

## Denial of the Second Coming (v.4)

**VERSE 4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming** (καὶ λέγοντες, Ποῦ ἐστὶν ἡ ἐπαγγελία τῆς παρουσίας αὐτοῦ [*conj. + pres.act.pt.n.m.p., lego, say, + interrog., pou, where, + pres.act.ind.3.s., eimi, + def.art.w/n.f.s., epaggelia, promise, + def.art.w/gen.f.s., parousia, coming, + pro.gen.m.s., he; his*])? **For ever since the fathers fell asleep** (γὰρ ἀπ' ἧς οἱ πατέρες ἐκοιμήθησαν [*conj., gar, + prep. {apo} w/pro./rel.gen.f.s., hos; "ever since", + def.art. w/n.m.p., pater, father; forefather, + aor.pass.ind.3.p., κοιμάω, koimao, fall asleep {pass.}; metaph. for death; cp. 1Cor.15:6*]), **all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation** (πάντα οὕτως διαμένει ἀπ' ἀρχῆς κτίσεως [*adj.n.nt.p., pas, + pres.act.ind.3.s., διαμένω, diameno, continue, remain, + adv., houtos, thus, in this way; "just as", + prep., {apo} w/gen.f.s., arche, beginning, + gen.f.s., ktisis, creation*])."

**ANALYSIS: VERSE 4**

1. "And saying" introduces a summary of the liberal attack.
2. They categorize the doctrine of the Second Coming as fanciful, the product of later Christian legend embedded within the N.T. writings, which they do not regard as authentic, having been written decades after the events (cp. "cleverly devised myths" of 2Pet.1:16).
3. They claim that Jesus' Messianic expectations were foiled by crucifixion and that His followers later on reinvented the doctrine of His return.
4. Denial of the doctrine has been further fueled by the long history in which He has not come back as promised in the Scripture.
5. So they scoff at Christ's return because centuries have passed and it has not happened – "all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation".
6. One generation follows another (*i.e.*, "ever since the fathers fell asleep") with no apocalyptic intervention, eliciting a faulty logic.
7. Their premise is wrong – that God has not dramatically intervened in the course of man's history.
8. Just because something has been a long time in coming, or has never happened in the past, it does not follow that it would necessarily never occur.
9. In more modern times they have a theory that supports their dogmatic assertion.
10. That theory is the theory of uniformitarianism.
11. It stands in opposition to the Biblical teaching of catastrophism.
12. Uniformitarianism is the doctrine that *existing processes, acting as a present*, are sufficient to account for all geological change.
13. Uniformitarianism has been an integral part of humanism for the last 150 years.
14. Catastrophism has been an integral part of the Judeo-Christian heritage for the past 3,500 years.
15. Darwinism arose directly from geological uniformitarianism (this theory came first).

