

## Summary of 2 Peter 3

In 2 Peter 3, Peter addresses the Day of the Lord and the apparent delay of Christ's return, warning that scoffers will mock the promise of judgment and assume God is inactive. Peter reminds believers that God has intervened decisively in history before and will do so again, as the present heavens and earth are being preserved for a coming day of judgment and renewal. What appears to be slowness is actually God's patience, as He desires people to come to repentance before the consummation of His kingdom. When the Day of the Lord arrives, it will come suddenly, bringing the removal of all that is sinful and the cleansing of creation. In light of this future hope, believers are called to live holy and godly lives as they wait for and anticipate the new heavens and new earth, where righteousness dwells.

## Summary of Matthew

In Matthew chapters 1 and 2, Matthew introduces Jesus not merely as a historical figure but as the long-awaited fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. From the opening genealogy, Matthew carefully traces Jesus' lineage through Abraham and David, establishing Him as both the promised descendant through whom blessing would come to the nations and the rightful heir to David's throne. The genealogy itself emphasizes God's sovereign work throughout Israel's history, showing that Jesus stands at the culmination of God's covenantal promises, even incorporating unexpected figures to highlight God's grace and redemptive purpose.

Matthew continues this theme in the birth narrative by repeatedly pointing out how specific events occurred "to fulfill what the Lord had spoken through the prophet." Jesus' virgin birth fulfills Isaiah's prophecy of Immanuel—God with us—underscoring that Jesus is both fully human and fully divine. In Matthew 2, the visit of the Magi, the flight to Egypt, the massacre of the infants, and the family's eventual return to Nazareth are all framed as fulfillments of prophetic Scripture. Matthew intentionally presents Jesus as reliving and completing Israel's story: called out of Egypt, preserved through suffering, and destined to bring true deliverance to God's people. Through these chapters, Matthew makes it unmistakably clear that Jesus is not an unexpected detour in God's plan but the promised Messiah, faithfully fulfilling the words spoken by the prophets and inaugurating the kingdom of heaven.

## Reflection Questions

1. How does Peter's teaching about the Day of the Lord reshape the way you think about God's timing and patience, especially when you are tempted to doubt His activity in the world?
2. Peter says the Lord is patient because He desires repentance. How does this truth influence the way you view God's mercy toward others and your own responsibility to live faithfully while you wait?
3. If everything in the present world will ultimately be purified and renewed, how should that reality shape your priorities, values, and daily decisions right now?
4. Peter calls believers to live holy and godly lives in light of Christ's return. What specific areas of your life need greater alignment with that future hope?
5. Matthew repeatedly emphasizes that Jesus fulfills Old Testament prophecy. Why is it significant that Jesus is presented as the fulfillment of God's long-standing promises rather than a sudden or unexpected plan?
6. How does tracing Jesus' lineage back to Abraham and David strengthen your understanding of God's faithfulness across generations?
7. The Magi respond to Jesus with worship, while Herod responds with fear and hostility. What do these contrasting responses reveal about how people respond to the kingship of Christ today?
8. Jesus' early life includes danger, displacement, and suffering. How does this shape your understanding of what it means to follow a Messiah who enters the world through humility and hardship?
9. Both passages call believers to live with hope—one looking toward Christ's return and the other looking back at His promised arrival. How can holding both realities together strengthen your faith and perseverance today?