

Sabbath Brothers

Time to Read Scripture

(76 Hours 13 Minutes)

Old Testament 57.65 Hours*

New Testament 18.57 Hours**

Estimated Time to Read	
The Law/Pentateuch/Torah	13.5 Hours
1. Genesis	3.5 Hours
2. Exodus	3 Hours
3. Leviticus	2 Hours
4. Numbers	3 Hours
5. Deuteronomy	2.5 Hours

Estimated Time to Read	
The Books of History	18.67 Hours
6. Joshua	1.75 Hours
7. Judges	1.75 Hours
8. Ruth	15 Minutes
9. 1 Samuel	2.25 Hours
10. 2 Samuel	1.75 Hours
11. 1 Kings	2 Hours
12. 2 Kings	2.25 Hours
13. 1 Chronicles	2 Hours
14. 2 Chronicles	2.5 Hours
15. Ezra	40 Minutes
16. Nehemiah	1 Hour
17. Esther	30 Minutes

Estimated Time to Read	
The Books of Poetry	9.33 Hours
18. Job	1.75 Hours
19. Psalms	5 Hours
20. Proverbs	1.75 Hours
21. Ecclesiastes	30 Minutes
22. Song of Solomon	20 Minutes

Estimated Time to Read	
The Major Prophets	13.08 Hours
23. Isaiah	3.75 Hours
24. Jeremiah	4 Hours
25. Lamentations	20 Minutes
26. Ezekiel	3.75 Hours
27. Daniel	1.25 Hours

Estimated Time to Read	
The Minor Prophets	3.07 Hours
28. Hosea	30 Minutes
29. Joel	12 Minutes
30. Amos	25 Minutes
31. Obadiah	4 Minutes
32. Jonah	8 Minutes
33. Micah	20 Minutes
34. Nahum	8 Minutes
35. Habakkuk	9 Minutes
36. Zephaniah	10 Minutes
37. Haggai	7 Minutes
38. Zechariah	40 Minutes
39. Malachi	11 Minutes

Estimated Time to Read	
The Gospels	8.5 Hours
40. Matthew	2.5 Hours
41. Mark	1.5 Hours
42. Luke	2.5 Hours
43. John	2 Hours

Estimated Time to Read	
Establishment of the Church	2.25 Hours
44. Acts	2.25 Hours

Estimated Time to Read	
Paul's Public Epistles	4.1 Hours
45. Romans	1 Hour
46. 1 Corinthians	1 Hour
47. 2 Corinthians	40 Minutes
48. Galatians	20 Minutes
49. Ephesians	20 Minutes
50. Philippians	14 Minutes
51. Colossians	13 Minutes
52. 1 Thessalonians	12 Minutes
53. 2 Thessalonians	7 Minutes

Estimated Time to Read	
Paul's Private/Pastoral Epistles	34 Minutes
54. 1 Timothy	16 Minutes
55. 2 Timothy	11 Minutes
56. Titus	7 Minutes

Estimated Time to Read	
General Epistles	1.9 Hours
57. Philemon	3 Minutes
58. Hebrews	45 Minutes
59. James	16 Minutes
60. 1 Peter	16 Minutes
61. 2 Peter	10 Minutes
62. 1 John	16 Minutes
63. 2 John	2 Minutes
64. 3 John	2 Minutes
65. Jude	4 Minutes

Estimated Time to Read	
End Times Prophecy	1.25 Hours
66. Revelation	1.25 Hours

*Old Testament 57 Hours 39 Minutes

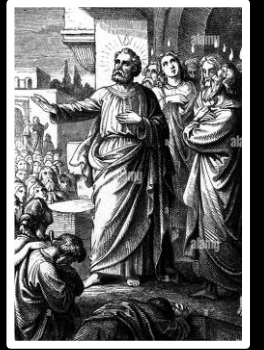
**New Testament 18 Hours 34 Minutes

Peter's End of Life

The Book of Peter was written around 65 AD shortly around the time of the deaths of Peter & Paul.

Peter's writings sound a great deal like Paul's writings. Both Peter and Paul are thought to have been incarcerated in the Mamertine Prison in Rome being martyred shortly apart.

