

MASTER THE CONTENT OF SCRIPTURE



The Book of 2nd Peter

(Observe, Interpret, Apply & Go)

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THE BOOK OF 2ND PETER

Observe, Interpret & Apply

In our studies of the Bible, we will be using an inductive approach. This approach is a fun and exciting way to study the Bible! It's like being a detective. Instead of starting with a conclusion, you look at the details and clues in the text to discover the meaning for yourself.

Here's how you can do it:

1. **Observation:** First, you look closely at the Bible passage. You pay attention to:
 - a. Who is in the story
 - b. What is happening
 - c. Where it is taking place
 - d. When it is happening
 - e. Why things are happening
 - f. How they are happening.You write down or make a mental note of all the details you notice.
2. **Interpretation:** Next, you try to understand what those details mean.
 - a. You think about why the characters did what they did
 - b. You think about what the important words and phrases mean.
 - c. You may need to look up some words or ask questions to understand better.
3. **Application:** Finally, you think about how the story applies to our lives. What truth does it communicate?
 - a. What does it teach us about God?
 - b. What does it teach us about ourselves?
 - c. What action (s) does it call us to take?

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CHAPTER ONE

Summary of Chapter

Chapter 1 of 2 Peter opens with Peter's greeting to the recipients of his letter, affirming their shared faith. He emphasizes the importance of growing in virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love. Peter reminds them of the power and promises of God, urging them to be diligent in their spiritual growth to avoid falling into sin. He also stresses the reliability of the prophetic message, asserting that prophecy comes not from human will but from the Holy Spirit's guidance.

Opening Question

What are some qualities that you believe are important for spiritual growth, and why?

Outline

1. Greeting and Affirmation (2 Peter 1:1-2)

- Peter identifies himself and addresses the recipients as those who have obtained faith.
- He prays for grace and peace through the knowledge of God.
- *Application Question:* How does knowing you have obtained faith impact your daily life?

2. Call to Spiritual Growth (2 Peter 1:3-11)

- Peter discusses the divine power that has given everything needed for life and godliness.
- He lists qualities to develop: virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love.

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- *Application Question:* Which quality do you find most challenging to develop and why?

3. The Reliability of Prophecy (2 Peter 1:12-21)

- Peter affirms the truth of his teaching and the prophecy of Scripture.
 - He clarifies that prophecy is not a matter of personal interpretation but is inspired by the Holy Spirit.
 - *Application Question:* How does understanding the divine origin of Scripture influence your trust in its messages?
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Possible Activities

1. Memory Verse Challenge:

- Challenge students to memorize 2 Peter 1:5-7. Reward those who can recite the verse accurately by the next class.

2. Role Playing Activity:

- Divide students into groups and have each group act out a scenario where they demonstrate one of the qualities Peter lists (e.g., perseverance in a difficult situation).

3. Discussion Activity:

- Facilitate a discussion on the reliability of the prophetic message. Ask students how knowing that prophecy comes from the Holy Spirit affects their view of the Bible.
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Quiz

1. Who is the author of the book of 2 Peter?
 - A) Paul
 - B) Peter
 - C) John

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- D) James
- 2. According to 2 Peter 1:2, what is increased through the knowledge of God?
 - A) Faith
 - B) Grace and Peace
 - C) Wealth
 - D) Wisdom
- 3. What qualities does Peter urge believers to develop?
 - A) Virtue, Knowledge, and Wealth
 - B) Self-Control, Perseverance, and Love
 - C) Knowledge, Wealth, and Influence
 - D) Virtue, Knowledge, Self-Control, Perseverance, Godliness, Brotherly Kindness, and Love
- 4. How does Peter describe the source of prophecy?
 - A) Human Will
 - B) Personal Interpretation
 - C) The Holy Spirit
 - D) Historical Events
- 5. What does Peter say about his teaching?
 - A) It is based on personal opinions.
 - B) It is unreliable and needs further confirmation.
 - C) It is the truth and confirmed by the prophetic message.
 - D) It is irrelevant to the present day.
- 6. What should believers be diligent in according to Peter?
 - A) Accumulating wealth
 - B) Developing virtues and growing in spiritual qualities
 - C) Achieving fame
 - D) Avoiding hardships
- 7. How does Peter describe the prophetic message in relation to human will?
 - A) It is a result of human will.
 - B) It comes from human insight.

