



## *For Further Study*

Read and meditate on the passage below:

<sup>8</sup> But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. <sup>9</sup> 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.

<sup>10</sup> 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.

(2 Peter 3:8-10)

This passage comes from a second book/letter, which is traditionally tied to the Apostle Peter. The author encourages us to remember that God exists beyond our understanding of time. We measure time by seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, and years, but this is only measurable in a world where time exists. God moves in our world but is not bound to it.

However, God is bound (by his very nature) to keep his promises, which he is eager (not slow) to do. This means that God is compassionate, patient, and slow to anger. He faithfully reaches out to us to encourage us to find the path of life rather than spending our lives going down the deadly path of self-destruction; he doesn't want us to waste our lives in this parishing way.

The Day of the LORD is a day of redemption. Verse 10 uses several images to describe the redeming of the world (and all of us in it). First, Peter speaks of it coming like a thief in the night. This simply means that God shows up unexpectedly in our lives. The heavens are said to disappear or part at God's appearance, which is likened to the roar of a lion. Elements are destroyed or refined by the fire of God's presence, and all will be laid bare in transparency and authenticity when God shows up. He comes to redeem us and the world.

### **PRACTICE:**

Refelct on these images and how God shows up in our lives.

