

2 Peter

Knowledge to Combat False Teaching									
God's Election			Future Apostasy			Lord's Return			
Chapter 1			Chapter 2			Chapter 3			
Salutation 1:1-2	Provides Every Need 1:3-11	Foundation of Knowledge 1:12-21	False Teachers Coming 2:1-3a	End in Hell 2:3b-10a	Character Described 2:10b-22	Scoffers Before Rapture 3:1-4	Destroys Heaven & Earth 3:5-13	Motivates Holiness 3:14-16	Protection/Growth Exhorted 3:17-18
Adequacy of Believers			Inadequacy of Unbelievers			Expectancy of Believers			
Holiness			Heresy			Hope			
Disciples of the Lord			Diabolical Leaders			Day of the Lord			
Rome to North Asia Minor									
AD 64									

Key Word: Knowledge

Key Verse: "Therefore, dear friends, since you already *know* this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position. But grow in the grace and *knowledge* of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen" (2 Peter 3:17-18).

Summary Statement: To grow in grace instead of succumbing to false teaching, we need to know that Jesus chose us and that he will judge apostates at his return.

Application: Never stop being a student of the Scripture. If you do, you will stop growing in grace and you will eventually tolerate and/or promote heresy. What new things in His Word has God been teaching you lately?

2 Peter

Introduction

I. **Title:** The Greek title (*Πέτρον β*, *Second of Peter*) follows the standard practice of naming the General Epistles after their authors.

II. Authorship

A. **External Evidence:** The early tradition divides whether Peter wrote this epistle, but most regarded it authentic. The views of the Church Fathers and early canons are summarized below by century (Hiebert, 3:134-37; cf. p. 36 of these notes).

Support 2 Peter as Authentic

Lack Mention of 2 Peter

1st Shows parallels with Jude (1:5 and Jude 3; 1:12 and Jude 5; etc.; cf. Hiebert 3:138)
—This point could be argued either way, depending upon one's dating of Jude
Possible allusions are in *1 Clement* (AD 95) and *Barnabas* (AD 70-130)

2nd Vague Allusions:
—Ignatius (AD 110)
—Polycarp (ca. AD 110-150)
—Justin Martyr (AD 150-155)
—Irenaeus (ca. AD 185)

Muratonian Canon (ca. AD 170)
Old Latin Version (ca. AD 170)
Old Syriac Version (ca. AD 200)

Probable Allusions (Quotes)
—*Gospel of Truth* (Gnostic)
—*Apocryphon of John* (Gnostic)
—*Apocalypse of Peter* (Spurious)

3rd Bodmer Papyrus (p⁷²)
Firmilian, Bishop of Caesarea (AD 256)
Methodius, Bishop of Lycis (quotes 3:8)

Origen (AD 185-253)—disputed
Tertullian
Cyprian
Dionysius of Alexandria

4th Athanasius of Alexandria (AD 367)
Basil the Great
Epiphanes, Bishop of Cyprus
Ambrose, Bishop of Milan
Cyril of Jerusalem
Hillary of Piotiers in Gaul
Gregory of Nazianzus
Augustine
Council of Laodicea (AD 363)
Third Council of Carthage (AD 397)
Jerome's Vulgate (with doubt due to style)

Eusebius placed it among books widely accepted but disputed by some since:
1) Writers whose opinion he respected regarded it as noncanonical
2) Few earlier sources quoted it
(However, he did not call it spurious)

Chrysostom
Theodore of Mopsuestia (rejected it)

6th Syrian Church

Note 2 Peter's acceptance by the fourth century councils despite the objections raised.

B. **Internal Evidence:** The liberal scholar Kümmel rejects Petrine authorship but candidly admits, "the letter clearly and unambiguously makes the claim that it was written by the apostle Peter" (Kümmel, 430). Then he cites the following evidence:

1. It says Peter was the author: "Simon Peter, servant and apostle of Jesus Christ" (1:1).
2. The author speaks as an eyewitness of the transfiguration of Jesus (1:16f.).
3. He makes reference to the saying of Jesus concerning the martyrdom of Peter (1:14).
4. Reference to the "beloved brother Paul" places the author on the same level of apostolic authority as Paul (3:15f.).

5. It clearly refers to 1 Peter: "This is already the second letter I am writing to you" (3:1).
6. "Since Peter regards his death as near (1:13ff), 2 Peter is written in the form of a testament of Peter."

After presenting irrefutable internal evidence for Peter as author, Kümmel's very next statement denies the evidence by stating, "But this letter cannot have been written by Peter." The following cites his six objections (Kümmel, 430-33) and rebuttals to each:

1. Objection: The literary dependence on Jude rules this out.

Response: The unconfirmed assumptions are that Jude is post-apostolic and that 2 Peter quotes Jude, but the opposite is true since Peter wrote first (AD 64 for 2 Peter and ca. AD 70-80 for Jude). Jude 17-18 quotes 2 Peter 3:3 as written by an apostle.

