

II Peter 3:5-7

5. For this THEY WILLFULLY FORGET: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and **the earth standing out of water and in the water.**

- **Genesis 7:11-12** "In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the _____ of the _____ were broken up, and the _____ of heaven were opened. And the _____ was on the _____ forty days and forty nights."

Definition: "For this THEY WILLFULLY FORGET" - Have you ever talked to a non-Christian and had them say to you, "Well, **I LIKE to BELIEVE** that this or that is true"? Most unbelievers and people who do not fear God **like to BELIEVE what makes them FEEL GOOD**. It doesn't make them "feel good" to believe there is a coming judgment day, when Jesus Christ comes back to this earth to remove His enemies and judge all those who hate God. **It makes them "feel good" to believe that life will just keep going on as it is**, and that things will even get better - that science, or our political leaders, or somebody will somehow solve all the world's problems, and we will go on into the future like some Buck Rogers or "Star Wars" movie, with people living in outer space, and floating cities on the earth, and all humanity living in peace. Just as non-believers hate to even think about a coming judgment and the return of Jesus Christ, **they HATE to REMEMBER the Great Flood of Noah's day, and that God once JUDGED the earth for its sin**. "They willfully forget" means they do it on purpose, of their own choice and free will. It's not because they've never heard about or been warned of God's judgment of sin, but **they REFUSE to even consider it as a possibility**, and go on their own way believing a lie.

- **II Timothy 4:2-4** "Preach the _____! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, _____, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure _____ doctrine, but _____ to their own _____, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves _____; and they will _____ their ears _____ from the _____, and be turned aside to _____."

Definition: "The EARTH standing out of WATER and in the WATER" - God's word tells us that **the earth was ALL WATER before God made the dry land appear** (Genesis 1:1-20). After there was dry land, II Peter 3:3-7 still describes it as, **"the earth standing out of WATER and in the WATER"**. So, there was a great deal of water under the earth, and this water was **"the FOUNTAINS of the GREAT DEEP" that were broken up during the Great Flood**. There are still underground rivers and streams today, and geysers (ever been to or seen pictures of Yellowstone Park?), but just imagine a huge amount of water under the ground, and God caused it to erupt and shoot up like giant geysers all over the globe. **The fact that God created the earth is another big item that "THEY WILLFULLY FORGET."** God creating the world in six days as taught in Genesis 1:1-3:24 is a literal, factual account of how God made the universe, the earth, mankind, and everything else. We have been indoctrinated with the teachings of evolution for so long, that **we have forgotten that there was once ONLY the teaching of creation as in the Bible**. Great men of science in the past were believers in God, the Bible, and biblical creation. Galileo, Sir Isaac Newton, and many others believed the literal account of creation in Genesis. Many scientists, doctors, and teachers today believe in creation, but they are not given "equal time" along with evolution, in order that people may make a choice based on

hearing the facts from both sides. **It takes just as much "faith" for the evolutionist to believe that all life came from chemicals in the primordial "soup" as it does for the Christian to believe it happened just as God said it did.**

- **Genesis 1:1-2** "In the beginning God _____ the heavens and the earth. The _____ was without _____, and void; and darkness was on the face of the _____. And the _____ of _____ was hovering over the face of the _____."
- **Proverbs 30:2-4** "Surely I am more stupid than any _____, and do not have the understanding of a man. I neither learned wisdom nor have _____ of the Holy One. Who has ascended into heaven, or descended? Who has _____ the _____ in His fists? Who has bound the _____ in a garment? Who has established all the _____ of the _____? What is His name, and what is His Son's name, if you know?"
- **Proverbs 8:22-29** "The Lord possessed me at the beginning of His way, before His works of old. I have been established from everlasting, from the beginning, before there was ever an earth. When there were no _____ I was brought forth, when there were no _____ abounding with _____. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills, I was brought forth; while as yet He had not _____ the _____ or the fields, or the primeval dust of the world. When He prepared the heavens, I was there, when He drew a circle on the face of the _____, when He established the clouds above, when He strengthened the _____ of the _____, when He assigned to the _____ its limit, so that the _____ would not transgress His command, when He marked out the foundations of the earth....."

6-7. By which **the WORLD that THEN EXISTED PERISHED, being FLOODED with WATER.** But **the HEAVENS and the EARTH** which now exist are kept in store by the same word, **reserved for FIRE until the DAY of JUDGMENT and PERDITION of ungodly men.**

- **Hebrews 11:7** "By faith _____, being divinely _____ of things _____ yet seen, moved with _____ fear, _____ an _____ for the _____ of his _____, by which he condemned the _____ and became heir of the _____ which is according to _____."
- **Matthew 24:37-39** "But as the days of _____ were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the _____ before the _____, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that _____ the _____, and did not know until the _____ came and _____ them all _____, so also will the _____ of the Son of Man be."
- **Romans 2:16** "In the _____ when _____ will _____ the secrets of men _____ Jesus Christ, according to my gospel."
- **Acts 17:31** "Because He has appointed a _____ on which _____ will _____ the _____ in righteousness by the Man (Jesus) whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by _____ Him from the _____."

Definition: "The WORLD that THEN EXISTED PERISHED, being FLOODED with WATER" - "Perished" means it was destroyed. We see **God's wrath and judgment** on the evil, sinful men of the earth **when He sent the flood to DESTROY the earth in Noah's time.** We will see God's fierce wrath and judgment in the future when Jesus returns to reign as the conquering King, and to wipe out all of His enemies and all who hate God.

