

The work was hard. It was exhausting. The work they did on the thousands of pairs of hobbit feet, costumes, miniatures, and day-to-day work was the kind of work that only showed its value in the final product. But oh, how valuable that work was!

**2PT 3.14-16** ~ *Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; <sup>15</sup> and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, <sup>16</sup> as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.*

**EX:** Since we've seen such a great promise and home ahead of us, Peter calls for the disciples to **look down at the Lord's expectations**—to see what their God had called on them to be and how God had called on them to live. They ought to seek to be found, when He comes, in peace: holy, *without spot and blameless*: having placed our faith in Him and founded our lives in Him.

**AP:** And that ought to be our reaction, as well. When we consider the greatness of the coming of Christ, we ought to seek the same: to be found in faith and in faithfulness—having remained faithful and in the faith.

**1TH 5.23-24** ~ *Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.*

### **CONCLUSION – The Response of the Faithful (2PT 3.17-18)**

Looking back, the success of the movie trilogy seems inevitable. But that's easy with hindsight! In truth, they only succeeded because their compass was aligned: they had the right past, patience, future, and dedication. And only because of those four things coming together did they have a chance at success.

**2PT 3.17-18** ~ *You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; <sup>18</sup> but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.*

Peter knew that the church was facing a severe trial: shown both in the persecution from the faithless and their mocking. But, he called for a different **response from the faithful**. They ought to **look back at the Lord's judgments, up to the Lord's patience, forward to the Lord's Coming, and down at the Lord's expectations for them**. And so ought we!

**JD 20-21** ~ *But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, <sup>21</sup> keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.*

### **INVITATION**

#700 [Exp-NTGE][3.3]  
02/14/2026

**Reset the Compass**  
PC \_\_\_ Pchd \_\_\_\_\_

2PT 3.1-18 (NKJV)

**QUESTION:** How are we to be faithful when faced by the mockery of the faithless?

### **TRN TO 2PT 3**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **MOVIES/The Lord of the Rings/Peter Jackson's Introduction**

Now, nearly 25 years after the first movie's release in theatres, it's hard to imagine what Hollywood would be like or modern fantasy would look like were it not for Peter Jackson's iconic film trilogy adaptation of J.R. Tolkien's seminal work. But in truth, he wasn't the first to try.

#### **MOVIES/The Lord of the Rings/Previous Attempts – Part 1 & Part 2**

As a result of the numerous failed attempts, the book series came to be viewed as the impossible adaptation. Several famous directors (including Stanley Kubrick) and eventually, Tolkien, himself, came to view the series as **“unfilmable”**. They lost faith that anyone could effectively bring the series to life.

#### **BACKGROUND – The Response of the Faithless (2PT 3.1-4)**

It's funny to us, today, because looking back, it seems so obvious: in fact, the idea that it could have failed seems impossible—its nearly 3-billion-dollar box office seems almost inevitable! But it's easy for us to conclude that now, on the other side of history.

As Peter came to the end of his life, he knew that there were going to be struggles still to come. But one of the greatest was **faithlessness** and **disbelief**. In particular, with all the struggles and persecutions the church was going through then and were going to continue to go through, he realized that faithfulness was going to come at a premium—that **faithlessness** would become easy. And so, as we come to the third chapter, he summarizes **the response of the faithless**.

**2PT 3.1-4** ~ *Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), <sup>2</sup> that you 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 Savior, <sup>3</sup> knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, <sup>4</sup> 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 creation.”*

He called for the people to build up their faith: to **remember** what they'd read and to **rely** on the coming of the Lord. But that was going to be difficult, when they went through the struggles and persecutions that were coming their way. **The faithless** would scoff and mock: **“Where's this Jesus you talk about? Nothing's changed—you're still suffering, and Jesus is still not here!”** Now, while Peter knew that his current suffering (and eventual murder) wasn't evidence against the power and coming of Christ, but he knew others would be convinced by the faithless.

To help them understand, he points them in several key directions: back, up, forward, and down. In this, he asks for us to reset our spiritual compasses—to get them aligned again so that we can endure the **responses of the faithless** and ultimately, have the correct **response of the faithful**.

