



LOVE... WHERE YOU LIVE

THE ART OF **NEIGHBORING**

³ Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, ⁴ and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation." ...

2 Peter 3:3-15

... ⁵ For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water, ⁶ through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water. ⁷ But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. ...

2 Peter 3:3-15

...⁸ But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day.⁹ The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. ...

2 Peter 3:3-15

... ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. ...

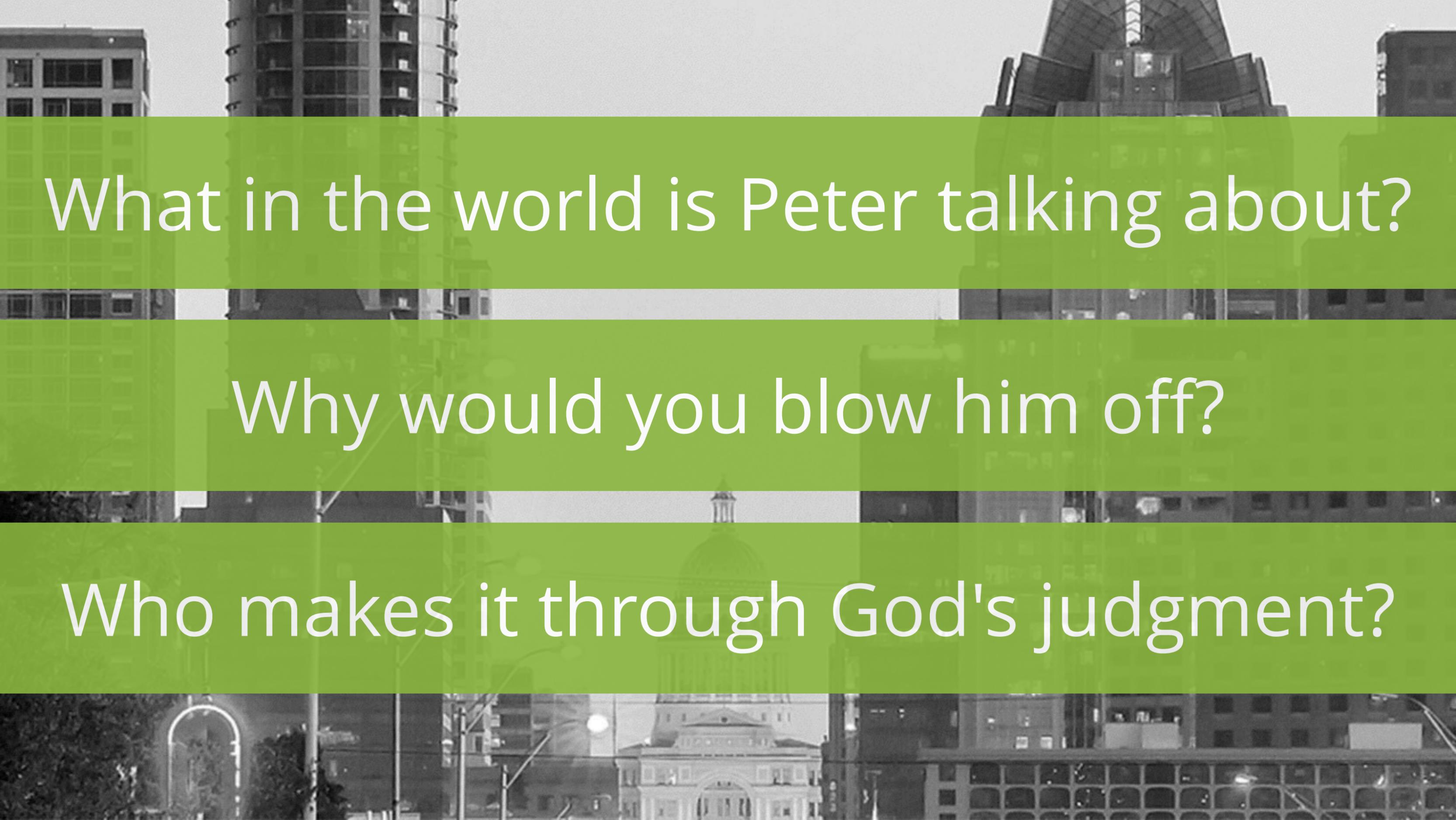
2 Peter 3:3-15

... ¹¹ Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ¹² looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! ¹³ But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells. ...

