

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter

## Bible Study Guide

**First Bilingual Baptist Church**

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction.....	1
Week 1: 2 Peter 1:1-4.....	3
Week 2: 2 Peter 1:5-11 .....	5
Week 3: 2 Peter 1:12-21 .....	7
Week 4: 2 Peter 2:1-10 .....	9
Checkpoint.....	11
Week 5: 2 Peter 2:10-22.....	13
Week 6: 2 Peter 3:1-7.....	15
Week 7: 2 Peter 3:8-13 .....	17
Week 8: 2 Peter 3:14-18.....	19
Answers to Study Questions .....	21



## INTRODUCTION

Before beginning this Study Packet, read all of 2 Peter in one sitting (approx. 5–10 min). Reading aloud may be helpful.

After you finish reading through the book, go back and review each of the sections listed below. In the space next to each section, write down some key words or a summary that will help you remember the main point. These sections are the same ones that will be covered each week.

Section	Key Words / Summary of Main Point
1. 2 Pet 1:1–4	
2. 2 Pet 1:5–11	
3. 2 Pet 1:12–21	
4. 2 Pet 2:1–10	
5. 2 Pet 2:10–22	
6. 2 Pet 3:1–7	
7. 2 Pet 3:8–13	
8. 2 Pet 3:14–18	

As you work through each week's lesson, it may be helpful to return to this section in order to think about where you are in the message of 2 Peter. You might also want to adjust what you think is the main point of the section.

To get the most out of your personal Bible study time:

- Always begin each section with prayer
- Read the "Summary of the Passage" before studying the "Bible Study Passage"
- Keep a pencil handy to write down any thoughts in your notebook or Bible
- Spend two minutes each day reviewing the weekly "Memory Verse"
- Work on the "Study Questions" a little each day before looking at the answers
- Share your answers to the "Discussion Questions" with someone
- Seek out opportunities to encourage others in their study

As you grow in your understanding and obedience to God's Word, look for the fruit that God will produce in and through your life.

## WEEK 1

### SUMMARY OF THE PASSAGE

At a time when false teachers were attacking the church with incorrect doctrine, Peter writes this letter to assure believers about the truth they must believe and obey. After greeting his readers, Peter reminds them about the gifts they have received through Jesus. Through Christ's power, all Christians have received the faith, knowledge, and promises leading to holiness and eternal life.

### BIBLE STUDY PASSAGE

2 Peter 1:1-4

### MEMORY VERSE

2 Peter 1:3 (HCSB) – His divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness through the knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness.

### STUDY QUESTIONS (see answers on page 21)

1. What titles does Peter use to introduce himself (1:1)?
2. How does Peter describe the faith of his readers (1:1)?
3. What does Peter mean by the phrase “the righteousness of Jesus Christ” (1:1)?
4. What is it that “grace and peace” come through (1:2)?
5. What does Peter say Jesus' power has given to Christians (1:3)?
6. What have Jesus' gifts come through (1:3)?
7. What words does Peter use to describe the promises of Jesus (1:4)?
8. For what purpose did Jesus give us His promises (1:4)?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How comfortable are you with describing yourself as a “slave of Jesus Christ”?
- Do you ever fail to recognize that your faith is of equal honor to the faith of others? What result does this have?
- Why is it so important to understand that you have received everything you need for “life and godliness”?
- What practical steps do you take to increase your knowledge of Jesus Christ?
- What are some of God’s precious promises that guide your daily life and keep you from sinful desires?

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## WEEK 2

### SUMMARY OF THE PASSAGE

Since God has given so much to believers, they should respond by dedicating themselves to lives that reflect their new nature. Peter commands his readers to work hard at being people of virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, affection, and love. Those who are growing in these qualities will be more effective for God's purposes and more assured of their salvation.

### BIBLE STUDY PASSAGE

2 Peter 1:5-11

### MEMORY VERSE

2 Peter 1:8 (HCSB) – For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### STUDY QUESTIONS (see answers on page 21)

1. What is the first "reason" Peter gives his readers to add these qualities to their faith (1:5)?
2. In what way should Christians add these qualities to their lives (1:5)?
3. What is the first quality Peter says to add to your faith (1:5)?
4. What is the last quality Peter says to add to your life (1:7)?
5. What is one result of increasing these qualities in your Christian life (1:8)?
6. How does Peter describe someone who isn't dedicating himself to these qualities (1:9)?
7. What is another result of practicing these qualities in your life (1:10)?
8. What do those who *have* practiced these qualities receive (1:11)?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How hard are you working to apply these qualities to your Christian life?
- Which qualities on the list do you think will require more effort on your part?
- How does your desire to be useful affect your effort at applying these qualities?
- How does forgetting you were cleansed lead to laziness in your spiritual life?
- In your own experience, how has your effort in godliness affected the assurance of your salvation?

