِيهِ تَرْوُلُ السَّمَاوَاتُ بِضَجِيجٍ وَتَنْحَلُّ الْعَنَاصِرُ مُحْتَرِقَةً وَتَحْتَرِقُ الْأَرْضُ وَالْمَصْنُوعَاتُ الَّتِي فِيهَا.

¹¹فَيَمَّا أَنَّ هَذِهِ كُلُّهَا تَنْحَلُّ، أَيُّ أَنْاسٍ يَجِبُ أَنْ تَكُونُوا أَنْتُمْ فِي سِيرَةٍ مُقَدَّسَةٍ وَتَقْوَى مُنْتَظِرِينَ وَطَالِبِينَ سُرْعَةَ مَجِيءِ يَوْمِ الرَّبِّ، الَّذِي بِهِ تَنْحَلُّ السَّمَاوَاتُ مُلْتَهَبَةً وَالْعَنَاصِرُ مُحْتَرِقَةً تَذُوبُ.¹² وَلَكِنَّا بِحَسَبِ وَعْدِهِ نَنْتَظِرُ سَمَاوَاتٍ جَدِيدَةً وَأَرْضًا جَدِيدَةً يَسْكُنُ فِيهَا الْبَرُّ.

¹⁴إِذْ أَنْتُمْ مُنْتَظِرُونَ هَذِهِ، اجْتَهِدُوا لِتُوجَدُوا عِنْدَهُ بِلَا دَنَسٍ وَلَا عَيْبٍ فِي سَلَامٍ،¹⁵ وَاحْسِبُوا أَنَا رَبَّنَا خَلَاصًا، كَمَا كَتَبَ إِلَيْكُمْ أَحْوَابُ الْحَبِيبِ بُولُسُ أَيْضًا بِحَسَبِ الْحِكْمَةِ الْمُعْطَاةِ لَهُ،¹⁶ كَمَا فِي الرِّسَائِلِ كُلِّهَا أَيْضًا مُتَكَلِّمًا فِيهَا عَنْ هَذِهِ الْأُمُورِ، الَّتِي فِيهَا أَسْبَاءُ عَسِيرَةُ الْفَهْمِ يَحْرِفُهَا غَيْرُ الْعُلَمَاءِ وَغَيْرُ الثَّابِتِينَ كِبَاقِي الْكُتُبِ أَيْضًا لِهَلَاكِ أَنْفُسِهِمْ.

¹⁷فَأَنْتُمْ، أَيُّهَا الْأَحْيَاءُ، إِذْ قَدْ سَبَقْتُمْ فَعَرَفْتُمْ، اخْتَرِسُوا مِنْ أَنْ تَنْقَادُوا بِضَلَالِ الْأُرْدِيَاءِ فَتَسْقُطُوا مِنْ تَبَاتِكُمْ،¹⁸ وَلَكِنْ ائْمُوا فِي التَّعَمُّةِ وَفِي مَعْرِفَةِ رَبَّنَا وَمُخَلَّصِنَا يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ، لَهُ الْمَجْدُ الْآنَ وَإِلَى يَوْمِ

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.