



The Second Epistle of Peter

Author: Peter

Place Written: Babylon^a

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Greetings

1 Simon^b Peter, a slave and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have acquired a faith as precious as ours through the righteousness of our God and the Savior Jesus Christ:

Make Your Calling Sure

2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the accurate knowledge^c 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 accurate knowledge^d of him who called us by his own glory and excellence. **4** By which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

^a <http://www.christianpublishers.org/was-peter-in-rome>

^b Two early MSS read Simeon

^c *Epignosis* is a strengthened or intensified form of *gnosis* (*epi*, meaning “additional”), meaning, “true,” “real,” “full,” “complete” or “accurate,” depending upon the context. Paul and Peter alone use *epignosis*.

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Qualities Added to Faith

5 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. **8** For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they will keep you from being useless or unfruitful in the accurate knowledge^e of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 For anyone lacking these things is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. **10** Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; **11** for in this way you will be abundantly supplied with entrance into the everlasting Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

What God Has Revealed to Peter and Peter Requires from Us

12 Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things, though you know them and are established in the truth that is present with you. **13** I consider it right, as long as I am in this tabernacle,^f to stir you up by way of reminder, **14** knowing that the putting off of my tabernacle^g is soon,^h just as also our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. **15** So I will make every effort so that

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^f Or *earthly dwelling* or *tent*; that is, *his earthly body*

^g Or *earthly dwelling* or *tent*; that is, *his earthly body*

^h Or *is coming swiftly*



after my departure, you may be able to recall these things for yourselves.^a

Prophetic Word Made More Sure

¹⁶ For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming^b of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was brought^c to him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” ¹⁸ and we ourselves heard this very voice brought from heaven, when we were with him on the holy mountain.

The Inspiration of the Word of God

¹⁹ So we have the prophetic word made more sure, and you are doing well in paying attention to it as to a lamp shining in a dark place (until day dawns and a morning star rises) in your hearts. ²⁰ But know this first, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from one’s own interpretation, ²¹ for no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men carried along by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

The Rise of False Prophets

2 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. ² Many will follow their acts of shameless conduct,^d and because of them the way of the truth will be spoken of abusively; ³ and in their greed they

will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

Judgment of False Teachers Certain

⁴ For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into Tartarus^e and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment; ⁵ and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a proclaimer of righteousness, and seven others when he brought a flood on the world of the ungodly; ⁶ and by reducing the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes, he condemned them, making them an example for ungodly people of things to come; ⁷ and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the irreverent^f men ⁸ (for by what he saw and heard that righteous man, while living among them, felt his righteous soul tormented day after day by their lawless deeds), ⁹ then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials,^g and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment,¹⁰ and especially those who indulge the flesh in its corrupt desires and despise authority.

Characteristics of False Teachers

Daring, self-willed, they do not tremble when they revile glorious ones,^h ¹¹ whereas angels who are greater in might and power

^a Lit to call these things to remembrance

^b Or presence (Gr *parousia*), which denotes both an “arrival” and a consequent “presence with.”

^c Or borne or made

^d Or their sensuality; their licentious ways; their brazen conduct

^e Greek verb *tartaroo* (to “cast into Tartarus”) the angels who sinned were cast into the pagan mythological Tartarus, a place of torture or torment. Rather, it was a condition that restrained some of their former powers, such as materializing in human form.

^f Gr *athesmos*; pertaining to refusing to be subjected to legal requirements—‘lawless, unruly, not complying with law.’ ... ‘who was troubled by the licentious conduct of lawless people’ 2 Pet 2:7.

^g Or temptation

^h Or angelic majesties



do not bring a reviling judgment against them before the Lord.¹² But these, like unreasoning animals, born as creatures of instinct to be captured and destroyed, blaspheming about matters of which they are ignorant, in their destruction will also be destroyed,¹³ suffering wrong as the wage for their wrongdoing. They count it pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, while they feast with you.¹⁴ Having eyes full of adultery that never cease from sin, enticing unstable souls, having a heart trained in greed, accursed children;¹⁵ forsaking the right way, they have gone astray, having followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;¹⁶ but he received a rebuke for his own transgression, for a mute donkey, speaking with a voice of a man, restrained the madness of the prophet.

Hypocritical Lying

¹⁷ These are springs without water and mists driven by a storm, for whom the black darkness has been reserved.¹⁸ 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,¹⁹ promising them freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved.²⁰ For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the accurate^a 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.²¹ For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy

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commandment delivered to them.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.”

Truths Spoken by the Old & New Testament Prophets

3 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,² that you should remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles.

The Coming Day of the Lord

³ Know this first of all, that in the last days ridiculers will come with their ridicule, following after their own desires,⁴ and saying: “Where is this promised coming^b of his? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.”⁵ For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God,⁶ through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water.⁷ But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

God Is Not Slow

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

^b Or *presence* (Gr *parousia*), which denotes both an “arrival” and a consequent “presence with.”



any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

Like a Thief

¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, the elements will burn and be dissolved, and the earth and its works will be exposed.^a

What Sort of People You Ought to Be

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

Do Not Be Led Astray

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by him spotless and unblemished and in peace,¹⁵ and regard the patience of our Lord as 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. ¹⁷You 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.

^a Gr *heurethesetai* (“will be discovered”) is attested to by κ B KP 424^c 1175 1739^{txt} 1852 syr^{ph}, hmg arm Origen. Gr *katakaesetai* (“will be burned up”) is attested to by A 048 049 056 0142 33 614 Byz Lect syr^{rh} cop^{bo} eth *al*.

^b Or *presence* (Gr *parousia*), which denotes both an “arrival” and a consequent “presence with.”