

Bible Snapshots



Second Peter – Spiritual Diligence Author – 66 or 67, A.D., Peter

- Much like the first letter, Second Peter is written to encourage the saints to keep their faith in the midst of suffering (perils from without) and to continue to know and stand for truth in the face of mounting heresies and apostasy (perils from within). Since these Christians have become partakers in God's divine nature they were to continue to grow and never forget that they were once purged from their old sins.
- This book is Peter's "swan song, as Second Timothy is Paul's. Along with Paul, Peter sought to leave a lasting message that would continue to guide the saints after his death (1:13-15). As such he speaks of the eternal kingdom, Christ's second coming, judgment of the wicked and the day of the Lord.
- The authorship of the book was hotly debated and early church fathers rejected Peter's authorship for many years. However, the apostle Peter was later accepted as the author based on internal evidence (1:1; 1:13, 14; 1:16, 17; 3:1).
- The book has three chapters and 61 verses.

Key chapter / verse – 2 – warning against false teachers / 3:2

Key words / phrase – know (16X) and Knowledge (6X) / full of knowledge 3:2

Outline

- I. Address (1:1)
- II. Knowledge of God and Christian growth (1:2-21)
 - a. Our ample provision
 - b. Our actual progress
 - c. Our abiding pledge
- III. The knowledge of God and the Christian's peril (2:1-22)
 - a. False teacher doctrine
 - b. False teacher destruction
 - c. False teacher doings
- IV. The knowledge of God and the Christian's Hope (3:1-18)
 - a. The advent of truth assailed
 - b. The advent of truth attested
 - c. The advent of truth applied
- V. Doxology (3:18)

Scriptural arithmetic – (1:5-10) The second chapter of this epistle deals with the actions and dealings of false teachers and prophets. Peter essentially says that with false teachers spiritual things just don't add up. They ADD all sorts of liturgy (worship programs), subtract God's word, for man's reasoning, divide God's people and multiply confusion. However the true believer has a solid foundation, if he has built it. It begins with faith and adds virtue, then knowledge, then temperance, then patience, then godliness, then brotherly kindness and finally love. The one who does this will never be barren. Now, that adds up.

God spared not (2:4-6) – If we fall prey to the false teacher then we will not be spared, just as he did not spare angels that sinned (v. 4); the old world (v. 5); cities of Sodom and Gomorrah (v. 6); the nation of Israel (Rom. 11:21); churches (rev. 2:1-5); his own son (Rom. 8:32).

Jude and Second Peter controversy – There are many scholars who see the similarities between these two books as a swipe at the authenticity of either one or both of them. It is true that 15 of the 25 verse that make up Jude also appear in Second Peter. Yet, there are several things that discount such a view. First, the false teachers mentioned are similar, but not the same. Second, Jude is far harsher than Second Peter. Third, New Testament letters would have been circulated and read. Thus similarity in literary style or topic of discussion does not equate to either fabrication or the lack of authenticity.