2 Peter 3:3-15

... ¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, ¹⁵ and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

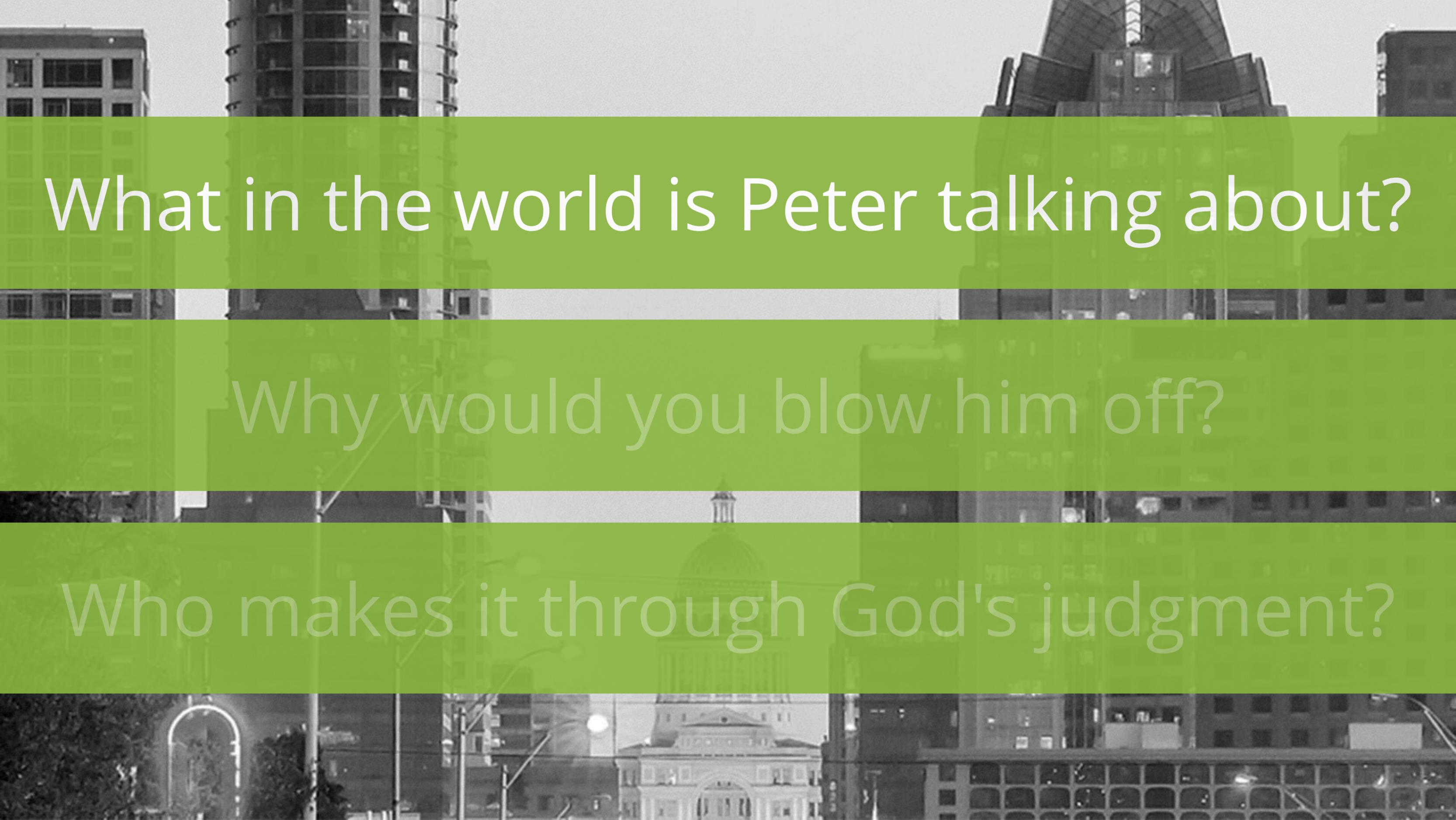
2 Peter 3:3-15



What in the world is Peter talking about?