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## WEEK 3

### SUMMARY OF THE PASSAGE

God's truth is a vital ingredient for salvation and a holy life. In this section, Peter emphasizes how important and trustworthy it is. Teachers in the church have the responsibility of effectively instructing the people. Those who are taught have the responsibility to remember it and implement it. Scripture is so valuable because it came directly from God, by the Holy Spirit. It's not something that men came up with.

### BIBLE STUDY PASSAGE

2 Peter 1:12-21

### MEMORY VERSE

2 Peter 1:20-21 (HCSB) – First of all, you should know this: No prophecy of Scripture comes from one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by the will of man; instead, men spoke from God as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

### STUDY QUESTIONS (see answers on page 22)

1. What does Peter say he will always do (1:12)?
2. What is motivating Peter to stay faithful in his duty to remind other Christians (1:13-14)?
3. What does Peter hope his readers will be able to do after he's gone (1:15)?
4. What does Peter say that his teaching is *not* (1:16)?
5. What event is Peter describing in verses 17-18?
6. What does Peter compare "the prophetic word" to (1:19)?
7. What should be a Christian's response to "the prophetic word" (1:19)?
8. How does Peter say that Scripture came about (1:20-21)?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How do you feel when the people you teach don't learn things the first time you tell them? How does this compare to Peter's attitude?
- Which people in your life are you responsible to be teaching about the truth of Christ?
- What are some major truths about life that you have learned from someone who has already passed away?
- What are some major lessons you want to make sure you teach others before you die?
- How does what Peter says about the Bible affect your attitude toward it?

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## WEEK 4

### SUMMARY OF THE PASSAGE

Even though the Holy Spirit has brought God's truth to us, many people deny Him and secretly begin to teach dangerous lies in the church. As a result, people are tricked, and the name of Christ is insulted. But God knows who these false teachers are, and just like always, He will judge those who rebel against Him and rescue those who belong to Him.

### BIBLE STUDY PASSAGE

2 Peter 2:1-10

### MEMORY VERSE

2 Peter 2:9-10a (HCSB) – The Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment, especially those who follow the polluting desires of the flesh and despise authority.

### STUDY QUESTIONS (see answers on page 23)

1. What is it that false prophets and false teachers introduce to God's people (2:1)?
2. What will happen to those who deny the one they claim is their Master (2:1)?
3. What is the result of many people following the false teachers (2:2)?
4. Why do the false teachers exploit and deceive others? What is their motivation (2:3)?
5. What groups does Peter give as examples of God's judgment (2:4-7)?
6. Which two Old Testament characters does Peter mention as examples of God rescuing His people (2:5-8)?
7. What does God rescue the godly from (2:9)?
8. What types of sinners will especially receive God's judgment (2:10)?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How does God protect the church today from false teachers?
- What kinds of false teachings seem to be attacking Christianity around the world? In your church? In your family?
- How does God’s judgment on false teachers affect your attitude toward them?
- How does it make you feel to know that God protects and preserves His own people?
- What can you do to help protect yourself and others from the effects of false teaching?

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## CHECKPOINT

*You are now past the halfway point of 2 Peter. Take some time to pause and reflect on the fruit God has produced in you and through you.*

*In what ways has your understanding of 2 Peter influenced your prayer life? What are some specific things you can pray for?*

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*In what ways are you currently suffering for the sake of Christ? How are you responding to that suffering?*

