

2Peter 12-01-20a

This is Friday the 20th of January 2012. We're in the book of 2nd Peter chapter 3 we'll be picking up in verse 13 as is our typical practice we'll pause for just a moment at the outset to give each of us a chance to ensure that we've availed ourselves of the grace of God that our hearts and minds and souls are prepared for This opportunity to look at God's Word and receive the ministry of God's Holy Spirit so that it will be time well spent and that we will come away with the guidance from God and the strength and nourishment for our Spiritual life that will equip us for the tasks at hand Shall we pray father? What a blessing it is for us to Have this opportunity to gather to spend time being blessed in the presence of fellow believers who are Enthusiastic about your plan and purpose who love your son the Lord Jesus Christ and who understand the rare and precious opportunity we have in this age to Live in the light of your word and by the power of your spirit we thank you for the Preservation of this text and all of the truth that it conveys to us We thank you for the opportunity to spend time studying it together and we ask your blessing on us as we do. So may each one of us find especially pertinent and applicable truth that will motivate us and encourage us and strengthen us for The purposes you have put us here in this life.

We pray it in Jesus name. Amen 2nd Peter chapter 3 verses 10 through 13 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night In which the heavens will pass away with a great noise and the elements will melt with fervent heat Both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up Therefore since all these things will be dissolved What manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness Looking for and hasting the coming of the day of God Because of which the elements will be dissolved being on fire and the elements will melt with fervent heat Nevertheless, we according to his promise look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells we have looked in some depth at the section here verses 10 through 12 You'll remember What it means that the day of the Lord comes as a thief in the night. There are two main concepts there thief and night and We recognize that this The import of this is that there will be some Surprise and loss on this day it doesn't say it comes as a Rescuing army or a relief column.

It doesn't come as a freshen of spring rain after a drought It comes like a thief in the night and this has a negative connotation and of course in the night means that For those who are visited for those who receive the impact of this event It will be both unexpected and Unforeseen unobserved You don't typically see the thief It's dark by the time you hear the noises and can in those days Find something to light a candle or a lamp and get down there see what's happened. The damage is done It's too late. The idea of a thief in the night is by the time you can Come to consciousness and react it is too late You should have done your preparation before he came now you are trying to recover after he has come and so the loss is due to lack of vigilance lack of preparation lack of expectation No thought That this sort of event might come and no thought of the loss that would be incurred So very powerful set of concepts.

They're just in that one description In which day The heavens will pass away with a great noise the heavens will pass away This is a An interesting word the word for pass away it is Par a loose on tie you can see right in the middle of that is is Luo, which means to loose or destroy para is alongside and This means To There's the idea of movement here Para Cleat cleat Paraclete para clases para kaleo to call alongside. There's the idea of movement, you know, that's the name for the Holy Spirit He's the para cleat, but it comes from para kaleo kaleo to call para alongside. Well in in many of your para verb Combinations you have this idea of movement here.

You have para Luo and What this means is to be destroyed and And set aside Para is alongside or to the side. So this is destroyed aside Puts put aside set aside in a in a lossy kind of way So the Heavens are going to go away with a great noise and this is a hoisted on in Greek which it literally means a cracking sound There's going to be an ear splitting shattering sort of sound and If it's the heavens themselves and we're talking about outer space and you know, I've mentioned earlier in what medium Is this sound being transmitted what sort of ears are picking up the vibrations? but of course the connotation of this is it's one thing for something to Molder away or to decay slowly away to rot away to fade away This isn't sort of a fading You know old soldiers never die. They just you know, give long speeches and fade away this is violent when something passes aside with a cracking noise It is violent.

It is powerful. It is sudden and and Total that's the connotation of these words and the combination of them here. So it's going to be destroyed aside with this crashing sound or cracking sound and the elements This is the stoic a that we've talked about the the fundamental building blocks of a thing Will melt with fervent heat now you say gee seems like we've covered this.