Why would you blow him off?

Who makes it through God's judgment?



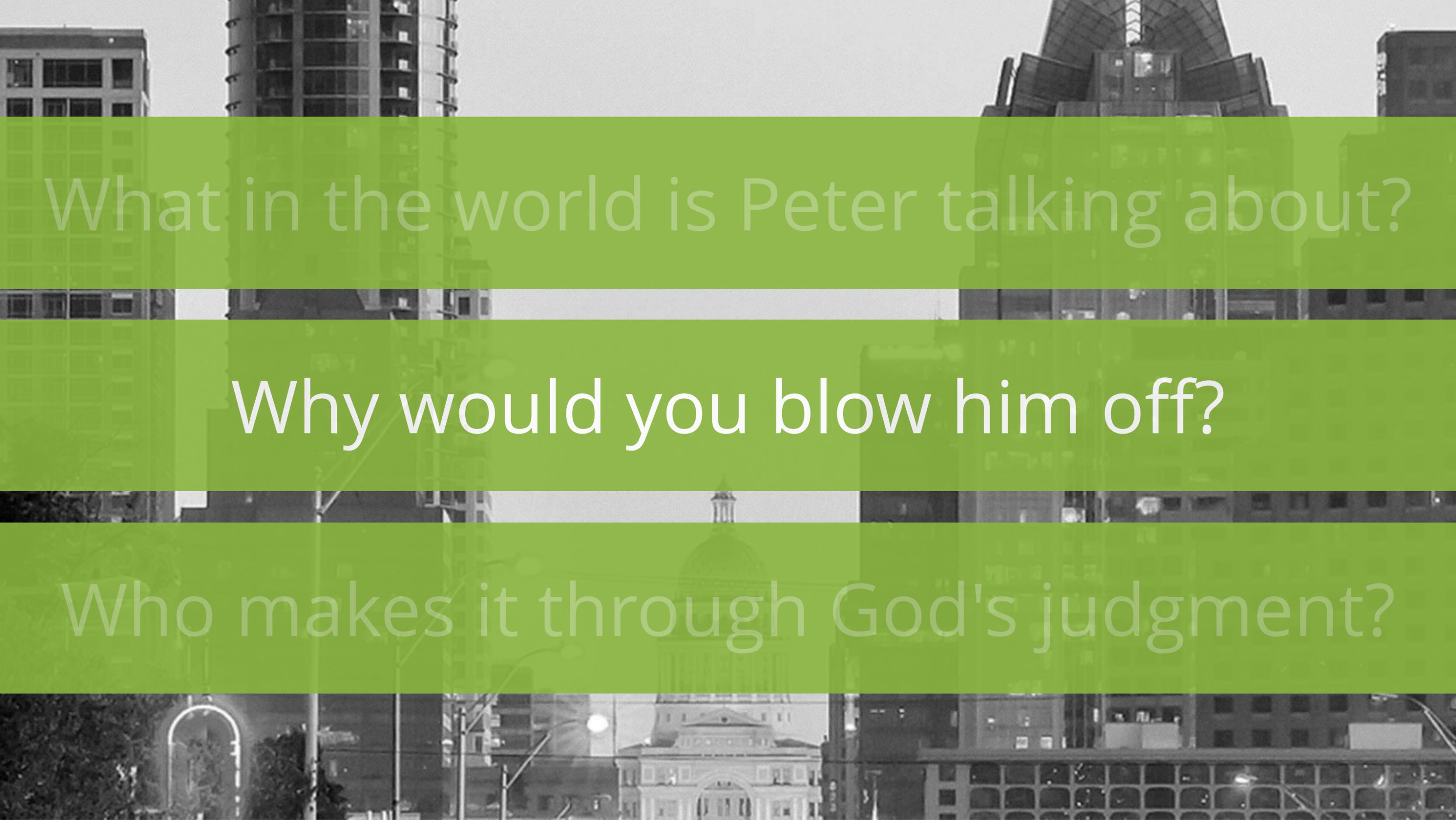
What in the world is Peter talking about?

Why would you blow him off?

Who makes it through God's judgment?

"But the day of the Lord will
come like a thief..."

