

# 彼得後書

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## 10. Grand Finale 最後の幕

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## Ready Player One

- In 2040s, the world on the brink of chaos and collapse
  - Energy crisis
  - Global warming
  - Overpopulation
  - Wealth inequality
  - Social problem
  - Economic stagnation
- Dystopia 反烏托邦
  - Greek – *dustopos* “not-good place”
  - Undesirable and suppressed society
  - Conditions of life are extremely bad
- To escape - people found “salvation” in the OASIS
  - Expansive virtual reality universe 虛擬現實
  - Retreat to a computer generated environment

## The Last Days 末後的日子

- First-century Christians believed Jesus would return during their lifetime
  - Especially for those be persecuted and undergone hardship
  - Believers who "missed the bus" - 1 Thessalonians 4
- In the last days scoffers will come (3:3a NIV)
  - 在末後的日子，必定有好譏笑的人出來 (CNV)
  - 末世必有好譏笑人的人，隨著自己不敬虔的私慾行事 (Jude 18 CNV)
  - 這些人分黨結派，是屬血氣的，沒有聖靈。(Jude 19)
- Scoffers or Mockers – Greek *empaiktēs*
  - 嘲笑 – mock, ridicule, scoff, sneer, look down...
- Mocking the truth of God
  - Examples today?

## Second Coming? 主再來？

- “Where is this ‘coming’ he promised? (3:4a NIV)
  - 他要降臨的應許在哪裡呢？ (CNV)
  - “Scoffers” doubt about Jesus’ return
- Coming – Greek *Parousia*
  - Technical term in NT refers to the coming of Christ in the last day
    - Matt 24; 1Cor 15; 1The 2,3,4,5; 2 The 2; James 5, 1Jn 2
- Jesus’ return = The Day of the Lord 主的日子
  - 主的日子來到，就像夜間的賊來到一樣 (1The 5:2b)
  - 屬於白晝 (1The 5:8a) 屬於黑夜 (1The 5:5b)
  - 基督的救恩 (1The 5:9b) 神的忿怒 (1The 5:9a)
- Scoffers questioned “Where is the promised coming?”
  - No resurrection of the dead
  - No final judgment

## Second Coming? 主再來？

- “Where is this ‘coming’ he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.” (3:4 NIV)
  - “他要降臨的應許在哪裡呢？因為自從列祖睡了以來，萬物依然存在，與起初創造的時候一樣。” (CNV)
- Epicureanism and Stoicism - Two main philosophic teachings
  - 伊比鳩魯主義，斯多葛主義
- Epicurean worldview
  - All matter is divisible down to the level of atoms (Greek "indivisible")
  - Atoms are eternal; neither created nor destroyed
- The world remains in a more/less stable state
  - Everything goes on as it has since the beginning (3:4a NIV)
  - 萬物依然存在，與起初創造的時候一樣 (CNV)
- Assuming continuity in history... without Divine intervention
- 太陽依然燦爛，地球繼續轉…

## 依然燦爛？

- But they deliberately forget that long ago by God’s word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water (3:5 NIV)
  - 他們故意忘記這事：在太古的時候，因著 神的話，就有了天，和從水而出、藉水而成的地。(CNV)
- The world was created:
  - Through water and God’s word
- Separated waters
  - Gen 1:6
  - Called the dome “sky”
- Separated land from waters
  - Gen 1:7
  - Called dry ground “land”
  - Called gathered waters “sea”

## 依然燦爛？

- By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. (3:6 NIV)
  - 當時的世界，因被水淹沒而消滅了。(CNV)
  - The world was destroyed by the same water and word
- By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire (3:7a NIV)
  - 但現在的天地，還是因著同樣的話可以存留 (CNV)
- Being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly (3:7b NIV)
  - 直到不敬虔的人受審判和遭滅亡的日子，用火焚燒。(CNV)
- There is a “due date” of present heavens and earth
  - The earth won't keep spinning forever...
  - Things are being kept temporary

## Due Date

- The Day of the Lord 主的日子
  - 19 times in OT (mainly in prophets), 4 times in NT
  - Unleashed final judgment
  - 不敬虔的人受審判和遭滅亡的日子 (3:6b)
  - Really bad into good...
- Why delay?
  - God is not slow, but patient...
- 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 (3:9 NIV)
  - 主決不耽延他的應許，像有些人以為他是耽延的一樣；其實他是寬容你們，不願有一人滅亡，卻願人人都悔改。(CNV)
- God wants EVERYONE to be saved
  - Rescue is God's business...

## Due Date

- 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 (3:10 NIV)
  - 但主的日子必要像賊一樣來到。在那日，天必轟然一聲地消失，所有元素都因烈火而融化；地和地上所有的，都要被燒毀（“被燒毀”有不少古抄本作“被發現”）。(CNV)
- Come as a thief (Mt 24, Lk 12)
  - Unannounced, unexpected
- Heavens removed
  - Between dwelling of God and earth
  - Be laid bare 被發現
  - No place to hide from God...

## Conclusion

- Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? (3:11a)
  - 這一切既然都要這樣融化，你們應當怎樣為人？(CNV)
- Live holy and godly lives (3:11b)
  - 過著聖潔和敬虔的生活 (CNV)
- Looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth (3:13a)
  - 按照他所應許的，等候新天新地 (CNV)
- Make every effort to be found spotless, blameless (3:14a)
  - 就當殷勤努力，使你們沒有污點，沒有瑕疵
- Be on your guard, may not be carried away (3:17b)
  - 要謹慎，免得受惡人的錯謬引導
- But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord (3:18a)
  - 要在我們的主、救主耶穌基督的恩典和知識上長進

## Amazing Grace

- The Lord hath promised good to me,  
His word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures.

## Expand His Kingdom

- What if, you've been told that Jesus would return in six months... what would you do?

## Outline

- Salutation (1:1-2)
- Letter Opening (1:3-15)
  - Historical Introduction (1:3-4)
  - Call to Virtue 美德 (1:5-11)
  - Purpose Statement (1:12-15)
- Letter Body (1:16-3:13)
  - Parousia is a fabricated myth (1:16-18)
  - Prophecy is uncertain (1:19-21)
  - Divine judgment is “idle” (2:1-22)
  - Parousia disapproved by history (3:1-13)
- Letter Body Closing (3:14-16)
- Letter Closing (3:17-18)