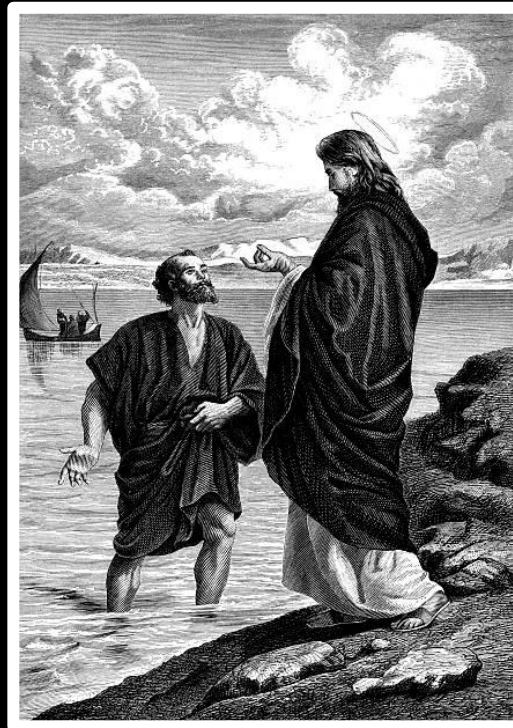
Nero began a persecution campaign against Christians in 64AD before killing himself in 68AD. Peter may have written 1 Peter (with the assistance of Silvanus – 1 Peter 5:12) to encourage the church after Paul's death, and now Peter was writing 2 Peter to encourage the church just before his own death.



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.



Mamertine Prison

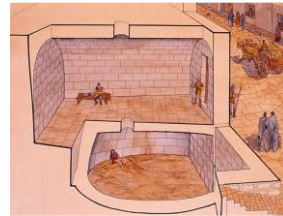
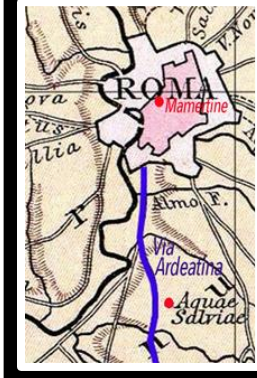
Both Paul & Peter were incarcerated in Mamertine after Nero's burning of Rome (64AD) which resulted in their deaths



The Mamertine Prison was constructed in the 7th century BC measuring 6½ feet high, 30 feet long and 22 feet wide. Ancus Marcius, the fourth king of Rome, constructed Mamertine during his reign from 640-616 BC (initially as a underground cistern).

Roman prisons were cramped and miserable where prisoners awaited execution or were simply allowed to starve to death out of public view.

Mamertine was converted into a jail with two cells - one on top of the other. The circular, lower room of the jail was known as the "Tullianum" after its builder, Servius Tullius. The "Tullianum" was located within a sewer system below Rome.



There was a hole in the center of the ceiling and a hole in the center of the floor. A prisoner could only be reached by being lowered through a hole in the floor. If an inmate died, the body would simply be slid into the hole in the floor just above Rome's sewage system.

Upon Nero's order, Paul was taken to the Ostian Road outside of Rome & beheaded in 68AD. (then Nero committed suicide later that year on June 9)

Peter also died under the persecution of Nero by being hung upside down on a cross (possibly as early as 64AD)

The Book of 2 Peter

REMINDER
The Greek language does not have capitalization, punctuation or verse/chapter separations, so these have been defined by the editors and compilers

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 Condones 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

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 1Peter, 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.

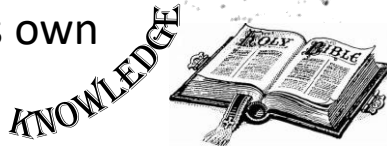
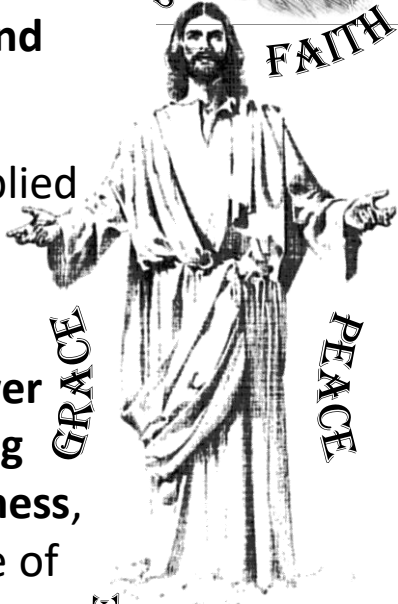
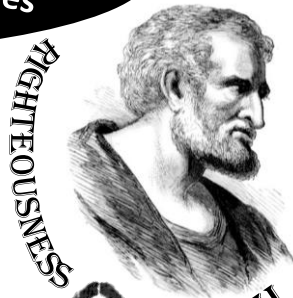
While 2 Peter was probably intended for an audience consisting primarily of Gentiles, the audience of Jude would have been primarily Jewish.