- **Genesis 7:23-24 & 8:1-2** "So He _____ all living things which were on the face of the ground: both man and cattle, creeping thing and bird of the air. They were _____ from the _____. Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark remained alive. And the _____ prevailed on the earth one hundred and fifty days. Then God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the animals that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the _____ subsided. The fountains of the deep and the windows of heaven were also stopped, and the _____ from heaven was restrained."

Definition: "The HEAVENS and the EARTH are reserved for FIRE" - God has promised us a beautiful new earth where all will be peaceful, and no humans or animals will kill, even for food. In order to reach this perfect new earth, **the old earth, along with the heavens and atmosphere, will be burned up in an instant, with incredible heat.** Peter even mentions that "the elements will melt" with the intensity of the heat. Only God could cause such a terrific heat to melt the very elements, and God will then recreate everything the way it was originally, before sin and "the curse" came into the world.

- **II Peter 3:12-13** "Looking for and hastening the _____ of the _____ of _____, because of which the _____ will be _____ being on _____, and the _____ will _____ with fervent _____? Nevertheless, we, according to His _____, look for _____ heavens and a _____ in which _____ dwells."
- **Isaiah 65:17 & 25** "For behold, I _____ new _____ and a _____; and the former shall not be remembered or come to mind." "The _____ and the _____ shall feed together, the _____ shall eat _____ like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall NOT _____ nor _____ in all My holy mountain," says the Lord."

Definition: "The DAY of JUDGMENT and PERDITION of ungodly men" - "Perdition" means the state of being "lost" for all eternity. "Ungodly men" refers to those who have NOT accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior. For these unsaved, ungodly people, there is an appointed TIME of judgment, called "The Day of Judgment" in the Bible, but which may take hundreds of years in time as we know it, because billions and billions of people will be judged, and their lives and works will be read from the books and weighed and judged by God. This judgment, also called the **RESURRECTION of CONDEMNATION** will take place immediately after the thousand years are over (Rev. 20:5) and is **for unbelievers only**. This is also referred to as "The Great White Throne Judgment" (see Rev. 20:11). They will then be **judged on the basis of their WORKS** and their **WORKS will NOT be enough to save them**. Because they have REJECTED CHRIST and His atonement, they must bear their own punishment for their sins, and they will be thrown into the lake of fire (also called "The Second Death" - see Rev. 20:12-14, Rev. 21:8).

- **Revelation 11:17-18** ".....'We give You thanks, O Lord God _____, the One who is and who was and who is to come, because You have taken Your great _____ and _____. The nations were angry, and Your _____ has come, and the time of the _____, that they should be _____, and that You should _____ Your servants the prophets and the _____, and those who fear Your name, small and great, and should _____ those who destroy the earth.'"
- **II Peter 2:4-9** "For if God did not spare the angels who _____, but cast them down to _____ and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for _____; and did _____ spare the ancient _____, but saved _____, one of _____ people, a

preacher of _____, bringing in the _____ on the _____ of the _____; and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into _____, condemned them to _____, making them an example to those who would afterward live _____, and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed with the filthy conduct of the _____ (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds) - then the _____ knows how to _____ the _____ out of temptations and to _____ the _____ under _____ for the _____ of _____."

- **Revelation 20:11-15** "Then I saw a great white _____ and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the _____, small and great, _____ before _____, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the _____ were _____ according to their _____, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead [bodies] who were in it, and Death (the grave) and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were _____, each one according to his works. Then death and Hades were cast into the Lake of _____. This is the second death. And anyone who was _____ found written in the _____ of _____ was cast into the _____ of _____."
- **Psalms 1:4-5** "The _____ are not so, but are like the _____ which the wind drives away. Therefore the _____ shall not stand in the _____, nor _____ in the congregation of the righteous."

Definition: "The UNGODLY shall not STAND in the JUDGMENT" - At first glance, it sounds like the ungodly will not be judged. But actually, it says they will not STAND in the judgment, meaning they will be swept away (like chaff, see Psalm 1:4) and thrown into the lake of fire. The congregation of the righteous will STAND before God, because God is able to make us stand (Romans 14:4).

Definition: "They were JUDGED, each one according to his WORKS" - This might seem like there is a chance for some people to be saved by their good works, but the Bible says there is only one kind of work that a spiritually dead person can do, and that is DEAD WORKS. Dead works are **religious works** or **good deeds** done in the **power of the flesh**, and a person who is operating in their FLESH, and not in FAITH and the power of the Holy Spirit, **CANNOT** do ANYTHING that will be pleasing to God (Rom. 8:8). Before we are born again by faith in Jesus Christ, **we are all DEAD in our sins, and ALL our works are DEAD works**. This is why there is no salvation apart from Jesus Christ, because it is NOT the keeping of laws, ordinances, rules, commandments, or ANY OUTWARD CONDUCT that makes a person RIGHTEOUS. There must be **an INWARD CHANGE, a NEW BIRTH, a CREATION by GOD** of a completely NEW PERSON, for someone to become alive spiritually. You must then be under the control of the Holy Spirit and cleansed by the blood of Jesus in order to produce any works that will be considered GOOD by God, and you must REPENT of the DEAD WORKS you did before. (John 3:3, Ephesians 2:1-5 & 8-9).

- **Hebrews 9:14** "How much more shall the _____ of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge (cleanse) your _____ from _____ works to serve the living God?"
- **Hebrews 6:1** "Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us _____ on to _____, not laying again the foundation of repentance from _____ and of faith toward God."