

2 PETER

The Book of Peter was written around 65AD shortly before Peter's death (2 Peter 1:14). Both Peter and Paul are thought to have been incarcerated in the Mamertine Prison in Rome being martyred shortly apart. Nero began a persecution campaign against Christians in 64AD before killing himself in 68AD. Peter may have written 1 Peter (with the assistance of Silvanus – 1 Peter 5:12) to encourage the church after Paul's death, and now Peter was writing 2 Peter to encourage the church just before his own death.

The koine Greek of 1 Peter is much more sophisticated than the language of 2 Peter which was probably the impact of Silvanus influence. Although Silvanus, scribed and carried the book of 1 Peter (1 Peter 5:12), the Greek grammar of 2 Peter is not as refined as 1 Peter, so it is thought that Peter may have penned 2 Peter. As with 1 Peter, the book of 2 Peter is also written to the persecuted believers scattered in Asia Minor that were offshoots of Pentecost and Paul's ministry.



Scriptures that are written in 2 Peter 2 and sections of Jude are exactly alike. Although only twenty-five verses long, fifteen verses from Jude are similar or equivalent to verses included in 2 Peter 2. While 2 Peter was probably intended for an audience consisting primarily of Gentiles, the audience of Jude would have been primarily Jewish.

Peter was primarily focused on opposing “antinomian Gnosticism” which meant that the individual accepted the knowledge of Jesus Christ as Savior, but believed that they could continue in a “forgiven” lifestyle of sin.

- The Greek term for “knowledge” (gnosis γνῶσις) was simply an intellectual exercise.
- The word “antinomian” literally means “against the law,” so an act was considered antinomian when an individual sought a spiritual awakening by carrying out actions that were forbidden.

The writings of Peter were a comfort and guide for church fathers of the 2nd and 3rd century; 2 Peter had been slow to be accepted into the canon. In the second century, Polycarp (a Christian bishop and martyr from Smyrna: 69AD-155AD) quoted Peter's writings nearly word-for-word at least 10 times in his letter to the churches before being burned at the stake. The early church father, Irenaeus (130AD-202AD) confirmed that Peter was the author of this book as testified in the first verse.

Outline of 2 Peter	
2 Peter 1:1-11	Christians have God's Promises & Divine Nature
2 Peter 1:12-15	The Purpose of the Letter; Peter's Farewell Teaching
2 Peter 1:16-21	Peter's Eyewitness Account of Jesus' Transformation
2 Peter 2:1-3	False Religious Teaching against a Final Judgment
2 Peter 2:4-11	Examples of Divine Judgment & Salvation for His People
2 Peter 2:12-22	False Teaching that God Condone Sinful Lives of His People
2 Peter 3:1-4	False Teachers have Tired of Waiting for Christ's Return
2 Peter 3:5-9	God Designed the World Over Time & Has His Own Timing
2 Peter 3:10-13	The Day of the Lord is Imminent
2 Peter 3:14-18	Warning to Not Twist Scripture to Enable Sin

29 2 Peter 1

Read 2 Peter 1:1-3 ... Introduction into Spiritual Life & Godliness

1:1 In the Hebrew language, his name is spelled "Symeon" which is only recorded one other time with this spelling in Scripture. (Acts 15:14)

- Peter's Aramaic name was "Simon, Son of Jonah" (Matthew 16:17).
 - His Greek name was "Peter" which is "Cephas" in Aramaic which was a name given by Jesus (Mark 3:16; Luke 6:14; John 1:42).
 - Jesus called him "Petros" (a detached stone) whereas Petra means "bedrock." (Matthew 16:18)
- In the lists of the twelve disciples (Matthew 10:2-4; Mark 3:16-19; Luke 6:12-19; Acts 1:13), Peter is always listed first and performed the role of the spokesman for the disciples.
- Peter was a "bond-servant" (doulos δοῦλος) which means "household slave" of Jesus Christ.
- The Greek term for "apostles" (apostolōn ἀποστόλων) means to "to send with official authority" as Christ's representatives.
 - Christians continue to be Christ's representatives; the word "Christian" was first used in the church in Antioch to mean "Little Christ." (Acts 11:26, 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16)
- The Old Testament view of righteousness was a measuring reed that showed any deviation from the straight edge.
 - The Greek term for "offenses/shortcomings/trespass" (paraptōmasin παραπτώμασιν) means to "fall to one's side." The Greek term for "sins" (hamartiais ἁμαρτίαις) means to "miss the mark." The myriad references to man's sinful shortcomings are based on a deviation from a standard.
 - The concept of "justified" comes from an etymological "root" concerning a "measuring reed" which is the (straight) standard that judges deviations.
 - No one can meet God's standards of perfection which is the reason that the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ is a necessity. (2 Corinthians 5:21)
- This verse affirms the deity of Jesus Christ. Jesus is God. (Titus 2:13)