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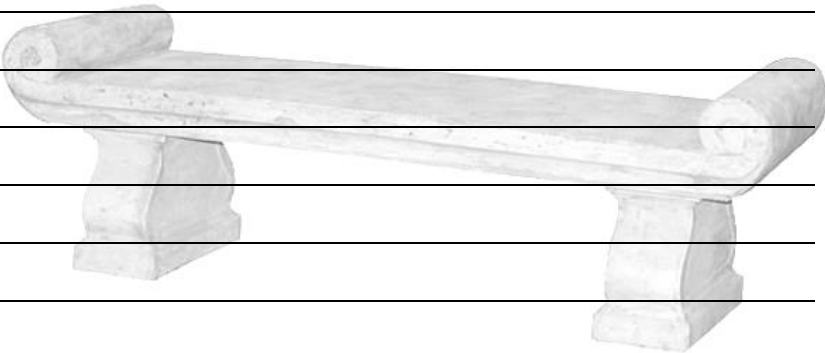
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*In what ways has your understanding of 2 Peter influenced your worship?  
Are there any songs that have been an encouragement to you?*

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*What is one of your favorite verses that you have covered so far in 2 Peter?  
Describe how it has helped you grow closer to Christ.*

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*Before continuing, reread 2 Peter in one sitting. It will help remind you  
about the big picture and let you review everything that has been covered  
so far.*



## WEEK 5

### SUMMARY OF THE PASSAGE

This section includes a more detailed description of those who have walked away from Christ and been corrupted by false teaching. First, Peter says these wicked people are *blasphemous* because they insult creatures that are more powerful than they are. These unrighteous people are also *immoral*, and they entice others to follow in their lust. Next, they are a *deceitful* group that cannot deliver the freedom they promise. Lastly, they are *hopeless* since they have no power to return to Christ.

### BIBLE STUDY PASSAGE

2 Peter 2:10-22

### MEMORY VERSE

2 Peter 2:21 (NIV) – It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them.

### STUDY QUESTIONS (see answers on page 24)

1. Who do these false teachers blaspheme or revile (2:10-12)?
2. What will be the outcome for these evil people (2:12-13)?
3. What impact does their adultery have on others (2:14)?
4. What Old Testament character does Peter compare the lustful teachers to (2:15-16)?
5. What does Peter compare these false teachers to (2:17)?
6. What do false teachers promise but are unable to give (2:19)?
7. What does Peter say would have been better for the false teachers (2:20-21)?
8. What does Peter compare the false teachers to (2:22)?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Have you ever been exposed to any teaching that claimed to be Christian but wasn't rooted in the Bible?
- What kinds of tactics do false teachers use today to lure people into their group?
- How susceptible do you think you are to being enticed by greed or sensuality?
- What false teachers can you think of from the Old Testament?  
From the New Testament?
- What do you think are some of the first signs that someone is a false teacher?

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## WEEK 6

### SUMMARY OF THE PASSAGE

Some of the biblical doctrines that false teachers can deny are the coming of Christ and the final judgment. However, these truths were taught by the prophets of the Old Testament and the apostles of the New Testament. Anyone who says that God has no plan for the future of the world is ignoring the power He demonstrated in Creation and the Flood. God is the One who sustains the world, and one day He will judge every ungodly person.

### BIBLE STUDY PASSAGE

2 Peter 3:1-7

### MEMORY VERSE

2 Peter 3:7 (NIV) – By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

### STUDY QUESTIONS (*see answers on page 24*)

1. How many other letters did Peter write to this group (3:1)
2. Whose words does Peter want his readers to remember (3:2)?
3. Who does Peter say will come in the last days (3:3)?
4. What argument are the false teachers making in this passage (3:4)?
5. What truth do the false teachers ignore or overlook (3:5)?
6. What were the components of the creation of the world (3:5)?
7. What Old Testament story is Peter referring to in 3:6?
8. What does Peter say will one day happen to earth (3:7)?

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- How well do you know what the Bible says about “the end of the world”?
- What is the advantage of knowing ahead of time that mockers will come?
- What are some ways that you can demonstrate respect for the word of God?
- How is your life affected by a better understanding of God as the Creator?
- How is your life affected by a clearer understanding of God’s judgment?

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## WEEK 7

### SUMMARY OF THE PASSAGE

Many people mock the idea that Christ will one day return to judge the world. They may even wonder why “the end” hasn’t come yet. The truth is that God is not affected by time the way that we are. He is equally affected by a millennium as much as He is by one day. It may seem like God is taking His time, but really He is being patient with the world, calling people to repentance and faith. At His appointed time, God will completely destroy this fallen world and bring about new heavens and a new earth. Until that time, Christians should be marked by holiness, eagerness, prayer, and hope.

