

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church  
Dr. Aaron L. Chapman, Pastor  
23455 W. Nine Mile Road  
Southfield, MI 48033  
Phone: (248) 353-0675  
Website: www.newhope-mbc.org

**2026 ANNUAL THEME: “*Hope in Motion*”** →

**BIBLE STUDY**  
**May 13, 2026**

**May 2026 Theme:** Holiness of God  
**Weekly Lesson:** “Holy Habits Highlighted” (2 Peter 3:10-12)

**Topics**

- Scripture Reference
- Reflection Questions
- Important Emphasis
- Key Terms and Definitions
- Outline
- Introduction
- Background and Context
- Explore The Text
- Check For Understanding
- Life Application

**Scripture Reference:** 2 Peter 3:10-12

**Focus Scripture:** 2 Peter 3:11

*<sup>10</sup> 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 discovered.*

*<sup>11</sup> **Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people 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 destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!*

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

A. What emotions arise when you think about the “Day of the Lord”—fear, hope, urgency, or something else?

---

---

---

B. How often does the reality of Christ’s return shape your daily decisions?

---

---

---

## IMPORTANT EMPHASIS

**Holiness defined-** The favorite rabbinic title for God is “the Holy One Blessed Be He.” God’s essence alone is **holy**.

Holiness, At its core Holiness is another way of saying God. Qodes(Holy) Ha Qodes “the Holy One” and Qodes Qodaism Holy of Holies, as synonym for God. *Hebrew qodes qedusah* is a supernatural force that can be defined loosely as divine energy. *The Eerdmans Dictionary of Early Judaism*.

Holy: The biblical use of the term “holy” has to do primarily with God’s separating from the world that which he chooses to devote to himself. God alone is “majestic in holiness” The uniqueness of his holiness is stressed in the repetition of the seraphic cry: Holy, Holy, Holy **Isa. 6:3**. A title used thirty times as a reference to Yahweh is “**Holy One**” this emphasizes **God’s separateness, God’s otherness, and God’s mystery. Hos. 11:9** Yahweh says I am God and not man, the Holy One in your midst.

These things that God separate to himself become holy too. These objects of the lord’s choosing are set apart from the world. **Joshua 7:19-26**

## **Character of God**

God's chosen people in separation from the world are called to an ethical life in conformity to his revealed word. The holy becomes associated with the character of God's separated people conforming to his revealed law.

Yahweh, Israel's God is inherently holy, as conveyed by the statement that God's name is holy. **Lev. 20:3**. This is confirmed by Yahweh's self-assertion. I Yahweh your God, am holy " **Lev. 19:2** In scripture, holiness is exclusive to Yahweh; the holiness of anything else is derived, either from God's presence or from consecration to the sanctuary.

The holiness of God is composed of two major facets. On one hand the holy One is the omnipotent "Other" whose mighty energy is represented by Fire (**Exodus 3:5**) His holiness is distinct, perfect, and Sovereign.

## **Conduct of the godly**

Israel was expected to maintain her status of holiness by imitating God's holiness! Israel must maintain her status by observing the Torah.

Thus, Israel is exhorted to withdraw from what is morally evil and to emulate the divine holiness through a life of ethical goodness.

Holiness is not mere separation from the world but a separation or dedication to perform the divine will in the world.

Christians are to perfect holiness in the fear of God. **2 Corinthians 7:1**. Believers derive their holy status from their relationship with Christ. **Ephesians 5:22-27**

"The classical disciplines of the spiritual life call us to move beyond surface living into the depths. God intends the disciplines of the Spiritual life to be for ordinary human beings. Neither should we think of the Spiritual disciplines as some dull drudgery aimed at exterminating laughter from the face of the earth. Joy is the keynote of all the disciplines." **John 10:10** *Celebration of Discipline*

"Superficiality is the curse of our age. The doctrine of instant satisfaction is a primary spiritual problem. The desperate need today is not for a greater number of intelligent people, or gifted people, but for deep people."