1:2 While opposing the false Gnostic teachers of the day, Peter goes beyond the term “knowledge” (gnosis γνῶσις) by preceding it with “epi” for the meaning of “full and complete.” The term in this verse is “epignōsei” (ἐπιγνώσει) for “full and complete knowledge” of the Lord. If you have Christ, you have full knowledge.

- All three names/aspects of “*the Lord Jesus Christ*” are given. Jesus (humanity); Christ (the suffering servant Messiah); Lord (divine master).
- The covenantal name of Yahweh is used in the Old Testament (as shown as “LORD” using all capital letters, it represents the name Yahweh (יהוה)). Jews utilized the name “Adonai” (“Lord” with lower case letters - אֲדֹנָי) in order to not misuse the name Yahweh in vain.
- The use of the name “Lord” (Adonai אֲדֹנָי) for Jesus in the New Testament affirmed the deity of Jesus Christ.

1:3 God gives divine power to live the life He desires. The false teachers (Gnostics) taught of additional secret knowledge that was required.

- The Greek term “has given” (dedōrhēmenēs δεδορημένης) is only used in Peter and Mark (who was the assistant of Peter). (2 Peter 1:3-4; Mark 15:45)
- The Greek term for “godliness” (eusebeia εὐσέβεια) means “piety” that came to be used for “practical Christianity” and day-to-day Christlike living.
- The Greek term for “glory” (doxē δόξη) is the root word for “doxology” which is a statement of praise and worship of God.
- God calls His people by His grace to Himself. (John 6:44, 65).

Read 2 Peter 1:4-11 ... The Divine Nature that Escapes Worldly Sin & Corruption

1:4 God has filled believers with His Spirit to understand His Word (Scripture). (2 Peter 3:15) By God’s Word, believers “*may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world on account of lust.*” (Psalm 119:11)

- The “divine nature” comes from the filling of the Holy Spirit at the point of justification.
- The verses of 2 Peter 1:3-11 are a single sentence in Greek.

1:5 God initiates the call (2 Peter 1:3-4); however, man is called to respond (2 Peter 1:5-7; Philippians 2:12-13). Man must yield to God’s Spirit.

- In the list of items where believers are to equip themselves, moral character (goodness; diligence) is listed first.

1:6 There is a responsibility that accompanies the opportunity for knowledge. (Luke 12:47-48).

- The knowledgeable individual must have self-discipline to apply the knowledge.
- Then the individual must apply it over an extended timeframe (endurance).

1:7 After salvation, a believer should supplement with faith seven characteristics culminating in love. 1.Goodness → 2.Knowledge → 3.Self-control → 4.Endurance → 5.Godliness → 6.Brotherly Affection → 7.Love

1:8 “*For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they do not make you useless nor unproductive in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*”

- Assurance of salvation is evident in day-to-day living in a Christlike way through the sanctification process.
- Believers should not be useless (argous ἀργούς) and unproductive (akarpous ἀκάρπους) in their faith. (1 Corinthians 3:10-15)

1:9 Without the growth of these functions, a believer has forgotten the gift that he has been given and pursues temporal self-seeking priorities instead.

1:10 As believers submit to the Lordship of Jesus, their salvation is confirmed and assured. (Philippians 2:12-13). Lifestyle (not knowledge) gives validity to genuine salvation.

- Scripture is emphatic that when a believer submits to Jesus as their true Lord, the believer will not slip. The Greek language shows emphasis by using words multiple times. The literal translation is that the elect who follow Him as Lord will “*never not shall you stumble at any time.*” (ou mē ptaisēte pote - οὐ μὴ πταισῆτέ ποτε)

1:11 The Lord Jesus Christ will reign forever in His Kingdom (Isaiah 9:7; Daniel 7:14,27; Luke 1:33; 1 Timothy 6:16; Revelation 11:15, 22:5)

Read 2 Peter 1:12-15 ... Peter’s Reminders Prior to His Death

1:12 Although the believers understood the basic truths of Christianity, Peter felt that it was valuable to be reminded. Repetition makes concepts intuitive and daily, on-going behavior consistent. Repetition is the most basic technique for learning.

