

The image features two large, thick black L-shaped brackets. One is positioned in the top-left corner, and the other is in the bottom-right corner, framing the central text.

URGENT TIMES:

The slowness of God

Urgent times:

- (hate being late)
- One of the tensions of the return of Christ is that the end of time calls for urgency, yet God seems slow. Why is God so slow in coming, in acting, in putting an end to evil? And how should we live in this tension?

Urgent Times

- 2 Peter 3:3f, “First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing & following their own evil desires. They will say, ‘Where is this coming he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.’”

Urgent Times

- 2 Peter 3:3f, “But they deliberately forget that long ago by God’s word the heavens existed & the earth was formed out of water & by water. By these waters also the world of that time was deluged & destroyed. By the same word the present heavens & earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment & destruction of ungodly men.

Urgent Times

- As time goes on, and Christ doesn't return, it seems more unlikely to many that He will return. Peter said that would happen.
- As time goes on & judgment doesn't come, people start to forget the lessons of history & assume mercy without repentance. (flood; Israelites; terrorism & the lessons of WW2) (judgment will come – end of evil)

Urgent Times

- Delay can produce apathy, lethargy and even blatant disregard. This is why Jesus warns us to keep watch, to be ready, to be prepared. (Kids at home alone – delay – repairman)
- So, if delay can produce negative results for the inattentive, why does God delay?

Urgent Times

- 2 Peter 3:8f, “But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promises, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”

Urgent Times

- God delays the return of Christ so that all people will have a chance to come to faith. It is mercy that causes Him to delay judgment. He is not blind to evil. But, He loves sinners. Today is the day of repentance. Today is the day of mercy. (return; go with the heart of the Father – people of peace; broken – need healer)
- How shall we live?

Urgent Times

- 2 Peter 3:10f, “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, & the earth & everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people out you to be? You ought to *live holy & godly lives as you look forward to the day of God & speed its coming.*

Urgent Times

- 2 Peter 3:10f, “That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, & the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are *looking forward to a new heaven & a new earth*, the home of righteousness. So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless & at peace with Him. Bear in mind that our Lord’s patience means salvation

Urgent Times

- Here is Peter's conclusion about how we should live:
- Live holy lives. Every effort (Freedom, honoring God, attractive)
- Live on mission with urgency – it is the day of salvation.
- Live lives rooted in eternity. (the unshakable kingdom – heaven)