## **Community of God**

Redemptive work through Jesus Christ, His redeemed people came to be known as saints (literally, "holy ones") **Lev. 11:44-45** Be holy! **2 Cor. 7:1**, **Hebrews 12:10**.

This enduring promise for believers in every generation (**Acts 2:38-39**) is the empowerment to make them holy: the Holy Spirit makes them so. The privilege of being “a holy people to the Lord your God.” **Deut. 7:6; Deut.14:2; Deut. 28:9**

### **KEY WORDS AND TERMS**

Anticipation	Hastening the coming
Burning	Heavens
Conduct	Holy Conduct
Day of the Lord	Holy Habits
Decorum	Hope
Destruction	Intense Heat
Earth	Return
Elements	Sacred Decorum
Eternity	Speedy Return
Godliness	Sudden Destruction
Heat	Works

### **OUTLINE**

- I. Sudden Destruction
- II. Sacred Decorum
- III. Speedy Return

### **INTRODUCTION**

The passage from 2 Peter 3:10-12 presents a vivid and sobering vision of the future, reminding believers that the day of the Lord will arrive unexpectedly, bringing dramatic transformation to the heavens and the earth. In the midst of this prophetic warning, the apostle Peter poses a crucial question: "Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness?" (3:11) This question serves as a call to self-examination and spiritual readiness, urging followers of Christ to consider the kind of lives they are called to lead in light of eternity.

Our study, "Holy Habits Highlighted," centers on the challenge and encouragement found in 2 Peter 3:11. As we reflect on the temporariness of the world and the certainty of God's promises, we are invited to cultivate habits of holiness and godliness that set us apart. This session will explore what it means to live with a sense of urgency and purpose, developing daily practices that reflect our hope in Christ and our anticipation

of His return. Together, we will discover how holy habits can shape our character and witness in a world awaiting transformation.

## **BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT**

Second Peter was written by the apostle Peter to early Christian communities scattered throughout Asia Minor, likely in regions such as Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia (modern-day Turkey). These believers were living as minorities within the vast Roman Empire, a society marked by religious pluralism, moral decay, and increasing hostility toward Christians. The letter was composed during a time when Peter anticipated his own martyrdom (**2 Peter 1:14**), possibly during the reign of Emperor Nero, whose persecution of Christians was intensifying. The recipients faced not only external pressures from Roman authorities and pagan neighbors but also internal challenges from false teachers who questioned apostolic authority and denied foundational truths about Christ's return.

Spiritually, the early church was contending with doctrinal confusion and moral laxity. False teachers had infiltrated the community, promoting skepticism about the promised return of Christ and encouraging a lifestyle that contradicted the call to holiness. Peter's exhortation in 2 Peter 3:10-12 addresses these issues directly, reminding believers of the certainty of God's judgment and the temporariness of the present world. He urges them to anchor their lives in the prophetic word, to resist the influence of scoffers, and to cultivate holy conduct and godliness in anticipation of the Lord's return. This call to spiritual vigilance and moral purity was both a response to the immediate threats facing the church and a timeless reminder of the hope and responsibility that come with faith in Christ.

## **EXPLORE THE TEXT**

### **I. Sudden Destruction (2 Peter 3:10)**

*<sup>10</sup> 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 discovered.*

#### **A. Unexpected Arrival**

**“Day of the Lord”:** A prophetic phrase referring to God's decisive intervention in history (cf. **Joel 2:1–11; Amos 5:18**).

**“Like a thief”:** Emphasizes *suddenness, unpredictability,* and *unpreparedness* for those not watching (cf. **Matt. 24:43; Matthew 25:1-13; 1 Thess. 5:2**).

**“Heavens will pass away with a roar”:**

Greek (rhoizēdon) = a rushing, crackling, explosive sound.

**B. Universal Annihilation** [eradication, extermination, total destruction]

**“Elements will be destroyed with intense heat”:**

Greek *stoicheia* = fundamental components of the physical world.

**“Earth and its works will be discovered”:**

Some manuscripts read “burned up,” others “laid bare.”