1:13 Paul refers to his physical body as a tent (2 Corinthians 5:1-10). Our bodies are considered tents (not houses) to move through this world. It’s more accurate to say that the spirit/soul have a body than a body has a spirit/soul.

1:14 Peter clearly understands that his life is coming to an end. Paul had probably already been martyred under the emperor Nero after being incarcerated with Peter in the Mamertine Prison in Rome.

1:15 Although his death was imminent (2 Peter 1:15), Peter was focused on preparing those believers who would outlive him. Peter was diligent (spoudasō σπουδάσω) to the end of his life in preparing the young believing church.

Read 2 Peter 1:16-18 ... Witnessing the Glory of Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration

1:16 Peter testifies that he is a first-hand eyewitness to the transfiguration. (Matthew 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-36). The transfiguration was not devised by a cunning false teacher; it was witnessed by a fisherman who would soon be executed for his testimony.

- While people might die for a false belief, it is unlikely that they would die for what they know to be a false belief.

1:17 Jesus received honor and glory from God the Father at the transfiguration (Hebrews 2:7). Peter heard God the Father (Matthew 17:5; Mark 9:7; Luke 9:35) refer to Jesus as “My beloved Son.” (John 3:16).

- Jewish Rabbi’s referred to the Lord’s glorious presence (a cloud) as the Shekinah Glory (although the term is not in Scripture). God spoke out of the “cloud” at the Transfiguration (Matthew 17:5; Mark 9:7; Luke 9:35), and it was foretold that glorified Jesus would return on a cloud reflecting His deity. (Matthew 24:30, 26:64; Mark 13:26, 14:62; Luke 21:27)
- This statement of love was affirming Jesus to those around Him (“*This is My Son*” – John 1:33-34) as well as encouraging Jesus (“*You are My Son*” – Mark 1:11; Luke 3:22)

1:18 Jesus had been traveling with His disciple in northern Israel near Caesarea Philippi. There is only one high mountain that stands apart in this region, and it is Mt. Hermon which stands 9230 feet.

- Jewish Scribes believed that God would speak at times without physical representation which they called “Bath Kol” (which means “the daughter of the voice”).
 - Examples include words of God to Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 4:31), the Baptism of Jesus (Matthew 3:17), the Transfiguration (Matthew 17:5; Mark 9:7; Luke 9:35), in the Garden of Gethsemane (John 12:28), the conversion of Paul (Acts 9:4, 22:7, 26:14) and instruction to Peter about clean and unclean (Acts 10:13, 15).

Read 2 Peter 1:19-21 ... The Holy Spirit Reveals God’s Truth of Himself

1:19 The “prophetic word” (prophētikon logon - προφητικὸν λόγον) refers to the Old Testament Messianic prophecies.

- God’s Word is symbolized as a lamp that gives light (understanding, enlightenment). (Psalm 119:105; Proverbs 6:23)
- The Greek term for “morning star” (phōsphoros φωσφόρος) means “light bearer” and is the root word for “phosphorus.”
- In the Old Testament (Isaiah 14:12), Lucifer (hêlêl לְלֵיְלִי) is translated the “morning star” which also referred to the planet Venus.

The Morning Star Symbolism (phōsphoros φωσφόρος)	
Jesus	Numbers 23:17; Malachi 4:2; Revelation 22:16
Resurrected Saints	Daniel 12:3

1:20 Man cannot influence the truths (past, present, or future) of God based on one’s own agenda (e.g., Balaam in Numbers 22:18).

- The Greek term “Scripture” (graphēs γραφῆς) in the Bible is referencing the Old Testament as the New Testament had not yet been canonized.

1:21 The Word of God was given by the Spirit of God. (2 Timothy 3:16; Matthew 5:18)

- The “verbal, plenary theory of inspiration” is the view that the Holy Spirit inspired the writing of the Scriptures.
 - This is the belief that every word and word placement in the Bible’s original manuscripts (Hebrew/Old Testament & Greek/New Testament) was divinely given and humanly written.
 - The term “**verbal**” emphasizes that every word (not just the idea) of Scripture is God-breathed.
 - The term “**plenary**” means “absolute,” “complete” or full.” Plenary emphasizes that every section of Scripture is equally of divine origin and authoritative.

