

The Apostle to the Jews – Second Peter  
2 Peter - Chapter 1

2 Peter 1:1-3 Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ: 2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; 3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

Peter opens this second letter by addressing it to those who have the “same kind of faith as ours.” What kind of faith is this? Peter is speaking about the faith they have in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. He is not addressing this letter to the Jews who are still being Jewish in every way. He is not writing the letter to Gentiles who worship other gods. The letter is specifically directed to the saved Jews.

This is the faith that was brought about by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ.” This righteousness represents the righteous deeds that Jesus did for man while He was on earth. He gave His life willingly for all mankind.

Peter wants the readers to receive “grace and peace.” He does not expect them to just have grace and peace automatically. He tells the readers that they can receive this grace and peace by the knowledge of God and Jesus Christ. With this knowledge, Peter wishes that this grace and peace will be multiplied to them. Multiplying means “over and over, more and more grace and peace.”

It is through the divine power of Jesus Christ that everything pertaining to our life and godliness is given through the true knowledge of Jesus Christ that brings about grace and peace. We are called to a common faith in Christ by His glory and excellence.

2 Peter 1:4 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them you might become partakers of *the* divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

By Christ’s glory and excellence these Jews were granted and given “precious and magnificent promises.” It is through these promises that the Jews were granted and given the ability to enter into the divine nature. This is the same divine nature that extends from His divine power. This divine nature is granted to those who put their trust in Christ. It is because of this divine nature that we can escape the corruption of this world and all the lusts that causes man to fall short of the glory of God.

2 Peter 1:5-7 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in *your* moral excellence, knowledge; 6 and in *your* knowledge, self-control, and in *your* self-control, perseverance, and in *your* perseverance, godliness; 7 and in *your* godliness, brotherly kindness, and in *your* brotherly kindness, love.

Because of the righteous deed of Christ that brought about the true knowledge that leads to life, Peter lists eight important attributes that every Christian must strive to incorporate in their lives.

To your faith you are to diligently supply:

1. Moral excellence,
2. Knowledge,
3. Self-control,
4. Perseverance,
5. Godliness,
6. Brotherly kindness,
7. and Love.

These eight attributes are to be the pivotal desires of every Christian.

2 Peter 1:8 For if these *qualities* are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

There is a promise incorporated in these seven attributes. The promise is this: "If we have them and they are multiplying in us, then we are not useless or fruitless in the knowledge of Jesus Christ." In His knowledge we will operate in the world in a wonderful, graceful and peaceful life full of godliness.

2 Peter 1:9 For he who lacks these *qualities* is blind *or* shortsighted, having forgotten *his* purification from his former sins.

Christians who do not have these qualities are blind or shortsighted. While they have eternal life, they have forgotten the change that has happened which brought them out of the former life, the life of corruption and lust.

2 Peter 1:10-11 Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; 11for in this way the entrance into eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

Another promise to those who diligently practice the eight attributes is that "they will never stumble." It is by His calling and choosing that the entrance into the eternal kingdom is abundantly available. He calls them to Christ, but He selected the Jews as His people.

2 Peter 1:12 Therefore, I shall always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you *already* know *them*, and have been established in the truth, which is present with *you*.

Peter states that he will constantly remind them of these eight attributes. Peter knows that they already know these attributes, and although they already had these eight attributes established and present to them and in them, he will continue to remind them of the attributes. They are the eight attributes which we all should have who have Christ as our Savior.

2 Peter 1:13-14 And I consider it right, as long as I am in this *earthly* dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder, 14knowing that the laying aside of my *earthly* dwelling is imminent, as also our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me.

Peter considers it his right to remind them of these eight attributes as long as he is alive. He knows that his days on earth are short. He knows that the Lord has made it clear to him that his death will be soon.

2 Peter 1:15 And I will also be diligent that at any time after my departure you may be able to call these things mind.

Peter wants to also make a diligent effort to somehow make sure that after his death, they will always remember these eight attributes. He wants them to always be able to recall these eight things.

2 Peter 1:16 For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty.

This is the second letter to the group of Jews that Peter addressed his first letter. In the first letter Peter clearly states that the recipients of the first letter had never seen or heard of Christ while He was alive. He stated that they were blessed because they had believed their message without personal eyewitness. With this in mind, Peter states that the stories that were told were not made up stories, cleverly devised, but were the true stories of Jesus Christ who Peter had personally seen and walked with.

2 Peter 1:17-18 For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, "This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased" — 18and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

Peter is speaking of one of the miraculous times when God the Father spoke directly to God the Son. Peter was with Jesus at this time and heard the voice of God the Father. Peter stated that this happened while they were on the Holy Mount, meaning Mount Moriah, where the Temple was built. Peter was there and heard it personally.

2 Peter 1:19 And so we have the prophetic word *made* more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.

Peter wants the Jews to understand that the word that had been told to them about Jesus was truth. It was sure. He wants them to understand that they would be well advised to pay attention to the truth that had been told. It is a lamp that shines in the darkness. The message is a light in the darkness until the dawn breaks and the morning star arises in their hearts.

