

What Holds the World Together?

2 Pet. 1:1-18

Introduction:

- A. We live in the *Atomic* Age — July 16, 1945 — Alamogordo, N.M.
 - 1. Most or all of our lives lived under its threat.
 - 2. World has come close to nuclear war at times.
 - 3. Makes one wonder how the world has held together.
- B. We also live in the *Agnostic* Age — Doubt God's control over world (cf. vv. 4,5)
- C. Peter tells us of two influences that holds the world together?

Discussion:

I. The Word Of God (vv. 5-7).

- A. By it the world was created (v. 5; Gen. 1; Ps. 33:9).
- B. By it the world was flooded (v. 6; Gen. 6).
- C. By it the world is kept in store (v. 7).
 - 1. World has not escaped His control.
 - 2. World's destiny is not in hands of men.
 - 3. World's destiny is not left to chance.
- D. By it we are saved. (Jas. 1:21,22; Rom. 1:16).

II. The Longsuffering of God (vv. 9-15).

- A. To give us more opportunity to “come to repentance” and be saved (v. 9,15).
 - 1. Involves hearing the gospel (Rom. 10:17)
 - 2. Involves obeying all the terms of salvation
 - a. Faith and baptism (Mark 16:15-16).
 - b. Confessing Christ (Rom. 10:10)
- B. To give us more opportunity to become fit for heaven (v. 13).
 - 1. Heaven is for righteous and godly people (vs. 11-14).
 - 2. Heaven is for those who grow in grace and knowledge (v. 18).
- C. To give us opportunity for now — not forever.
 - 1. The Lord will come as a thief in the night (v. 10).
 - 2. The universe will perish (vv. 10-12).
 - 3. The unprepared will perish (vv. 7,9, 17).

Conclusion:

- A. The Lord is still holding the world together — for now.
- B. The Lord has not promised to keep on holding it together.