Meaning: *nothing hidden, everything exposed before God.*

**Revelations 20:11**

<b>CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING</b>
--------------------------------

1. **How does the “thief” metaphor challenge complacency in the church?**

---

---

---

2. **What does it mean for “the earth and its works” to be exposed before God?**

---

---

---

## EXPLORE THE TEXT

### II. Sacred Decorum (v. 11)

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

Peter's logic: **If everything deemed temporary will be destroyed, then only what is eternal matters.** Therefore, believers must live with **sacred decorum**—lives shaped by eternity.

#### A. The Call to Consecration

*“What sort of people ought you to be...”*

- **“What sort”** (*potapous*) = “of what extraordinary kind,” “what quality.”

#### B. The Character of Christlikeness

- **“Holy conduct”** (*hagiais anastrophais*) = lifestyle set apart, morally distinct. (**Romans 12:1-2; 1 Peter 1:13-16**)
- **“Godliness”** (*eusebeia*) = reverence toward God expressed in daily devotion. (**1 Timothy 4:7-8; Titus 2:11-14**)
- “Peter’s purpose is to shake off our sluggishness, that we may earnestly meditate on the heavenly life.”  
~ **John Calvin** (16<sup>th</sup> century French Theologian, Pastor, and leading figure in the Protestant Reformation.)
- "The purest minds need stirring up at times. It would be a great pity to stir up impure minds. That would only be to make mischief; but pure minds may be stirred as much as you please, and the more the better" (on 2 Peter 3:1).  
~ **Charles Spurgeon** (19th Century Preacher and Theologian)

## CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

3. How does the certainty of future judgment motivate present holiness?

---

---

---

4. What areas of your life most need alignment with “holy conduct and godliness”?

---

---

---

## EXPLORE THE TEXT

### III. Speedy Return (v. 12)

*<sup>12</sup> ...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!*

#### A. The Anticipation of His Appearing

- “**Looking for**” (*prosdokōntas*) = eager expectation, active watchfulness.
- “**Hastening**” (*speudontas*) = to speed, urge on, participate in bringing about.
  - Not that humans control God’s timetable, but:
    - Evangelism (**Matt. 24:14**)
    - Prayer (“Your kingdom come”)
    - Holy living are means God uses in His sovereign plan.

## **B. The Acceleration of His [God's] Agenda**

Peter uses vivid apocalyptic imagery to awaken urgency.

**“Heavens destroyed by burning... elements melt with intense heat”**

The Apostle Paul declared that the believer's citizenship is in heaven from which we “eagerly wait for the Savior (**Philippians 3:20–21**).

The Apostle John relates the testimony of Jesus “Surely I come quickly. Amen. To which John replied “Even so, come, Lord Jesus. (**Revelation 22:20; see also, Revelation 22:7 and 12**)

### **Views of Early Church Fathers and Other Christian Scholars and Theologians:**

“The heavens and the earth will pass away, not into non-existence, but into a more glorious state prepared for the righteous.”

~ **Origen** (3rd century Christian Scholar/Theologian)

“The day of the Lord comes suddenly, that we may always be watchful, living in holiness and readiness.”

~ **John Chrysostom** (4th century Early Church Father, Preacher, and Archbishop to Constantinople.

“The present world passes away, but the love of God prepares us for the world that shall never pass.”

~ **Augustine** (5th century Christian Scholar, Theologian, Philosopher, and Bishop in North Africa)

“The ‘hastening’ of the day suggests that Christian mission is bound up with the divine timetable.”

~ **F. F. Bruce** (20<sup>th</sup> century Scottish Evangelical Biblical Scholar, Author, and Educator)

**CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING**

**5. What does it practically look like to “look for” Christ’s return daily?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**6. In what ways can believers “hasten” the coming of the Lord?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**LIFE APPLICATION – Think on it!**

• What specific “holy habit” will you commit to this week in light of Christ’s return?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

• How will you participate in “hastening” the day of God through prayer, evangelism, or service?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*