16. As the first generation of the Church died off, doubt regarding the coming of the Lord must have surfaced.
17. Verses like Mt.10:23, 16:28, and 24:34 were misinterpreted to try and prove that Jesus was mistaken with respect to the timing of the Second Coming.
18. As that eyewitness generation began to pass away, critics arose in accordance with this prophecy.
19. Complaints about the delay of Christ's return were common enough, as is made clear by a quotation from what *1Clement* 23 calls "Scripture" and *2Clement* 9 "the prophetic word".
20. The quotation runs as follows: "Wretched are the double-minded who doubt in their soul and say, 'These things we heard in the days of our fathers also; and, behold, we have grown old and none of them has befallen us'" (or, as the *2Clement* version concludes, "'and we, though expecting them day after day, have seen none of them'").
21. Evidently they both quote some sort of early Christian prophecy or apocalypse which has not survived to deal with the problem of the delay of the parousia.
22. There is a Rabbinic comment on Ps.89:50: "They have scoffed at Messiah's coming" and "He delays so long that they say 'He will never come'".
23. This shows that the subject was alive in Jewish as well as Christian circles.
24. The fire of skepticism has been further fueled through the centuries by the "date-setters".
25. Reaction to this resulted in the "can't know" doctrine of immanency.
26. This doctrine affirms that Christ could come back at any time since His ascension.
27. In other words, that there is nothing that needs to be fulfilled before the Rapture of the Church.
28. Meanwhile, scoffers continue to disparage the doctrine of the Second Coming.
29. In so doing, they fulfill prophecy, which is an encouragement to the informed!
30. Scoffers continue to support their skepticism by pointing to the immutability of natural law where miracles, by definition, have not happened, and cannot happen.
31. Their mistake is to forget that the laws of nature are God's laws; their predictability springs from His faithfulness.
32. Apparently, the scoffers of Peter's day were thinking of the O.T. "fathers", as every other reference to the expression "the fathers" in the N.T. refers to these men (cf. Acts.3:13; Rom.9:5; Heb.1:1, etc.).
33. For it is not said that things continue as they have since the coming of Christ, but since "the beginning of creation".
34. The mockers were perverting (misusing by being selective) the O.T. Scriptures.
35. Appropriately, Peter confounds them by appealing to the O.T.
36. Apparently, by the mid-sixties these types had already surfaced.
37. Notice the lovely word for death, so remarkable in a world that, as a whole, was saddled with the fear of death.
38. The fathers "fell asleep" (κοιμάω, aor.pass.ind.).
39. That is how Jesus had talked of death (Mk.5:35; Jn.11:11).
40. So when Stephen died, he is said to have fallen asleep (Acts.7:60).
41. When some of the Thessalonians died, Paul described them as those "who have fallen asleep in Jesus" (1Thess.4:14; cp. vv.13,15; 1Cor.15:6,18,20,51; 7:39, where it is translated "is dead"; and 1Cor.11:30, where it is used of believers who died the SUD!).
42. Its usage in the N.T. is in accord with its usage in the O.T. (Acts.13:36).

43. In the epistles, the other verb for sleep, καθεύδω, is used of being out of fellowship or out of sync with BD (4X: Eph.5:14; 1Thess.5:6,7,10).
44. Both terms are used for ordinary sleep (all in the Gospels and Acts).
45. The emphasis is that those who have passed on are in a state of rest, not unconsciousness (they are, in fact, quite alert to their surroundings).
46. The mention of the creation by the heretics is not in accordance with the Biblical account.
47. Various cosmogonies, ancient and modern, have been advanced to explain the universe.
48. The modern theory of the origins of life is evolution with its premises.
49. Peter's response to the critics is in the verses that follow.

### Ignorance of Earth's Geological History (vv.5,6)

#### Original Creation and Hydrodynamics (v.5)

**VERSE 5** **For when they maintain this** (γὰρ τοῦτο θέλοντας [*conj., for, + pres.act.pt.acc.m.p., thelo, wish, want; "maintain", + pro./demon.n.nt.s., houtos; "this"*]), **it escapes their notice** (λανθάνει αὐτοὺς [*pres.act.ind.3.s., λανθάνω, lanthano, be hidden, escape notice; 6X: Mk.7:24; Lk.8:47; Acts.26:26; Heb.13:2; 2Pet.3:5,8, + pro.acc.m.p., autos, self; "their" or "them"; "it eludes them"*]) **that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago** (ὅτι τῷ τοῦ θεοῦ λόγῳ οὐρανοὶ ἦσαν ἔκπαλαι [*conj. + def.art.w/instr.m.s., logos, word, + def.art.w/gen.m.s., theos, God, + n.m.p., ouranos, heaven, + imperf.act.ind.3.p., eimi; "existed", + adv., ekpalai, for a long time; 2X: 2Pet.2:3*]) **and the earth was formed out of water and by water** (καὶ γῆ συνεστῶσα ἐξ ὕδατος καὶ δι' ὕδατος [*conj. + n.f.s., ge, earth, + pf.act.pt.n.f.s., συνίστημι, sunistemi, put together; 16X; has a variety of nuances, from recommend, commend, to hold together, to stand beside; here, "formed", + prep. {ek} w/gen.nt.s., hudor, water, + prep. {dia} w/gen.nt.s., hudor, water*]),

#### ANALYSIS: VERSE 5

1. Peter proceeds to point out the colossal ignorance of the critics, modern and ancient, with respect to earth's geological history.
2. Had they taken the Bible – in particular, the Genesis record – seriously and literally, they could have avoided the gross error that characterizes their theories (big bang, gravitation, ball earth, planets, solar system, evolution, etc.).
3. The words "For when they maintain this" are, literally, "For when they desire this".
4. The circumstantial participle, "when they maintain", is the verb θέλω, which means to wish or desire something.
5. The pronoun "this" looks back to the statement "all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation" (v.4).
6. These words describe their uniformitarian bias.

