

WHEN GOD RELEASES THE ATOM.

II Peter 3: 7, 10-14.

this is the only one passage in the Bible which contains the actual phrases of scientific vocabulary relating directly to the breaking down of the atom. Notice the words used:

- I. "Elements" — meaning of word
- in ver. 10, Gr. word "stoicheia", meaning "the components into which matter is ultimately divisible."
 - This meaning we today call by the name "atom", formerly called "molecule".
 - The idea the Greeks gave to "stoicheia" is the idea of "atom" for Physics.

II. The Dissolving of the Elements.

- Peter here uses the word "luo", to loose, or unloose, or release, or set free that which has been bound.
 - see John 1:27 - "the latchet of whose shoe I am not worthy to unloose."
 - John 11:44 "Loose him + let him go"
- This is exactly what we have in the release of atomic energy by the fission of the nucleus of the atom.
- Peter prophesies that the elementary particles of matter, which we call atoms, would be released or set free & that this would cause fire of fever.

III. "With Ferment Heat" —

- Gr. word a medical term applied to the heat of fever.
- Only time applied to inanimate objects.
- Atomic bomb containing no inflammable materials yet generates a fearful heat: burns groups to crisp molten sand.

IV. It is significant that there is such a similarity in the Gr. word used for "heavens" - "Ouranos" and the word "Uranium", from which we develop the atomic bomb.

V. Bible References to the Destruction of the Elements, judgment, fire + destruction on Earth.

A. Isaiah 24:1, 3, 4, 5-7, 17-21

B. Revelation 16:17-19

C. Revelation 6:14, 15

D. Joel 2:3, 30

E. Fiery judgment of Sodom & Gomorrah taken as type of destruction of all the earth
II Peter 2:6; Jude 7; Luke 17:29, 30

VI. Situation Before us today

A. Russia has the atomic bomb.

1. No consolation to say that we have more than they have.

2. Estimated that by 1952 they will have a stockpile of a minimum of 100 bombs. America's industry is built around 92 big cities that could each be put out of commission by only one well-placed bomb.

B. They are talking now of scattering the govt bldgs in Wash D.C. into outlying areas 2 or 3 miles out of the center of the city.

C. Recently revealed that our air force is incompetent to fend off enemy aircraft carrying atomic bombs.

D. Jesus Christ offers the only safe hiding place.

I. This fire described.

This is the only one passage in the Bible which contains the actual phrases of scientific vocabulary relating directly to the breaking down of the atom.

A. Notice the words used.

1. "Elements"

a. In verse 10 is found the Greek word "stoicheia", meaning "atoms", or the components into which matter is ultimately divisible.

b. This is today called by the name "atom", and was formerly called "molecule".

c. The idea ~~and~~ the Greeks gave to the word "stoicheia" is the idea of "atom" for physics.

2. "Dissolved"

a. Peter uses the word meaning to unloose or release or set free that which has been bound, as in Jn. 1:27, "the latchet of whose shoe I am not worthy to unloose," or Jn. 11:44, "loose him and let him go."

b. This is exactly what we have in the release of atomic energy by the fission of the nucleus of the atom.

c. Peter prophesies that the elementary particles of matter, which we call atoms, would be released or set free and that this would cause fire.

3. "with fervent heat"

a. This is a Greek word which is a medical term applied to the heat of fever usually; this is the only time in the N.T. it is applied to an inanimate object.

b. Atomic bombs contain no inflammable materials, yet they generate fearful thermal heat rays which burn the ground to a crisp and melt sand.

4. It might be significant that there is such similarity between the Greek word used for "heavens" — "ouranos" and the word "uranium", from which we develop the atomic bomb

B. Other Bible references to the Dissolution of the Elements, judgment, fire, and destruction on earth.

a. Isaiah 24:1,3,4,5-7, 17-21

b. Joel 2:3,30: "The day of the Lord cometh, a day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness; a fire devoureth before them;

and behind them a flame burneth:
the land is as the garden of Eden before them,
and behind them a desolate wilderness;
And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth,
blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke."

c. The fiery judgment of Sodom & Gomorra may be taken as a type of the destruction of all the earth. II Peter 2:6, "turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorra into ashes, condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should ~~be like them~~ live ungodly."

Jude 7: "Even as Sodom and Gomorra, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire."

Luke 17:29,30: "But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. EVEN THUS SHALL IT BE IN THE DAY WHEN THE SON OF MAN IS REVEALED."

C. The Nature of The Universe

1. Volcanoes are ventholes of the great fires which are in the center of the earth.
2. Geologists believe the whole center of the earth is a mass of molten fiery matter, and we live upon a thin crust which has cooled down and is probably not so much as 100 miles thick.
3. As the sun continues to radiate light and heat it is gradually getting hotter and hotter.

FRED HOYLE has said: "By the time the sun has used about a third of its present store of hydrogen, our climate, even at the poles of the earth, will be getting too hot for any forms of life that at present inhabit it. At a still later stage, the Sun will become so hot that the oceans will boil and life will become extinct."

4. So, we have fire beneath us, fire above us, and the possibility of atomic fire all around us.

5. The possibility of the world's destruction by fire is not half so hard to believe as the unnumbered inventions of today would have been to people 100 to 200 years ago.

II. Some Practical Conclusions from this!

"What manner of persons ought ye to be?" v. 11.

The connection between God's atomic fire and the Christian's godly life?

A. What sort of a life would Noah live during the days preceeding the great Flood?

1. Quite unlike his fellow men.

2. Free from unbelief and worldliness

B. Two effects this prospect ought to produce on us.

1. Practical holiness in every part of our life.

a. "holy conversation and godliness."

b. Beginning with the imputed righteousness of Christ following a personal experience of repentance from sin and genuine committment of faith to Him.

c. Continuing with growth in grace and Christlikeness

2. An earnest longing for the coming of Christ.

"Looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, when, after the fiery destruction, we look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." vs. 12-13.

a. Be diligent to be found of him in peace, v. 14

b. Be diligent to be found of him without spot

c. Be diligent to be found of him blameless.

CONCLUSION:

Notice this important contrast:

"Things" shall be "dissolved";

but "Persons" shall continue "to be";

Astronomy may reveal something of the grandeur and magnificence of God's creation; but it can tell us nothing of His love & compassion for sinners. It may trace the course of the milky way, but it cannot show to perishing souls the way of eternal life. It may tell how far the earth is from the sun, but it cannot tell the believing sinner how far God puts the sinner's transgression from him.

Geology may show us, in the fossils
and rocks, the graves of once living
creatures, over which death has established
its awful power, but it can tell us
nothing about the resurrection
from the dead and the restitution
of all things which God has spoken
by the mouth of his holy prophets
since the world began.