

# 2 Peter 3:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But 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.

## Analysis

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**Chapter 3, verse 7 - Comprehensive theological analysis.** Peter continues his urgent apostolic warning about the dangers facing the church. This verse contributes crucial insights to understanding false teachers' characteristics, God's judgment patterns, and believers' proper response. The Greek terminology reveals theological precision in Peter's argument, emphasizing both divine sovereignty in salvation and human responsibility in sanctification.

The immediate context connects to Peter's broader argument about maintaining doctrinal purity and moral integrity while awaiting Christ's return. Greek word studies illuminate the specific nature of the threats Peter identifies and the resources God provides for perseverance. This passage resonates with Old Testament prophetic warnings, Jesus' teaching about false prophets, and Paul's pastoral instructions, demonstrating biblical theology's consistency across testaments and authors.

Christ-centered interpretation reveals how this verse ultimately points to Jesus as the standard for truth, the source of power for godly living, and the coming Judge who will vindicate the faithful and condemn the wicked. The eschatological dimension reminds believers that present struggles occur within the larger framework of redemptive history culminating in Christ's glorious return and the establishment of the new heavens and new earth.

## Historical Context

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The first-century church faced unique challenges from both pagan Greco-Roman culture and Jewish opposition, while also contending with internal threats from false teachers who distorted apostolic doctrine. Peter writes in the shadow of Nero's persecution (AD 64-68) and his own approaching martyrdom, making this letter his urgent final testament to the churches. Early Gnostic influences promoting secret knowledge, antinomian ethics, and denial of Christ's physical return created the specific heresies Peter addresses.

Understanding the social, religious, and philosophical context of the Roman Empire illuminates Peter's concerns and arguments. The delay of Christ's parousia created pastoral challenges as expectations of imminent return gave way to questions about timing and certainty. Jewish apocalyptic literature, Greco-Roman moral philosophy, and mystery religions all influenced how different groups understood salvation, ethics, and eschatology, requiring apostolic clarification to maintain orthodox Christianity.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How does this verse challenge compromises you might be tempted to make for cultural acceptance or personal comfort?
2. What practices would help you grow in discernment to recognize and resist false teaching in its contemporary forms?
3. How should the certainty of Christ's return and judgment shape your priorities, relationships, and use of time and resources?

## Interlinear Text

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|                |                      |                      |                    |                 |                   |                  |       |                    |
|----------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|-------|--------------------|
| οἱ             | δὲ                   | νῦν                  | οὐρανοὶ            | καὶ             | ἡ                 | γῆ               | τῷ    | αὐτῷ               |
| G3588          | <b>But</b>           | <b>which are now</b> | <b>the heavens</b> | <b>and</b>      | G3588             | <b>the earth</b> | G3588 | <b>by the same</b> |
|                | G1161                | G3568                | G3772              | G2532           |                   | G1093            |       | G846               |
| λόγῳ           | τεθησαυρισμένοι      | εἰσὶν                | πυρί               | τηρούμενοι      | εἰς               |                  |       |                    |
| <b>word</b>    | <b>kept in store</b> | <b>are</b>           | <b>unto fire</b>   | <b>reserved</b> | <b>against</b>    |                  |       |                    |
| G3056          | G2343                | G1526                | G4442              | G5083           | G1519             |                  |       |                    |
| ἡμέραν         | κρίσεως              | καὶ                  | ἀπωλείας           | τῶν             | ἀσεβῶν            | ἀνθρώπων         |       |                    |
| <b>the day</b> | <b>of judgment</b>   | <b>and</b>           | <b>perdition</b>   | G3588           | <b>of ungodly</b> | <b>men</b>       |       |                    |
| G2250          | G2920                | G2532                | G684               |                 | G765              | G444             |       |                    |

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Peter 3:10** (Parallel theme): But 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.

**Isaiah 51:6** (Parallel theme): Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look upon the earth beneath: for the heavens shall vanish away like smoke, and the earth shall wax old like a garment, and they that dwell therein shall die in like manner: but my salvation shall be for ever, and my righteousness shall not be abolished.

**2 Peter 3:12** (References God): Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

**Revelation 21:1** (Parallel theme): And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

**Matthew 24:35** (Word): Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

**2 Peter 2:9** (Judgment): The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

**Matthew 25:41** (Parallel theme): Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

**Revelation 20:11** (Parallel theme): And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

**Matthew 12:36** (Judgment): But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

**1 Timothy 6:9** (Parallel theme): But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.