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- C) It is not from human will but from God.
 - D) It is influenced by personal desires.
8. What does Peter assure about the divine power?
- A) It is limited.
 - B) It provides some needs but not all.
 - C) It has given everything necessary for life and godliness.
 - D) It is only available to leaders.
9. What does Peter emphasize about his letters?
- A) They are temporary and changeable.
 - B) They are not essential for faith.
 - C) They are a reminder of the truths of the faith.
 - D) They are to be ignored.
10. According to 2 Peter 1:11, what will be provided to those who practice the qualities Peter lists?
- A) A lavish lifestyle
 - B) An abundant entrance into the kingdom of God
 - C) Instant fame
 - D) Complete comfort

Answers: 1. B 2. B 3. D 4. C 5. C 6. B 7. C 8. C 9. C 10. B

Fill in the Blank

1. Peter writes to those who have obtained _____ through the righteousness of God.
2. The divine power has granted us all things pertaining to _____ and _____.
3. Peter urges believers to add to their faith _____, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love.
4. Prophecy is not a matter of _____ but is inspired by the _____ Spirit.
5. Believers are to be diligent to make their calling and _____ sure.

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Answers: 1. Faith 2. Life, Godliness 3. Virtue 4. Human Will, Holy 5. Election

Vocabulary Words

1. **Virtue** - Moral excellence; from the Greek word "aretē," meaning moral excellence and goodness.
2. **Perseverance** - Steadfastness in doing something despite difficulty; from the Greek word "hupomonē," meaning endurance or steadfastness.
3. **Godliness** - Reverence and respect towards God; from the Greek word "eusebeia," meaning piety or devotion.
4. **Brotherly Kindness** - Affection towards fellow believers; from the Greek word "philadelphia," meaning brotherly love.
5. **Prophecy** - A message from God; from the Greek word "propheteia," meaning a discourse emanating from divine inspiration.

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CHAPTER TWO

Summary of Chapter

Chapter 2 of 2 Peter addresses the problem of false teachers infiltrating the church. Peter warns of their destructive doctrines and immoral behaviors, comparing them to past sinners who faced divine judgment. He describes their deceitful tactics, greed, and their fate of punishment. Peter emphasizes that despite their apparent success, their destruction is certain. He also contrasts these false teachers with the true believers, who are to remain steadfast in their faith. The chapter serves as a strong warning against corruption and a call to remain vigilant and righteous.

Opening Question

How can we recognize and protect ourselves from false teachings in today's world?

Outline

1. Warning Against False Teachers (2 Peter 2:1-3)

- False teachers introduce destructive heresies and deny Christ.
- They exploit others with deceptive words and greed.
- *Application Question:* How can we discern if someone is teaching false doctrine?

2. The Fate of False Teachers (2 Peter 2:4-10a)

- Peter describes their inevitable judgment, citing examples from the past: fallen angels, the flood, and Sodom and Gomorrah.
- He emphasizes that God knows how to rescue the godly and punish the unrighteous.
- *Application Question:* How does the certainty of judgment for false teachers influence your approach to understanding and teaching the Bible?

3. Characteristics of False Teachers (2 Peter 2:10b-22)

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- They live according to their sinful desires and are bold in their actions.
 - Their behavior reflects their true nature: deceptive and rebellious.
 - Peter warns that they are like unclean animals, leading others astray.
 - *Application Question:* What practical steps can we take to avoid being influenced by such behavior?
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Possible Activities

1. Memory Verse Challenge:

- Challenge students to memorize 2 Peter 2:1. Reward those who can recite the verse accurately by the next class.

2. Role Playing Activity:

- Divide students into groups and have each group create a skit that demonstrates how to confront and correct false teachings respectfully and biblically.