30 2 Peter 2

Characteristics of False Teachers	
2 Peter 2:1	Denial of Christ
2 Peter 2:2, 10, 14, 18	Immorality

2 Peter 2:3	Greed
2 Peter 2:3	Concocted Message
2 Peter 2:10	Despise Authority
2 Peter 2:12	Follow Animalistic Instincts
2 Peter 2:13	Luxurious Lifestyles
2 Peter 2:13	Feasting
2 Peter 2:14	Entice Unsteady Souls
2 Peter 2:19	Promise Freedom To Sin

Read 2 Peter 2:1-3 ... False Prophets/Teachers Will Lead People Astray

2:1 False shepherds were domineering over the church (1 Peter 5:3-5).

- The book of 1 Enoch may have influenced the writing of this chapter. Although 1 Enoch was not inspired, many individuals were familiar with his writing. 1 Enoch was not canonized in the Catholic, Orthodox or Jewish canons.
- The Gnostics had surmised a great deal about angels, and the various hierarchies and roles of angels between God and man.
 - The study of angels is called “Angelology.”
- The Greek term for “secretly introduce” (pareisaxousin παρεισάξουσιν) means to “sneak in (insidiously; secretly) along side of.”
 - Heresy is frequently initiated from inside of the fellowship mixed with actual truths.
 - Heresy is typically a blend of truth and error.
- The reference to the “Master” (despotēn δεσπότην) is the Goel (kinsman redeemer) who paid the price to redeem the family member.

2:2 False Christian leaders with sinful lifestyles cause confusion and criticism.

- The term “the Way” (hē hodos - ἡ ὁδός) was the moniker of the early church. (Acts 9:2; 18:25-26; 19:9, 23; 22:4; 24:4; 24:14, 22)

2:3 Greed (covetousness) is idolatry (Colossians 3:5; Ephesians 5:5). Although Paul accepted offerings from the Macedonian churches (Philippi; Thessalonica), he would not take money from some congregations (Corinth) because he did not want to be viewed as money motivated. (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:7)

- False teachers often teach just for money. (2 Peter 2:14; Micah 3:11; 1 Timothy 6:5; Titus 1:11; Jude 1:16)
- The Greek phrase “*they will exploit*” (emporeusontai ἐμπορεύσονται) is also translated as “*make merchandise*” of you. The term “emporeusontai” is the root word for “Emporium.”
- The term “fabricated words” (plastois logois - πλαστοῖς λόγοις) consists of an individual developing their own theology out of their own imaginations and beliefs for their own interests.
 - The Greek word “plastois” (for fabricating or manufacturing) is the root word for “plastic.”

Read 2 Peter 2:4-6 ... Judgment on the Ungodly

2:4 These sinful angels may reference the Nephilim of Genesis 6 (Jude 1:6). Some believe that the Nephilim (Gen 6:2) were angels (“sons of God”) polluting the line of mankind by having sexual relations with them.

- Noah is called a “perfect/blameless” man (tāmîm תָּמִים) which may mean that he was solely human without Nephilim genetics. (Genesis 6:9)
 - When Noah is found to be a pure man (Gen 6:9), it might be thought that he had no Nephilim ancestry, but all who were rebellious results of Nephilim were destroyed in the flood.
 - Tartarus (“the dark abode of woe”) is only mentioned in the Bible this one time, but Tartarus is referenced in Homer’s Iliad (8th century BC) as being “as far below Hades as earth is below Heaven”
 - The Greek term “pits of darkness” (seirais zophou - σεираῖς ζόφου) referred to “large underground granaries.”
 - 2 Peter 2:4-9 make up a single sentence in Greek.
- 2:5 Unlike the false teachers, Noah was a preacher of righteousness (Luke 17:26-27).
- The number 7 is emphasized and is usually symbolic of “complete” or “full.”
- 2:6 The devastation of Sodom and Gomorrah is to serve as an example of His judgment.
- *“Now the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked sinners against the Lord.”* (Genesis 13:13)
 - *“And the Lord said, “The outcry of Sodom and Gomorrah is indeed great, and their sin is exceedingly grave.”* (Genesis 18:20)
 - *“The expression of their faces testifies against them, And they display their sin like Sodom; They do not even conceal it. Woe to them! For they have done evil to themselves.”* (Isaiah 3:9)
 - *“The committing of adultery and walking in deceit; And they strengthen the hands of evildoers, So that no one has turned back from his wickedness. All of them have become to Me like Sodom, And her inhabitants like Gomorrah.”* (Jeremiah 23:14)
 - *“Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had arrogance, plenty of food, and carefree ease, but she did not help the poor and needy.”* (Ezekiel 16:49)

