

## What's the Big Stuff?

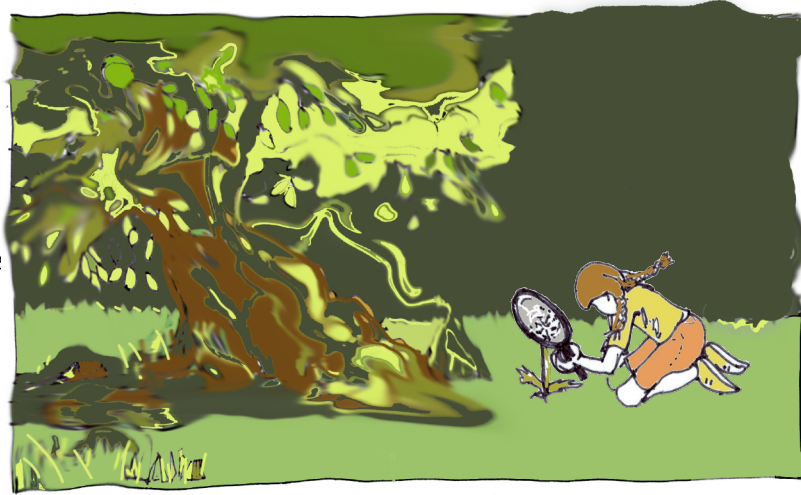
2 Peter 1:16-21

### "Don't sweat the small stuff"

Don't let little things spoil life

Pay attention to "silent killers"

Living well: Figure out what stuff is little  
and what stuff is big!



### Summary of 2 Peter 1:1-15

Based on God's promises to us, make every effort to grow in Christ and participate in the divine nature

If you do, "You will receive a rich welcome into **the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**" 2 Pet. 1:11  
"set your hope on the grace to be brought to you **when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming.**" 1 Peter 1:13b

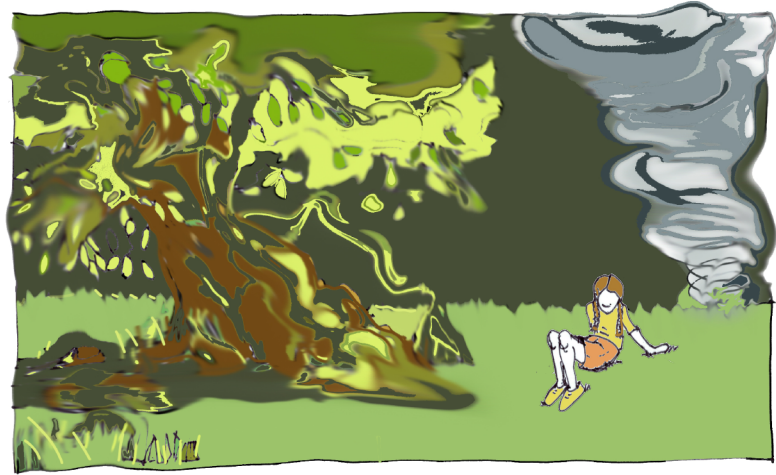
### 2 Peter 1:16-18

God says: "I have installed my king on Zion, my holy mountain."

"I will proclaim the LORD's decree: He said to me, "You are my son; today I have become your father. Ask me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. You will break them with a rod of iron; you will dash them to pieces like pottery." Psalm 2:7-9

"After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone.

There he was **transfigured** before them. His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ... Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!" Mark 9:2-4, 7



### 2 Peter 1:19-21

#### False teachers: Jesus isn't coming back

"Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." 2 Peter 3:3-4

#### True teaching: Jesus is coming back

"But **the day of the Lord will come like a thief.** The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare." 2 Peter 3:10

#### Jesus' return should change how we live

"Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? **You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.**" 2 Peter 3:11-12a

#### Jesus taught this repeatedly

"For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done" Matthew 16:27

"Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" Matthew 21:40

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats."

To the sheep: "Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom"

To the goats: "Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire." Matthew 25:31-48

## Big Idea

### Jesus' return to judge the world is real and it should profoundly affect how we live today

Sometimes we ignore the beautiful big picture and focus on small problems

Jesus said: don't worry about food, clothes, attacks, persecution, ... **because God Himself cares for you!**

Sometimes we admire the good but ignore greatest danger

Jesus said: "As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man." Matthew 24:37

### Our "Statement of Faith" (see <https://www.crosswaymchurch.org/what-we-believe/>)

"We believe in the personal, bodily and glorious return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission."

## Putting it into practice

### Be shaped by Scripture

"You will do well to pay attention to it"

Nothing else reveals God's plans and how we can prepare for them

One of our Core Values: the Bible (see <https://www.crosswaymchurch.org/core-values/>)

God spoke and still speaks in the Bible. So the Bible is central in our lives (individually and together)

### Take seriously the return of Jesus to judge all

Our entire lives have been in a dark age. **But the Day is coming and the Son of God will rise and reign!**

#### Is the return of Jesus to reign real?

Peter: Yes! Confirmed by the Bible, the audible voice of God, the visible glory of Jesus, as seen by eyewitnesses who then died for it

#### Is it relevant for us today?

Jesus: "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come." Matthew 24:42

Jesus: "Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come." Mark 13:33

Paul: "So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober." 1 Thessalonians 5:6

#### Is it serious?

Jesus said: "Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell." Matthew 10:28

### So...Turn to God for grace in Jesus

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call." Acts 2:38-39

"You will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom" 2 Peter 2:11

### And tell others!

### And then make every effort to grow in God

"make every effort to confirm your calling and election. ...and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 1:10-11

August 15 goals → preparing for Jesus' return!

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## Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. How do you think and feel about the return of Jesus? Do you believe it? Is it relevant to your life? If so, in what ways?
2. What questions do you have about Jesus' return?
3. How should the return of Jesus affect how we live today? What shouldn't be different? What should be?

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## Conversation starters

Have you heard the claim that Jesus is going to return to the world someday? What do you think about that?