3. Discussion Activity:

- Facilitate a discussion on how to verify the authenticity of teachings and leaders in the church. Discuss strategies for seeking accountability and maintaining doctrinal purity.
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Quiz

1. What do false teachers introduce according to 2 Peter 2:1?
 - A) True teachings
 - B) Destructive heresies
 - C) New laws
 - D) Historical facts
2. How do false teachers exploit others?
 - A) Through honest teaching

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- B) Through deceptive words and greed
 - C) By promoting charity
 - D) Through community service
3. What examples does Peter use to illustrate the judgment of false teachers?
- A) The Exodus and the wilderness wanderings
 - B) The flood, Sodom and Gomorrah, and fallen angels
 - C) The plagues of Egypt
 - D) The conquest of Canaan
4. What does Peter say about the fate of the ungodly?
- A) They will be rewarded.
 - B) They will face certain destruction.
 - C) They will be ignored.
 - D) They will be forgiven.
5. How are false teachers described in terms of their actions?
- A) Humble and helpful
 - B) Bold and sinful
 - C) Innocent and pure
 - D) Peaceful and gentle
6. What do false teachers follow according to their nature?
- A) Righteousness
 - B) Holiness
 - C) Their sinful desires
 - D) Good works
7. What characteristic is NOT used to describe false teachers?
- A) Deceptive
 - B) Rebellious
 - C) Charitable
 - D) Greedy
8. How should true believers react to the presence of false teachers?
- A) Accept their teachings

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- B) Ignore them
 - C) Confront and correct them
 - D) Emulate their behavior
9. What analogy does Peter use to describe false teachers' behavior?
- A) Clean animals
 - B) Unclean animals
 - C) Healthy trees
 - D) Bright stars
10. What should believers be aware of regarding the outcome of false teachers?
- A) They will be rewarded.
 - B) They will face temporary challenges.
 - C) They will be judged and punished.
 - D) They will be accepted.

Answers: 1. B 2. B 3. B 4. B 5. B 6. C 7. C 8. C 9. B 10. C

Fill in the Blank

1. False teachers introduce _____ heresies and deny the _____.
2. They exploit others with _____ words and _____.
3. Peter uses the examples of fallen _____, the _____, and Sodom and Gomorrah to illustrate judgment.
4. The behavior of false teachers is characterized by _____ and _____ desires.
5. Peter warns that false teachers lead others _____ and their fate is _____.

Answers: 1. Destructive, Lord 2. Deceptive, Greed 3. Angels, Flood 4. Bold, Sinful 5. Astray, Destruction

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Vocabulary Words

1. **Heresies** - Beliefs or practices that deviate from established doctrine; from the Greek word "hairesis," meaning a choice or faction, especially one that causes division.
2. **Exploit** - To use someone unfairly for personal gain; from the Greek word "emporeuomai," meaning to travel for trade or to use unjustly.
3. **Destructive** - Causing harm or ruin; from the Greek word "apōleia," meaning loss or destruction.
4. **Rebellious** - Defying authority or control; from the Greek word "anupotaktos," meaning not subject to authority.
5. **Greedy** - Having an intense desire for wealth or possessions; from the Greek word "pleonexia," meaning avarice or covetousness.

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CHAPTER THREE

Summary of Chapter

Chapter 3 of 2 Peter focuses on the promise of Christ's return and the importance of living a holy life in anticipation of it. Peter addresses the skepticism some have regarding the delay of Jesus' return, explaining that God's timing is different from human timing. He describes the coming Day of the Lord, which will bring judgment and the destruction of the heavens and the earth. Peter encourages believers to live righteously and to hasten the coming of the Lord by their conduct. The chapter concludes with a call to grow in grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Opening Question

How does understanding the promise of Christ's return affect the way we live our daily lives?

Outline

1. The Promise of Christ's Return (2 Peter 3:1-7)

- Peter reminds believers of the prediction of scoffers in the last days.
- He explains that God's timing is different from human expectations and that the delay is due to God's patience.
- The heavens and earth are reserved for fire on the Day of Judgment.
- *Application Question:* How can understanding God's patience change our perspective on His promises?

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

- Peter describes the Day of the Lord as coming unexpectedly like a thief.
- The heavens will be destroyed by fire, and the earth will be laid bare.
- Believers are encouraged to live holy and godly lives in preparation for the new heaven and earth.

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- *Application Question:* What practical steps can we take to live a life that reflects our anticipation of Christ's return?