2 Peter 1:20-21 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is *a matter* of one's own interpretation, 21for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

One of the most important passages in the scripture is found in this last sentence. It is God's statement about the record of scripture. Peter states that not one of the true stories concerning Jesus Christ was just one person's interpretation. They were for all mankind. No one has the

corner on the market when it came to the interpretation of the prophetic scripture. The reason why no one has the corner market on the interpretation of scripture is because man did not dream it up and write it down. Man only wrote it down as the Holy Spirit spoke it to them. Men were simply used by the hand and will of God to make a written record of His divine will and word. Scripture contains the very words of God; they are not man's words and can never be construed to be man's words, prophecies, and interpretations. They belong solely to God.

## 2 Peter Chapter 2

2 Peter 2: 1 But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.

There were false prophets in the Old Testament days. There were false prophets in the days of Jesus. There were false prophets in the latter days of Peter's life and there will be false prophets until the Lord returns. In like manner, there are false teachers in every phase also. These false teachers bring in destructive heresies that are not of God. They are not scripture. They are not true prophecy. Some of their teachings even deny Jesus, the Master Himself. Denying Jesus is a fatal mistake. Denying Jesus brings swift judgment and destruction upon these false teachers. Teachers are held in God's eyes to a higher standard. They are judged harsher because they are teachers. Those who teach false teachings are doomed.

2 Peter 2: 2-3 And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; 3and in *their* greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

Many times these false teachers turn to sensuality to malign the truth. Sensuality always skews truth. They are seeking sensual things under the disguise of religious acts and belief. Secondly, many of them act in greed. In greed, they exploit their people with false words. They lie to their people to make a personal gain. These false teachers should be aware, yet they deny, that their doom is set. It has been set from long days before. Their judgment is doom and it is not idle or asleep. It will come and it will be their destruction.

2 Peter 2: 4 – 11 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment; 5and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; 6and *if* He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing *them* to ashes, having made them an example to those who would live ungodly thereafter; 7and *if* He rescued righteous Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men 8(for by what he saw and heard *that* righteous man, while living among them, felt *his* righteous soul tormented day after day with *their* lawless deeds), 9*then* the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment, 10and especially those who indulge the flesh in *its* corrupt desires and despise authority. Daring, self-willed, they do not tremble when they revile angelic majesties, 11whereas angels who are greater in might and power do not bring a reviling judgment against them before the Lord.

In verses 4 - 11 Peter reminds the Jews of their history and those that God did not spare. He reminds them of the sinful angels, the sinful world in which Noah lived and was saved from, and the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. God did not spare any of these. His judgment was not asleep or idle. The false teachers met their doom and all those who followed their teaching. God rescued Lot because of the righteous deeds that he had done. He was an honorable man who tried to do what was right yet he was quite possibly not a godly man. The reason for this is found in the word "if God rescued a righteous man, Lot, then He surely knew how to rescue a godly man from temptation and how to keep an unrighteous man under punishment for the judgment. This judgment is reserved especially for those who indulge in the sensuality of craving for the flesh. These are the people who have corrupt desires and despise authority. They do not want to be corrected, ever, for any reason, by anyone, especially by God. Notice that the text states that they are daring and self-willed. They are not careful, sober thinking, and responsible. They are daring. They have their own mind made up with their own plans. They do not care for the plans of God or anyone else. They do not even pay attention when God sends angelic messengers to instruct them. They do not care. They hate those who are angelic and of God. Notice also that the holy angels of God do not bring a judgment upon them because they are already judged.

2 Peter 2: 12-13 But these, like unreasoning animals, born as creatures of instinct to be captured and killed, reviling where they have no knowledge, will in the destruction of those creatures also be destroyed, 13suffering wrong as the wages of doing wrong.

These false teachers, who lead people into heresy by sensuality and the craving of the flesh, do so like unreasoning animals. Unreasoning animals are those that rage for the sake of rage. They are seeking whom they can devour, like the creatures that run by instinct to keep from being captured and killed. These false teachers are angry at everything, especially where they have absolutely no understanding and no knowledge. As teachers, just as they will see the destruction of their followers; they will also find destruction. They will suffer wrong for the reason that they did wrong. Wrong is judged as wrong.

2 Peter 2: 13-16 They count it a pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are stains and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, as they carouse with you, 14having eyes full of adultery and that never cease from sin, enticing unstable souls, having a heart trained in greed, accursed children; 15forsaking the right way they have gone astray, having followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness, 16but he received a rebuke for his own transgression; for a dumb donkey, speaking with a voice of a man, restrained the madness of the prophet.

These false teachers and their followers love to revel, especially in the daytime. They reel in their deceptions. They are stains and blemishes. They carouse in sensuality seeking adultery. In their greed they seek unstable people with unstable souls to prey upon. They are looking for flesh and they are looking for greedy gain. Because of their beliefs, they are cursed. They have made a conscious decision to choose the wrong way. They have made the decision to forsake the right way. They have chosen to forsake the Master, Jesus. They have made the decision to not do righteous deeds but to be unrighteous like Balaam. For money Balaam was going to curse the people of God. The price was right and he was paid to do a job. On his way to curse Israel, the angelic majesty would have struck him down had his donkey not had his eyes

looking ahead. The donkey recognized the Angel of the Lord and reacted. The donkey spoke with a man's voice and brought sense to the false prophet's thoughts. The donkey saved the false prophet.