2. Objection: The language and style show a Hellenistic flavor that not only rules out Peter, but his disciples as well.

Response: Stylistic differences between 1 and 2 Peter can be explained in that Silas helped write 1 Peter (5:12), whereas Peter wrote 2 Peter by himself. Also, the letters deal with different subjects so the vocabulary should differ.

3. Objection: It argues against Gnostics who deny Christ's soon coming (1:12f; 3:3).

Response: The unproven assumption is that the writing refers to second century Gnostics. There exists no reason that Peter couldn't have faced doubters in AD 64.

4. Objection: The author calls Paul's collected letters Scripture (3:16), whose interpretation is reserved for the ecclesiastical teaching office (1:20f.). This dates the letter "without doubt far beyond the time of Peter and into the epoch of 'early Catholicism'" (Kümmel, 432).

Response: The "interpretation" of 1:20 refers not to a teaching office in the church. It says that prophecy did not come by any *prophet's* interpretation. Further, reference to Paul's letters as Scripture only shows that they were regarded as authoritative very early.

5. Objection: "The pseudonymity in 2 Peter is carried through consistently by means of heavy stress on the Petrine authorship" (Kümmel, 433).

Response: Kümmel denies the evidence that he has listed. If the letter did *not* emphasize Petrine authorship it would be spurious, and even if *does*, it is suspect! This "logic" exalts preconceived speculations over textual fact.

6. Objection: Second Peter is nowhere mentioned in the second century in spite of its heavy stress on Petrine authorship.

Response: The lack of mention by early individuals, councils, and canons proves only that while most accepted it, some disputed it. The epistle was never rejected, so internal evidence must take priority over arguments from silence.

Conclusion: While some disputed the authenticity of 2 Peter, the evidence (especially internal) shows that Peter did in fact write this letter bearing his name. The book is markedly superior to the spurious books attributed to Peter—*Gospel of Peter*, *Preaching of Peter*, *Acts of Peter*, and *Apocalypse of Peter* (Guthrie, 845). The authenticity of the epistle is also confirmed in its language that is similar to Peter's speeches in Acts (Guthrie, 844).

III. Circumstances

- A. **Date:** Peter was martyred in the spring AD 64 (Hoehner, 381-84). Second Peter was likely written in this same year as it was shortly before his death (2 Pet. 1:13-15).
- B. **Origin:** Both conservatives and critics agree that the evidence for the origin of 1 Peter in Rome undoubtedly applies to 2 Peter as well (1 Pet. 5:13; cf. 1 Peter notes).
- C. **Recipients:** In 1 Peter the apostle addresses “God’s elect, strangers in the world, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia” (1 Pet. 1:1b). The readers were likely both Jews (the minority) and Gentiles (the majority) which Peter himself had nurtured (cf. 1 Peter notes). In 2 Peter he addresses the same group (2 Pet. 3:1).
- D. **Occasion:** Peter referred to his readers as “strangers in the world” (1 Pet 1:1b), reminding himself and them that this earth is not their home. Such a truth was especially needed since Nero ruled Rome! In his letter Peter does not specifically refer to his imprisonment, unlike Paul, who calls himself as a “prisoner of Christ Jesus” in his Prison Epistles. However, it is clear that Peter expected the persecutions to take his life (1:14-15a), which in fact did take place, according to tradition. Within a few months after recording this letter, Rome burned (16 July 64) and Nero used the Christians as his scapegoat. Believers suffered the most horrible kinds of deaths in the ensuing four years. Peter wrote this epistle before his soon death as a reminder of truths his readers already knew (1:12, 15b; 3:17a) to stimulate them to wholesome thinking (3:1b)—both knowledge of error (3:17) as well as truth (3:18). Interestingly, he cared about orthodoxy in the midst of this suffering.

IV. Characteristics

- A. Contrasts Between Peter’s Two Letters

	First Peter	Second Peter
Nature of Problem	Persecution (Hostility)	False Teaching (Heresy)
Source of Problem	External	Internal
Theme	Hope	Knowledge
Key Word (all forms)	“suffering” (16 times)	“knowledge” (16 times)
Date	early AD 64	early spring AD 64

- B. “Peter’s scenario from the creation of the present heavens and earth to the dissolution of the universe and creation of the new heavens and earth is one of the most astonishing passages in all of Scripture (3:5-13)” (*TTTB*, 480).
- C. This second letter of Peter has the most explicit teaching in Scripture on false teachers.