3. Final Exhortations (2 Peter 3:14-18)

- Peter urges believers to be diligent in their lives, making every effort to be found spotless and blameless.
 - He warns of the danger of being led astray by false teachings and encourages growth in grace and knowledge of Christ.
 - The chapter concludes with a reminder to remain steadfast and to look forward to Christ's return.
 - *Application Question:* How can we encourage one another to grow in grace and knowledge of Jesus?
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Possible Activities

1. Memory Verse Challenge:

- Challenge students to memorize 2 Peter 3:10. Offer a reward for those who can recite the verse accurately in the next class.

2. Role Playing Activity:

- Have students role-play a scenario where they explain to a skeptic why they believe in Christ's return and how it influences their life.

3. Discussion Activity:

- Facilitate a discussion on how believers can prepare for the Day of the Lord in their everyday actions and attitudes. Discuss ways to support one another in living a holy life.
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Quiz

1. What do scoffers in the last days question according to 2 Peter 3:3-4?

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- A) The existence of God
 - B) The promise of Christ's return
 - C) The reliability of Scripture
 - D) The authority of the church
2. Why is there a delay in Christ's return according to 2 Peter 3:9?
- A) God is uncertain
 - B) God is waiting for more people to believe
 - C) The world needs to be destroyed first
 - D) God has forgotten His promise
3. How will the heavens and earth be affected on the Day of the Lord?
- A) They will be renewed and strengthened
 - B) They will be destroyed by fire
 - C) They will be hidden from view
 - D) They will be transformed into gold
4. How should believers live in light of the coming Day of the Lord?
- A) Indifferently
 - B) Haphazardly
 - C) Holy and godly lives
 - D) Fearfully and anxiously
5. What will happen to the heavens and the earth according to 2 Peter 3:10?
- A) They will be restored to their original state
 - B) They will be consumed by fire
 - C) They will become invisible
 - D) They will be rebuilt
6. What does Peter encourage believers to do in 2 Peter 3:14?
- A) Avoid studying Scripture
 - B) Live without concern for their actions
 - C) Be diligent, spotless, and blameless
 - D) Seek wealth and prosperity
7. What danger does Peter warn about in 2 Peter 3:17?

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- A) Being led astray by false teachers
 - B) Being too cautious in faith
 - C) Being overly confident in their faith
 - D) Being too zealous in their works
8. What should believers grow in according to 2 Peter 3:18?
- A) Knowledge of the world
 - B) Knowledge of financial management
 - C) Grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ
 - D) Political influence
9. What attitude should believers have toward the promise of Christ's return?
- A) Skepticism
 - B) Indifference
 - C) Anticipation and preparedness
 - D) Disinterest
10. What does Peter say about how the Day of the Lord will come?
- A) As a predictable event
 - B) Like a thief in the night
 - C) Gradually over many years
 - D) As a result of natural causes

Answers: 1. B 2. B 3. B 4. C 5. B 6. C 7. A 8. C 9. C 10. B

Fill in the Blank

1. Scoffers question the promise of _____'s return, saying that everything continues as it _____.
2. The delay in Christ's return is due to God's _____, who desires everyone to come to _____.

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3. The Day of the Lord will come like a _____, and the heavens will be destroyed by _____.
4. Believers are encouraged to live _____ and _____ lives in anticipation of the new heaven and earth.
5. Peter warns of the danger of being led _____ by false teachings and urges growth in _____ and knowledge of Jesus.

Answers: 1. Christ, has been since creation 2. Patience, repentance 3. Thief, fire 4. Holy, godly
5. Astray, grace

Vocabulary Words

1. **Scoffers** - Those who mock or deride; from the Greek word "empaizo," meaning to mock or jest.
2. **Patience** - The quality of being patient; from the Greek word "makrothumia," meaning long-suffering or forbearance.
3. **Diligent** - Showing careful and persistent work or effort; from the Greek word "spoudaios," meaning earnest or eager.
4. **Blameless** - Without fault or defect; from the Greek word "amomos," meaning unblemished or spotless.
5. **Astray** - Away from the right path or direction; from the Greek word "plane," meaning to deceive or wander.