Read 2 Peter 2:7-9 ... Salvation from Judgment of God’s People

- 2:7 In Lot’s situation, the men of Sodom and Gomorrah wanted to have sex with the angels; this is similar to the Nephilim desiring sex with humans (Genesis 6:2).
- One thread of these rebellious examples is the depraved sexual vice between angels and man.
 - Wickedness occurs when mankind transgresses boundaries established by God; afterwards, God judges man for his wicked actions.
- 2:8 The righteousness of Lot was evident by his grief of the sin around him (Luke 17:28-29; Ezekiel 9:4)
- 2:9 Whether offering a plan of salvation or rapturing His people from Tribulation, God knows how to rescue His people from destruction.

Read 2 Peter 2:10-16 ... Self-seeking False Teachers

- 2:10 God also knows how to judge the wicked as well as hold them for judgment. (2 Peter 2:9)
- The wicked do not restrain themselves according to God’s boundaries. The wicked trespass and pervert God’s good creation. The wicked “go too far.”

- Wicked and ignorant men also show no fear of the spiritual world in their self-focused lives.
 - In many modern religions including New Age practices, men play with dark spiritual powers that are destructive in power. (i.e., horoscopes, Ouija boards, the burning man festival, etc.)
 - A sign of a wicked man is that he despises “authority” (kyriotētos κυριότητος).
- 2:11 Michael (the archangel over the nation of Israel – Daniel 12:1) fought with Satan over the body of Moses; however, Michael refused to bring an accusation against Satan, but instead he left the judgment to the Lord. (Jude 1:8-9)
- The dispute between Michael and Satan is recorded in a 1st century Jewish apocryphal book called The Assumption of Moses (of The Testament of Moses). In this book, Moses prophesies to Joshua during the change in leadership over Israel.
- 2:12 Modern, liberal Hollywood promotes the idea of satisfying any instinct or desire on an animalistic level. Sin leads to death (Romans 6:23; James 1:15), so as modern man increasingly gives himself without constraint, he will continue to self-destruct.
- 2:13 While historically, flagrant sin has been hidden in the dark, these wicked men flaunt their perversions and deviances in the daytime – so that everyone can witness their sin. *“They parade their sin like Sodom; they do not hide it. Woe to them! They have brought disaster upon themselves.”* (Isaiah 3:9)
- Those with sinful lifestyles joined the faithful believers in fellowship (Acts 2:46-47; 1 Corinthians 11:20-34) while pretending to be committed to following the Lord. *“These are the ones who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, like shepherds caring only for themselves”* (Jude 1:12).
 - These sinful men would attend church fellowships in order to get something out of them...to seduce church women...to feast on the Lord’s Supper.
- 2:14 *“Having eyes full of adultery that never cease from sin, enticing unstable souls, having hearts trained in greed...”*
- Every thought of these sexual predators was towards self-seeking gratification.
 - The Greek term “trained” (gegymnasmenēn γεγυμνασμένην) is the root term for gymnasium/gymnastics and means “exercised” in that they are always endlessly pursuing more.
 - Materialistic parents and Hollywood’s promotion of consumption encourage young people to acquire and exist for self-satisfaction.
- 2:15 Balaam profited from the wages of unrighteousness through offering religion for hire (Revelations 2:14; Numbers 22-24; Deuteronomy 23:4-5; Joshua 13:22)
- The Greek term “straight way” (eutheian hodon - εὐθείαν ὁδὸν) is an Old Testament allusion to righteousness. The word “straight,” “right” and “just” all come from the name of a measuring reed/stick that portrays God’s straight standard. Any deviation from the straight-line means crooked.
 - The Greek term for “they have gone astray” (eplanēthēsan ἐπλανήθησαν) is etymologically associated with the word “planet.” Ancient travelers would use stars to take their bearings and understand location/direction; however, certain heavenly objects (planets) did not function as other heavenly bodies.