Argument

Second Peter emphasizes knowledge, shown in the 16 occurrences of words for “knowledge” (*ἐπίγνωσις* 1:2, 3, 8; 2:20; *ἐπιγινώσκω* 2:21a, 21b; *προγινώσκω* 3:17; *γνωρίζω* 1:16; *γνώσις* 1:5, 6; 3:18; *γιγνώσκω* 1:20; 3:3; *οἶδα* 1:12, 14; 2:9). Peter wanted his readers to know three areas: a knowledge of God and his choice of them (2 Pet 1), a knowledge of the characteristics and destruction of future false teachers (2 Pet 2), and a knowledge of Christ’s return and the coming Day of the Lord (2 Pet. 3). However, the apostle was not content with knowledge alone, stored in a reader’s head. This knowledge must work itself out in godly behavior (1:3-9; 3:11, 14, 18) and a cautiousness that protects them from being ensnared by heresies surrounding them (3:17). The last two verses of the epistle especially emphasize this dual purpose for knowledge: protection and maturity (3:17-18).

Synthesis

Knowledge to combat false teaching

1	God's election
1:1-2	Salutation
1:3-11	Provides all that believers need
1:12-21	Foundation of knowledge
2	Future apostasy
2:1-3a	False teachers coming
2:3b-10a	End in hell
2:10b-22	Character described
3	Lord's return
3:1-4	Scoffers precede rapture
3:5-13	Day of the Lord destroys heavens/earth
3:14-16	Motivates holiness as Paul indicates
3:17-18	Protection/growth encouraged

What's Your View?

Please circle **A (Agree)**, **U (Unsure)**, or **D (Disagree)** before each of these statements:

- | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|--|
| 1. | A | U | D | God chooses those who will go to heaven |
| 2. | A | U | D | People on earth can know for sure whether they are going to heaven |
| 3. | A | U | D | False teachers sometime teach in evangelical churches |
| 4. | A | U | D | No one who has truly trusted Christ will stop trusting him until death |
| 5. | A | U | D | Christians already have all they need for successful spiritual living |

Outline

Summary Statement for the Book

To grow in grace instead of succumbing to false teaching, we need to know that Jesus chose us and that he will judge apostates at his return.

- I. **To grow in grace instead of succumbing to false teaching, know that Jesus chose you and gives you all you need for godliness (2 Pet 1).**
 - A. God has blessed Peter's readers with knowledge by faith in Christ as a foretaste of the letter's emphasis of knowing God amidst false teaching (1:1-2).
 1. Peter introduces himself as a slave and messenger (apostle) of Jesus Christ so that the readers may know his authority in writing (1:1a).
 2. Peter's readers must know that their faith comes only through the righteousness of the Savior Jesus Christ, who is God (1:1b).
 3. Peter introduces his theme of **knowledge** in his blessing that notes that grace and peace come by knowing God the Father and Jesus our Lord (1:2).

- B. Knowing God's choice of us for salvation gives us everything we need for godliness (1:3-11).
1. God's election of us gives us all we need to be like Christ (1:3-4).
 - a) Every spiritual provision we need comes by knowing that God chose us for salvation (1:3).
 - b) God shows his glory and goodness in promises that lead us to Christ-likeness (1:4).
 2. The purpose spiritual qualities should grow sequentially by our efforts is so that we can become pure and Christ-like (1:5-7).

↑
Love—*agape*, Christian concern and interest (1:7b; cf. 1 Pet. 4:8)

↑
Brotherly Kindness—love that seeks the best for family members (1:7a; cf. 1 Pet. 1:22)

↑
Godliness—good deeds like God (1:6c; cf. 2 Pet. 1:3)

↑
Perseverance—lit. "bearing under," patient endurance (1:6b; cf. Jas. 1:3)

↑
Self-Control—opposite to the world's lust and gluttony (1:6a; cf. Acts 24:25; Gal. 5:23)

↑
Knowledge—insight and understanding from Scripture (1:5c; cf. 1 Pet. 3:7; 2 Pet. 3:18)

↑
Goodness—morality, the opposite of evil (1:5b; cf. 2 Pet. 1:3; Phil. 4:8)

↑
Faith—our foundation and means to salvation (1:5a; parentheses above = same word, different vv.)

3. We can affect our future by whether we grow in these qualities or not (1:8-9).
 - a) One continually growing in these traits will be effective based on his knowledge (1:8).
 - b) A believer who doesn't show these spiritual qualities will be useless due to ignorance of his forgiven state (1:9).
4. We should live out our election in a continually growing spiritual life (1:10-11).
 - a) Show the virtues of verses 5-7 to show that your calling and election are sure (1:10a).
 - b) Assurance of salvation has at least two wonderful benefits (1:10b-11).
 - (1) Assurance leads to a stable spiritual life now that prevents apostasy (1:10b).
 - (2) Assurance leads to a more richly rewarded heavenly welcome later at death or the Lord's return (1:11).

