

## **Where Is the Promise Of His Coming?**

**By Patrick Swayne**

Though the Bible is the infallible, inspired, and inerrant word of God, it has been attacked more times than possibly any other book in the world. Attacks have been mounted against the Bible's authenticity, authorship, and dating, even though these attacks are typically not based on any external evidence. Its historical records are typically denied until they are verified by archaeological findings or contemporary history. Its unity is doubted, although these doubters have yet to point out one valid contradiction. In fact, though other books of religion are error-filled (the Koran, the Talmud, and the Book of Mormon are just a few), the Bible is the only book of religion that is consistently brought under scrutiny and attack but is consistently defended.

Bible readers ought to draw faith not only in the Bible's impenetrable defense, but also in the fact that even the very critics who bring criticism upon the Bible were spoken of in the Bible. Peter, looking forward to the age in which we now live, wrote of these men: "Knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts" (2 Peter 3:3). Who are these critics of the Bible? They are scoffers, scornful speakers against God and His word. Why do they attack the word of God? They seek to be justified in "walking according to their own lusts."

These critics do not look to heaven above but rather to their fellow man for faith. It's only because God has not yet visited his wrath on "those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the Gospel," that they state that God is dead or that He never existed (2 Thessalonians 1:8). They laugh at the idea of an all authoritative figure, in spite of the overwhelming evidence in every branch of human reasoning which demands His existence, and say to the Christian, just as Peter prophesied, "Where is the promise of His coming?" (2 Peter 3:4a). They use as proof of this belief the supposition that "all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation" or as they often say these days, the earth has evolved into its present state (2 Peter 3:4b).

Peter shows the flaws in their beliefs; they willingly forget three things. First, they forget that things have not continued since the beginning of the world in the same manner. Specifically, they forget that in the days of Noah, "the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water" (2 Peter 3:6). The flood totally disrupted the earth and all that then was and is a picture of the judgment to come (2 Peter 3:7).

Second, they forget that the Lord has a different concept of time. "With the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day" (2 Peter 3:8b). While the Lord's judgment might seem a long time in coming, to He who is eternal, any time that passes is nothing.

The third thing they forget is what they need to know more than anything else: the fact that the attributes of God explain why Jesus Christ has not returned. God is not a liar, and He did not forget His promises. Instead, He is merciful and delays the coming of His Son so that more souls can change their minds and return to Him. "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 3:9).

Though scoffers decry the Bible and attack the Lord's church, the Lord extends to them salvation through His message, the Bible, and His messengers, Christians. Let us remember this fact when the Bible comes under attack and, since souls are at stake, let us

be ever-ready to defend the gospel against these attacks. However, let us also do our part to ensure that even the most rabid critics of the Bible are given the opportunity to taste of the Lord's graciousness. To fulfill God's will and to keep these souls from perishing, we must ensure that these souls hear and obey the truth.