

## THE BIG READ (21)

### Jesus in 2 Peter

#### A. Introduction

1. Every book of the Bible has one dominating theme – Jesus is the Christ.

“Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, ‘This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.’”  
(Luke 24:45-47)

Jesus is the Christ who will suffer and die.

Jesus is the Christ who will rise from the dead on the third day.

Jesus is the Christ who will forgive the sins of all who repent.

Jesus is the Christ who will be preached to the nations.

2. The New Testament contains a number of epistles or letters sent to individual Christians or churches.

These letters address specific situations in the lives of believers and through them we are taught how to live as God’s people today.

Thirteen of these letters were written by the apostle Paul. The remaining nine letters were written by other church leaders, including the letter of 2 Peter.

3. 2 Peter was one of the last books to be accepted as being part of the New Testament.

*“No New Testament document had a longer or tougher struggle to win acceptance than 2 Peter.”  
(J.N.D. Kelly)*

#### B. Getting Started with 2 Peter

1. 2 Peter is the second of two letters written by the apostle Peter, who was one of the twelve disciples.

“Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ.” (2 Peter 1:1)

2. Peter is writing to the same people who wrote the letter of 1 Peter to.

“Dear friends, this is now my second letter to you. I have written both of them as reminders to stimulate you to wholesome thinking.” (2 Peter 3:1)

He was writing to Christians.

“To those who through the righteousness of our God and Saviour Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours: Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.” (2 Peter 1:1-2)

These Christians we know from the greeting in his first letter, were scattered across a wide area of what is today, Turkey.

“To God’s elect, strangers in the world, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia.” (1 Peter 1:1)

3. Peter is writing shortly before his death.

This letter is in the style of a farewell speech.



Chapter 1:1-11: Be certain about the Christian life.

Chapter 1:12-21: Be certain about the Bible.

Chapter 2: Be certain about the False Teachers.

Chapter 3: Be certain about the Judgment of God.

2. In the first section of this letter, Peter wants his readers to be certain about the Christian life.

Be certain that God has given us everything we need to become a Christian.

"To those who through the righteousness of our God and Saviour Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours." (2 Peter 1:1)

Be certain that God has given us everything we need to live as a Christian.

"His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires." (2 Peter 1:3-4)

Be certain that God has given us everything we need to grow as a Christian.

"For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." (2 Peter 1:5-8)

Be certain that God has given us everything we need to finish as a Christian.

"Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." (2 Peter 1:10-11)

3. In the next section of the letter, Peter wants his readers to be certain about the Bible.

Be certain that the Bible is historical.

"We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eye-witnesses of his majesty. For he received honour and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain." (2 Peter 1:16-18)

Be certain that the Bible is trustworthy.

"And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts." (2 Peter 1:19)

Be certain that the Bible is God's Word.

"Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." (2 Peter 1:20-21)

4. In the third section of the letter, Peter wants his readers to be certain about the False Teachers.

Be certain about their destructiveness.

"But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who

bought them – bringing swift destruction on themselves. Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up.” (2 Peter 2:1-3)

Be certain about their doom.

“Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping. For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment; if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly... if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment. This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desires of the sinful nature and despise authority.” (2 Peter 2:4-6, 9-10)

Be certain about their depravity.

“But these men blaspheme in matters they do not understand. They are like brute beasts, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like beasts they too will perish.” (2 Peter 2:12)

“With eyes full of adultery, they never stop sinning; they seduce the unstable; they are experts in greed – an accursed brood!” (2 Peter 2:14)

Be certain about their deceptions.

“For they mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of sinful human nature, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error. They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity – for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him.” (2 Peter 2:18-19)

5. Then in the final section of the letter, Peter wants his readers to be certain about the Judgment of God.

Be certain that God’s judgment will come like it has in the past.

“But they deliberately forget that long ago by God’s word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed.” (2 Peter 3:5-6)

Be certain that God’s judgment will come because He has promised it will.

“By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.” (2 Peter 3:7)

Be certain that God’s judgment will come when He is ready.

“But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.” (2 Peter 3:8-10)

Be certain that God’s judgment will come and bring about a new creation for His people.

“That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.” (2 Peter 3:12-13)

Be certain that God’s judgment will come and live your life like it will.

"Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming." (2 Peter 3:11-12)

"So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him." (2 Peter 3:14)

## **E. Jesus in 2 Peter**

### 1. He is the Righteous Lord.

"To those who through the righteousness of our God and Saviour Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours." (2 Peter 1:1)

### 2. He is the Speaking Lord.

"I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command give by our Lord and Saviour through your apostles." (2 Peter 3:2)

### 3. He is the Coming Lord.

"We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eye-witnesses of his majesty." (2 Peter 1:16)

### 4. He is the Patient Lord.

"But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:8-9)

### 5. He is the Judging Lord.

"But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare." (2 Peter 3:10)

### 6. He is the Lord we can know!

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." (2 Peter 3:18)