But how do *you* need to grow more like Christ? Luke 2:52 says Jesus grew four ways: in **wisdom** (*intellectual*), **stature** (*physical*), **favor with God** (*spiritual*), and **favor with man** (*social*).

See the worksheet on the next page to set goals for growth in these four dimensions.

Worksheet for Establishing Goals and Priorities by Rick Griffith

"You always have enough time to do all of God's will"

Biblical Perspectives: Verses to claim

- Ephesians 5:15-17 "Therefore, be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil."
- Proverbs 3:6 "In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths."
- James 4:17 (LB) "Knowing what is right to do and not doing it is sin."
- 2 Timothy 1:7 "For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline."
- 2 Corinthians 12:9 "And He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.' Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me."
- Luke 2:52 "...Jesus kept increasing in **wisdom** and **stature**, and in **favor with God** and **man**."

Specific Goals: Objectives to accomplish ** Remember that you will be what you are now becoming!

Wisdom (Intellectual/Applied Knowledge)	Stature (Physical/Health)
Secular Reading (newspapers, magazines, books...)	Exercise (sports, calisthenics, jogging, on which days?)
Christian Reading (number of books, which books?)	Sleep/Rest (hours nightly, time to rise & retire, no naps?)
Development of Hobbies & Talents (music, gifts...)	Eating Habits/Nutrition (foods to avoid, when to/not to eat)
Planning (schedule priorities each day/week/month)	
Favor with God (Spiritual)	Favor with Man (Social/Relationships)
Quiet Time (time daily, where? when? notebook?)	Evangelism (times weekly, tracts to carry, with/to whom?)
Bible Study (times weekly, topics, Biblical books)	Discipleship (whom to follow-up/disciple, time needed)
Bible Reading (number of chapters/pages each day)	Family Commitments (time/letters to parents/children)
Bible Memory (number of verses/chapters/books)	Correspondence (whom to write/send tapes to regularly)
Prayer (use of prayer list, time, prayer for whom?)	Church Involvement (ministries, attendance, use of gifts)
Stewardship (% to give, missions, savings, budgeting)	Social Activities (dating/time with spouse, fun, T.V. limits)
Integrity/Dependability/Self-Discipline (tardiness)	Building Relationships (roommate, co-worker, neighbor)
	Emotional/Psychological (changing thought patterns)

Attacks Against Scripture Today

Which teachings do you hear today that seek to undermine the truthfulness of our faith?

-
-
-
-
-
-

Even as early as AD 64 when many apostles were still living, false teachers questioned what the believers had been taught. Peter cared that his readers had an accurate knowledge of the truth they had heard, so he responded in 2 Peter to these attacks.

- C. Our knowledge of God has a firm foundation in apostolic witness and fulfillment of OT prophecy so we can confidently fight heresy (1:12-21).
1. Peter knew that Nero was about to execute him, so he reminded his readers of God's election and provisions (1:12-15).
 2. Two reliable sources (not false teachers) helped Peter remind his readers of these truths vital to their spiritual lives (1:16-21).
 - a) He knew about Christ's power not from clever second-hand tales but because he witnessed it at the Transfiguration (1:16-18).
 - b) He knew about Christ's power from OT prophets accurately predicting Christ in uninterpreted messages from God (1:19-21).
 - (1) The apostles knew the OT prophets spoke truth, so readers should heed their messages until Jesus returned (1:19).
 - (2) No true OT prophet ever misinterpreted a prophecy (1:20).
 - (3) Every true prophet spoke truth since it came not from his own will but only as a willing instrument of the Spirit's message (1:21).

Summary of Prophetic Views

Grudem's View	Biblical View
Prophecy is declaring anything (true or false) that the Spirit brings to one's mind	Prophecy is declaring God's inspired and inerrant revelation to others
The above definition was invented in 1988 by Wayne Grudem	The above definition has been the teaching of the church for 20 centuries
OT prophets are parallel to NT apostles	OT prophets are parallel to NT prophets
God changed the definition of prophecy from the OT to the NT	God kept the meaning of prophecy consistent between the two testaments
God gives some prophecies with errors	God gives all prophecies without errors (2 Pet. 1:20-21)
Any believer can prophesy	Only those with the gift of prophecy can prophesy (1 Cor. 12:29)
There are two kinds of NT prophecy (fallible and infallible)	There's one kind of NT prophecy (infallible)
Fallible prophecy can be inspired	Fallible prophecy is false prophecy (Deut. 13:1-5; 18:14-20)
God sometimes lies	God always tells the truth since He cannot lie (Heb. 6:18)

Wayne A. Grudem, "Why Christians Can Still Prophecy: Scripture Encourages Us to Seek this Gift yet Today," *Christianity Today* (September 16, 1988): 29; cf. Grudem's book, *The Gift of Prophecy* (Eastbourne: Kingsway, 1988).

