

## ADVENT WEEK TWO

December 13, 2019

### Disclosure

2 Peter 3:11-18

*Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. 2 Peter 3:11-13*

“Black hole sun / Won't you come / And wash away the rain / Black hole sun / Won't you come / Won't you come?” As anyone who wore flannel and Doc Martens in the 1990s can tell you, these song lyrics come from Soundgarden's 1994 hit, “Black Hole Sun.” The lyrics have no deep meaning. Lead singer Chris Cornell reported at the time that he heard something on the news about a black hole and started playing with the words in his head. But I'm more concerned with the music video. It begins in an idyllic suburbia, populated by residents with freakishly exaggerated grins. Over the course of the video, each grotesque rictus widens into... fear? Delight? Ecstasy? All of the above? ...as the sun turns into a black hole and swallows them up.

High art it is not, nor is it a Christmas carol. But it does capture something of apocalyptic longing that many of us feel in these days of protracted climate crisis, emboldened totalitarianism, and state-sanctioned torture. Looking around, how could one not think that it might be better for this whole rotten business to be set ablaze, dissolved, and replaced? We've made a mess of it, God. Burn it all down. Wash it away. Won't you come? Won't you come?

In such a world it might seem madness to talk of peace. Here, the author of 2 Peter seems to think that peace is to be found in righteous behavior, avoiding false teaching, and eschewing corruption. By doing these things, the text seems to suggest, we can rest easy knowing that we've got a spot in the Righteous Home for Godly Persons—coming soon!

If you've achieved that, great! However, the rest of us might do well to attend to another theme that appears throughout 2 Peter's epistle: disclosure. Because it turns out the melting and the fire isn't even the half of it. In God's time, what has been covered up will be unveiled. What has been silenced will be announced over the public address system. What has been lied about will be declared in its unmistakable, undistorted truth.

Think about how violence depends upon cover-ups; torture, upon misinformation; injustice, upon lies. This is where our peace comes from. Our peace comes from trusting that the lies will not last; one day, God will unveil what has been covered up. May that day come quickly.

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