God's Grace & Holiness is extended to His people as they live faithful holy lives to His Glory

¹ Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ:

² Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge 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 true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.



Introduction (2 Peter 1:1-3)

In the Hebrew language, Peter's 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).

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.

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)

2 Peter 1:1 confirms the deity of Jesus Christ. Jesus is God. (Titus 2:13)

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.

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 for "godliness" (eusebeia εὐσέβεια) means "piety" that came to be used for "practical Christianity" and day-to-day Christlike living.

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.

The Greek term "has given" (dedōrhēmenēs δεδωρημένης) is only used in Peter and Mark (who was the assistant of Peter) (2 Peter 1:3-4; Mark 15:45)

A good Christian is not defined by what he knows, but how much he APPLIES of what he knows

Divine Nature Over Sin (2 Peter 1:4-11)

4 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become **partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the **corruption that is in the world by lust.**

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,

7 and in your perseverance, godliness, and in your godliness, brotherly kindness,

8 and in your brotherly kindness, love. For if these *qualities* are yours and are increasing, they render you **neither useless nor unfruitful** in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 For he who lacks these *qualities* is **blind or short-sighted**, having forgotten his purification from his former sins.

10 Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to **make certain about His calling and choosing you**; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble;

11 for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.



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.

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.

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/perseverance).

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

Assurance of salvation is evident in day-to-day living in a Christlike way through the sanctification process.

Believers should not be useless (argous άργούς) and unproductive (akarpous άκάρπους) in their faith. (1 Corinthians 3:10-15)

Without spiritual growth, a believer can forget the gift that he has been given to pursue temporal self-seeking priorities instead.

As believers submit to the Lordship of Jesus, their salvation is confirmed and assured. (Philippians 2:12-13). Lifestyle (not knowledge) validates 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 - ού μῆ πταισητέ ποτε)

Peter prepares for his death by sharing central, spiritual truths

First-hand Witness (2 Peter 1:12-21)

¹² Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you *already know them*, and have been established in the truth which is present with *you*.



¹³ I consider it right, as long as I am in this *earthly* dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder,

¹⁴ knowing that the laying aside of my *earthly* dwelling is imminent, as also our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me.

¹⁵ And I will also be diligent that at any time after my departure you will be able to call these things to mind.



¹⁶ For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty.

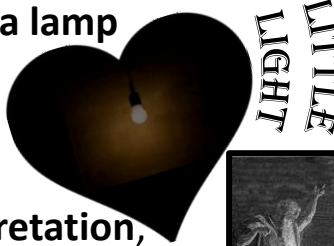


¹⁷ For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, "This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased"

¹⁸ and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain



¹⁹ So we have the prophetic word *made* more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.



²⁰ But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is *a matter* of one's own interpretation,

²¹ for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.



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.

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.

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.

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.

Peter testifies that he is a first-hand eyewitness to the transfiguration. (Matthew 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-36).

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

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).

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

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."

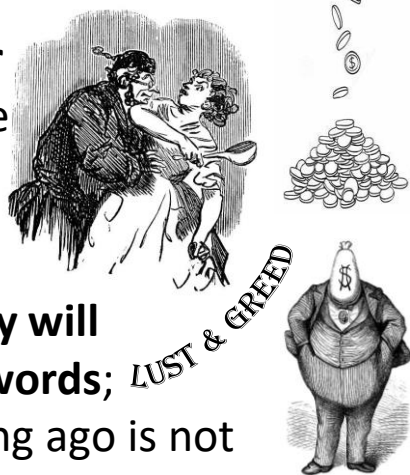
Man cannot influence the truths (past, present, or future) of God based on one's own agenda (e.g., Balaam in Numbers 22:18).

False Prophets & Teachers are motivated by worldly desires instead of the Spirit

¹ 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 **sensuality**, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned;



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.

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 Teaching (2 Peter 2:1-3)

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

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.

False Christian leaders with sinful lifestyles cause confusion and criticism.

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."