2 Peter 3:10



What in the world is Peter talking about?

Why would you blow him off?

Who makes it through God's judgment?

Why would you blow him off?

→ You have an **intellectual problem**

"... it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water, through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water."

2 Peter 3:5-6

Why would you blow him off?

- You have an **intellectual problem**
- You have a **perspective problem**

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2 Peter 3:3-4, 8-9

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2 Peter 3:3-4, 8-9

Why would you blow him off?

- You have an **intellectual problem**
- You have a **perspective problem**
- You have a **personal problem**

What sort of people ought you to be?

"Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless..."

2 Peter 3:14

"One could object that it is not worthy of God to wield the sword. Is God not love, long-suffering and all-powerful love?

If God were not angry at injustice and deception and did not make the final end to violence—God would not be worthy of our worship. Here, however, I am less interested in arguing that God's violence is not unworthy of God than in showing that it is beneficial to us: in a world of violence we are faced with an inescapable alternative: either God's violence or human violence. ...

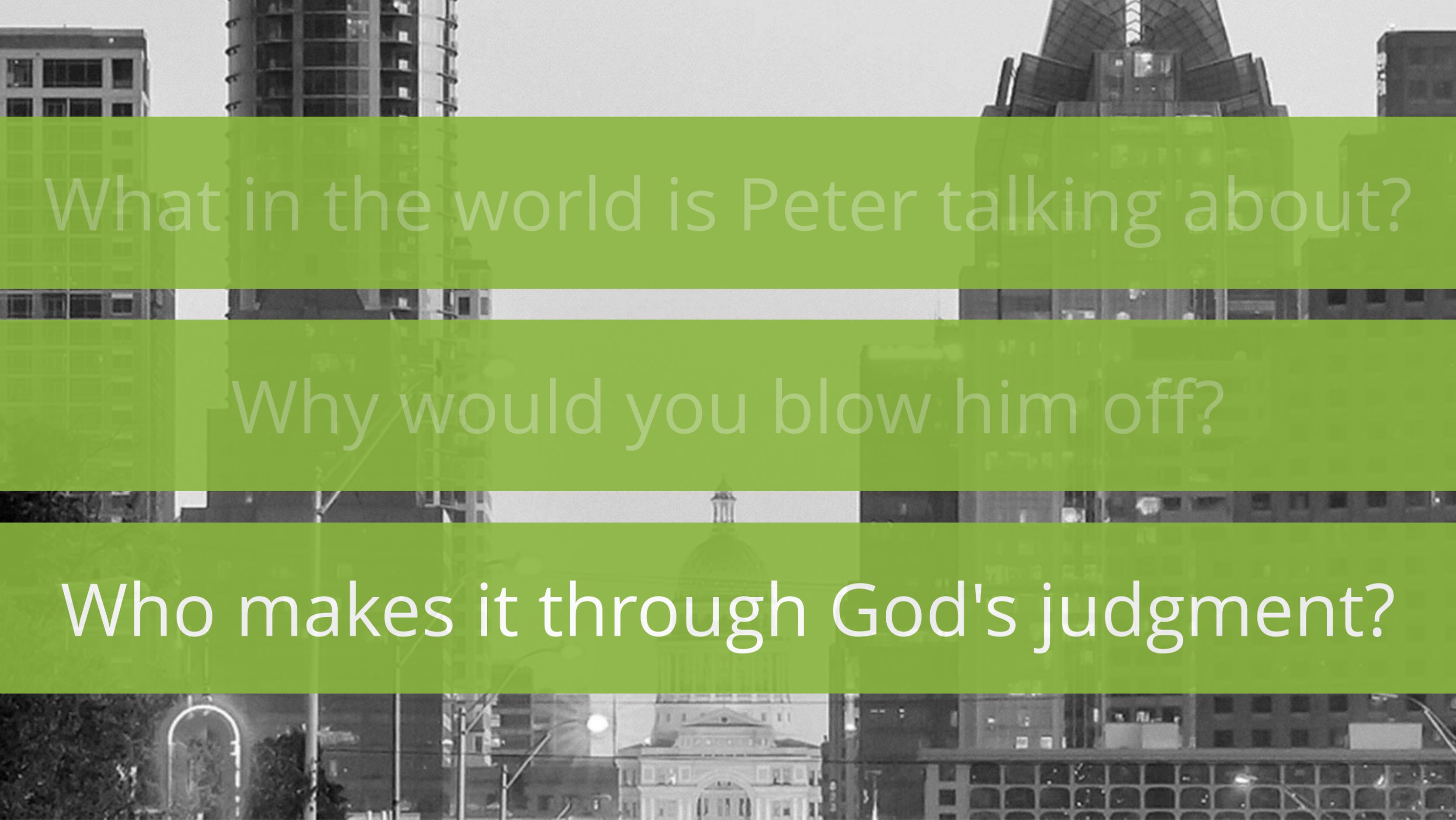
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... Most people who insist on God's "nonviolence" cannot resist using violence themselves (or tacitly sanctioning its use by others). They deem the talk of God's judgment irreverent, but think nothing of entrusting judgment into human hands, persuaded presumably that this is less dangerous and more humane than to believe in a God who judges! That we should bring "down the powerful from their thrones" (Luke 1:51-52) seems responsible; that God should do the same...seems crude. ...