Why am I going back over it? Well, we have to have this in mind to understand verse 13, which is where we pick up tonight But it says and also to understand some of the interpretations that have been Derived from this passage so the heavens are going to go through this violent destruction and the Fundamental Elements the the structures are going to melt with fervent heat Extreme heat and This is an elements is in the periodic table. It just means the the basic structures Both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up Use the air gun works the gay the earth Will be Destroyed by fire is the idea then we have this exhortation since these things will be dissolved notice the word dissolved What sort of and and by the way dissolved Is another version of Luo? to loose or to destroy when you when you Unloosen everything when everything comes loose it comes apart at the seams almost literally here and and this is a Present passive participle coming apart Thus all these things coming apart and it's a present participle. It's already starting that the Process apparently has already begun What sort of people ought we to be Holy conduct and godliness Looking for in hastening the coming of the day of God hastening the coming of God.

We talked about this What does it mean to look for and hasten? And Peter uses this word look for three different times in this context Looking for in hastening the coming the day of God we

according to his promise look for a new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells and then In verse 14 we have therefore beloved looking for again. So three different times we have this looking idea We're watching we're we're seeing we're paying attention We're not in the dark or in the darkness or in the night where this is going to happen without our observation and without our preparation great contrast But we're concentrating now on the process of destruction the process of elimination of the heavens and the elements the earth and the works that are in it Peter is very specific here and I'm I'm reviewing and rehearsing and emphasizing this for a reason Looking for in hastening the coming of the day of God We had the day of the Lord in verse 10 the day of God in verse 12 Because of which and then he Does the other side of the chiasm the heavens will be Dissolved the heavens will be Dissolved now if the heavens are basically Space and the heavens being on fire This is you know Pooh Ross pooh room and perumanoi here heavens plural and You remember that a you becomes a why when it comes into English, this is where we get pyro pyrotechnics pyromaniac funeral pyre So the heavens are going to be on fire it's just unimaginable that Space itself the atmosphere itself is all going to be on fire and it is going to Pass away and once again, we have Luthe Asante which is from Luo to lose or destroy over and over again Luo Luo Luo destroy destroy destroy and The stroyka are going to melt with fervent heat Now Nevertheless we according to his promise look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells so here's the question is this universe going to literally burn up with fire melt with a fervent heat all of its component parts are going to be loosened and destroyed and set aside and Become a fiery puddle of some sort and there's going to be completely new heavens and new earth. I Ask you right now, what do you think based on what we have just read? What would you say? Is this a renovation of the existing heavens and earth or is this a recreation of a completely new heavens and new earth? That's what I think also this this is a whole new deal Well, I want to familiarize you with this because it is widespread.

It's not quite universal But it is very widespread Including famous pastors, I could name famous pastors that I work for hold this view And it is this This is I pulled something up. This is just representative. This is from a fella at teaching the word org His name is dr.

Paul Elliott and not no disparaging remarks, but he disagrees he's got a different view and I wanted to give you his view because this is Very well presented very cogent very concise and he summarizes the view that was held by dr Criswell that is held by Wide numbers of evangelicals about this. This is what they say Over the centuries theologians have been divided on the question Will the new heavens and new earth be totally new or will the present creation be renovated now, by the way There's another question like so what do I really care if it's a renovation or recreation? Yes, you do trust me you care You may not right now, but by the end of the evening, hopefully you will so but this is an important question It has to do also with the nature of our resurrection. It has to do with where we are going to dwell Is this just going to be extreme makeover or are we going to a whole other? Country, remember those bumper stickers, Texas.

It's a whole other country. Well, are we? Where this is a part of our hope this is triad of Christian virtues, we're exercising faith and Manifesting love and we're living in hope. We're motivated.

We're expecting the return of the Glorious Lord Jesus in the air. We're going to meet him. Not all sleep will all be changed moment twinkling of an eye We must put off the mortal and put on the immortal and so on So this is no small thing Will the new heavens and new earth be totally new or will the present creation be renovated Over the centuries theologians are divided.