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 study of angels is called "Angelology."

The Gnostics had surmised a great deal about angels, and the various hierarchies and roles of angels between God and man.

The reference to the "Master" (despotēn δεσπότην) is the Goel (kinsman redeemer) who paid the price to redeem the family member (2 Peter 2:1)

The term "fabricated words" (plastois logos - 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."

Experience shows that God knows how to judge the wicked while saving His people

Judgment & Salvation (2 Peter 2:4-11)

⁴ For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into “hell” (*Tartarus*) and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment;

⁵ and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;

⁶ and if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing *them* to ashes, having made them an example to those who would live ungodly *lives* thereafter;

⁷ and if He rescued righteous Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled 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 temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment,

¹⁰ and especially those who indulge the flesh in *its* corrupt desires and despise authority. Daring, self-willed, they do not tremble when they revile angelic

¹¹ whereas angels who are greater in might and power do not bring a reviling judgment against them before the Lord.



The sinful angels of 2 Peter 2:4 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 (תָּמִים) which may mean that he was solely human without Nephilim genetics. (Genesis 6:9)

Tartarus (“the dark abode of woe”) is only mentioned in the Bible in 2 Peter 2:4, 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” (σειrais zophou - σειραῖς ζόφου) referred to “large underground granaries.”

Unlike the false teachers, Noah was a preacher of righteousness (Luke 17:26-27)

The devastation of Sodom and Gomorrah is to serve as an example of God’s judgment.

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).

Wickedness occurs when mankind transgresses boundaries established by God; afterwards, God judges man for his wicked actions.

The righteousness of Lot was evident by his grief of the sin around him (Luke 17:28-29; Ezekiel 9:4)

Whether offering a plan of salvation or rapturing His people from Tribulation, God knows how to rescue His people from destruction.

God also knows how to judge the wicked as well as hold them for judgment. (2 Peter 2:9)

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.)

Wicked men despise “authority”

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)

False Teachers misuse Biblical knowledge to mislead others for personal gain

Self-Seeking False Teachers (2 Peter 2:12-19)

¹² But these, like unreasoning animals, born as creatures of instinct to be captured and killed, reviling where they have no knowledge, will in the destruction of those creatures also be destroyed, ¹³ suffering wrong as the wages of doing wrong.



They count it a pleasure to revel in the daytime.

They are stains and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, as they carouse 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.

PAY TO PLAY

INSANITY

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.

SIN



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.

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.

Every thought of these sexual predators was towards self-seeking gratification.

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)

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

While historically, flagrant sin had 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)

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.

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).

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

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)

A Caution of Returning to Sin (2 Peter 2:20-22)

Believers are to apply the spiritual truths entrusted to them

20 For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the 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 be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment handed on 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."



Proverbs 26:11



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.

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.

2 Peter 2:20 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)

"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)

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.

If (after escaping the bondage of sin) the believer is enslaved again, the state of the fallen believer is worse than his original state – his spiritual conscious is callous

Both dogs and pigs are despised in the Jewish culture.

"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)

The proverb of the hog is from the Aramaic wisdom book of Ahikar (əhī'kār' אחיכר), 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.

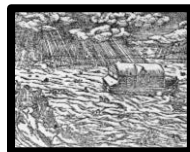
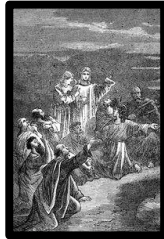
In the end, Nadan would betray Ahikar & Assyria which led to Nadan's execution.

Ahikar is referenced in the Jewish book Tobit as a wise man from one of Israel's northern ten tribes that were exiled.

The Jewish audience recognized the story, but Ahikar's wisdom book was not inspired.

Those who mock God's word do not know history or science

¹ 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. ³ Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with *their* mocking, following after their own lusts, ⁴ and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For *ever* since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation." ⁵ For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God *the* heavens existed long ago and *the* earth was formed out of water and by water, ⁶ through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water. ⁷ But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.



God's Timing (2 Peter 3:1-7)

This is the "second letter" & Peter is references 1 Peter as the earlier letter which Silvanus had assisted in writing (1 Peter 5:12)

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 mankind's poor judicial systems.

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).

"Fathers" might represent the Jewish forefathers of the Old Testament. (2 Peter 3:4)

The term "fell asleep" (ekoimēthēsan ἐκοιμήθησαν) is a metaphor for "death."