### BIBLE STUDY PASSAGE

2 Peter 3:8-13

### MEMORY VERSE

2 Peter 3:9 (NET) – The Lord is not slow concerning his promise, as some regard slowness, but is being patient toward you, because he does not wish for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

### STUDY QUESTIONS (see answers on page 25)

1. How does Peter say God is different from us, regarding time (3:8)?
2. What were some people wrongly saying about God’s promises (3:9)?
3. Why hasn’t God brought about “the end of the world” yet (3:9)?
4. How does Peter say the “day of the Lord” will come (3:10)?
5. What will happen on the “day of the Lord” (3:10)?
6. What reason does Peter give for Christians to be holy (3:11)?
7. What does Peter say will happen on the “day of God” (3:12)?
8. What is the basis for a Christian’s anticipation of the new heaven and new earth (3:13)?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Have you ever been exposed to someone who denied God's plan for the future? What arguments did they give for their position?
- What are your thoughts about the "end of the world"? How does the topic make you feel?
- What is the connection between your personal holiness and the "end of the world"?
- How much of your day is affected by your hope in God's promises?
- What do you look forward to in the new heavens and new earth?

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## WEEK 8

### SUMMARY OF THE PASSAGE

Throughout the letter, Peter has focused on the importance of true teaching from God's word, as opposed to the false teachings from imposters. One main topic that he has addressed is the "end of the world." In light of these two topics (God's word and the end times), Peter closes with practical instructions for his readers. They should maintain a life of holiness, peace, and hope, and they should be carefully studying the Scriptures so that they can grow in discernment, maturity, and knowledge.

### BIBLE STUDY PASSAGE

2 Peter 3:14-18

### MEMORY VERSE

2 Peter 3:14-15 (NASB) — Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, and regard the patience of our Lord *as* salvation.

### STUDY QUESTIONS (see answers *on page 26*)

1. What "things" does Peter say we are looking (or waiting) for (3:14)?
2. How should we be found by God (3:14)?
3. What does Peter say we should equate with God's patience (3:15)?
4. Whose letters does Peter say can have parts that are difficult to understand (3:15-16)?
5. What do some people do with passages of the Bible that are harder to understand (3:16)?
6. What should Christians make sure does *not* happen because of false teachers (3:17)?
7. What does Peter command us to grow in (3:18)?
8. What does our current life have in common with our life in the new heavens and the new earth (3:18)?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Is your life characterized by looking for the new heavens and a new earth? How can you tell?
- What can you do to increase your eagerness or anticipation of eternity with God?
- How have you seen the message of Scripture be distorted with destructive consequences?
- What can you do to protect yourself from false doctrine and temptation?
- What does it mean to grow in the grace of Jesus Christ? How can you do it?

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## ANSWERS TO STUDY QUESTIONS

### WEEK 1: 2 PETER 1:1-4

1. First, Peter introduces himself as “a slave of Jesus Christ” – someone who is owned and obedient to a master. This term applies to all believers. Second, Peter calls himself “an apostle of Jesus Christ” – a messenger who has been sent. Even though all Christians are sent as God’s messengers, the title of “apostle” only applies to a few men from the first generation of Christians. *See also Luke 6:13; John 13:16; Acts 4:29; Rom 1:1; 6:16-19; 1 Cor 7:23; 9:2; 12:28; 2 Cor 12:12; Gal 1:1, 10; Eph 2:20; 4:11; Tts 1:1; Jam 1:1; Jud 1:1; Rev 1:1.*
2. Peter describes the faith of his readers as being received from God. He also says that the privilege, value, and honor of their faith are equal to his own. Even though Peter was a Jewish apostle, the faith of his Gentile readers has an equal standing before the God who has called them all. *See also Acts 11:17-18; Rom 1:16; 3:30; 4:12; 10:12; 1 Cor 12:13; Gal 3:28; 5:6; Eph 3:6.*
3. The righteousness of Jesus Christ is talking about Jesus’ perfect life that is credited to all who believe and surrender to Him. All Christians have an equal standing before God because, by faith, they have all received the righteousness of Jesus Christ, our God and Savior. *See also Gen 15:16; Jer 33:16; Luke 23:41, 47; Rom 3:22-26; 4:5; 2 Cor 5:21; Php 3:8-9; 1 Pet 2:22.*
4. The grace and peace come through the knowledge of God and the Lord Jesus Christ. This is an accurate knowledge of who Jesus is and what He has done. *See also Luke 10:22; John 17:3; Rom 10:1-2; 2 Cor 4:6; Php 1:9-11; Col 3:9-11; 1 Tim 2:3-4; Phm 1:6; 2 Pet 3:18; 1 Jn 5:20.*
5. Jesus’ power has given us everything we need for eternal life (salvation) and godliness (sanctification). Through the power of Jesus, we have everything we need in order to please God and walk with Him in holiness. *See also Ps 84:11; Jn 10:10; Rom 8:32; 2 Cor 12:9; Eph 1:19-21; 1 Tim 4:8.*
6. Jesus’ gifts for life and godliness have come through the knowledge of Him. This is the same knowledge mentioned in verse 2. *See also John 17:2-3.*
7. Peter describes the promises of Jesus as “precious” and “magnificent.” These words describe a great and expensive treasure – one with a higher cost than any other. *See also 2 Cor 1:20; Heb 8:6-12; 9:15; 1 Jn 2:25.*
8. Jesus gave us His promises so that we would share in His divine nature. We don’t become part of God, but we become His children who act more and more like Him. This is possible because His power has freed us from the power of sinful desires that lead to decay and corruption. *See also Jn 1:12-13; 2 Cor 3:18; Gal 2:20; 6:8; Php 3:20-21; Jam 1:18; Heb 12:10; 1 Jn 3:1-3.*

