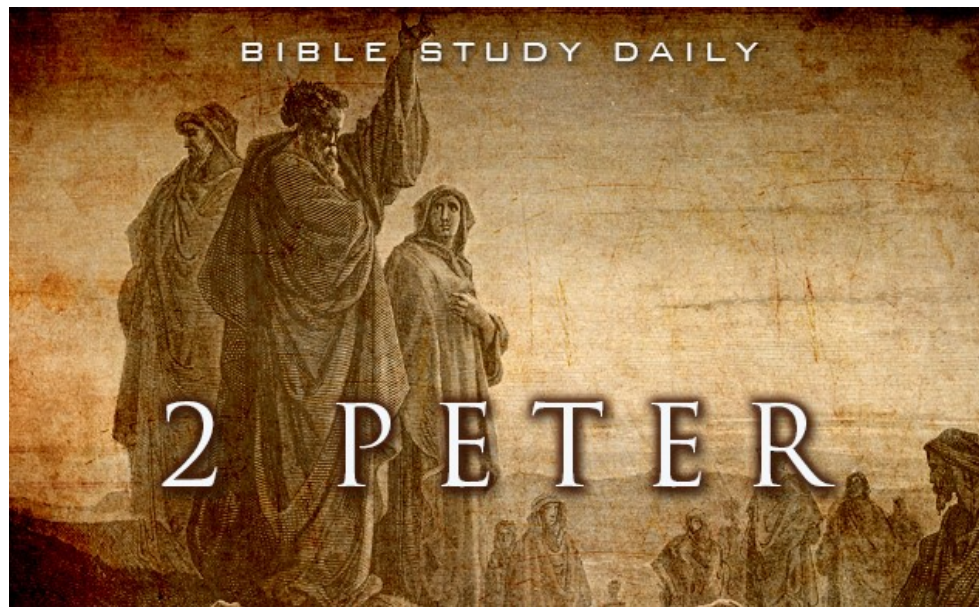




BIBLE STUDY DAILY



This document contains the introduction to the book of 2 Peter as well as my study notes for the book.

Name

The title “2 Peter ” comes from the author Peter who identifies himself in 1:1. His given name was Cephas, but Jesus changed his name to Peter (John 1:42). Both names mean “rock” or “stone.”

Author

Simeon (Simon) Peter, a slave and an apostle of Christ, identifies himself as the author in 1:1. Additional internal evidence includes personal details of Peter’s life: he was an eye witness to the transfiguration (1:16-18), he quoted the Words from heaven at the transfiguration (1: 17), he referred to his previous letter (3:1), and referred to Paul as a “dear brother” (3:15).

Some scholars doubt Peter was the author claiming, among other things, that the writing style is different between the two letters, indicating two authors. However, 1 Peter was written with the help of Silvanus his secretary, whereas 2 Peter was not. This could easily explain the differences in writing style.

External evidence comes from the book of Jude itself, written after 2 Peter, Jude adapts 2 Peter. Additionally, Origen and Methodius also quote 2 Peter attributing the book to Peter.

Genre

General Epistle

Literary Form

The epistle of 2 Peter is a “testament” in the form of a letter. A testament was a document delivering the final instructions from a dying man.

Time Frame


Peter likely wrote the epistle shortly before his death in A.D. 67, perhaps around A.D. 66 or early 67.

Emphasis

Peter’s intended audience appears to be composed of both Jewish and Gentile Christians. Knowing his time was short (he anticipated his death), his main concern is they be on guard against false teachers. He considered them to be in immediate danger and wanted them to be refreshed in their understanding of the importance of being a mature believer, to grow in grace and their knowledge of Christ, and His return.

Outline

- Salutation (1:1-2)

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- Exhortation to develop Christian character (1:3-21)
 - The prediction of false teachers (2:1-22)
 - The Christian's hope of the Lord's return (3:1-16)
 - Conclusion (3:17-18)

What I Noticed Today (2 Peter 1-3)

2 Peter 1

In verses 1-2 Peter opens the letter in the typical 3-part fashion: the author (Peter, a slave and an apostle of Jesus Christ), the recipients (to those who have obtained a faith of equal privilege as ours...), and a greeting (may grace and peace be multiplied to you...).

In verses 3-11 Peter stresses the importance of growing in faith through God's power:

- God's power gives us everything we need for life and godliness through knowledge of Him.
- By His glory and goodness, He has given us precious promises so we might share in His divine nature, escaping the corruption of the world.
- Make every effort to supplement your faith with goodness, goodness with knowledge, knowledge with self-control, self-control with endurance, endurance with godliness, godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.

Note: Of the seven virtues Peter lists the first five involve our inner life and our relationship with God. The last two involve our relationships with others. It begins with faith and ends with love.

- If these qualities are yours they will keep you from being useless or unfruitful in the knowledge of the Lord.
- The person who lacks these things is blind and shortsighted, and has forgotten the cleansing from his past sins.
- Therefore, make every effort to confirm your calling and election.

