

to be at Christ's Coming indefinitely and altogether, which we, who are now more fully informed by the revelation of the Gospel of a two-fold coming, must apply each of them to its proper time: those things which befit the state of his *first* Coming unto it: and such things as befit the state of his *second* coming, unto the second; and what befits both alike, may be applied unto both -- So also Mal. iv. 1, that the great and terrible day shall burn as an oven, and all the proud, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble, which at the coming of that day shall be burnt up.

Ver. 8. But whereas I mentioned (*saith Peter*) the day of judgment, lest ye might mistake it for a short day, or a day of a few hours: I would not, beloved, have you ignorant, that one day with the Lord is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

Ver. 9. And though this day be long deferred, yet is not the Lord slack concerning his promise, (as some men account slackness, as if he had altered his purpose, or meant never to perform it,) but the cause of this delay is the long-suffering towards us of the seed of Israel, not willing that any should perish at that day, but that our whole nation should come unto repentance, which if that day should surprise them in their unbelief, must inevitably perish with the rest of the enemies of Christ.

Ver. 10. But as for the manner of the coming of this great day of the Lord, it shall be suddenly and unawares, as a thief in the night, in which the heavens with a crackling noise of fire shall pass away, and the host of them shall melt with fervent heat: the earth also, and the works therein shall be burned.

Ver. 11, 12. Seeing then, that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought we to be in all holy conversation and godliness, to make ourselves fireproof, and such as may abide the day of refining? As, namely, becometh those, who by faith, look for, and hasten the coming of the day of the Lord, wherein the heavens being on fire, shall be dissolved, and the host of them melt with fervent heat. For our life and conversation ought to be suitable to our faith, and we are so to walk, as if that were always present, which by faith we look for.

Ver. 13. But this conflagration ended, (whatsoever those scoffers say, who question the promise of Christ's Second Coming,) we look, according to his promise, (Is. lxxv. 17, and lxxvi. 22,) for a new heaven and a new earth (that is, a new and refined state of the world,) wherein righteousness shall dwell, according as the same prophet saith, (chap. lx. 20, 21,) the Lord shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended: thy people also shall be all righteousness, they shall inherit the land (or earth) for ever.

Ver. 14, 15, 16. Wherefore, beloved, (seeing that ye look for such things at his coming,) be diligent, that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless, and account