7. This doctrine is the *sine qua non* (literally, “without which not”, i.e., something indispensable) of their belief system.
8. They are biased against the supernatural or divine contravention of what they call the predictable and immutable laws of nature.
9. So the true doctrine of origins eludes them because they do not want the true and living God in their thinking, just like their pagan counterparts (cf. Rom.1:20,21,25).
10. The Genesis account has been disparaged, and so they, for all their talk, are in the dark with respect to what Aristotle called “the Unmoved Mover”.
11. The WOG makes it clear in the opening verse that “In the (or “a”) beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Gen.1:1).
12. Peter describes creation *ex nihilo* as being “by the word of God”.
13. This means by divine fiat.
14. In other words, God willed it and the earth was created along with the three heavens and during restoration week the sun, moon, and stars were added (Gen. 1).
15. Matter is not eternal; only God is eternal.
16. It is clear from divine revelation that at some point there was nothing, and then God spoke, and the result what we find in Genesis 1 (cf. 2:1)..
17. At some point in eternity past there was nothing, and then there was creation (the expression “by the word of God” occurs here and in Heb.11:3 in connection with creation; however, the Greek is different; in Hebrews the construction is ῥήματι θεοῦ, whereas here it is τῷ τοῦ θεοῦ λόγῳ).
18. Some other Scriptures: Pss.89:11; 90:2; 102:25; Isa.42:5; 45:18; Jn.1:1-3,10; Acts.17:24; Rom.1:20; Rev.14:7.
19. The second person of the Godhead is credited with creation (Col.1:16,17; Rev.4:11).
20. The word “existed” is the imperfect active indicative of *eimi* (“to be”, or “was”).”
21. The adverb “long ago” is non-specific.
22. How “long ago” original creation occurred is debated.
23. The second thing that Peter says is that the product of the Omnipotent word is earth’s topography.
24. The words “and *the* earth (*terra firma*, dry land, as distinguished from sea) was formed out of (prep., *ek*) water (gen. of agency, *hudor*, water) and by (prep., *dia*) water (gen. of agency)” draws our attention to Gen.1:9,10, which has to do with D+3 of creation/restoration week.
25. First, let us dispense with the foolish interpretation that views this phrase as having anything to do with the creation myths of Assyria, Babylon, Egypt, etc., which pictured the primeval ocean as the element out of which the creation originated.
26. Peter is not saying that the heavens and earth was made out of water.
27. In order to conceptualize what happened on restoration week, we need to appreciate what precedes in the Genesis 1 narrative.
28. Genesis 1:1 simply and eloquently records original creation, which should be distinguished from the six days of restoration.
29. Genesis 1:2 is here considered a separate and subsequent development from what is recorded in Gen.1:1.
30. The original earth was a pristine along with the 3<sup>rd</sup> heaven.
31. The earth was not originally created in the condition found in Gen.1:2 (see Isa.45:18).
32. Therefore, God had to restore the earth so that it could support His special creature – homospian.