Discussion Questions:

1. What should the church do today with a person who claims to be a true prophet of God but fails to fulfill any of these tests? For example, if one makes a prediction that proves false or the "prophet" falls into moral sin, should a local church stone him, rebuke him, remove him, or admit, "We all make mistakes"?
2. In light of this study, what do you think of this now popular definition of prophecy by Wayne Grudem: Prophecy is "telling something that God has spontaneously brought to mind"? Is this true prophecy even if it is erroneous? Why or why not?
3. Do you think Grudem's teaching that all believers can prophesy has biblical support (cf. 1 Cor. 12:29 vs. 14:1)? Support your answer.
4. What would you say to someone who claimed that his prophecy is inspired but not equal in authority to Scripture? (In other words, he argues for different levels of inspiration and/or inerrancy.) Support your answer.

Time for Self-Evaluation:

Do you have secret doubts about whether the Bible has errors? What should you do about it?

II. To grow in grace instead of succumbing to false teaching, know how to spot future apostates to defeat them (2 Pet 2).

- A. Heretics would exploit believers about ten years later in AD 75 with false stories so his readers should prepare to defend themselves (2:1-3a).
1. Israel had both true prophets in OT times (1:19-20) and false prophets, so false prophecy was not new among God's people (2:1a).
 2. Peter briefly describes the false teachers so his readers can identify them soon (2:1b-3a).
What traits do these false teachers have in verses 1b-3a?
- B. The destiny of all apostates in hell shows that believers will be protected as much as apostates will be condemned (2:3b-10a).
1. Even though these teachers had yet to deceive, God had already condemned them (2:3b).
 2. God has a long history of judging the ungodly while protecting the righteous (2:4-8).
 - a) Demons who sinned [probably by enticing rulers in Genesis 6 into immorality] have long been in Tartarus (hell) awaiting final judgment (2:4).
 - b) Ungodly people died in the Flood while God spared the godly Noah's family (2:5).
 - c) Sodom and Gomorrah were burned alive while righteous Lot was delivered (2:6-8).
 3. These three past examples of judgment and salvation show that God will do the same in the future (2:9-10a).
 - a) God will rescue the godly but judge the ungodly in the future and the present (2:9).
 - b) God especially judges heretics guilty of sexual sin and despising authority (2:10a).

The preceding, scathing denunciation of these teachers even boldly declares that they will go to hell. But although Peter gave their general characteristics in verse 1-3, we still we need a more *thorough description* of who these men are so we can recognize them and avoid their snares. The rest of the chapter does just that...

- C. A lengthy depiction of the heretics shows how to recognize them when they come (2:10b-22).
1. The false teachers are rebellious (2:10b-12).
 - a) They boldly slander demons but powerful angels do not even dare try this (2:10b-11).
** Health and wealth teachers often curse “demons” of poverty, lust, gluttony, etc.!*
 - b) They blaspheme like brute beasts without thinking, so they likewise will be ruined (2:12).

 2. The false teachers are immoral (2:13-16).
 - a) The harm they have done others will befall them (2:13a).
 - b) Their sexual sin is public (2:13b).
** The popularity of many health and wealth “evangelists” has led to illicit sex.*
 - c) They eat with the saints but boast about their immorality (2:13c).
 - d) They continually commit adultery (2:14a).
** All women in The People’s Temple had to sleep with Jim Jones at least once.*
 - e) They seduce those without firm footing in the faith (2:14b).
** Dan Brown’s The da Vinci Code seduces the naive to thinking that “Yah” was the feminine consort of the “male deity” resulting in “Jehovah” and illicit temple sex!*
 - f) They greedily get their way to their own curse (2:14c).
** A US\$1-2 million salary satiated Rev. Jim Bakker’s greed until his imprisonment.*
 - g) They entice others into immorality like Balaam did to Israel (Num. 25:1-9) though a donkey rebuked him (2:15-16; Num. 22:28).

 3. The false teachers are depraved unbelievers who ensnare others, even though they may have tasted the blessings of a righteous life (2:17-22).
 - a) Hell is reserved for them just like a dry spring or waterless storm (2:17).
 - b) They entice others into “free” sex while they are slaves to sex (2:18-19).
 - c) They reject the knowledge of righteousness they once held so that their final state is even worse—like animals that once again soil themselves in filth (2:20-22).
** The end for Jim Jones was the death (suicide?) of nearly 1000 followers with him.*

For brief evaluations of hundreds of current teachers, see <http://faith.propadeutic.com/>

For Life Change: Which teachers must you warn yourself and your family about? How?
--

Something to Think About...

What decision have you made differently due to knowing Christ could return at any moment?

III. To grow in grace instead of succumbing to false teaching, know how to live godly before Christ destroys everything in the Day of the Lord (2 Pet 3).