Some say it's all new others say It will be a renovation which view to scripture support and then dr. Elliot here goes to the biblical evidence 0.1 the Greek and I was going to cover this Greek anyway, but he does a pretty good job So I'll just give you his coverage. There are two principal Greek words for new in the New Testament I may have mentioned this last week just in passing Neos as in neophyte neo-orthodox neo-nazi that's Probably not the best one to use for an example, but Neos means new in time or new in origin if you're a neophyte You know, you're a new fight you're a new I Remember what I can't remember what that is new in time or Newly originated when Jesus talks about new wine in new wineskins.

Neos is what he uses for the new wine Last year's wine is not Neos It's this year's fresh wine. It's young wine You can think of it almost in terms of youngness new in time hasn't been here very long Neos Kynos is the other word Kynos means new in quality Again in Jesus parable you put new wine Neos Oinos in new wineskins Kynos wineskins Kynos the quality of the wineskin is not old and Brittle it's it's It's like new clothes a new house a new car Emphasizing the quality. So Neos Emphasizes more or less how long something has been around Kynos Emphasizes the fact that it's not old and worn out.

It's it's got a great quality of newness Okay, and this generally holds true in classical Greek all the way down through Koine and elsewhere So he says in the Greek usage of New Testament times Kynos was used to describe things that had gone through a process of transformation or renovation Yeah, he's bending it a bit there again go back to your new wineskins. Those are not renovated wineskins these are new animals that have had their innards taken out and prepared and now you've got a bladder full of new wine a Day, you know, these are the inner organs of sheep and other animals that were tanned and used as vessels of Transportation for wine and the wine would tan it on the inside and the air would tan it on the outside and it would be good for for a season The Holy Spirit uses Kynos not Neos in the passages that speak of the new heavens and new earth in 2nd Peter Here in our passage 3:13 also in Revelation 21:1 John says I beheld and there's a new heaven and a new earth And then Jesus in 21:5 of Revelation says behold I make all things Kynos I make all things new So to him this indicates continuity not discontinuity between the old and the new creations So that's really his strongest argument is based on the way the words are used in Greek and that Kynos is used here that this would be a Renovation. Well to really trust that interpretation What we want to do is go do a word study Go look at all the different places where Neos is used or where Kynos is used his second argument

is the flood and the fire the historical account of the Genesis flood recounts the redemption of man from a world that had become consummately evil and What did God do God didn't wipe out the earth and create a new one? He washed it with the flood and started over and God promised never again to destroy the world by a universal flood of water Immediately after speaking of that flood Peter 2nd Peter 3 5 and 6 Peter tells us that God will destroy the world as it now Exists not by another flood, but by fire Nevertheless Peter says believers look beyond that coming cataclysm for a heavens and earth that are Kynos new in quality in which righteousness dwells Something that's never been true this world since the fall of man And that's that's his whole second point is that because Peter mentions the flood and then the destruction that they would be similar cleansings or renovations His third argument is birth pangs Romans 8 19 through 22 tells us that this creation Eagerly awaits with birth pangs the revealing of the sons of God so that it may be set free from its bondage To decay because of sin Paul says this present creation will be liberated from corruption in the day of the Lord not Become a totally different creation from the one that now exists The difficulty there and I would have to check dr.

Elliott's eschatology, but Paul is talking about The Rapture and there's a thousand more years You know the whole creation groans the earth is released from the curse in the Millennial Kingdom So it groans waiting for our Adoption and the revelation of the sons of God Well, that's going to happen at the Rapture once the tribulation is over with and Jesus institutes his kingdom The earth is free of the curse. It's it's no longer curse. It's going to be as close to the Garden of Eden as multitudes of people can can achieve You know So that one doesn't really compel me very much personally His fourth argument and there are five total arguments fourth argument is the Saints Scripture tells us that the bodies of believers who are part of this present created order are going to be renovated The differences between our present bodies and our resurrection bodies are glorious differences, but they involve continuity It is we ourselves who shall be raised up and it is we ourselves who shall always be with the Lord Not people like us, but we ourselves the Saints who have lived on this earth.