33. Something terrible had happened to the earth, which was presumably the result of the angelic revolt.
34. We know that it came to the dreary state recorded in Gen.1:2.
35. The earth, for an unspecified period of time, was in total darkness, which is the clear implication from what happened on D+1 of restoration week (Gen.1:3-5) and what is explicitly stated in Gen.1:2 – “and darkness was over the face of the deep”.
36. So the absence of light means that the earth was extremely cold and that whatever water was there was frozen.
37. The whole surface of the earth was an ice pack.
38. This fact is based on the words “the deep” and what we find happening on D+3 when a massive landmass arose from the previously frozen depths.
39. God the Holy Spirit “moved (literally, “brooded”) over the surface of the waters (frozen state)”, thawing out the ice pack.
40. So there was water on the earth when it was judged.
41. God the HS, who possesses the attributes of Omnipotence and Omnipresence, thawed all the ice, leaving the surface of the globe covered with water.
42. On D+1 the shekinah glory served the earth, until D+4, when the sun and lesser lights were created and set under the dome.
43. On D+2 of restoration God created the firmament/dome separating the waters below from the waters above the firmament.
44. The next logical thing to put in place was dry land as a place where land-breathing creatures and plants could flourish.
45. As this massive continent was raised from the depths, there was significant water run-off which sculpted earth’s visible topography.
46. This corresponds to Peter’s “earth was formed...by water”.
47. So the words “out of water” and “by water” make sense.
48. Before the Flood the earth had a radically different geography and climate.
49. It essentially had one ecosystem (greenhouse effect, with a tropical climate).
50. There was one continent, which fact seems to be reflected in the puzzle-like configuration of the present regime.
51. So God raised a portion of the earth’s crust from beneath the water, creating one ocean and one continent.
52. The result was the formation of rivers and valleys and hills and plains to break up what would otherwise have been a monotonous landscape.
53. Liberalism eschews the Bible as a reliable source of information when it comes to earth science.
54. So this important fact “escapes their notice”.

#### Hydrodynamics of the Flood (v.6)

**VERSE 6 through which the world at that time was destroyed** (δι’ ὧν ὁ κόσμος τότε ἀπώλετο [*prep. {dia} w/gen.nt.p., hos, which, + def.art.w/n.m.s., kosmos, + adv., tote, at that time, + aor.mid.ind.3.s., ἀπόλλυμι, apollumi, destroy*]), **being flooded with water** (κατακλυσθεὶς ὕδατι [*aor.pass.pt.n.m.s., κατακλύζω, katakluzo, flood, + inst.nt.s., hudor, water*]).

ANALYSIS: VERSE 6

1. The next major event with respect to earth's geology was, of course, Noah's flood.
2. It occurred 1,656 years after the creation of Adam.
3. The phrase "through which" (δι' ὧν) has as its antecedent "water" from v.5.
4. The words "the world at that time" refer to antediluvian civilization with its unique environment (greenhouse effect; one continent, language, and ocean).
5. The verb "was destroyed" refers to a universal cataclysm, not a local flood.
6. It would be rather pointless to load the ark with pairs of land-breathing creatures if the flood was local in nature!
7. The obvious language in Genesis and elsewhere speaks to a world wide catastrophe.
8. All land-dwelling creatures, human and otherwise, were "destroyed" due to the unabated evil peculiar to the antediluvian era (Gen.7:21-23).
9. "With water" is the instrumental neuter form of the noun ὕδωρ.
10. The source of the water was two-fold (rain and tidal waves).
11. The event as recorded in Genesis included 40 days and nights of rain (Gen.7:4,12).
12. The antediluvians had never experienced storms, as the earth was watered through heavy mists (Gen.2:6).
13. The rain came from the flood gates of heaven, that is, located in the firmament established on D+2 (Gen.1:6-8).
14. The major source of the watery destruction came from the breaking up of what the Bible calls "fountains of the great deep."
15. All of this began in the 600<sup>th</sup> year of Noah's life (Gen.7:11).
16. The question we now direct our attention to is the how; the answer is simple—the omnipotence of God.
17. The dating of the catastrophe is c. 2200BC (based on a strict reading of genealogies).
18. The effect of the catastrophe on the Earth's fauna was:
  - a. To bury billions of specimens.
  - b. To bring to extinction thousands of species.
  - c. To cause a reorganization of zoogeography for those surviving species.
19. The effect on the Earth's flora was:
  - a. To bury trillions of specimens.
  - b. To bring thousands of species to extinction.
  - c. To cause a reorganization of the florigeography for the surviving species.
20. The effect of the catastrophe on man was to make his survivors very, very few in number and to make his survivors and their early generations very catastrophic-minded.
21. Or put another way, does the physical evidence support a universal flood whose waters reached a height of 15 cubits (about 25 ft.) above the highest mountains (Gen.7:19,20)!
22. At this juncture we will consider the tidal aspect of the Flood.
23. So often the Flood is thought to have been the result of heavy rain.
24. The Bible teaches that rain was associated with the Flood, but not that rain was the primary cause of the Flood. The two phenomena were merely simultaneous.
25. The rain ended after 40 days and nights, but the waters continued to rise for another 110 days (Gen.7:12, 24).
26. The solution is tides in sub-continental proportions. The rain was but drop in the bucket.
27. The location of the grounded Ark is high in the Ararat-Caucasus-Elburz region (Gen.8:4).