### WEEK 2: 2 PETER 1:5-11

1. Verse 5 starts with the phrase “for this very reason,” which is referring back to the gifts believers have received (vv. 3-4). We have everything we need for godliness, we share in the divine nature, and we have been freed from the world’s corruption. Because of this, Christians should be eager to glorify God with their lives and be useful for His purposes.

2. Christians should add these qualities to their lives with all diligence. Demonstrating these qualities in your life will take a serious effort. *See also Ps 119:4; Prov 4:23; Rom 12:11; Heb 6:11; 2 Pet 3:14.*
3. The first quality Peter says to add to your faith is “moral excellence,” “virtue,” or “goodness.” This word was used by Greeks to describe the highest level of desirable qualities, including the power to do amazing things. Here, it describes God’s character, which Christians should demonstrate. *See also Php 4:8; 1 Pet 2:9; 2 Pet 1:3.*
4. The final quality Peter lists is “love.” Love is the final result of true faith and the goal of all believers. *See also Matt 22:36–40; Rom 13:8–10; 1 Cor 13; Gal 5:14; 1 Tim 1:5; 1 Peter 4:8; 1 Jn 4:21.*
5. One result of these qualities increasing in your life is that they will keep you from becoming useless for Christ. If you have knowledge of Christ, but don’t have a holy life, your testimony and ministry will be ineffective and unproductive. *See also Matt 13:22; Jn 15:2, 6; Eph 5:11; 2 Thes 3:11–15; Tts 3:14; Jam 2:20–22; Heb 6:11–12; Jude 12.*
6. People who aren’t dedicating themselves to these qualities aren’t able to see spiritually; they can’t recognize their true spiritual condition. They may be saved, but they can’t be sure of their salvation. Worse than that, they may think they are saved, but are only deceiving themselves. *See also Matt 23:16–26; Rom 2:17–24; 6:1–4; 2 Cor 4:3–4; 2 Tim 2:19; 1 Jn 2:9–11; Rev 3:17.*
7. Another result of practicing these qualities is that they will keep you from stumbling. This can refer to people who fall into doubt and fear, or who fall away from the faith. However, anyone who abandons the faith only proves that there were never really saved. *See also Ps 1:6; Prov 24:16; Lk 6:47–49; Jn 6:39–40; 10:26–29; Rom 8:30–31; Heb 6:4–8; 1 Jn 3:19–21.*
8. Those who have practiced these qualities will receive a joyful and grand entrance into the eternal kingdom of God. *See also Matt 25:23, 34; 2 Tim 4:8; Rev 5:10; 20:6.*