Deniers of the "second coming" actually fulfill this portion of Scripture.

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).



The Greek term for "destruction" (apōleias ἀπωλείας) is also translated "perdition." Apollyon (Apolluōn Ἀπολλύων) is the "destroyer angel." (Revelation 9:11)

The very thing that God used to form the world (water) was used to destroy the world in Noah's flood.

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

On judgment day, anything that is not of God will be destroyed. (1 Corinthians 3:10-15)

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)



When men believe that there is no accountability for sin, wickedness flourishes (2 Timothy 3:1-5).

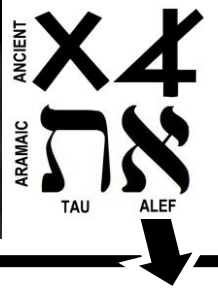
Supporters of evolution claim that the natural laws of this physical world are perpetual.

The Creation (Genesis 1:1-2)

“...by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water.” (2 Peter 3:5)

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)

Each day of creation concludes with the words “...and there was evening and morning”, but those words are not used in the first two verses.



An “Aleph” and a “Tau” follow the Hebrew term “Elohim.” These are silent characters that cannot be translated, but they symbolize Alpha/ Omega (the Beginning/End) which describes Jesus (Revelation 1:17-18).



The Earth is called the “water planet” with 326 million cubic miles of water covering 70% of our planet.

Water was already created (Job 38:8-9; 2 Peter 3:5; Psalms 24:2, 148:4-6; Proverbs 8:24)

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



¹In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
 ————— Time Gap —————
² And the earth was a formless and desolate emptiness, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

The “Gap Theory”

The “Gap Theory” proposes that much time expired between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2.

- Isaiah 45:18 reveals that God would never create a world that is "formless and void" - the same Hebrew terms are used.
- In fact, Genesis 1:2 is translated "the earth 'was' formless" but that very same Hebrew word (“was”) is translated "became" in Genesis 19:26; that would cause the reading to be "the earth became formless."
- God refers to a judged, sinful land as being “without form and void” (Jeremiah 4:23).

Fundamentals of Nature in the First Verse		
Genesis 1:1		
1.	Time	In the Beginning...
2.	Space	God created the Heavens...
3.	Matter	And the Earth...

Whether Jew or Gentile, God wants all men to be saved from righteous judgment

The Imminent Day of the Lord (2 Peter 3:8-13)

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.**

Psalm 90:4



⁹ The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.



¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.



¹¹ Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,



¹² looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!



¹³ But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.



Time & sequence are relevant to the Lord, but they are on a different scale than to mankind because physical man is temporal; time & sequence should be considered with an eternal perspective

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)

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). Scripture shows how the world will end; repentance from sin is the only way to save planet earth, and mankind will never concede to global repentance

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)



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)

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).

Everything will pass away except what has been done for the Lord. (1 Corinthians 3:10-15)

The Greek term "hastening" (speudontas σπεύδοντας) implies that believers can impact the timing of the second coming.

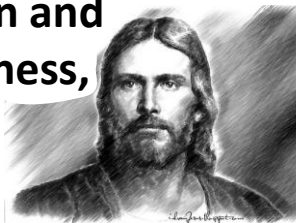
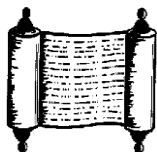
Every time that the Lord's prayer is prayed, there is a request for the second coming to occur – "thy kingdom come." (Matthew 6:10; Luke 11:2)

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)

Increase Knowledge to remain steadfast & Grace to increase to faithfulness of others

The Hope of Christ's Return (2 Peter 3:14-18)

¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, 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. ¹⁷ You 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.



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)

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)

"*Spotless & blameless*" 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) as well as terms used to describe the church as the bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:27)

2 Peter 3:15 supports the canonization of Paul's writings along with the Old Testament Scriptures.

False teachers misuse Scriptures to their own advantage. Believers must prayerfully and reasonably consider God's Word without mindlessly accepting statements that sound good from teachers esteemed by men. 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)

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)



Believers must be critical thinkers and defensive of the truth within them. In the first letter, Peter encouraged believers to "stand firm!" (1 Peter 5:12)

In 2 Peter 3:17, the term "*carried away*" (synapachthentes συναπαχθέντες) was even said of Barnabas in dealings with the Jews. (Galatians 2:13)

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)