2:16 Balaam traveled to make money from Balak (King of Moab) by cursing the nation of Israel. As he traveled his donkey saw and feared the angel of the Lord, but Balaam was oblivious to the danger (Numbers 22:21-35).

- The act of a religious man (Balaam) being greedy for worldly wealth is called “madness” and “insanity” (paraphronian παραφρονίαν).

Read 2 Peter 2:17-19 ... Promises of False Teachers

2:17 Religious leaders preaching anything other than Jesus offer no “living water.” False teachers have the promise of living water, but it is a deception.

- “*The blackness/gloom of darkness has been reserved*” (zophos tou skotous tetērētai - ζόφος τοῦ σκοτίου τετήρηται) shows that there will be degrees/areas of punishment that match the sin.

2:18 Self-serving confidence, arrogance, and positivity are seductive to uninformed Christians as these false teachers encourage and defend sinful lifestyles (fleshly desires).

2:19 False teachers declare the freedom to sin instead of the freedom from sin. (Romans 6:6, 14:13-15:13; Galatians 2:16, 5:1; 1 Peter 2:16)

- People are enslaved by whatever defeats them. (Romans 6:16; John 8:34)

Read 2 Peter 2:20-22 ... A Warning for Those Who Return to Their Sin

2:20 Salvation means turning from self (sin) to God. God’s people should be committed to holy living in His will in lieu of pursuing their own worldly desires.

- The Greek term for “*knowledge*” (epignōsei ἐπιγνώσει) means to have full and complete knowledge of the gospel message, but rejecting it for a self-seeking lifestyle.
- 3 of 5 times that all four (“Lord,” “Savior,” “Jesus” and “Christ”) are used in a single verse are in 2 Peter (1:11, 2:20, 3:18). The only other two times are Philippians 3:20 and Jude 1:25.
- 3 of 5 times that all four (“Lord,” “Savior,” “Jesus” and “Christ”) are used in a single verse are in 2 Peter (1:11, 2:20, 3:18). The only other two times are Philippians 3:20 and Jude 1:25.
 - “*The seed which fell among the thorns, these are the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked by worries, riches, and pleasures of this life, and they bring no fruit to maturity.*” (Luke 8:14)

2:21 This may refer to the false teachers and/or the new believers that they corrupted. (Matthew 23:15)

- Instead of a tool of sinful nature, a believer’s body becomes a battleground of spiritual battles (Romans 7).
- Believers should not live as those who do not know the gospel. (Hebrews 2:1-4; 6:4-6; 10:26-31)
- “*They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.*” (1 John 2:19)

2:22 Peter quotes from Proverbs 26:11. “*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.”*”

- Both dogs and pigs are despised in the Jewish culture.
- The proverb of the hog is from the Aramaic wisdom book of Ahikar (əhī'kär' Αχιάχρο), which may have been learned by Jews during the Assyrian exile.
 - Ahikar was the vizier of Sennacherib, king of Assyria (704-681BC).
 - Ahikar was childless, and decided to adopt the son (Nadan) of his sister.
 - In an attempt to educate Nadan, Ahikar wrote a series of proverbs.
 - In the end, Nadan would betray Ahikar and Assyria which led to Nadan's execution.
 - Ahikar is referenced in the Jewish book Tobit as a wise man from one of Israel's northern ten tribes that were exiled.
 - The illustration was used because it was readily recognized by the audience; Ahikar's wisdom book was not inspired.

DECEMBER

1 2 Peter 3

Read 2 Peter 3:1-2 ... This Letter is a Reminder

3:1 Since this is the "second letter," Peter is probably referencing 1 Peter as the earlier letter.

- 1 Peter is more well-written in Greek than 2 Peter; Silvanus may have assisted as a scribe in writing 1 Peter (1 Peter 5:12) while Peter may have attempted to write 2 Peter himself.
- Reminders and repetition make concepts intuitive and daily, on-going behavior consistent. Repetition is the most basic technique for learning.

3:2 Scriptures that Peter emphasizes should be repeatedly read and reviewed include: 1. Holy Prophets (Old Testament) 2. Commandments of the Lord & Savior (the Gospels) 3. Apostles (the remainder of the New Testament)

Read 2 Peter 3:3-7 ... God Has Already Judged the World That He Created

3:3 In the last days, there will be cynics of the rapture; some of those who ridicule the return of the Lord. These wicked and sinful people do not believe that they will be judged as they have escaped the poor judicial systems of man.