I think that's true. However The continuity is our soul our memories our consciousness the reservoir of Biblical truth that we have stored up and so on We the essence of us is not our body What you can lose something just as simple as a nerve in your tooth when they do a root canal Or you can use lose a limb or you can lose three limbs or four limbs I mean how much of your body do you have to lose and you have lost your essential self where as long as you're conscious Your essential self is fully intact. We're not body based.

We are spirit based. We are soul based creatures and In the resurrection. Yes, it is going to be me myself and I that is raised but we must put off the mortal and put on the immortal we put off corruption and we put on in corruption and When you start talking about continuity Well people that are lost at sea get eaten by the fish the fish got caught eat my other people and you know How many molecules do you have to collect to say I have renovated the old body? I mean how many billions of people have lived on the planet have turned to dust the dust is scattered so

widely and it's been Incorporated into crops.

It's it's been you know, there can be molecules have been a part of 25 or 30 different people or more and You know at what point do you say this is a renovation of the body it sounds good when you've got a nice fresh corpse But when you're talking about the children of Israel that dropped in the wilderness and there's no trace of them left There's not a bone. There's not a tooth. There's not a speck of dust.

It's all been incorporated into the great Cosmos here. Well, I don't think this personally I don't think this argument has much traction that because of the resurrection where this body is going to be renovated I sure hope not well, what if you were born with a body that was missing some parts and I mean is I don't I just have real difficulty with that If you get eaten by a cannibal and then the cannibal got saved now, what's God gonna do? You know, you're gonna share Yes a little extreme but you see my point the fifth point is reconciliation in Colossians 1 20 Paul declares that it pleased the father that in him the Lord Jesus all the fullness should dwell and by him to reconcile all things to himself By him whether things on earth or things in heaven having made peace through the blood of his cross The word reconcile a pocahontas. I means to change something backward and upward into its original condition Now that it's not what the lexicon says, but we'll take it face value here What exactly is being changed backward and upward into its original condition through the blood of the cross of Christ Paul gives the answer all things Whether things on earth the things in heaven in other words, nothing will be left out Everything will be changed backward and upward into its original condition.

This once again speaks of continuity rather than discontinuity well again that seems to me to be pressing the language a little bit because The things that are reconciled is ultimately God's sentient creation God is Explaining himself in great detail to the angelic creation and to the human creation It is we who are reconciled God is not reconciling this piano bench through the work of Christ on the cross When it says all things, I mean we have to pay some due respect to the context Reconciliation is something creature to creature So again, I think it presses things a little bit far now Here is a a more balanced article on the two words naos and kynos Two Greek words translated in the New Testament by the word new Kynos is new in kind and in contrast to what previously existed See all you have to do just keep the wine skin parable in your mind that we don't have to go anywhere else It's got all the ingredients. We need all of these ingredients. You'll find in all the other passages Kynos new wine skins naos new wine So kynos new in kind and in contrast to what previously existed this new wine skin is Much better than the old wine skin if there was no such thing as an old wine skin We wouldn't call this one new but it's so much better.

It's elastic. It's fresh taking the place of Kynos means to take the place of the old one The new wine skin takes the place of the old the old one split. I've thrown it out in That sense kynos looks backward to what it what has been replaced This new thing has taken the place of the old while its synonym naos looks forward New wine What what's great about new wine? Well, it's going to

be around a while.

It's going to age I can drink it It's just going to get better and better as time goes on. We've got a new baby. We've got a neophyte.

