

## 2 Peter Lesson #7, Chapter 3 Overview

The goal of this lesson is to teach you how to look at and begin to study a text of Scripture. Observation is a necessary part of Bible study, but can often be overlooked or rushed through. Observation begins with reading through the chapter and then reading and rereading it again and again! At this stage in our Bible study you're noticing and then recording what God has put into the chapter. You're not making any interpretations about what it means or how it applies to your life—that will come later. Don't rush through this lesson. Set aside time this week to peer into the living and abiding word of God. You'll be glad you did!

I've included Chapter 3 at the end of this lesson so you can print it out and mark it up if you'd like. I find it helps me see items more easily if I'm marking and noting things as I go.

1. To begin, read through Chapter 3. Now, summarize the contents of Chapter 3. This is not the time to be super detailed; instead, think of trying to tell a 4<sup>th</sup> grader the contents of the chapter.
  - a. Summarize paragraph 1 (verses 1-2).
  - b. Summarize paragraph 2 (verses 3-7).
  - c. Summarize paragraph 3 (verses 8-10).
  - d. Summarize paragraph 4 (verses 11-13).
  - e. Summarize paragraph 5 (verses 14-18).

2. After reviewing the chapter and what you wrote for your paragraph summaries, ask yourself: What is the main point of this chapter? How do all these details and events reveal the main idea of the chapter? Now record your answer.
  
3. Next, look for a verse in the chapter that *best* summarizes the contents of the chapter. You might be tempted to choose your favorite verse here, but please don't do that. Instead, consider which verse best sums up what's in the chapter. Write down the verse you chose here.
  
4. Now you're ready to title your chapter. Your 3-5 word title should reflect the contents of the chapter. Remember, a title's purpose is to help you remember what is in each chapter.
  
5. List the things *God* did in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference with your answers.
  
6. List what you learn about *Jesus Christ* in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference to support your answer.
  
7. What do you learn about *mockers* in this chapter? Be sure to include the verse references that support your observations.
  
8. There are some very interesting comments about *the Day of the Lord* in this chapter. What do you learn about that unique day? Be sure to include the verse references with your answer.

9. List the different *people* referenced in this chapter. Be sure to note the verse where you found your answer.

There's more observations to be found to this chapter than what I've asked you here. If you're eager for more, try looking for and noting:

- *References to time*
- *Repeated words*
- *Transition words like "for," "therefore," "so," "finally."*
- *Commands*
- *Comparisons*
- *Contrasts*
- *Lists of words, phrases or related thoughts*

10. Write down at least one thing you thought was interesting from this chapter.

## **2 Peter Chapter 3**

**1** This is now, beloved, the second letter I am writing to you in which I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder,

**2** that you should remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles.

**3** Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts,

**4** and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation."

**5** For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water,

**6** through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water.

**7** But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

**8** But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day.

**9** The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

**10** But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

**11** Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!

13 But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

**14** Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless,

15 and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you,

16 as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.

17 You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness,

18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.