

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – September 20, 2020

Theme: The Certainty of God's Word Topic: God's Promise of His Return

Main Text: John 14: 1-3; 2 Peter 3: 1-18

Key verse: John 14:3: *“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”* (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION: On the night of Jesus' betrayal and eventual crucifixion, He told His disciples that He was going to be with them for only a little while longer; that they will search for Him but can't come where He was going (John 13:33). This statement must have disturbed the disciples. Peter, as usual was the one to voice what was perhaps in the minds of the other disciples 'Lord, why can I not follow You now?' (John 13:37). This is the setting for Jesus' opening statement in John 14:1, in which He tries to allay His disciples' anxiety and promised them that He was coming back 'When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with Me where I am' (John 14:3 NLT)

1. (a) According to John 14:1-3 on what did Jesus anchor His promised return? (b) What did Jesus say is the purpose of His second coming? See John 14:3b (c) How does Jesus' statement in John 14:3a 'When everything is ready, I will come and get you...' help us in our wait for His return?

It was not long before believers started receiving taunts about Jesus' promised return. And it has been centuries now and the Church is still waiting on the Lord's return. Many assume that it will never happen because it has taken so long. There are several jokes about "the coming of Jesus that never comes". Yet as believers, we can count on this promised return. Jesus swore to it when He said, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away". (Matthew 24:35 NIV). And as Hebrews 6:18 says "So God has given both His promise and His oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to Him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us." So, as Apostle Peter concludes his encouragement to believers who live in the 'last days', he brings up the issue of Jesus' promised return.

2. (a) How does Apostle Peter describe those who scoff at the promised return of Jesus Christ? See 2 Peter 3:3-5 (b) Apostle Peter in 2 Peter 3:8-9 points to the difference between man's sense of timing and God's. How does this help us deal with the doubts many may have about His return as we wait? (c) How can believers use this seeming delay in the fulfilment of this promise (2 Peter 3:9) in advancing God's purposes on earth?

Today we are reminded again that Jesus will return like He promised. While it may seem like Jesus' promised return is delaying, God wants His children to use the time wisely. So, Apostle Peter says, "I have written both of them as reminders to stimulate you to wholesome thinking" (2 Peter 3:1). He then asks an important question, "Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be?" (2 Peter 3:11). The Apostle then points the way for those who are waiting for this promised return.

3. (a) According to 2 Peter 3:14-18 and Matthew 24:13, what are we to do as people who are looking forward to Jesus' return? (b) 2 Peter 3:17 warns of errors we should beware of. What are some of such errors which are sweeping believers off their feet? (c) How does growing in God's grace and knowledge of Jesus help us to remain steadfast as we await our Saviour's return?

Prayer: Our Saviour, thank you for the promise of Your return. Help us to be prepared at all time to receive You when You return. Amen.