

THE SECOND LETTER OF PETER

{*This letter was written to warn Christians everywhere against false teachings and to urge them to hold fast to their faith. The scholars are divided about the authorship of this letter. Either it was written by Simon Peter, a disciple of Christ, as the letter indicates in 1:1, 3:1 or, it was written by a Christian leader who attributed his writing to Peter so that the letter might be more readily accepted by those who became acquainted with it's teachings.*}

INSCRIPTION

{*"The Second Epistle" Aleph, A & B. "The Second Catholic Epistle" P72, C, K, P, and a number of minuscules. "The Second Catholic Epistle from the Holy Apostle Peter" L & 049.*}

CHAPTER I

SALUTATION

<II Peter 1:1-2>

¹ [Simon] ¹ Peter, a servant (*literally, bond slave*) and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who through the righteousness of our God and our Savior Jesus Christ has been appointed (*or, chosen by lot*) to receive a faith that is equal in value (*or, as precious, equal in standing*) as our own: ² May grace and peace be abundantly yours, through your knowledge of God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

THE CHRISTIAN'S CALL AND ELECTION

<II Peter 1:3-15>

³ His divine power has been given to us so that all things necessary for life and piety come to us through knowing Him who has called us to His own glory and [virtue.] ² ⁴ It is through these things that He has granted us very great and precious promises in order that by means of these you might become those who share in the divine nature, having been enabled to escape from the corruption which is in the world because of unbridled passion (*or, evil desire*). ⁵ It is exactly for this reason, in addition to all your faith, that you supplement it by loving virtue. Exhibit your virtue with knowledge; ⁶ your knowledge with self-control; your self-control with patience (*or, courage*); your patience (*or, courage*) with piety (*or, godliness*); ⁷ your piety (*or, godliness*) with brotherly affection and your brotherly affection with love. <*Perhaps universal love. The Greek word is "αγαπω".*> ⁸ If you are in possession of all these qualities and they are able to increase, these will cause your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ to be such that it will not be inactive or unproductive. ⁹ Anyone in whom this is lacking is blind, short sighted, and forgetful that he has been cleansed from former sins. It is for this reason that you are to exert yourselves even more, ¹⁰ my dear friends (*literally, brothers*), to [confirm your calling and election] ³ for if you practice these things, you will never stumble. ¹¹ As a result a triumphal entry will be provided into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

¹² It is for this reason that I will constantly remind you of these things, even though you know them and are steadfast believers in the truth which you already possess. ¹³ I think, however, that it is right, as long as I remain in this bodily tent <*i.e. as long as I am alive*> to keep stirring you up by means of reminding you, ¹⁴ for I am aware that my time is brief (*literally, my tent will be taken down*), as our Lord Jesus Christ has made apparent to me. ¹⁵ Therefore I will make every effort to do my best to make it possible for you to keep these matters in mind when I am gone.

1 {C} The spelling of "Simon" varies in the manuscripts i.e. Simon or Simeon.

2 {D} The word is used in different forms in the manuscripts.

3 {B} So: P72, B, C, K, P, 049, 056, 0146, 0209 & many minuscules. "confirm through your works, your calling and election" Psi, 81, 629, Old Latin, Harelean & Palestinian Syriac, Sahidic & Bohairic Coptic & Armenian. "through your good works" Peshitta Syriac & Ethiopic.

CHRIST'S GLORY AND THE PROPHETIC WORD

<II Peter 1:16-21>

16 When we acquainted you with the power and the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ we were not accepting skillfully contrived fables for we had been eyewitnesses of His majesty. <The Greek word "μεγαλειοτης" includes the concept of divine greatness.> 17 He was receiving honor and glory from God the Father and out of (or, sent from) this wondrous glory came that voice which said, ["This is my Son, my beloved,]⁴ with whom I take delight!" 18 We ourselves heard this voice from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. 19 Because of this we have reaffirmed the prophetic word. 20 You should wisely pay attention to it, for it is like a lamp that is shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. This is of first importance! 21 Remember that no prophetic writings (or, Scripture) can be explained through private (or, individual) interpretation; for holy men who were [from God]⁵ spoke as they were impelled by (or, under the influence of) the Holy Spirit.

CHAPTER II

FALSE PROPHETS AND TEACHERS

<II Peter 2:1-22>

1 There were also false prophets among the people just as there will be false teachers among you also. These will cunningly introduce ruinous heresies, even denying the master who brought them and thus bringing swift destruction on them. 2 Additionally, many will follow them in their immoral ways and through these the true way will be brought to disrepute. 3 Motivated by their greed they will exploit you with their deceitful arguments. Even in times past their condemnation has not remained idle and their destruction has not been sleeping.

