

## **GOD IS PATIENTLY GIVING TIME FOR REPENTANCE**

2 Peter 3:8-9 “But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”

Is the world imploding? COVID19 is not going away. Economists are fearful inflation is getting out of control. Week in and week out gruesome murders are happening all over the United States. National and state leaders are trying everything they know to do to unify the nation, but with no apparent success.

God, why are You not bringing this world to an end? We human beings just continue to mess up Your creation. We can't get along with one another. The rich get richer and the poor get poorer. We don't appear to have the ability to work together as a nation for the common good. Lord, just bring it all to an end.

Peter's words in today's Devotional Thought address why God permits the world to continue. While we think time is going by so quickly or slowly, God does not tell time like we. “One day for Him,” Peter says, “is like a thousand years and a thousand years is as a day.” (verse 8) Why does God permit the world to continue? Peter's answer, “(God) is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.” (verse 9)

As I have shared frequently in these devotions, the truth is “(God) wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.” (1 Timothy 2:4) There remain people who need to hear the Gospel, learn of their Savior Jesus, repent and be saved. God knows the time when He will bring the universe to an end, but the time is not yet as His plan for saving people from hell is still doing its work.

“The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you,” your brothers and sisters, your neighbors and friends, your fellow citizens and people throughout the world. He is patiently waiting for sinners to recognize their sins, repent of them and ask Him for His forgiveness for Jesus' sake. Thanks be to God for His Fatherly patience with us sinners.

Prayer: Thank You Father for Your patience with us sinners. Continue to bless Your Word as it is proclaimed that more and more people would be led to know their sins, repent and seek your forgiveness through Jesus Christ, You Son, their Lord and Savior. Amen.

Love divine, all love excelling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!  
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, All Thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion, Pure, unbounded love Thou art;  
Visit us with Thy salvation, Enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit Into ev'ry troubled breast;  
Let us all in Thee inherit; Let us find Thy promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its beginning, Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver; Let us all Thy life receive;  
Suddenly return, and never, Nevermore Thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,  
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing, Glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish then Thy new creation, Pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see Thy great salvation Perfectly restored in Thee,  
Changed from glory into glory, Till in heav'n we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before Thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise!  
(LSB 700)