Note: Peter's reference to "calling" is to God's efficacious work of salvation. "Election" is God's work of choosing some for salvation by His grace.

- If you do these things, you will never stumble.
You will receive entry into the heaven, the eternal kingdom of our Lord.

In verses 12-15 Peter reminds his readers about truth he has already provided:

- Therefore, I remind you about these things (the prior section verses 3-11).
- As long as I am alive it's right for me to remind you of these things, knowing that I will soon be with the Lord Jesus.
- And I make every effort for you to be able to recall these things after I am gone.

In verses 16-21 Peter continues discussing the trustworthiness of God's prophetic word:

- We did not follow myths about the Lord, but instead were eyewitnesses of His majesty.
- When He received honor and glory from God a voice came to Him from God, "This is My Son, in whom I am well pleased." (Matthew 17:5)
- We heard His voice while we were with Him on the Holy Mountain.
- So we have the prophetic word confirmed.

- Pay attention to the Word. It is like a lamp shining until dawn and the morning star rises in your heart.
- No prophecy or Scripture comes from one's own interpretation or by the will of man. Instead, man spoke from God what they were told by the Holy Spirit.

2 Peter 2

In chapter 2 Peter warns about false teachers and the judgement they will face from God:

In verses 1-10a Peter says God is willing and able to rescue them from false teachers:

- There will be false teachers among you just as there were false teachers among the prophets.
- They will bring in destructive prophecies, even denying the Master (Christ), and will bring judgement upon themselves.
- Many will follow their unrestrained ways and the truth (Gospel) will be blasphemed because of them.
- They will exploit you in their greed with deceptive words.
- Peter gives examples of God's judgement and of His deliverance:
 - Angels who sinned were thrown into Tartarus in chains.

Note: Tartarus is the Greek name of a physical subterranean place lower than Hades where only the wicked are sent.

- God protected Noah and his family of seven while He judged the rest of the world.
- God rescued Lot and some of his family before bringing judgement upon Sodom and Gomorrah.
- God can rescue the righteous and punish the unrighteous (especially those who pollute the desires of the flesh and despise authority), until judgement day.

In verses 10b-16 Peter offers further description of the false teachers:

- They are arrogant. They don't even tremble when they blaspheme God.
- They are irrational. They speak blasphemies about things they don't even understand.
- They are deceitful. They delight in their deception as they feast on you.
- They never stop sinning. They are adulterers always looking to seduce unstable people.
- They are mercenaries. They abandoned the straight path, loving money and unrighteousness.

In verses 17-22 Peter describes the damage these false teachers will do:

- They utter boastful, empty words.
- They seduce with fleshly desires and debauchery.
- They promise freedom, but are themselves slaves of corruption.

They could have produced life through knowledge of the Lord, but instead are again entangled in things that are defeated. They would have been better off not to know about Christ than to know Him and turn away (Proverbs 26:11).

2 Peter 3

In chapter 3 Peter focuses on the hope of the Lord's return and importance



of Holy living.

In verses 1-2 Peter exhorts the reader to remember the first letter as well as the instructions in this second letter; the words of the prophets, and the commands of the Lord given through the apostles.

In verses 3-7 Peter warns them of scoffers who will live according to their own desires and cast doubt on the coming of the Lord.

Note: The word “First” (or “First of all”) means “above all.” Peter is saying this for emphasis; this is the most important thing.

In verses 8-9 The delay in the Lord’s return is because the Lord is patient, not wanting any to perish.

Note: Verses 8-9 do not teach universal salvation. God *wishes* everyone would be saved, but He knows some will reject Him.

In verses 10-13 When the Lord does come (the Day of the Lord), He will come like a thief (catch people by surprise). Heavens will pass away (earth and sky not the heaven where God lives) with a loud noise, elements will burn and dissolve, and the earth will be laid bare.

- Since all this will happen, how shall you live? Shouldn’t you live holy and Godly lives while waiting for the Day of the Lord?
- Based on His promise we wait for the new heaven and the new earth where righteousness will dwell (during Christ’s reign).

In verses 14-16 Peter issues his concluding exhortation about Christian living:

- Therefore (because of the Lord’s coming), make every effort to be at peace with Him without spot or blemish.
- The patience of the Lord (in waiting for His return) is an opportunity for salvation for others.
- Paul wrote the same things in his letter. Some of which are hard to understand. Unstable people tried to pervert and distort his teaching, but that was to be expected because they also distorted Scripture.

In verses 17-18 Peter closes with a final warning about the false teachers:

- Be on guard so you are not led astray by the error of lawless people.
- But grow in grace and knowledge of the Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory.

Some additional thoughts for consideration:

- *Peter described false teachers who led people astray by mishandling the Word of God. We need to be alert and on guard to make sure those who teach us are rightly dividing the Word. This requires that, like the Bereans, we study the scripture ourselves to know if what we hear is true.*
- *Peter also described those who, if they cannot lead you astray with false teaching, will scoff at you for your beliefs, telling you what you believe is not true. Again, the answer is to know the Word, and stay strong in the faith, holding on tightly to the promises of God.*