Today, the same tones and mockery exist. And today, the same response, stands: **look back to the Lord's judgments, up to the Lord's patience, forward to the Lord's day, and down at the Lord's expectations,**

### **BD1: Look Back to the Lord's Judgments (2PT 3.5-7)**

**ILL—Early Peter Jackson Work** (Braindead; Heavenly Creatures, Frighteners; none were anything like Lord of the Rings; each believed to be prepared for a different part of what he needed to film LotR; practical effects, complex characters, difficult computer effects/founding Weta) By looking back at what came before, we can see evidence and support for the success that was to come!

**2PT 3.5-7** ~ *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, <sup>6</sup> by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. <sup>7</sup> But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.*

**EX:** While it may have seemed impossible and unlikely, God had shown in the past that He always fulfills His promises. Had they but **remembered** what had gone before—had they **looked back to the Lord's judgments**—they'd have seen that God's action, protection, and yes, ultimately coming, was undeniable and certain.

**AP:** It can be easy for us to feel overwhelmed and defeated. But Peter would call for us, also, to **look back at the Lord's judgments**—to see what God has done before and how the same God then, is our God now.

**PS 77.10-15** ~ *And I said, "This is my anguish; But I will remember the years of the right hand of the Most High." <sup>11</sup> I will remember the works of the Lord; Surely I will remember Your wonders of old. <sup>12</sup> I will also meditate on all Your work, And talk of Your deeds. <sup>13</sup> Your way, O God, is in the sanctuary; Who is so great a God as our God? <sup>14</sup> You are the God who does wonders; You have declared Your strength among the peoples. <sup>15</sup> You have with Your arm redeemed Your people, The sons of Jacob and Joseph. Selah*

### **BD2: Look Up to the Lord's Patience (2PT 3.8-9)**

#### **MOVIES/The Lord of the Rings/Production Difficulties**

It took a lot of work: years upon years of pre-production. The work moved studios, and it all would have failed had Peter Jackson and his production team not been determined and patient—with a determined goal in mind.

**2PT 3.8-9** ~ *But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. <sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

**EX:** In truth, there was a reason that Christ's judgment and coming hadn't triggered yet. And it wasn't a lack of power or a lack of love. It was, in fact, the opposite. God could have come minutes after Christ's ascension. But He hadn't. **When we look up to the Lord's patience**, we realize that His delay is not a sign of inability, but of grace: God had delayed His judgment and Christ's coming because He desired for every possible person who COULD choose to come TO choose to come.

**AP:** We are challenged at patience, today. We want it all, and we want it now! But how gracious is our God for waiting until the time is right: until all the unrepentant, repent—and the faithless, come to faith! We should be grateful that God was patient for OUR repentance—for the right time in our lives. And the God who was patient for us, is patient for others.

**IS 30.18** ~ *Therefore the Lord will wait, that He may be gracious to you; And therefore He will be exalted, that He may have mercy on you. For the Lord is a God of justice; Blessed are all those who wait for Him.*

### **BD3: Look Forward to the Lord's Coming (2PT 3.10-13)**

**ILL—All Films Produced Simultaneously** (can't imagine how difficult it had to be filming all three movies together; no one knew how well it would do; it could have all failed after the first film—what would have happened then?) Each cast member, crew member, and producer was working tirelessly, faithfully, looking towards the ultimately completion of the product: looking forward to the curtain rolling on the final scene years later.

**2PT 3.10-13** ~ *But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. <sup>11</sup> Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, <sup>12</sup> looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? <sup>13</sup> Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.*

**EX:** A part of the remaining faithful thought that they, at least, should know when Christ was coming. But, in fact, Peter explained that wasn't how it worked. That, in fact, we'd never really know when it would happen. **But when it did?** It'd be unmissable. And so, in the midst of pain and suffering and fear, he called for them to **look forward to the Lord's Coming**. When it came, it would be amazing—beautiful and powerful.

**AP:** And with the knowledge of that coming, it ought to affect what we do: not investing in *these things* [that] *will be dissolved*, but instead, we ought to place our priorities and focus on what is to come: the *new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells*.

**TS 2.11-14** ~ *For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, <sup>12</sup> teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, <sup>13</sup> looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.*

### **BD4: Look Down at the Lord's Expectations for Them (2PT 3.14-16)**

#### **MOVIES/The Lord of the Rings/Detailed Work**