28. The grounding of the Ark on the high mountain terrain offers strong evidence of the tidal nature of the Flood.
29. Tides have the effect of both raising and lowering waters and of raising, moving, and grounding driftwood at or near high tide.
30. The Ark is comparable to a piece of driftwood floating on tidal movements of subcontinental magnitude.
31. In such a picture, the Ark would be stranded at or near high tide.
32. In such a scenario, it would logically be caught and grounded within a topographical barrier, such as a hedge or ridge of mountains.
33. If a “ship” of this size had floated at all from mere rainfall, it would have floated downward, not upward, and toward sea level.
34. The tidal sweep which swamps a sand castle at the seashore could also swamp the Alps, Andes, Pyrennes, Rockies, or Ararats; it is only a matter of magnitude or degree; it is not a matter of a lack of mechanism.
35. Tides with water high enough to swamp the highest mountains upon earth would have exerted great pressure upon the Earth’s crust (perhaps 300 tons per square foot).
36. It would have been sufficient to metamorphize any of the various kinds of deposits into successive strata, intermixed with trapped organisms, turning them into perfectly preserved fossils.
37. Layers of sedimentary rock, layer upon layer, are found on every continent, and they appear to have been laid down by immense volumes of water and subsequently compressed by great pressures.
38. The geophysical nature of the Flood becomes apparent as one notes the phrase “the fountains of the deep” (Gen.7:11; 8:2,3), the antediluvian ocean.
39. In the oceans of the earth there are more than 200 million cubic miles of water.
40. A These tides prevailed on the earth for a period of *five months*; for it was not until after the 150 days had passed that “the fountains of the deep...were stopped” (Gen.7:24; 8:1-3).
41. The evidences of this cataclysm on the earth’s crust include the following:
  - a. Fossilization in the rocks – Great numbers of living creatures were entrapped and buried in the swirling sediments; practically all modern families, and most genera, are represented in the fossil record, as well as extinct species; quick burial under extreme pressures make for favorable conditions for this process.
  - b. Phenomena of sedimentation – Most of the sedimentary rocks of the earth’s crust are the ones containing the fossil remains; they have been laid down by moving water; these layers are the result of the processes of erosion, transportation, deposition, and lithification; at the Flood this phenomenon was different quantitatively and qualitatively.
  - c. Fossil graveyards – Never does one find, in the present era, great “graveyards” of organisms buried together; space precludes any adequate discussion of those remarkable deposits; the Cumberland Bone Cave in Maryland contains the remains of dozens of species of mammals, ranging from bats to mastodons, along with some reptiles and birds – from different types of climates and habitats; “In this one cave have been found such types as the wolverine, grizzly bear, and Mustelide, which are native to the Arctic region. Peccaries, the most numerous type represented, tapirs, and an antelope possibly related to the present-day eland are indigenous to tropical regions. Ground-hogs, rabbits, coyotes, and hare remains are indicative of dry prairies; but on the other hand, such water-loving animals as beaver and muskrat suggest a more humid region.” (quote from “Recent