- The days after the giving of the Spirit (Acts 2:16-22) are called the "last days" (ep' eschatou tōn hēmerōn - ἐπ' ἐσχάτου τῶν ἡμερῶν). (1 Peter 1:20; Jude 1:18).
- When men believe that there is no accountability for sin, wickedness flourishes (2 Timothy 3:1-5).

3:4 Supporters of evolution claim that the natural laws of this physical world are perpetual.

- The "fathers" might represent the Jewish forefathers of the Old Testament.
- The term "fell asleep" (ekoimēthēsan ἐκοιμήθησαν) is a metaphor for "death."
- Deniers of the "second coming" actually fulfill this portion of Scripture.

3:5 Although every civilization is aware of the story of Noah and the flood, people forget that God can wipe out humanity with fire as He has done before through the Word of God; the fire punishment is as real as the flood was (2 Peter 3:7).

- In Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring, J.R.R. Tolkien wrote, "*And some things that should not have been forgotten were lost. History became*

legend. Legend became myth. And for two and a half thousand years, the ring passed out of all knowledge.”

- “The earth was formed out of water and by/through water.”
 - The Greek term for “by/through” (δι’ δι’) can also mean “between,” “circled,” “sustained by” and “amid.”
 - At the time of the Genesis creation, water already existed (Genesis 1:2; Job 38:8-9; 2 Peter 3:5; Psalms 24:2, 148:4-6; Prov 8:24).
 - The earth is called the “water planet” with 326 million cubic miles of water covering 70% of our planet while adults consist of 45%-75% percent water (then blood being nearly 80% water).
 - In Greek philosophy, water was believed to be the original substance from which all things were made.
 - “Water” is referenced throughout creation in Genesis 1:2, 6, 9, 14, 20, 24
 - Jesus is the source of “Living Water” (John 7:37-39) as the Spirit hovered over the water (Genesis 1:2) and God the Father spoke all of creation into existence through His Word which is Jesus (John 1:1). Everything was made by Jesus (Colossians 1:16; John 1:3)
 - Creation was “ex nihilo by fiat” (Psalm 33:6-7). “Ex nihilo” means created out of nothing. “By fiat” means by God’s power/spoken word instead of a natural, material process. (Genesis 2:7; Psalm 33:6, 9; Psalm 148:5; 2 Corinthians 4:6; Hebrews 11:3)

3:6 The very thing that God used to form the world was used to destroy the world in Noah’s flood.

- God also sent His Spirit in the form of fire at the new creation of believers. (Acts 2:3)

3:7 Fire surrounds God the Father (Psalms 50:3), and God is a consuming fire. (Hebrews 12:29; Deuteronomy 4:24)

- “He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.” (Colossians 1:17)
- The Greek term for “destruction” (ἀπολείας ἀπωλείας) is also translated “perdition.” Apollyon (Ἀπολλύων ἄγγελος) is the “destroyer angel.” (Revelation 9:11)
- On judgment day, anything that is not of God will be destroyed. (1 Corinthians 3:10-15)

Read 2 Peter 3:8-13 ... A Day of Judgment is Coming

3:8 “Dear friends, don’t let this one thing escape you: with the Lord one day is like 1,000 years, and 1,000 years like one day.” This is a reference to Psalm 90:4.

3:9 God desires that none should perish (Romans 2:4, 9:22-23; 1 Peter 3:15), but out of their own hard hearts and rebellious nature, they will (Ezekiel 18:32, 33:11).

- God desires that all men come to Him for salvation. (Ezekiel 18:23; Acts 17:30; Romans 11:32; 1 Timothy 2:4-6, 4:10; Titus 2:11; Hebrews 2:9; 1 John 2:2).