### **WEEK 3: 2 PETER 1:12–21**

1. Peter says that he will always be ready to remind his readers about the truth of life in Christ. He knows how easily we tend to forget. *See also Rom 15:15; Php 3:1; 2 Thes 2:5; 1 Tim 4:6; Jude 3, 5, 17.*
2. Peter stays faithful in his duty to remind Christians because he knows that he is going to die soon. *See also John 21:17–19.*
3. Peter’s hope is that, after he is gone, his readers would be able to accurately remember and testify about the truth of Christ. *See also Deut 31:20–29; Josh 24:24–29; Ps 71:18; 145:4; 2 Tim 2:2*
4. Peter makes it clear that his teaching is not a fairy tale or a man-made myth. Peter was an eyewitness of Jesus’ majesty. *See also 1 Cor 1:17; 2:1, 4, 17; 4:2; 1 Tim 1:4; 4:7; Tts 1:14.*
5. In verses 17–18, Peter is describing the time He got a glimpse of Jesus’ true glory when He was transfigured on a mountain. At that time, God also spoke

from heaven. *See also Ps 2:7; Isa 42:1; Mt 3:17; 17:1-8; Mk 1:11; 9:7; Lk 3:22; 9:27-36; Jn 12:28-29.*

6. Peter compares “the prophetic word” to a lamp shining in a dark place. It is something we need to pay careful attention to so that we don’t fall into sin or deceit. This is something that needs to be done until Jesus returns. *See also Ps 19:7-9; 119:105; Prov 6:23.*
7. A Christian’s response to “the prophetic word” should be to pay careful attention to it until Jesus returns. *See also Isa 8:20; 9:2; 60:1-2; Jn 8:12; 2 Cor 4:4-6.*
8. Peter tells us that Scripture didn’t originate with ideas from men. It’s God’s words, written by men who were being “carried along” by the Holy Spirit. *See also 2 Sam 23:2; Mk 12:36; Lk 1:70; Acts 28:25; 1 Cor 2:10; 1 Thes 2:13; 2 Tim 3:16; 1 Pet 1:10-11.*

#### **WEEK 4: 2 PETER 2:1-10**

1. False prophets and false teachers introduce God’s people to religious lies that lead to eternal judgment. *See also Deut 13:1-3; Jer 14:13-15; Lam 2:14; Mt 7:15; 24:5, 24; Acts 20:29-30; 2 Cor 11:13-15; 2 Thes 2:10-12; 1 Tim 4:1.*
2. Those who claim Jesus as their Master, but deny Him, will receive “swift destruction.” Some may die very soon, but all of them will be judged when Christ returns. *See also Deut 32:6; Prov 29:1; Mal 3:5; Mt 10:33; Lk 12:9; 2 Thes 1:7-10; 2 Tim 2:12-13; Heb 10:29; Jude 4.*
3. When many people follow the immorality of false teachers, the result is that God’s truth is slandered. The world begins to see a horrible testimony by people who claim to be Christian but don’t submit their lives to holiness. *See also Mt 7:21-23; 24:10-13; Rom 2:21-24; Tts 2:7-8; 1 Pet 2:12; 1 Jn 2:19.*
4. False teachers deceive and take advantage of others because they are motivated by their greed and love of money. God has not forgotten His promise that they be judged and damned. *See also Ps 81:85; Prov 19:5; Isa 28:15, 22; 56:11; Jer 8:10; Mic 3:11; 1 Tim 6:3-5; 1 Pet 5:2; Rev 21:8, 27.*
5. As examples of God’s judgment, Peter mentions angels who were imprisoned, the people in Noah’s time who were killed by the flood, and Sodom and Gomorrah which were destroyed by fire from heaven. These are all previews of God’s final judgment on those who disobey Him. *See also Gen 6:1-17; 19:23-26; Prov 16:4; Mt 24:37-39; Rom 2:5; Jude 6.*
6. As examples of God rescuing His people, Peter mentions Noah, who was saved from the flood, and Lot, who was saved from Sodom. These are previews of God’s mercy to save His people. *See also Gen 7:1; 19:15-29; Heb 11:7; 1 Pet 3:20.*
7. God rescues the godly from their trials, temptations, and attacks. Peter’s original audience would have found comfort and hope in knowing that they would be delivered from the false teachers and from final judgment. *See also Ps 4:3; 32:6; 34:15-19; 1 Cor 10:13; Rev 3:10.*

8. The specific people who will especially receive God's judgment are those who go after their fleshly desires and rebel against God's authority. *See also Lk 16:13; 1 Tim 6:2; Jude 8, 16, 18.*