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... And so violence thrives, secretly nourished by belief
in a God who refuses to wield the sword.

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What in the world is Peter talking about?

Why would you blow him off?

Who makes it through God's judgment?

"Once we affirm that God's condemnation of wrongdoing is appropriate, we cannot reserve God's condemnation simply for heinous crimes...we have to bring it home as well. There's no way of keeping it "out there", reserved for others. Where would we draw the line? Where would the line be drawn? ...

Mirsolav Volf | Exclusion and Embrace

... I originally resisted the idea of a wrathful God because I dreaded being that wrath's target. I still do. I knew I couldn't just direct God's wrath against others, as if it were a weapon I could aim at targets I particularly detested. It's God's wrath, not mine.

If I want it to fall on evildoers—I must let it fall on myself."

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"The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to **repentance.**"

2 Peter 3:9

It never hurt anybody to smile. It's being grateful. You're not being very grateful. When I think of all I could have been besides myself and what all I got—a little of everything and a good disposition beside, all I can do is shout, "Thank you, Jesus," for making everything exactly the way it is. ...

Flannery O'Connor | Revelation

... It could have been different. For one thing, somebody else could have gotten Claude." At the thought of this, she was flooded with gratitude and a terrible pang of joy rang over her. "O thank you, Jesus! O, thank you, Jesus!" She cried out loud.

Flannery O'Connor | Revelation

...The book struck her directly over her left eye.

It struck almost at the same instant that she realized the girl was about to hurl it. Before she could utter a sound, the raw face came crashing across the table before her, howling. ...

Flannery O'Connor | Revelation

... The girl's fingers sank like clamps into the soft flesh of her neck. She heard the mother cry out, Claude shout "Whoa", there was a moment when she was certain she was about to have an earthquake.

Flannery O'Connor | Revelation

"Go back to hell, you old warthog!"

Flannery O'Connor | Revelation

"Why did you send me a message like that?" she said in a low, fierce, voice, barely above a whisper, but with the force of a shout in its concentrated fury.

"How am I saved and from hell?"

"There's no trash around here that I haven't given to. And I break my back every day working, and I do for the church. Why would you send me this message?"

Flannery O'Connor | Revelation

"There's plenty of trash here. Why did you call me somebody from hell? If you like trash better, go get some trash yourself then."

"Then suddenly a visionary light settled in her eye and she saw, up in the sky, a vast swinging bridge extending upward from the earth through a field of living fire. Upon it a vast horde of souls was rumbling towards heaven. There were whole companies of trash, and she saw battalions of freaks and lunatics leaping like frogs. ...

Flannery O'Connor | Revelation

... But at the end of the line, was a tribe of people whom she recognized immediately at once, who, like herself and Claude, had a little of everything and the God-given wit to use it right. But they were marching behind the others with great dignity, accountable as they had always been, just like she and Claude, for good order, common sense, and respectable behavior. In fact, they alone were singing on key. ...

Flannery O'Connor | Revelation

... Yet she could see by their shocked and altered faces that even their virtues were being burned away.

Flannery O'Connor | Revelation



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