- A. Apostates live godlessly and will scoff until Christ returns but this should stimulate us to live for Christ until his return (3:1-7).
1. Both of Peters' letters remind his readers that both the OT prophets and NT apostles stimulated wholesome thinking (3:1-2).
 2. Scoffers ridicule belief in creation and the Flood to create doubt that God will climatically judge in the future as well (3:3-7).
 - a) Scoffers show that the Church Age comprises the "last days" before Christ returns (3:3; cf. 2:1; predicted by Jesus in Matt. 24:3-5, 11, 23-26).
 - b) Scoffers doubt God by assuming that nothing catastrophic ever happens (3:4-6).
 - (1) Scoffers *ridicule Christ's return* (3:4a).
 - (2) Scoffers *teach uniformitarianism*—the belief that the earth has continued in the same state since creation (3:4b).
 - (3) Scoffers *deny two catastrophic events* both from water—Creation and the Great Flood (3:5-6).
 - c) The same word of God that judged the world by Flood also will judge the world and unbelievers by fire (3:7).
- B. Knowing that the Day of the Lord [Tribulation + Millennium] will replace the heavens and earth should motivate us to godliness (3:8-16).
1. Although God can patiently wait 1000 years (cf. Ps. 90:4) for more to trust in Christ, he will still destroy the "heavens" (atmosphere and stars), elements, and earth (3:8-10).
 - Do not confuse the patience of God with the omnipotence of God.
 2. Knowing the temporary nature of the present heavens and earth should motivate three actions (3:11-16).
 - a) Knowing that this creation is temporary motivates *holy living* separated from the world and used for God (3:11-12).

- How does our knowing that the earth is temporary lead to holy living?
- b) Knowing that this creation is temporary helps us *long for our eternal home* (3:13).
 - c) Knowing that this creation is temporary brings *peace with God* (3:14).
 - d) Knowing that this creation is temporary helps us *understand God's patience* despite Paul being misinterpreted (3:15-16).
 - (1) Paul's letters show the same wisdom as Peter that God waits to bring more into his family (3:15).
 - (2) However, some unbelievers distorted Paul's difficult teachings as they also did to the other Scriptures (3:16).
 - Note that Peter considered Paul's letters Scripture along with the Old Testament!
- C. Knowing the ultimate destruction of false teachers and the grace of Jesus Christ will protect us and stimulate growth in godliness (3:17-18).

What does it mean that believing heresy could cause a Christian to "fall from his secure position"?

1. Some say this means a Christian could lose his salvation. However, many passages in the NT affirm that the believer's position in Christ is permanent (e.g., John 3:16; 10:28-29; see also 1 John supplements on pages 296a-d in this NT Survey volume).
2. It is better to see this as referring to believers being led astray (1:10; Gal. 5:4).¹

Applying 2 Peter as a Whole

Do you feel that you are progressively growing "in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (3:18) like you should? What new habit can you start to better assure your growth continues?

¹ Dick Lucas and Christopher Green, *The Message of 2 Peter and Jude*, The Bible Speaks Today (Leicester, England: IVP, 1995), 156; Kenneth O. Gangel, "2 Peter," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary* (Wheaton: Victor, 1983), 878.