3:10 The “thief” (kleptēs κλέπτης) is a metaphor of an unexpected arrival (Matthew 24:43-44; Luke 12:39; 1 Thessalonians 5:2; Revelation 3:3; 16:15). Jesus was crucified between two thieves. (Matthew 27:38)

- Heaven and earth will pass away. (Psalm 102:25-26; Isaiah 51:6; Matthew 5:18; 24:35; Mark 13:31)
- 3:11 Everything will pass away except what has been done for the Lord. (1 Corinthians 3:10-15)
- 3:12 Biblical “global warming” will occur and all of the old nature will be incinerated. Scripture repeatedly records the material world of time and space coming to an end with heat/fire. (Isaiah 10:10-13; 34:4; 51:6; Joel 2:28-32; Micah 1:4).
- The Greek term “hastening” (speudontas σπεύδοντας) implies that believers can impact the timing of the second coming.
 - There seems to be a set number (threshold) of Gentiles that will enter salvation during the church age before the emphasis of the soteriological plan reverts in focus back to the nation of Israel. (Romans 11:25)
 - Every time that the Lord’s prayer is prayed, there is a request for the second coming to occur – “*thy kingdom come.*” (Matthew 6:10; Luke 11:2)
 - The Bible concludes with the same prayer: “*He who testifies to these things says, ‘Yes, I am coming quickly.’ Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.*” (Revelation 22:20)
- 3:13 God’s Word promises and ensures (Hebrews 6:13-18) more than destruction; Christians will enjoy a new heaven and a new earth (Isaiah 11:6-9; 65:17; 66:22; Revelation 21:1-27)

Read 2 Peter 3:14-18 ... Believers Should Be Impacted by the Hope of The Lord’s Return

- 3:14 The hope for the believer is in looking forward to the Lord’s return.
- Peter repeats the same phrase of “*spotless and blameless*” (aspiloi kai amōmētoi - ἄσπιλοι καὶ ἀμώμητοι) from his first letter; these can only be found in Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 1:19)
 - These are Old Testament descriptions for animals that are meant to be sacrificed. (Leviticus 9:2-3, 22:19, 21; Exodus 12:5, 29:1; Ezekiel 46:4-6)
 - These terms also describe the church as the bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:27)
 - “*He made Him who knew no sin to be sin in our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*” (2 Corinthians 5:21)
 - The believer is to commit their way to God (Psalm 37:5) in walking according to the Spirit (Galatians 5:25) and strive to remain unpolluted by the world. (James 1:27)
 - Believers should live in peace with God’s will and provision. (Zechariah 8:19; Psalm 34:14/1 Peter 3:11; Romans 14:19; 2 Corinthians 13:11)
- 3:15 God desires that none should perish (Romans 2:4, 9:22-23; 1 Peter 3:9), but out of their own hard hearts and rebellious nature, they will (Ezekiel 18:32, 33:11).
- God desires that all men come to Him for salvation. (Ezekiel 18:23; Acts 17:30; Romans 11:32; 1 Timothy 2:4-6, 4:10; Titus 2:11; Hebrews 2:9; 1 John 2:2).
 - This verse supports the canonization of Paul’s writings along with the Old Testament Scriptures.
- 3:16 False teachers misuse Scriptures to their own advantage.

- Believers should rely on God’s Spirit to enlighten their understanding of His truth instead of following man’s self-made conjectures. (Jeremiah 31:31-34)
- Believers must prayerfully and reasonably consider God’s Word without mindlessly accepting statements that sound good from teachers esteemed by men.
- *“Therefore, I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.”* (Matthew 13:13)
- *“When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart.”* (Matthew 13:19)
- There were times when the twelve disciples of Jesus did not understand Him. (Mark 9:32; Luke 2:50; 9:45; 18:34; John 2:22; 10:6; 12:16; 16:18)

3:17 Believers must be critical thinkers and defensive of the truth within them.

- The term “*carried away*” (synapachthentes συναπαχθέντες) was even said of Barnabas in dealings with the Jews. (Galatians 2:13) In the first letter, Peter encouraged believers to “stand firm!” (1 Peter 5:12)

3:18 Grace is the closing thought of the epistles as it is with the entire Bible (Revelation 22:21). Salvation (and every good thing) is only available because of God’s grace.

- This concluding verse affirms that an effective way to guard against false teaching is to gain more knowledge of the truth while living it out selflessly in grace.
- The ending of the verse is a doxology giving glory to God. Salvation is only because of grace and the glory only belongs to Him. (Ephesians 2:8-9)
- The word “Amen” is meant to be firm or certain; it means “so be it”, “I affirm” or “I agree.” The Greek term for “truly” or “I assure you” is the transliterated word from Hebrew “Amen” (Hebrew: אָמֵן Greek: ἀμήν). Transliteration means that the same word is in one language as another without being changed to translate.