We've got a naos Well, this is great because it's young and it's going to get older the new covenant is the naos covenant In some places and the kynos covenant in other places. Why would he use both? Words well in some cases when it is in contrast to the old and it's it's qualities are Better than the old it's the kynos covenant is it is the new covenant that replaces the old other cases God says I'm I'm making you some new promises These are promises that haven't been here before and they have an existence and a fulfillment that is going into the future naos So depending on the context you find both words used in association with covenant Kynos is equivalent to not yet having been naos is not having long been The conjunction of the two words is in Matthew 9 17. This is your wineskin passage And Luke 5 38 new wine put into new wineskins both are presented kynos looks backward It is retrospective in that the skins had never been used before Opposed to these which had lost their strength and elasticity through age The new naos wine is of that vintage or harvest looking forward prospectively for future use in Luke 5 36 a new piece of cloth kynos is Compared to an old no, no man sews a new cloth onto an old garment new kynos Why this is emphasized in? Mark 2 21 where the new unmilled piece of cloth was unsuited to pass the old Talking about the new way of things coming in with Christ compared to the old way under the law So it looks back at the law and says this is a new and better way You know, we have a new and better covenant founded on new and better promises kynos In Matthew 27 60 the new tomb had never been used never been made unclean by a dead body kynos It could have been hewed out years earlier waiting for Joseph's death Joseph of Arimathea But of course he hadn't died so it's not new naos in the sense that it's a fresh tomb It's new in the sense that it's unused kynos So Hebrews 12 24 is one of the passages where you find naos covenant naos covenant fresh and perennially new by virtue of the link with its mediator Jesus Looking forward it will retain eternally that youthful character Kynos is the word mostly used for new covenant, but naos is the word used in Hebrews 12 24 Because it's not being contrasted with the old but it's talking about its potential Kynos is the typical word in Revelation When when they talk about a new name Jesus says I will to him that overcomes I will give a new name kynos Now is this a renovation of your old name? I don't think so.

I think it's a new name The new song you may behold they sang a new song. This is a song that hasn't been sung before They didn't revise an old song. They didn't take lyrics and put it to a different tune.

It's a new song The new heaven the new Jerusalem, etc All of these are kynos the new Jerusalem coming down out of heaven coming down out of heaven. They didn't renovate that old Crummy stuff in in Israel and throw it up in the sky and bring it back down kynos Jerusalem New in contrast to the old Well, this is what we have in 2nd Peter and and I would argue Based on the

Greek as well as the Weakness of all the other arguments that this universe is going to be completely Melted away. It is going to be loo owed.

It is going to be loosed and destroyed and set aside It is going to melt with fervent heat. It is going to be dissolved the works and the earth itself are going to be burned up Now if I am going to renovate my house Do I burn it up if I'm going to replace my house I Burn it down Or I bulldoze it away. I Loo owe it aside para loo.

Oh Bulldoze the stuff off the property now. I've got space to build something new So the reason this is important will become apparent as we get into our second session but we Have to recognize that It helps us to separate the things that are mundane and earthly and temporal things pertaining to this life I think part of the attachment that that some have and I don't mean this to be an ad hominem argument But I think there is an attachment that well But this earth will be renovated and and we'll still be here where some of the tools and skills and Experiences that we have are still going to be useful. It's just going to be much better.

It'll be gilded It will be improved. It will be cleansed. It will be purified.

It'll be like Sanctification it'll be like going to the priest in the Levitical Code and having the blood sprinkled on you And now you are clean and now it can be used and we have to get used to the idea that we are leaving We are to go in one direction and the earth and the heavens are going another never again to me We have to prepare ourselves for a completely new environment beyond what we could ask or think This is the place where righteousness dwells and the word dwell there is that that is the word for being at home with You know that I I and my father will come to the obedient man and dwell with him make our home with him Righteousness is going to be at home in the new heaven. The new heavens in the new earth Righteousness, it's just going to be Endemic Pandemic righteousness is the is the default in this universe Entropy is the default everything put together falls apart new things become old organized things become disorganized Well-ordered things become chaos not in the new heavens and the new earth Righteousness the character of God the eternity and and Quality of persistence and of him of anything. It's improvement.

That's the new Universe that's coming. Let's pause here and take a break when we come back. We'll pick up In verse 14 and take a look at our beloved brother Paul