

Looking for and HASTING UNTO the coming of the day of God - 2 Peter 3:12

Promoters of the modern bible versions insist there are no doctrines of the Christian faith which are affected in any way by the differences between the King James Bible and the new versions. This is blatantly false in several critical areas. This article will address only one of several doctrines which have been changed in such modern versions as the NKJV, NIV, NASB, NET and Holman Standard.

Puny man, who is but of dust, can do nothing to effect in any way the timetable already established by Almighty God. Man can neither speed up nor slow down God's timetable. This view is contrary to much modern Christian thought, that portrays God as a grandfatherly figure, anxiously wringing His hands, hoping things will turn out for the best, but He just can't seem to get man to cooperate with His wishes.

I believe the Biblical position reveals a God "who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will." When king Nebuchadnezzar's understanding returned to him, after 7 times had passed over him by the decree of the Most High, he said: " I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation: And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou." Now, that is the God who is truly worthy of worship.

Let's look at some Scriptures which reveal who controls time; is it God or man? Acts 1:7 Jesus said unto them "It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own hands." Acts 17: 26, 31 tell us God "hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation"...he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness." Notice that God alone determined the times, and the day of judgment has already been appointed by Him. It is "circled on His calendar".

Revelation 9:15 "And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men." This judgment has already been prepared by God down to the specific hour. While on earth, the Lord Jesus often told His disciples that His enemies could not yet take Him captive, because His hour had not yet come.

Daniel 2: 20, 21 "Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: He changeth the times and the seasons; he removeth kings, and setteth up kings"

Daniel 8:19 the angel Gabriel appeared to Daniel to give him understanding, and he said "Behold, I will make thee know what shall be in the last end of the indignation: for at the time appointed the end shall be."

Daniel 9: 24, 25 "Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people, and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression... And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself"

Daniel 11: 27, 29, 35 "yet the end shall be at the time appointed"... "At the time appointed he shall return..." "even to the time of the end: because it is yet for a time appointed."

Habakkuk 2:3 "For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it: because it will surely come, it will not tarry."

It is just as the Psalmist said in 31:15 "My times are in thy hands."

Genesis 18:14 "Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee...and Sarah shall have a son."

In Judges 7: 10-14 Gideon is told that if he is afraid, to go down to the host of the Midianites. He goes down, and just as he is there listening, two men relate a dream which reveals that God will destroy the Midianites by the sword of Gideon. Coincidence? No, the timing of God.

In Esther 6:1 Haman is plotting to kill Mordecai, but the night before Haman requests of the king to slay Mordecai, the king cannot sleep and calls for the chronicles to be read to him. Therein he reads of Mordecai having previously revealed a plot to kill the king, and he saved his life. Whereupon, the king decides to honor Mordecai. Coincidence that the king couldn't sleep? No, the timing of God.

Jeremiah 29: 10 - 12 "For thus saith the LORD, That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon, I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place. Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you." God sent this judgment upon Israel, and no matter how much or fervently they might have prayed, they would not be delivered from Babylon, till the appointed time of 70 years had passed.

You might then ask, What does all this have to do with 2 Peter 3: 12? The verse says: "Looking for and HASTING UNTO the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat."

This is the reading of the King James Bible, Tyndale 1525, Miles Coverdale 1535, The Great Bible 1540, Matthew's Bible (John Rogers) 1549, the Bishop's Bible 1568, the Geneva Bible 1599, Webster's 1833 translation, Young's "literal" translation - "Young's translation = KJB - "waiting for and HASTING TO the presence of the day of God, by which the heavens, being on fire, shall be dissolved, and the elements with burning heat shall melt." It is also the reading found in the Douay Rheims 1899 and the Douay of 1950 - "Looking for and HASTING UNTO the coming of the day of the Lord, by which the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved", the Spanish Reina Valera bibles of 1909, 1960, and 1995 = KJB - "esperando y APRESURANDOOS PARA la venida del día de Dios, en el cual los cielos, encendiéndose, serán deshechos, y los elementos, siendo quemados, se fundirán!" = "Waiting for and hurrying yourselves for (or towards) the coming of the day of God", the Italian Diodati Bible 1649 - "Aspettando, e affrettandovi all'avvenimento del giorno di Dio" = "Waiting for, and hurrying you to the event of the day of God", the Portuguese de Almeida 1861 and the newer Biblia Sagrada - "Aguardando, e apressando-vos para a vinda do dia de Deus" = Waiting and hurrying

you for the coming of the day of God", Luther's German Bible 1545 -"daß ihr wartet und eilet zu der Zukunft des Tages des HERRN" = "that you wait and hurry to the future of the day of the Lord"; Webster's 1833 translation, the 21st Century KJV, and the Third Millennium Bible of 1998.

I believe at least two elements are involved regarding how this verse is translated. One is whether or not you view the verb "to hasten" as being a transitive (requires a direct object) or an intransitive verb (no direct object), and the second is sound and consistent theology. The King James Bible and many others got it right and many modern versions completely missed the point and confound sound doctrine.

However many new versions have changed the doctrine of the timing of God, by how they have mistranslated the inspired text. The NKJV, RSV, ESV, NET, NASB and the newer Catholic versions like the St. Joseph New American Bible 1970 and the New Jerusalem bible of 1985 say: "looking for and HASTENING the coming" while the NIV 1984 says: "as you look forward to the day of God and SPEED ITS COMING." The Catholic St. Joseph New American bible 1970 and the New Jerusalem bible 1985 both say: "looking for the coming of the day of God AND TRYING TO HASTEN IT!" These versions clearly imply or state that man can do something to speed up the timetable of God. This is a false doctrine and a contradiction. However the NIV footnotes "Or, as you eagerly wait for the day". This suggested translation at least would have avoided the theological error found in the NKJV, NASB, ESV, the newer Catholic and NET versions.