#### **WEEK 5: 2 PETER 2:10-22**

1. These false teachers are bold enough to revile glorious, angelic beings. This probably refers to the wicked demons. The false teachers don't fully understand Satan's forces, yet they are arrogant enough to insult their authority and power. *See also Jude 8-10.*
2. As a result of their arrogance, the false teachers will be destroyed, just like the demonic forces they insult. *See also Prov 14:32; Isa 3:11; Gal 6:8.*
3. The adultery of false teachers lures those who are weak, unstable, or young in the faith to do the same. *See also Mk 13:22; Rom 16:18; Eph 4:14; 1 Jn 2:13.*
4. Peter compares the lustful teachers to Balaam. In his greed, Balaam would prophesy for anyone, as long as he was well paid. *See also Num 22-24; 31:16; Jude 11; Rev 2:14.*
5. Peter compares these false teachers to a water fountain with no water, or to rain clouds that are quickly blown away. They promise water for refreshment and life, but result only in disappointment and confusion. *See also Job 6:15-17; Jer 14:3; Hos 6:4; Jude 12-13.*
6. False teachers promise freedom from difficulties, but they don't even have it. Rather than being free. They are slaves/prisoners to their own corrupt desires. *See also Jn 8:34; Rom 6:12-22; Gal 5:1, 13; Tts 3:3; 1 Pet 2:16.*
7. Peter says it would have been better for the false teachers if they had never heard about life in Jesus Christ. Since they have already understood and rejected the truth about Christ, they will not consider Him again, and they will face an even greater judgment. Peter isn't talking about people losing their salvation; he's talking about people who completely invested themselves in "Christianity" but abandoned the faith. These people demonstrate that they were never truly saved. *See also Ezek 18:24; Zeph 1:4-6; Mt 11:23-24; Lk 11:24-26; 12:47-48; Jn 6:66; 1 Cor 10:1-12; Heb 3:12-13; 6:4-8; 10:26-31, 38; 1 Jn 2:19; Jude 4-5.*
8. Peter compares these false teachers to a dog that returns to its vomit and to a hog that returns to the filthy mud. *See also Ex 8:15; Prov 26:11; Mt 12:45.*

#### **WEEK 6: 2 PETER 3:1-7**

1. Peter indicates that he had previously written one other letter to this group. The other letter is what we now call "1 Peter."
2. Peter wants his readers to remember the words written by the Old Testament writers and by Jesus' apostles (the New Testament). The specific topics Peter has in mind are the God's judgment and Christ's second coming. Both the Old and New Testaments are in complete agreement. *See also Isa 13:10-13; 24:19-23; Mic 1:4; Zech 14:1-9; Mal 4:1-2; Acts 28:23; 1 Pet 1:10-12; 2 Pet 1:19-21; Jude 17.*

3. Peter says that in the last days people will come who mock the judgment of Christ and continue in their lusts. *See also Ps 1:1; Prov 1:22; Isa 5:18-19; 1 Tim 4:1; 2 Tim 3:1; Jude 18.*
4. The mockers claim that since God has never intervened in His creation, He will not do so in the future. They ridicule Christians for their belief that Jesus will return soon. *See also Eccl 8:11; Jer 5:12-13; Ezek 12:22-27; Lk 12:45; 1 Thes 1:9-10; 4:16-17; 5:2.*
5. The false teachers willfully ignore the fact that God created the world by the power of His word. *See also Gen 1:1; Ps 33:6; Jn 1:3; Rom 1:18-23; Col 1:16-17; Heb 11:3.*
6. Peter reminds his readers that God formed the world out of water. *See Gen 1:2, 6-8.*
7. Besides Creation, another obvious example of God's powerful intervention in the world is the Flood, when He judged mankind. *See Gen 6-8; Mt 24:38-39; 2 Pet 2:5.*
8. Peter explains that history will not continue forever. God promised He would never destroy the world again by water. One day, all ungodly people will be judged and the heavens and earth will be destroyed by fire. *See also Gen 9:11-13; Isa 66:15; Dan 7:9-10; Mic 1:4; Zeph 3:8; Mal 4:1; Mt 24:35; Rom 2:5; 2 Thes 1:7-8.*