4 God did not spare the angels who had sinned but hurled them into the gloomy[pit]⁶ of Tartarus (so, literally) <i.e. the nether regions. The Greek word comes from mythology, being an eternal abyss later called Hades. In Greek mythology Zeus hurled the rebel Titans into Tartarus.> to be kept for judgment. 5 Nor did He spare the ancient world, though He preserved Noah, <The name means "rest". cf. Genesis 5-9> that proclaimer of righteousness and seven other persons with him, when He brought the deluge upon the ungodly world, 6 and as He [condemned]⁷ the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah <cf. Genesis 19:1-29 Sodom means "burnt". Gomorrah means "submersion". These cities located near the Dead Sea, were destroyed because of their refusal to obey God.> by reducing them to ashes and condemned them to destruction as an example to the godless of what is to happen to them. 7 Righteous Lot, <The name means "covering". cf. Genesis 11, 19:6-20> however, was rescued, distressed as he was, by the immoral behavior of the lawless, 8 for day after day the lawless deeds of his neighbors greatly tortured his upright soul because of all he saw and heard. 9 The Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation and to keep the evil ones under punishment for the day of judgment, 10 especially those who yield themselves to sensuality and

4 {C} Some manuscripts say, "This is my Son, my beloved". Others omit "my". While the manuscripts vary, the thought is clear.

5 {B} So: P72, B, P, many minuscules, Harclean Syriac, Bohairic Coptic & Armenian. "the Holy One" 431 & Sahidic Coptic. "Holy God" Aleph, K, Psi, 049, many other minuscules, Old Latin & Peshitta Syriac..

6 {D} There is a spelling difference in the manuscripts. These reflect two different meanings: "pit" "σιτρος" and "chains" "σειρα". Textual evidence is rather equally balanced.

7 {D} So: P72, B, C in the original hand, a number of minuscules & Bohairic Coptic. "catastrophic condemnation" Aleph, A, C in the second corrective hand, H, K, Psi, 049, 056, 0132, many minuscules, Old Latin, Peshitta & Harclean Syriac Sahidic Coptic, Armenian & Ethiopic..

indulge in polluted passions and despise authority.

Bold and self-willed they have no qualms in insulting the angelic beings (*literally, the glorious ones*)¹¹ whereas these angelic beings are far greater than they, *<i.e. the false teachers>* in might and power and do not bring defaming accusations against them in the presence of the [Lord.]⁸
¹² They are like irrational brutes born to be caught and killed, while in their ignorance they insult what they do not understand. Their own corruption will destroy them. ¹³ They will be [rewarded]⁹ *<The Greek word "αδικεω" implies being deprived of a reward or, to damage.>* for they are evil. They revel in luxury in broad daylight. They are stains *<The Greek word "stains" "σπιλος" can often also be translated as "reef".>* and blemishes while they gorge themselves at love feasts, feeding on their own [deceptions.]¹⁰ ¹⁴ Their eyes are filled with adultery and insatiable sin. These set traps to catch the unsteady souls. Their own hearts are trained for greediness. They are a curse (*literally, children of a curse*)!¹⁵ Having left the straight path they have strayed as they have followed the path of Balaam, the son of [Beor]¹¹ *<cf. Numbers 22:5>* who preferred the ways of wickedness. ¹⁶ However, he was convicted of his transgression. A dumb beast of burden *<i.e. a donkey>*, speaking with a human voice, halted the prophet's madness. *<Balaam means "destroyer of the people" Beor means "a burning".>*

¹⁷ These are people (*literally, men*) who are waterless wells (*or, springs*), mists driven by storm. The depths of darkness are reserved for them. ¹⁸ Their frivolous and arrogant talk, their immoral passions, are used to make victims of (*or, lure*) those who have [barely]¹² escaped the errors of those who misbehave. ¹⁹ While they promise freedom, they are, themselves, the slaves of corruption. ²⁰ For if those who have escaped the condemnation of the world through the knowledge of [our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,]¹³ such people are again entangled and overcome, their last condition being worse than their first. ²¹ It would have been better for them if they had never known the way of righteousness than, after having had knowledge of it [to turn back]¹⁴ from the sacred commandment which they had been taught. ²² In their case the truth of the proverb is confirmed:

'The dog returns to what has been vomited.' (*cf. Proverbs 26:11*)

and

'The washed sow returns to wallowing in the mud.'

<The source of this proverb is not known. This statement reappears in the Syrian story of Ahikar which was in existence in the second century.>

CHAPTER III THE PROMISE OF THE LORD'S COMING <II Peter 3:1-18>

8 {C} Minor variants occur.

9 {C} So: P72, Aleph in the original hand, B, P & Psi, Peshitta Syriac & Armenian. "they will receive" Aleph in the third corrective hand, A, C, K, 049, 056, 0142, minuscules, Old Latin, Harclean Syriac, Sahidic & Bohairic Coptic & Ethiopic.

10 {D} So: P72, Aleph A in the original hand, H, C, K, P, 049, 056, 0149, minuscules, Harclean Syriac, Bohairic Coptic & Armenian. "love feasts" A in the third corrective hand, B, Psi, Old Latin, Peshitta & Sahidic Coptic & Ethiopic.