Some other versions, like the Revised Version, the American Standard Version, Holman Standard, and the Contemporary English Version, have yet a different meaning than the others. They say: "EARNESTLY DESIRING the coming of the day of God", or "LOOKING FORWARD TO the day of God" (Weymouth) or "looking eagerly for the day of God" (New English Bible 1970). While this rendering is different than that of the King James Bible (leaving us with THREE entirely different meanings of just this one verse), at least it doesn't teach the same false doctrine as do the RSV, ESV, NASB, NIV, NET, St. Joseph, New Jerusalem bible and NKJV.

A good question to ask is: 'How are we "hasting unto" the coming of the day of God, as the King James Bible and many others say?' It is really quite simple. Verse 8 of this same chapter states: "But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousands years as one day." If you or I should live to be a hundred years old, that would be equivalent to less than two and one half hours of God's time.

We are on this earth but a very short time and all of us are all hastening unto the coming of the day of God.

Psalm 90:4-6: "For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night. Thou carriest them away as with a flood: they are as a sleep: in the morning they are like grass which groweth up. In the morning it flourisheth, and groweth up; in the

evening it is cut down, and withereth.”

Ps. 39:5: “Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth: and mine age is a nothing before thee.”

Ps. 102:11: “My days are like a shadow that declineth: and I am withered like grass.”

Job 4:20 speaks of man as: “They are destroyed from morning to evening”, Job 7: 6: “My days are swifter than a weaver’s shuttle”

Job 8: 9: “For we are but of yesterday, and know nothing, because our days upon earth are a shadow.” Job 9: 25: “Now my days are swifter than a post: they flee away,” Job 14: 1- 2: “Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not.”

We are all hasting unto the day of God. Our time here is quickly over and we pass away. That day has already been appointed by God who put the times and the seasons in His own power, and nothing either you or I do or don't do will change by one second when this appointed day comes. False bibles lead to false doctrine.

One prominent Christian who has good teaching in other areas is Dr. John Piper of Desiring God Ministries. Unfortunately he does not believe that any Bible or any text in any language is now the inspired and inerrant words of God. He promotes the use of the 2001 ESV (English Standard Version), which is basically the old liberal RSV dressed in new garb. The ESV frequently rejects the Hebrew readings and its New Testament is based primarily on the Westcott-Hort Greek text. It omits even more whole verses (18) from the N.T. than does the NIV.

All of these modern bible versions like the ESV, NIV, NASB, NET, Holman Standard are in fact the new "Catholic" bible versions. Don't believe me? Read their own words as found in the United Bible Society, Nestle-Aland 27th edition critical Greek text, which is the basis of ALL these modern versions.

Indisputable Proof the ESV, NIV, NASBs are the new Catholic bible versions:

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John Piper comments on 2 Peter 3:12, which in the ESV says: "waiting for and HASTENING THE COMING of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn."

Mr. Piper says: "Verse 12 says that as you look for the coming of the Day of God in this way you will hasten it. Verse 9 said that God is holding back the final Day that you may repent. It follows that repenting and living a life of holiness helps remove the cause for delay. We don't hasten the Day in an absolute sense because Acts 1:7 teaches that the Father has fixed the times and seasons by his own authority and Jesus said in Mark 13:22 that the Father knows the hour of the Son's return. But from our vantage point we can hasten the Day by fulfilling the pre-conditions of Christ's return, namely the preaching of the gospel to all the nations (Mk. 13:10) and the repentance of the full number of the Gentiles who must come in before the end (Rom. 11:25). Evidently Peter believes that lives of holiness and godliness will indeed fulfill these conditions

and hasten the Day of God." - Dr. John Piper

First of all, verse 9 says nothing about God "holding back" the final day of judgment. It merely explains that God's timetable is not the same as ours, and that He is longsuffering to us-ward. Mr. Piper is a well known Calvinist, and he professes to believe that God alone gives repentance and faith to His elect, and none of them will be lost.

Secondly, there is no place in Scripture that supports the idea that by holy living and repenting we will in any way speed up the coming of the day of God. There are no pre-conditions that we can or must fulfill so that this final day will come any quicker than God has already appointed. Mr. Piper contradicts his own theology and speaks out of both sides of his mouth in his attempt to explain and justify the false doctrine taught in many new versions that we can somehow by our actions move God to change His timetable or speed up the coming day when He will judge the world in righteousness.

Thirdly, I am somewhat amazed that a man like Mr. Piper would say: "Evidently Peter believes that lives of holiness and godliness will indeed fulfill these conditions and hasten the Day of God." Wrong! The Bible is NOT about what "Peter evidently believes", though WE know better! There are numerous other verses of Scripture that contradict what Mr. Piper says Peter "evidently believes". The true Holy Bible, the King James Bible, is the inerrant words of Almighty God, and it does not contradict itself, as do the modern versions like the NKJV, NASB, NIV, NET, St. Joseph, New Jerusalem and ESV.

The doctrine found in the King James Bible is consistently true and harmonizes with the rest of Scripture on any given topic. This cannot be said of many modern versions. "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear."

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