#### **WEEK 7: 2 PETER 3:8-13**

1. God's perspective and understanding of time is different from ours. He is not affected negatively by the passing of time. For Him, one day or a thousand years have the same effect. He doesn't age, forget, or grow impatient as He works out His eternal plan. *See also Ps 90:2-4; 102:25-27; 1 Cor 2:7; Eph 1:4; 1 Tim 1:17; 6:16.*
2. Some people were saying that God was "dragging His feet" in keeping His promises, or that He was late. *See also Gal 4:4; Tts 2:14.*
3. The reason God hasn't ended the world in judgment is because He is being patient toward His chosen people. God will destroy the world in the final judgment, but until that time, there will be people who turn to God in faith. *See also Ps 86:15; Isa 30:18; 55:1; Ezek 18:32; Joel 2:13; Lk 13:3; Rom 2:4; 9:22; 1 Tim 2:3-4; Heb 10:37; 1 Pet 3:20; Rev 2:21.*
4. The "day of the Lord" is a term used for times when God intervenes with severe judgment. Peter says that the final time of judgment will come the way a thief comes; it will be sudden, without warning, unexpected, and disastrous for the unprepared. *See also Isa 2:10-21; 13:6-22; Joel 1-2; Am 5; Obad 15; Zech 14; Mal 4; 1 Thes 5:2; 2 Thes 1:6-7; 2:1-2; Rev 6:17; 20:11-15.*
5. On the day of the Lord, the sky is going to disappear with a horrific noise and the things that make up the universe will be destroyed with an intense burning. God's creation was once destroyed with water. It will one day be destroyed with fire, and no one apart from Christ will be able to escape. *See also Ps 102:25-26; Isa 24:19-20; 34:4; Rev 6:14-16.*

6. Peter links a believer's godliness to the fact that the world will one day be destroyed. A life of righteousness gives assurance of salvation, reflects God's holiness, and demonstrates confidence that this world is only temporary. *See also 2 Cor 5:9; 1 Pet 1:17-19; 1 Jn 2:15-17.*
7. In verse 12, Peter repeats what will happen in the end. On "the day of God," everything will be destroyed by fire. *See the answer to question #5.*
8. The basis for a Christian's eager anticipation of the new heaven and new earth is God's promise. Our hope isn't based on our works or our imagination. It's based on God's Word, which has promised us a new creation free from sin, corruption, and pain. *See also Isa 60:19-22; 65:17; 66:22; Rom 8:18-21; Rev 21; 22:1-5.*

WEEK 8: 2 PETER 3:14-18

1. The "things" Peter says we are looking (or waiting) for are the new heavens and the new earth. *See also Rom 8:19-25; 1 Cor 1:7; Php 3:20-21; Heb 9:28.*
2. Because we're waiting for the new heavens and earth, we should be found in peace, not worrying about Christ's judgment. We should also be found with a spotless reputation, being pure in our doctrine and morals. *See also Lk 12:43; 1 Cor 1:8; Php 1:10; 1 Thes 3:13; 5:23; 1 Jn 3:2-3.*
3. We should equate God's patience as salvation. Our salvation can't be lost, and in the meantime, more people are being saved. *See also Rom 2:4; 1 Tim 1:16; 1 Pet 3:20; 2 Pet 3:9.*
4. What Peter is teaching is in complete agreement with Paul's teachings. By the time 2 Peter was written, Paul had already written his letters. Peter, however, recognizes that some of the things Paul wrote about can be hard to understand. Peter also recognizes Paul's writings as Scripture.
5. Since there are some passages/doctrines in the Bible that are harder to understand (but not impossible), many ignorant and unstable people twist the meaning. As a result, those people will be destroyed. *See also Ps 56:5; Jer 23:36; 2 Thes 2:1-5; 3:6-12; 2 Tim 3:1-9; Jam 1:8.*
6. Because of the false teachers that attack the church, Christians should make sure that they are not carried away by errors and fall from their firm grasp on the truth. One simple way to avoid falling is not to listen to those people. *See also Mt 7:15; 24:24-25; Rom 16:18; 2 Cor 11:3, 13-15; Col 2:8; 2 Tim 2:14-18; 4:14-15; Tts 1:10-16.*
7. Peter commands us to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus — our Messiah, Lord, and Savior. Growing in grace and knowledge means cultivating Christian growth in character and doctrine. *See also Eph 4:15; Col 1:10; 3:10; 2 Thes 1:3; 1 Pet 2:2; 2 Pet 1:2-11.*
8. The main similarity between our life now and our life in heaven is that both are for the glory of Christ. *See also 2 Tim 4:18; 1 Pet 5:10-11; Jude 1:25; Rev 1:6; 5:9-14.*