52 Week Bible Reading Plan

Week	Epistles (Sunday)	The Law (Monday)	History (Tuesday)	Pslms (Wednesday)	Poetry (Thursday)	Prophecy (Friday)	Gospels (Saturday)
1	<input type="checkbox"/> Rom 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/> Gen 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> Josh 1-5	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/> Isa 1-6	<input type="checkbox"/> Matt 1-2
2	<input type="checkbox"/> Rom 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/> Gen 4-7	<input type="checkbox"/> Josh 6-10	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 3-5	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/> Isa 7-11	<input type="checkbox"/> Matt 3-4
3	<input type="checkbox"/> Rom 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/> Gen 8-11	<input type="checkbox"/> Josh 11-15	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 6-8	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/> Isa 12-17	<input type="checkbox"/> Matt 5-7
4	<input type="checkbox"/> Rom 7-8	<input type="checkbox"/> Gen 12-15	<input type="checkbox"/> Josh 16-20	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 9-11	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 7-8	<input type="checkbox"/> Isa 18-22	<input type="checkbox"/> Matt 8-10
5	<input type="checkbox"/> Rom 9-10	<input type="checkbox"/> Gen 16-19	<input type="checkbox"/> Josh 21-24	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 12-14	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 9-10	<input type="checkbox"/> Isa 23-28	<input type="checkbox"/> Matt 11-13
6	<input type="checkbox"/> Rom 11-12	<input type="checkbox"/> Gen 20-23	<input type="checkbox"/> Judg 1-6	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 15-17	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 11-12	<input type="checkbox"/> Isa 29-33	<input type="checkbox"/> Matt 14-16
7	<input type="checkbox"/> Rom 13-14	<input type="checkbox"/> Gen 24-27	<input type="checkbox"/> Judg 7-11	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 18-20	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 13-14	<input type="checkbox"/> Isa 34-39	<input type="checkbox"/> Matt 17-19
8	<input type="checkbox"/> Rom 15-16	<input type="checkbox"/> Gen 28-31	<input type="checkbox"/> Judg 12-16	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 21-23	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 15-16	<input type="checkbox"/> Isa 40-44	<input type="checkbox"/> Matt 20-22
9	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Cor 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/> Gen 32-35	<input type="checkbox"/> Judg 17-21	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 24-26	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 17-18	<input type="checkbox"/> Isa 45-50	<input type="checkbox"/> Matt 23-25
10	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Cor 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/> Gen 36-39	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruth	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 27-29	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 19-20	<input type="checkbox"/> Isa 51-55	<input type="checkbox"/> Matt 26-28
11	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Cor 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/> Gen 40-43	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Sam 1-5	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 30-32	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 21-22	<input type="checkbox"/> Isa 56-61	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 1-2
12	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Cor 7-8	<input type="checkbox"/> Gen 44-47	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Sam 6-10	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 33-35	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 23-24	<input type="checkbox"/> Isa 62-66	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 3-4
13	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Cor 9-10	<input type="checkbox"/> Gen 48-50	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Sam 11-15	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 36-38	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 25-26	<input type="checkbox"/> Jer 1-6	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 5-6
14	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Cor 11-12	<input type="checkbox"/> Ex 1-4	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Sam 16-20	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 39-41	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 27-28	<input type="checkbox"/> Jer 7-11	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 7-8
15	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Cor 13-14	<input type="checkbox"/> Ex 5-8	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Sam 21-25	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 42-44	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 29-30	<input type="checkbox"/> Jer 12-16	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 9-10
16	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Cor 15-16	<input type="checkbox"/> Ex 9-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Sam 26-31	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 45-47	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 31-32	<input type="checkbox"/> Jer 17-21	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 11-12
17	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Cor 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> Ex 13-16	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Sam 1-4	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 48-50	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 33-34	<input type="checkbox"/> Jer 22-26	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 13-14
18	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Cor 4-5	<input type="checkbox"/> Ex 17-20	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Sam 5-9	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 51-53	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 35-36	<input type="checkbox"/> Jer 27-31	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 15-16
19	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Cor 6-8	<input type="checkbox"/> Ex 21-24	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Sam 10-14	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 54-56	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 37-38	<input type="checkbox"/> Jer 32-36	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 1-2
20	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Cor 9-10	<input type="checkbox"/> Ex 25-28	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Sam 15-19	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 57-59	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 39-40	<input type="checkbox"/> Jer 37-41	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 3-4
21	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Cor 11-13	<input type="checkbox"/> Ex 29-32	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Sam 20-24	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 60-62	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 41-42	<input type="checkbox"/> Jer 42-46	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 5-6
22	<input type="checkbox"/> Gal 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> Ex 33-36	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Ki 1-4	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 63-65	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Jer 47-52	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 7-8
23	<input type="checkbox"/> Gal 4-6	<input type="checkbox"/> Ex 37-40	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Ki 5-9	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 66-68	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov 2-3	<input type="checkbox"/> Lamentations	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 9-10
24	<input type="checkbox"/> Eph 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> Lev 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Ki 10-13	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 69-71	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov 4	<input type="checkbox"/> Ezek 1-6	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 11-12
25	<input type="checkbox"/> Eph 4-6	<input type="checkbox"/> Lev 4-6	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Ki 14-18	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 72-74	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/> Ezek 7-12	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 13-14
26	<input type="checkbox"/> Phil 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/> Lev 7-9	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Ki 19-22	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 75-77	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov 7	<input type="checkbox"/> Ezek 13-18	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 15-16