Paleontological Discoveries from Cumberland Bone Cave”, *Scientific Monthly*, May 1953, Vol.76, p.301); near Florissant, Colorado, a wide variety of insect fossils are preserved in rocks of volcanic shale: “Although insect remains are by far the most numerous of the animal fossils preserved at Florissant, other groups are also represented. The shells of tiny fresh-water mollusks are not difficult to find entombed in the rock and occasionally even the skeletons of fish and birds are seen. Several hundred species of plants have been identified from these shales, usually from leaves, but fruits (that is, nuts) and even blossoms have also been abundant, for it is not unusual to find on a single piece of shale from one of the richer fossiliferous layers several individuals within 2 or 3 inches of each other. This life was also extremely varied, with the total number of species running into the hundreds.” (from “An Insect Pompeii”, *Scientific American*, June 1955, Vol. 80, p.357-358); there is the famous Baltic amber deposits, where multitudes of insects and other organisms are preserved with an unsurpassed exquisiteness of detail. Dr. Heribert-Nilsson says, concerning them: “In the pieces of amber, which may reach a size of 5 kilos or more, especially insects and parts of flowers are preserved, even the most fragile structures. The insects are of modern types and their geographical distribution can be ascertained. It is then quite astounding to find that they belong to all regions of the earth, not only to the Palaeoartic region, as was to be expected...The geological and paleobiological facts concerning the layers are impossible to understand unless the explanation is accepted that they are the final result of an allochthonous process, including the whole earth.” (from *Synthetische Artbildung*, pp.1194-1195); Dr. N.D. Newell discussed these same deposits in even more remarkable detail: “One of the most remarkable examples of preservation of organic tissues in antiseptic swamp waters is a “fossil graveyard” in Eocene lignite deposits of the Geiseltal in central Germany...More than six thousand remains of vertebrate animals and a great number of insects, mollusks, and plants were found in these deposits. The compressed remains of soft tissues of many of these animals showed details of cellular structure and some of the specimens had undergone but little chemical modification...Well-preserved bits of hair, feathers, and scales probably are among the oldest known examples of essentially unmodified preservation of structures. The stomach contents of beetles, amphibia, fishes, birds, and mammals provided direct evidence about eating habits. Bacteria of two kinds were found in the excrement of crocodiles and another was found on the trachea of a beetle. Fungi were identified on leaves and the original plant pigments, chlorophyll and coproporphyrin, were found preserved in some of the leaves.” (“Adequacy of the Fossil Record”, *Journal of Paleontology*, Vol.33, May 1959, p.496); Robert Broom, a South African paleontologist, estimated that there are eight hundred thousand million skeletons of vertebrate animals in the Karroo formation (ibid; p.495); Harry S. Ladd, of the U.S. Geological Survey, describing beds of herring fish in the Miocene shales of California, says that “more than a billion fish, averaging 6 to 8 inches in length, died on 4 square miles of bay bottom” (“Ecology, Paleontology, and Stratigraphy”, *Science*, Vol.129, January 9, 1969, p.72). One might, for example, discuss at length such marvels as the La Brea Tar Pits in Los Angeles, which have yielded tens of thousands of specimens of all kinds of living and extinct animals (each of which, by the unbelievable uniformitarian explanation, fell into this sticky graveyard by accident – one at a time!); there are the Sicilian hippopotamus beds, the fossils of which are so extensive that they have actually been mined as charcoal; the great mammal beds of the Rockies; the dinosaur beds of the



Black Hills and the Rockies, as well as in the Gobi desert; the astounding fish beds of the Scottish Devonian strata, and on and on.

- d. Petrification – Folklore has it that petrified wood takes “million and millions” of years to form; as wood decays in a hot, silica-rich environment, each molecule is replaced by a molecule of silica with the result often being an array of beautiful colors; many of the trees found in the Petrified “Forest” of Arizona are of this type; the other type of petrification involves the infiltration of the porous wood by silica-rich water; the silica (or calcite, or both) plugs up the pores, preventing complete decay; the petrified trees of Yellowstone Park are of this type; several laboratory experiments have devised ways in which this can be done (Leo and Barghoorn, 1976, “Silicification of Wood,” *Botanical Museum Leaflets*, vol.25, no.1, Harvard University, p.47); there is an advertisement in a magazine for real “hardwood floors!”.
- e. Preservation of tracks of animals – Many thousands of tracks of animals of all kinds have been found preserved in stone, including many tracks of dinosaurs and other creatures now extinct; it is a matter of common experience that impressions of this sort in soft mud or sand are very quickly obliterated; it would seem that the only way such prints could be preserved as fossils is by means of some chemical action permitting rapid lithification and some aqueous action permitting rapid burial.