11 {B} So: B. "Bosor" P75, Aleph in the third corrective hand, A, C, K, P, Psi, 048, 049, 056, 0142 & many minuscules. "Beorsor" (Βεωρσορ) Aleph in the original hand. Other minor variants occur.

12 {C} So: P72, Aleph in the third corrective hand, A, B, Psi & a number of minuscules, Old Latin, Peshitta & Harclean Syriac, Sahidic & Bohairic Coptic & Ethiopic. "certainly" Aleph in the original hand, C, K, P, 048, 049, 056, 0142, & several other minuscules.

13 {C} So: P72, Aleph, A, C, P, Psi, 048, 056, 0142, several minuscules, a few Old Latin, Harclean Syriac, Sahidic Coptic & Armenian. Other manuscripts alter the word order.

14 {C} So: P72, B, C, P & several minuscules. "to turn around" K, 049, 056, 0142 & many minuscules. "to turn back to the past" Aleph, A, Psi, 048 & several minuscules. Other variants occur.

1 This, my dear friends, is the second letter I am writing you, to arouse in your memory the sincere understanding of the words spoken beforehand 2 by the holy prophets and through the apostles and also the commands of our Lord and Savior. 3 First of all, understand this: in the last days scoffers (*or, persons who scoff at religion*) will come: persons who are ruled by their own passions 4 and who are saying, 'What has happened to the promise of His return? Ever since our ancestors have fallen asleep *<i.e. died>* everything has remained the same as it was from the beginning of creation.' 5 They are deliberately blind to the fact that in accordance with the Word of God, heaven and earth were standing partially above and partially below the water (*or, separated the earth from the ancient waters and brought dry land out from the water*) 6 by means of which the world *<The Greek word "κοσμος" denotes a world of order and harmony.>* as it then existed was deluged with water and was destroyed. 7 Now the present heaven and earth are by means of the same command stored up *<i.e. as a treasure of valuable goods might be stored >* for fire. They are being kept for the day of judgment when the godless (*literally, godless men*) will be destroyed.

8 Do not overlook one thing, my dear friends, that to the Lord one day is as a thousand years and a thousand years is as one day. *<God measures time in a different manner than do humans.>*

9 The Lord is not tardy in doing what He has promised, as some people (*literally, men*) consider tardiness, but He is patient [with you,] 15 desirous that no one should perish but that all should find their way to repentance. 10 Now therefore, the Day of the Lord will come like thief. Then the heavens will vanish with a great rushing (*or, hissing*) sound, the burning elements *<i.e. the heavenly bodies>* will be melted. The earth also, along with all human endeavors (*literally, works*) will [vanish.] 16 11 Since [these things] 17 are on the verge of dissolving in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in holy living and godliness of conduct 12 as you expect and assist in hastening the coming of the Day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved in blasting fire and the elements will burn and melt? We, however, are in agreement with His promise. 13 We are anticipating (*literally, looking for*) new heavens and a new earth in accordance with His promise, one in which righteousness dwells.

14 Accordingly, my dear friends, as you are anticipating this, do your utmost to be found by Him without blemish and blameless, being in peace. 15 Also consider the patience of our Lord on behalf of (*literally, for*) your salvation as our dear (*or, beloved*) brother Paul *<The name means "little". cf. Acts 13 ff.>* has also written to you, in the light of (*literally, in accordance with*) the wisdom that has been granted to him. 16 That is what he says in all his letters when he speaks of these subjects. Some of his statements are difficult to comprehend. Those who are poorly taught and who lack stability twist those writings in the same manner in which they twist the other scriptures -- to their own ruin. 17 You, therefore, my dear friends have been warned in advance. You must be on guard so that you will not be led by the errors of lawless persons or fall away from your own steadfastness (*or, your own stable position*). 18 Grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior

15 {B} So: P72, B, C, 056, many minuscules, Bohairic Coptic & Aramaic. "on your account" Aleph, A, Psi, many minuscules, Peshitta & Harclean Syriac, Sahidic & some Bohairic Coptic & Ethiopic.

16 {D} So: C. The word "ευρεθησεται" "be discovered" as found in Aleph, B, K, P, 0156 & several minuscules, selected by Nestle-Aland, is difficult to interpret. Cf. the apparatus for possible emendations. The word literally means "to be found" in a future passive indicative form. "not discovered" all Syriac versions. "consumed by fire" A, 048, 049, 056, 0142, many minuscules, Old Latin, Harclean Syriac, Bohairic Coptic & Ethiopic. Other variants also occur.

17 {C} So: P72, B, many minuscules & Harclean Syriac. "these things are therefore.." Aleph, A, K, Psi, 048, 049, many minuscules, Old Latin, Peshitta Syriac & Bohairic Coptic. Other variants also occur.