**The Second General Epistle of Peter**

**2 Peter Chapter 1**

1Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,[[1]](#footnote-21063) to those who have obtained a faith of equal privilege with ours because of the righteousness *shown* *by*[[2]](#footnote-24576) our God, and *our* Savior Jesus Christ. 2Grace and peace be multiplied to you through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. 3By his divine power he has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and virtue. 4By these things he has given to us precious and exceedingly great promises, so that through them you become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of *evil* desires. 5Now for that very reason, make every effort to add to your trust, virtue; and to virtue, knowledge; 6and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, endurance; and to endurance, godliness; 7and to godliness, affection for *God’s* family; and to affection for *God’s* family, love. 8For if these things are yours and are increasing, they will keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9For the one who lacks these things is blind, because he is nearsighted and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his past sins. 10Therefore, brothers and sisters, be all the more diligent to make your calling and being chosen firm, because if you do these things, you will never stumble. 11For in this way a rich welcome[[3]](#footnote-30781) into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be provided to you.

12Therefore, I intend to always remind you of these things, though you know them and are established in the truth that you now have. 13And I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up with a reminder, 14because I know that the laying aside of my tent is coming soon, just as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. 15And I will also make every effort so that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things.

16For we did not follow cunningly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, instead we were eyewitnesses of his majesty, 17for he received honor and glory from God the Father when a voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased.” 18And we ourselves heard this voice when it came from heaven while we were with him on the holy mountain, 19and *since* we have a more reliable prophetic word, you will do well to pay attention to it as *you would* to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. 20Know this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is *a matter* of one’s own interpretation,[[4]](#footnote-18796) 21because no prophecy ever came from *an act of* human will, but people spoke from God as they were moved by holy spirit.

**2 Peter Chapter 2**

1But false prophets also arose among the People,[[5]](#footnote-25792) just as there will be false teachers among you, who will introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing on themselves swift destruction. 2And many will follow their unrestrained behavior, *and* because of them the way of truth will be defamed, 3and in *their* greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation, *pronounced* long ago, is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

4For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but threw them into Tartarus[[6]](#footnote-12988) and consigned them to chains in gloomy darkness to be kept until the Judgment; 5and *if* he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, along with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; 6and *if* he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing them to ashes, which made them an example of what is about to happen to ungodly people, 7and rescued righteous Lot, who was worn down by the unrestrained way of life of immoral people 8(for as he lived among them day after day, that righteous man kept tormenting *his* righteous soul by the lawless acts that he saw and heard); 9*then* the Lord knows how to rescue the godly out of trials and to keep the unrighteous *accountable* until the Day of Judgment, when they will be punished, 10and especially those who walk after the flesh with its desires that lead to defilement and who show contempt for authority. Bold *and* arrogant, they do not tremble *in fear* at slandering the glorious ones, 11whereas angels, though greater in strength and power, do not bring a charge of defamation[[7]](#footnote-26928) against them before the Lord.

12But these people, like unreasoning animals (creatures of instinct born to be captured and destroyed), slander things of which they are ignorant, and in their destructive ways they also will be destroyed, 13suffering harm as the wage of unrighteousness. They consider it a pleasure to indulge themselves in the daytime. *They are* spots and blemishes, indulging in their deceitfulness *even* while they feast with you. 14They have eyes full of adultery and are unable to cease from sin. They entice unstable souls and have a heart that has been trained in greed. Cursed children! 15Forsaking the right way, they went astray, having followed the way of Balaam *the son* of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness, 16but he was rebuked for his own wrongdoing. A donkey that could not talk, spoke with a human voice and restrained the deranged thinking of the prophet.

17These people are springs without water and mists driven *away* by a windstorm, for whom the deep gloom of darkness has been reserved. 18For by speaking grandiose, empty words, they entice, by *appealing to* the desires of the flesh (that is, by unrestrained behavior), those who have just escaped from the people[[8]](#footnote-30299) who live in error. 19They promise them freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption. For a person is a slave to whatever overcomes him.

20For if, after they have escaped from the defilements of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,[[9]](#footnote-29822) they are again entangled in them and overcome, *then* the last state has become worse for them than the first. 21For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness than, after knowing it, to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them. 22The true proverb has come to pass in them: “A dog returns to his own vomit,”[[10]](#footnote-24403) and “A sow that is washed *returns* to wallowing in the mud.”

**2 Peter Chapter 3**

1Beloved, this is now the second letter that I have written to you; in *both of* them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of a reminder, 2so that you remember the words that were previously spoken by the holy prophets, and the commandment of the Lord and Savior *spoken* by your apostles.

3Know this first, that in the last days mockers will come with *their* mocking, walking after their own *ungodly* desires, 4and saying, “Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the Fathers[[11]](#footnote-25899) fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.” 5For they willfully ignore this: that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water, 6*and* by means of these the world *back* then was destroyed when it was flooded with water, 7and by the same word, the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept until the Day of Judgment and destruction of ungodly people.

8But do not forget this one thing, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like 1,000 years, and 1,000 years are like one day. 9The Lord is not slow in *fulfilling* his promise, as some consider *him* to be slow, but he is patient toward you, not wanting anyone to be destroyed but for everyone to come to repentance. 10But the Day of the Lord will come like a thief; on that *day* the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and the works that are in it will be exposed.[[12]](#footnote-14707)

11Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people do you need to be in your holy way of life and godliness 12as you wait for and earnestly desire the coming of the Day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by fire, and the elements will melt because of the intense heat! 13But, according to his promise, we wait for a new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. 14Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these things, be diligent to be found at peace, without spot or blemish in his sight. 15And consider the patience of our Lord *as an opportunity for* salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom *that was* given to him, 16as *he* also *did* in all *his* letters, speaking in them about these things. There are some things in them *that are* hard to understand, which the uninstructed and unstable distort to their own destruction, as *they* also *do* with the rest of the Scriptures.

17Therefore, beloved, since you know *these things* ahead of time, be on guard so that you are not led astray by the error of immoral people and fall from your own steadfast position. 18But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.[[13]](#footnote-10063) To him be the glory both now and in the day of the age *to come*.

1. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-21063)
2. Or “that comes from” [↑](#footnote-ref-24576)
3. Lit. “entrance” [↑](#footnote-ref-30781)
4. Or “comes from a prophet’s own interpretation” [↑](#footnote-ref-18796)
5. The nation of Israel was called “the People,” so it is appropriate to capitalize it when it refers to Israel. [↑](#footnote-ref-25792)
6. “Tartarus” refers to a kind of dungeon or prison for gods. [↑](#footnote-ref-12988)
7. Meaning “to speak slanderous and harmful words.” [↑](#footnote-ref-26928)
8. Lit. “those” [↑](#footnote-ref-30299)
9. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-29822)
10. From Prov. 26:11 [↑](#footnote-ref-24403)
11. “The Fathers” usually refers to the early founders of Israel. [↑](#footnote-ref-25899)
12. Other manuscripts read “will be burned up” [↑](#footnote-ref-14707)
13. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-10063)