The Scoffers of the Last Days

2 Peter 3:1-4
Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you,

14 knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as the Lord Jesus Christ showed me.
I. They Scoff at the Prophecies of Christ's Return.

A. Peter reminds us of the words of the prophets (v.2)

- Ch. 1:16: For we did not follow cunningly devised fables... but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.
1 John 1:1-3

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—

2 the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—

3 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.
B. David wrote of the Lord's return to rule the nations.

Psalm 2:1-9

C. Isaiah wrote of the time Christ will set up His kingdom.

Isaiah 9:6-7,

For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.
D. Zechariah wrote of the time when we will see the wounded Christ return.

- Zech. 12:10, “And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.

- Zech. 13:6, And one will say to him, ‘What are these wounds between your arms?’ Then he will answer, ‘Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.’

E. The scoffers are themselves a fulfillment of prophecy. "Where is the promise of His coming..."
II. They Scoff at the Need for Purity in Light of Christ's Return.

A. "Walking according to their own lusts" (V. 3b)

B. These Scoffers think that morality doesn't matter.

- Numbers 32:23 But if you do not do so, then take note, you have sinned against the Lord; and be sure your sin will find you out.
C. Consider scoffers of the past who did wrong.

- Jude 7 ...as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.
D. To believes, the return of Christ is a purifying hope.

- **1 John 3:3**, And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

- **1 John 2:28**, And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

- **Luke 12:39-40**, But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into.

- **40**Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

“**The Lord will come as a thief in the night...**” (v.10)
III. They Scoff at the Promise of Christ's Coming.

A. "Where is the promise of His coming?" (V. 4)

B. There are many promises of His coming, listen!
   - The signs and promises of Matthew 24:27-44
   - The warning and promise of Matthew 25:13
   - The promise of Jesus in the upper room John 14:1-3
   - The promise of Paul to the Thessalonian church. 1 Thess. 4:13-18.
C. The long wait for Christ's coming is no reason to doubt that He will come.

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise,
as some count slackness,
but is longsuffering toward us,
not willing that any should perish
but that all should come to repentance.
2 Peter 3:10 – 13

The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?

Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.