

Choose

What are we thinking as Christians? More importantly, why aren't we thinking? Read a little scripture with me. Feel free to go to the context of this passage: I didn't want to paste the whole book of 2Peter.

*2Pe 1:15 "Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to **have these things always in remembrance**...19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: 20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."*

*2Pe 3:1 "This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which **I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance**: 2 That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour: 3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, 4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. 5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: 6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: 7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men."*

In these two related passages, Peter states that his goal is to get his audience to remember. What are we supposed to remember? In the first passage, we are supposed to remember that God's word is authoritative and reliable because its author is God Himself. In the second passage, we are supposed to remember both the creation and the flood so that we understand God owns the world, has judged the world, and will judge it again.

What does it mean to say that God's word is true, authoritative, reliable, and written by God? Does it mean, as deceptive men say, that it's accurate "in its original manuscripts" but not in its present state? Is God unable to keep His word pure? Does the accuracy of the Bible depend upon the confirmation of men? Here, in this passage, Peter is testifying to the historicity of the Genesis account of creation and the flood. Do you believe, as Peter obviously does, that the first eleven chapters of Genesis are history? Or have you been convinced by men that the Bible is in error?

To be sure, Genesis is not the only place where the creation and flood histories are told. John testifies of the historical truth of creation in John 1. The biblical references to the creation and the flood all speak of them as if they were history; Jesus, Luke, and Paul also attest to its historical truth:

Col 1:16 "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist."

Heb 11:7 "By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith."

According to many Christian theologians, the Bible is wrong. Though the days of creation in Genesis are impossible to interpret as anything other than ordinary days, they have used the supposed wisdom of men and changed the meaning of the Word of God. They pretend Genesis is poetry, not history. They make the words of the prophets, the apostles, and the Lord Jesus Himself into lies for the sake of appearing intellectual, which is pride. They accept men's testimony that the universe and the earth are billions of years old and that all that exists on earth evolved from slime. Because of their acceptance of the erroneous ideas of progressive creation, day-age theory, or theistic evolution rather than dependence on the authority and reliability of God's word through faith, they have placed their faith in men and caused many Christians to stumble. There are some who go so far as to call nature the "67th book of the Bible!" The notes they have written in the Bibles printed

today turn men from the historical truth of Genesis. They say that the writer of Genesis didn't know about the science to which we now have access, but he did the best he could. God Himself, together with all of his prophets and apostles, testify that GOD IS THE WRITER OF GENESIS!!!! Is He in error? Does He not understand science?

Christians, you must choose. Be like the Bereans: *"These [Bereans] were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so"* (Acts 17:11). If you investigate the claims of scripture concerning the creation and the flood, you'll find that those events are always seen as historically true. If you investigate the claims of so-called science that are contrary to the Bible, you will find that they lack any evidence at all – all of the evidence is interpreted to fit what is already assumed to be true. The stories surrounding origins must be taken on faith. Are they taught as fact? Yes. Can they be fact if they are in direct opposition to the Word of God? No. If the stories must be taken on faith, does it make sense for a Christian to have faith in men's words rather than in God's Word? NO.

Why is it so important to stand on the historical truth of Genesis? *"If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?"* (Psalm 11:3) The historical truth of Genesis is the foundation of our faith. God's infinite wisdom, glory, and power are seen through his creation of the universe, earth, and life. The penalty of sin is established in Adam's fall, through which we are all sinners. God's provision for sin is established in the shedding of the blood of an animal to cover Adam and Eve, and Christ is prophesied in the curses levied on Eve and the serpent. God's judgment is displayed in the destruction of the world in the flood, while his salvation is proclaimed through the ark in which Noah, his family, and every kind of animal was preserved for the repopulation of the earth.

For thousands of years, godless men have denied the creation and the flood, and now those who claim to know God and His salvation deny it as well. Denial of the historical truth of Genesis is a denial of the power of God, the provision of God, and the judgment of God, both past and future. Stories of billions of years and naturalistic origins are designed to destroy the foundation that God established in Genesis, and the plan is working. Christianity in our age has become shallow and weak, and man's words are held in higher esteem than God's word. Christians, you must choose. *"Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding," "That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God"* (Pro 9:6, 1Co 2:5).