27	<input type="checkbox"/> Phil 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/> Lev 10-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Ki 1-5	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 78-80	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov 8-9	<input type="checkbox"/> Ezek 19-24	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 17-18
28	<input type="checkbox"/> Col 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/> Lev 13-15	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Ki 6-10	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 81-83	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov 10	<input type="checkbox"/> Ezek 25-30	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 19-20
29	<input type="checkbox"/> Col 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/> Lev 16-18	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Ki 11-15	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 84-86	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov 11-12	<input type="checkbox"/> Ezek 31-36	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 21-22
30	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Thes 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> Lev 19-21	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Ki 16-20	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 87-89	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov 13	<input type="checkbox"/> Ezek 37-42	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 23-24
31	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Thes 4-5	<input type="checkbox"/> Lev 22-24	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Ki 21-25	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 90-92	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov 14-15	<input type="checkbox"/> Ezek 43-48	<input type="checkbox"/> John 1-2
32	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Thes	<input type="checkbox"/> Lev 25-27	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Chr 1-4	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 93-95	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov 16	<input type="checkbox"/> Dan 1-6	<input type="checkbox"/> John 3-4
33	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Tim 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> Num 1-4	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Chr 5-9	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 96-98	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov 17-18	<input type="checkbox"/> Dan 7-12	<input type="checkbox"/> John 5-6
34	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Tim 4-6	<input type="checkbox"/> Num 5-8	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Chr 10-14	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 99-101	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov 19	<input type="checkbox"/> Hosea 1-7	<input type="checkbox"/> John 7-9
35	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Tim 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/> Num 9-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Chr 15-19	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 102-104	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov 20-21	<input type="checkbox"/> Hosea 8-14	<input type="checkbox"/> John 10-12
36	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Tim 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/> Num 13-16	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Chr 20-24	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 105-107	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov 22	<input type="checkbox"/> Joel	<input type="checkbox"/> John 13-15
37	<input type="checkbox"/> Titus	<input type="checkbox"/> Num 17-20	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Chr 25-29	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 108-110	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov 23-24	<input type="checkbox"/> Amos 1-4	<input type="checkbox"/> John 16-18
38	<input type="checkbox"/> Philemon	<input type="checkbox"/> Num 21-24	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Chr 1-5	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 111-113	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov 25	<input type="checkbox"/> Amos 5-9	<input type="checkbox"/> John 19-21
39	<input type="checkbox"/> Heb 1-4	<input type="checkbox"/> Num 25-28	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Chr 6-10	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 114-116	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov 26-27	<input type="checkbox"/> Obadiah	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 1-2
40	<input type="checkbox"/> Heb 5-7	<input type="checkbox"/> Num 29-32	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Chr 11-15	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 117-118	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov 28	<input type="checkbox"/> Jonah	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 3-4
41	<input type="checkbox"/> Heb 8-10	<input type="checkbox"/> Num 33-36	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Chr 16-20	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 119	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov 29-30	<input type="checkbox"/> Micah	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 5-6
42	<input type="checkbox"/> Heb 11-13	<input type="checkbox"/> Deut 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Chr 21-24	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 120-121	<input type="checkbox"/> Prov 31	<input type="checkbox"/> Nahum	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 7-8
43	<input type="checkbox"/> James 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> Deut 4-6	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Chr 25-28	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 122-124	<input type="checkbox"/> Eccl 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/> Habakkuk	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 9-10
44	<input type="checkbox"/> James 4-5	<input type="checkbox"/> Deut 7-9	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Chr 29-32	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 125-127	<input type="checkbox"/> Eccl 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/> Zephaniah	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 11-12
45	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Pet 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> Deut 10-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Chr 33-36	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 128-130	<input type="checkbox"/> Eccl 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/> Haggai	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 13-14
46	<input type="checkbox"/> 1Pet 4-5	<input type="checkbox"/> Deut 13-15	<input type="checkbox"/> Ezra 1-5	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 131-133	<input type="checkbox"/> Eccl 7-8	<input type="checkbox"/> Zechariah 1-7	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 15-16
47	<input type="checkbox"/> 2Pet	<input type="checkbox"/> Deut 16-19	<input type="checkbox"/> Ezra 6-10	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 134-136	<input type="checkbox"/> Eccl 9-10	<input type="checkbox"/> Zechariah 8-14	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 17-18
48	<input type="checkbox"/> 1John 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> Deut 20-22	<input type="checkbox"/> Neh 1-4	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 137-139	<input type="checkbox"/> Eccl 11-12	<input type="checkbox"/> Malachi	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 19-20
49	<input type="checkbox"/> 1John 4-5	<input type="checkbox"/> Deut 23-25	<input type="checkbox"/> Neh 5-9	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 140-142	<input type="checkbox"/> Song 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/> Rev 1-6	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 21-22
50	<input type="checkbox"/> 2John	<input type="checkbox"/> Deut 26-28	<input type="checkbox"/> Neh 10-13	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 143-145	<input type="checkbox"/> Song 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/> Rev 7-11	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 23-24
51	<input type="checkbox"/> 3John	<input type="checkbox"/> Deut 29-31	<input type="checkbox"/> Esther 1-5	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 146-148	<input type="checkbox"/> Song 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/> Rev 12-17	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 25-26
52	<input type="checkbox"/> Jude	<input type="checkbox"/> Deut 32-34	<input type="checkbox"/> Esther 6-10	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 149-150	<input type="checkbox"/> Song 7-8	<input type="checkbox"/> Rev 18-22	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 27-28

©Copyright 1996-2004 by Michael Coley

<http://www.Bible-Reading.com>

Do you want to be more regular in your Bible reading? The above plan has such variety in weekly reading that it brings you through seven sections of Scripture each week.