2 Peter 2: 17 These are springs without water, and mists driven by a storm, for whom the black darkness has been reserved.

False prophets are like springs without water. They are dry holes. They are good for nothing. They are like mists driven by a storm. The mists driven by a storm stings like thorns and needles. Peter states that these false teachers are reserved for the darkness, the darkness of hell.

2 Peter 2: 18-19 For speaking out arrogant *words* of vanity they entice by fleshly desires, by sensuality, those who barely escape from the ones who live in error, 19promising them freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved.

These false teachers and their followers are easily recognized because they speak with arrogant words. Their words are empty words that entice with fleshly and sensual desires. There are many people who barely escape from the false teaching of these people. These people promise freedom but they themselves have no freedom. They are slaves to corruption. They are doomed. They are overcome by sensual fleshly desires and greed. It is by these very things that they are in bondage and enslaved.

2 Peter 2: 20 For if after they have escaped the defilement's of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first.

There is a problem for many of these false teachers. The problem is this. They have heard the truth and rejected it. They have made the decision to deny Jesus. This puts them in a worse position than before they heard the true knowledge.

2 Peter 2: 21 For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment delivered to them.

To have heard the truth of Christ and rejected Him confirms the reason for their doom. Now they have no excuse.

2 Peter 2: 22 It has happened to them according to the true proverb, "A dog returns to its own vomit," and, "A sow, after washing, returns to wallowing in the mire."

Unless a person is changed by a powerful transforming relationship with Jesus, nothing has changed about them. While they may play a good game for a while, they will secretly return to their original state because they love the filth of their past.

## 2 Peter - Chapter 3

2 Peter 3:1-2 This is now, beloved, the second letter I am writing to you in which I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, 2that you should remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior *spoken* by your apostles.

Here is the purpose of this second letter. It is to remind the people to remember the true knowledge of God. Peter wanted them to not forget the word of God spoken through the prophets and the apostles.

2 Peter 3:3-4 Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with *their* mocking, following after their own lusts, 4and 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."

False teachers will come who will mock the message of God that was delivered through the prophets. They will ask mocking questions. They will say, "Nothing has changed since creation," implying that the prophets were wrong. But the prophet's message was not one of private use and delivery; their message was of God and God alone. The truths of the prophets will happen just as God spoke them.

2 Peter 3:5-6 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, 6through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water.

These false teachers forget that it was God who did everything in the past and that He created everything. He created everything before the flood and everything after the flood.

2 Peter 3:7But the present heavens and earth by His word are being reserved for fire kept for the Day of Judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

The Bible teaches that the present earth and heaven will not be destroyed. It is a world without end, Amen. Yet it will be burned. All the ungodly will be destroyed in its burning. Then heaven and earth will be changed into one that is forever sinless. It will be perfect.

2 Peter 3:8 But do not let this one *fact* escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

Peter tells the beloved to remember the timing of God. To God one day is as 1000 years. God is not slow in His timing. It may be slow in our timing but if God acts with His judgment in the next 900-years in our time, it's just today in His time. Their punishment will come today in God's timing.

2 Peter 3:9 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.

Because of the timetable that God works on, He is not slow. He keeps His promises. His patients towards man seem slow to us. He does not want anyone to be doomed. He wants all to accept Jesus. Yet, in His time, today is the Day of Judgment.

2 Peter 3:10 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.

The things on this earth will be burned up one day and the element of the heaven we see will be rolled away with a roar. Intense heat will destroy all sin on the earth. Doom is coming to the ungodly and false teachers.

2 Peter 3:11-12 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, on account of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!

So whom should you serve? How should you live? What should your life be like? You should expect and look for the Lord God as if His coming was today, like the doom was at hand right now.

2 Peter 3:13 But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

Look for the promise of the new heaven and earth. It is one without sin. Only good will live in this heaven and earth.

2 Peter 3:14 -16 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 salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, 16 as also in all {his} letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as {they do} also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.

As you look for the coming new heaven and earth, live in peace. Peter returns to this important theme. Peace comes through the grace of Jesus. In this state of true peace you will be found spotless and blameless. Wait on and understand the patience of God. He has His own timetable. Even Paul wrote about this and other things. Some of the things Paul wrote are hard sayings. False teachers misconstrued the Word of God brought through Paul. One example is that the Muslims hate Paul's writings. They believe that Paul has distorted all the rest of the scripture too. Their destruction is sure.

2 Peter 3: 17-18 You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness, 18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him {be} the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

Know better than to follow false teachers. Be on guard! Stand fast and do not be driven away by these false teachers. Grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ and find His peace through His grace. Remember everything Peter wants you to remember. Jesus deserves glory for all eternity.