

HE IS COMING

In James and 1 & 2 Peter there is a lot of emphasis on separating from the pull of this world.

- James 1:27 ... keep oneself from being polluted by the world. NIV
- James 4:4 ...friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. NIV
- James 4:8b Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world. NLT
- James 5:5 You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter. NIV
- 1 Peter 1:14 As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. NIV
- 1 Peter 2:11 Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. NIV

2 Peter 1:3-4 alludes to “how” we can escape the pull of the world.

2 Peter 1:3-4 His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁴Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. NIV 11

- We have everything we need to live a godly life.
- We have what we need through him. It is not our own inherent awesomeness.
- Through these (his glory and goodness) he has given us his promises.
- Through these promises:
 - We can participate in the divine nature.
 - We can escape the world's corruption.
- What are these promises he is talking about?

The promises that Peter often writes about may give a clue as to what promises he is talking about in *this* passage.

2 Peter 1:16 For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

- The Lord is coming in power

2 Peter 2:9 if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment.

- A day of judgement is coming.

2 Peter 3:4 They will say, “Where is this ‘coming’ he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.”

- The Lord is coming back.

2 Peter 3:9-11 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

¹¹ Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives.

- The Lord does not want anyone to perish.
- The day of the Lord will come.
- This world will be destroyed.

1 Peter 4:5 But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

- We will give an accounting to God.

1 Peter 4:13 But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

- We can be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

1 Peter 5:1 To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ’s sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed.

- Some will share in the coming glory.

1 Peter 5:10 And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

- We are called into his eternal glory.

One of the most transformational promises in the Bible is that the Lord is returning.

Perhaps instead of just trying not to be worldly, we should think about how to hold to the promise of his return in a way that actually changes our thinking and behavior.