



## Summary of 2 Peter

### Introduction

Despite the claims of a small minority of scholars, this epistle was written by the apostle Peter sometime in the mid to late 60's AD, as he awaited execution in a Roman prison. Unlike his other epistle, Peter is not explicit in saying who his intended readership are, but there is strong evidence within the letter that is generally accepted that it was sent to the same group of churches located in northern and western Asia Minor, modern day Turkey.

Peter exhorts his readership to living a godly life even though they may be facing persecution or other types of suffering for their faith.

He warns them of the presence and dangers posed by false teachers who may sound plausible and seem to be offering a freedom in Christ that is more attractive in terms of worldly passions and our sinful nature, but they are in fact opposing the real truth and are likely to cause believers to stumble and fall if they do not hold on to the truth they have been taught.

Peter warns of the punishment that will come upon the wicked, using examples from Scripture to support his argument.

Peter also reminds them that the church age is drawing to a close and that the Day of Judgement, when the Lord will return, is drawing ever nearer. They must ensure they remain true to their faith in order to be able to face their Judge when the time comes. He also reminds them that this day will come upon the world when it least expects it.

Peter concludes his letter with strong words to encourage them to continue to grow in their faith.

### Chapter One

As with his first epistle, Peter names himself as its author and greets his readers with warmth and affection by the grace of God given to them through their knowledge and acceptance of Jesus as the Christ.

Peter reminds them that they have been graciously given all the things they need for a life of peace and hope in Christ, and that God has lifted them out of the world of evil desires that had so dogged mankind since the fall. This was done through divine power for their sake, not God's.

Because of this free gift of grace, Peter exhorts them to a holy lifestyle that will be pleasing to God. Peter lists several of the qualities they are to display in order to achieve this. The outcome of this lifestyle will be to bring glory to God as they will live their lives effectively for Christ.

Peter, who was writing from a Roman prison under sentence of death, reminds them that all that was foretold by the OT prophets in the Scriptures had been fulfilled in Jesus as the Christ of God. Peter had been an eye witness of this and cites particularly his experience of being with Jesus at his transfiguration on the Holy Mount.

## Chapter Two

Peter issues a heartfelt warning against the certainty that false teachers were already operating in and around the churches, and that what they preached would only lead those that followed them to disaster. He points out that they are doing this only for their own gain, and are not speaking the truth as it is given to us in the Gospel.

However, Peter is just as certain that these people will be severely punished by God at the appropriate time, along with any that choose to follow them. He supports his claim with historic references where God had brought immediate judgement such as in the time of Noah or on Sodom and Gomorrah.

Peter gives a graphic account of just how wicked these people are and just how cancerous their teaching can become if people take note of it. However, God is able to lift those who are faithful out of their clutches if they remain true to him.

## Chapter Three

Peter opens the chapter by confirming this is his second letter to his intended readership, which leads most commentators to accept that he is writing again to those in Asia Minor.

He warns them that, as the church age draws to its close and the Day of Judgement approaches, then there will be an increase in the numbers of people who oppose the Gospel truth and bring disparagement upon its message. But just as God once almost wiped out mankind in the flood, so too will he refine the earth by fire to bring those who have been tested finally to himself.

Peter reminds us that we should not judge the time that we wait for Christ's return to be in anyway slow or a delay, for God does not measure time as we do and for him there is no time at all between all the events of salvation. We are to wait in patient endurance: <<When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. They called out in a loud voice, "How

long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?" >> (Revelation 6:9-10).

When the end finally does come it will be at a time when no one is expecting it and few are prepared; that is, like a thief in the night. This will bring about the destruction of the earth as we know it, to be replaced by a new heaven and a new earth, creation not merely restored but brought to its final perfection.

Peter's parting words are to warn them to guard once more against those who would entice them away from the truth, encouraging them to grow in the grace of God through the knowledge of Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour of all.