NEW TESTAMENT · GENERAL EPISTLES · BOOK 61 OF 66

2 Peter

Grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord (3:18)

3	c. A.D. 66–68	8	“Grow”
Chapters, 61 Verses	Written	Virtues (1:5–7)	(3:18)

BACKGROUND

A Farewell Letter

NAME

2 Peter

By “Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ” (1:1); “this second epistle” (3:1).

AUTHOR

Simon Peter

An eyewitness of the transfiguration (1:16–18).

DATE

c. A.D. 66–68

Shortly before Peter’s death (1:14), about A.D. 66–68.

PURPOSE

Remember

Peter writes “to stir you up by putting you in remembrance” (1:13).

A CLOSE PARALLEL

2 Peter 2 and Jude

2 Peter	Jude
False teachers deny the Lord — 2:1	v. 4
Angels kept in chains of darkness — 2:4	v. 6
Sodom and Gomorrah — 2:6	v. 7
Speaking evil of dignities — 2:10–11	vv. 8–9
Like brute beasts — 2:12	v. 10
The way of Balaam — 2:15	v. 11
Clouds and wells without water — 2:17	vv. 12–13
Mockers in the last time — 3:2–3	vv. 17–18

Peter and Jude warn against the same kind of false teachers in very similar words.

STRUCTURE

The Book in Four Parts



Each bar shows that part’s share of the 61 verses.

I · 1:1–11 · 11 verses

Growing in the Knowledge of Christ

Precious promises and the virtues of faith.

II · 1:12–21 · 10 verses

Peter’s Reminder and the Sure Word

Eyewitnesses of His majesty and the word of prophecy.

III · 2:1–22 · 22 verses

Warning Against False Teachers

Their judgment, their character and their end.

IV · 3:1–18 · 18 verses

The Promise of the Lord’s Return

Scoffers, God’s patience, and the day of the Lord.

True Knowledge

- Precious promises (1:4)
- Eyewitnesses (1:16)
- The sure word (1:19)

False Teaching

- Damnable heresies (2:1)
- Promises of liberty (2:19)
- Scoffers (3:3–4)

2 PETER AT A GLANCE · PART 2 OF 4

Growing in the Knowledge of Christ

CHAPTER 1

Precious Promises

> *"According as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue."*
>
> 2 Peter 1:3 (KJV)

1:5–7

Add to Your Faith

1 1
Faith
The foundation

2 2
Virtue
Moral excellence

3 3
Knowledge
Of Christ

4 4
Temperance
Self-control

1 5
Patience
Endurance

2 6
Godliness
Devotion to God

3 7
Brotherly Kindness
Love of the brethren

4 8
Charity
Love

"Give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall" (1:10).

1:12–21

Eyewitnesses and the Sure Word

1:14
My Tabernacle
"Shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me."

1:16
Eyewitnesses
"We have not followed cunningly devised fables … but were eyewitnesses of His majesty."

1:19
A Light
"As unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn."

1:21
Inspired
"Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

Warning Against False Teachers

CHAPTER 2

False Teachers

> *"There shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them."*
>
> 2 Peter 2:1 (KJV)

2:4–9

Judgment and Deliverance

Judged

- The angels that sinned (2:4)
- The old world of the ungodly (2:5)
- Sodom and Gomorrah (2:6)

Delivered

- Noah, a preacher of righteousness (2:5)
- Just Lot (2:7)

"The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished" (2:9).

2:10–22

Their Character

2:15

Balaam's Way

They love the wages of unrighteousness.

2:17

Empty

"These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest."

2:19

False Liberty

"While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption."

The Promise of His Coming

CHAPTER 3

The Promise of His Coming

3:3–4
Scoffers
"Where is the promise of His coming?"

3:5–7
They Forget
Creation, the flood, and the fire to come

3:8
God's Time
"One day is with the Lord as a thousand years"

3:10
As a Thief
The day of the Lord will come

3:13
New Heavens
"Wherein dwelleth righteousness"

> *"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."*
> 2 Peter 3:9 (KJV)

"What manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness" (3:11). Peter calls Paul "our beloved brother" (3:15).

BIG IDEAS

Key Themes

Knowing Christ
True knowledge.
1:2–3; 3:18

Growth
Add to your faith.
1:5–10

The Word
Moved by the Holy Ghost.
1:19–21

False Teaching
Denying the Lord.
2:1–3

His Return
As a thief.
3:4–10

Holy Living
Without spot.
3:11–14

KEY VERSE

"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and for ever. Amen."

2 Peter 3:18 (KJV)