

2 Peter Outline

I. Remember the Greatness of Salvation (1:1-11)

- Called us to his own glory and excellence (vs 3)
- Granted to us precious and very great promises (vs 4)
- Escaped the corruption of the world (vs 4)
- If you are diligent to pursue holiness, you will not be ineffective and unfruitful in your walk (vs 8)
- If you practice these things, you will never fall (vs 10)
- We have a rich welcome in the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior (vs 11)

II. Trust the Certainty of Scripture (1:12-21)

- Peter wants to stir us up by way of reminder
- Peter didn't make this up, but was an eyewitness of the Lord, not only in his every day life but also in a glimpse of His kingdom majesty
- The prophetic word is more sure than anyone's experiences

III. Beware of Deceptive False Teachers (2:1-22)

IV. Hope in the Promised Future (3:1-16)

1 Peter 5:1-4

⁵ So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: ² shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; ³ not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory

Titus 1:9

⁹ He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

III. Beware of Deceptive False Teachers (2:1-22)

2 Peter 2:1-3

2 But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. ² And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. ³ And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

A. High Alert for False Teachers (vs 1-3)

- They were in the OT
- They are here now
- MANY follow them
- They are sensual, they are arrogant, judgment is coming

B. Divine Precedent for False Teachers (vs 4-8)

1. Supernatural Judgment (vs 4)

⁴ For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains² of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment;

2. World-Wide Judgment (vs 5)
⁵ if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;
3. Hellfire Judgment (vs 6) - Sodom & Gomorrah reduced to ashes to extinction
⁶ if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly;
4. Righteous Rescue (vs 7-8) - Righteous Lot rescued from lawless people
⁷ and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked ⁸ (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard);

Proof of the Lord's Rescue & Punishment

2 Peter 2:4, 9 (Supernatural Judgment)

⁴ For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment;

*⁹ then **the Lord knows** how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment,*

2 Peter 2:5, 9 (World-Wide Judgment)

⁵ if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;

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2 Peter 2:6, 9 (Hellfire Judgement)

⁶ if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly;

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2 Peter 2:7-9 (Righteous Rescue)

⁷ and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked ⁸ (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard);

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C. The Lord Knows (vs 9)

1. **How to Rescue the Redeemed**
2. How to Guard the Guilty

“Rescue” - Gr. *ῥύομαι* (*rhuomai*) - deliver

- Same as verse 7, “rescuing” righteous Lot

“Trials/Temptations” - Gr. *πειρασμός* (*peirasmos*) - examination, submit another to a test, to learn the true nature or character, trial given for the purpose to make one stumble

- “Trial” - James 1:2 “Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet **trials** of various kinds”
- “Temptation” - Luke 4:13 “And when the devil had ended every **temptation**, he departed from him until an opportune time. “
 - Matthew 6:13 “And lead us not into **temptation**, but deliver us from evil. “

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (*How to Rescue the Godly*)

¹³ But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁵ For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ **Therefore encourage one another** with these words.”

Psalms 27:1 (*No Fear*)

27 Of David.

¹ The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Proverbs 1:33 (*No fear*)

³³ but whoever listens to me will dwell secure
and will be at ease, without dread of disaster.”

For the godly, the redeemed, those purchased of God, **The Lord Knows...**

When you're in that trial and no one else does
When you're under temptation, even if you don't hardly recognize it yourself
When to let you suffer when it's going to produce great fruit in you
When to rescue you and set your feet on solid ground
When to open the flood gates of His blessings and how to distribute them
When to stretch you beyond what you can handle so you cling to Him and Him alone
Your coming in and your going on
Your beginning and your ending and what awaits you on the other side
So be encouraged

C. The Lord Knows (vs 9)

1. How to Rescue the Redeemed
2. **How to Guard the Guilty**

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“Keep” - Gr. τηρέω (*tēreō*) - to watch over, guard, narrowly watch

Acts 16:23 ²³ And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to **keep** them safely.

- Also used as “keeping commands” or “obeying/observing the law”

“Under punishment” - Gr. κολάζομαι (*kolazomai*) - punish, chastise, restrain

- Punishment now is only temporary, final judgment is coming at the Great White Throne and the Lake of Fire awaits (Revelation 20:11-15)

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 (*How to Punish the Unrighteous*)

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. ² For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴ But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵ For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. ⁶ So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. ⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹ For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. ¹¹ **Therefore encourage one another** and build one another up, just as you are doing.

For the ungodly, the reprobate, the enemies of God, **The Lord Knows...**

Their thoughts, their deceptions, their lusts, their plans

How to deal with them day by day

How to restrain them in order to protect His sheep

How to chastise them now as they store up wrath for themselves

How and when to strike them down when their iniquities are full

That eternal torment is their future state and they will be fully under His judgment

C. The Lord Knows (vs 9)

1. How to Rescue the Redeemed
2. How to Guard the Guilty

Peter circles back around to give fuller detail of these False Teachers

Vs 1 - 3 - Intro - they secretly come in, deny the Master, many will follow their sensuality, they will exploit you in their greed

Vs 4 - 9 - Proof that their will be condemnation for the False Teachers

Vs 10-16 - A more comprehensive picture of the False Teachers

D. Carnal Traits of False Teachers (vs 10-16)

1. **Unrestrained Licentiousness (vs 10a)**
2. Reckless Arrogance (vs 10b-11)
3. Senseless Impiety (vs 12)
4. Disgusting Deception (vs 13)
5. Pathological Sinners (vs 14)
6. Unmerciful Mercenary (vs 15-16)

10 and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority. Bold and willful, they do not tremble as they blaspheme the glorious ones,

“Especially those who indulge the flesh in its corrupt desires” (NAS)

“But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness” (KJV)

“Especially those who follow the polluting desires of the flesh” (HCB)

“Who indulge” (ESV), “Walk after the flesh” (KJV)

Gr. ὀπίσω (opisō) - go after

Gr. πορεύομαι (poreuomai) - to convey, to take over, to travel

Gr. σαρκός (sarkos) - human or animal body, physical nature

“Lust” - Gr. ἐπιθυμία (epithymia) - deep desire, longing (positive sense), coveting, craving (negative)

• 2 Peter 1:4, 3:3 (desires), 1 Peter 1:14, 2:11, 4:2, 4:3, 2 Peter 2:18 (passions), 2 Peter 2:10 (lust)

Philippians 1:23 ²³I am hard pressed between the two. My **desire** (*epithymia*) is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.

1 Peter 1:14 ¹⁴As obedient children, do not be conformed to the **passions** (*epithymia*) of your former ignorance,

“Defiling passion” - Gr. μiasμός (miasmos) - defilement, corruption, pollution

• Only place used in NT

• Staining by blood guiltiness

• English word “miasma” - noxious or poisonous atmosphere or emanation, especially from rotting organic matter

• Summarizing the culture of Sodom & Gomorrah

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10 and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority. Bold and willful, they do not tremble as they blaspheme the glorious ones, 11 whereas angels, though greater in might and power, do not pronounce a blasphemous judgment against them before the Lord.

“Despise” - Gr. καταφρονέω (kataphroneō) - scorn, show contempt

“Authority” - Gr. κυριότης (kyriotēs) - ruling power, human authority, supernatural power, celestial dominion

• From the same root as Lord “sovereign God” κύριος (*kyrios*)

• Same as the rebellion of the fallen angels to the authority of Yahweh

• There’s an actual hatred for God and His rule

“**Bold**” - Gr. *τολμητής* (*tolmētēs*) - darers, reckless ones, presumptuous

“**Willful**” - Gr. *αυθάδης* (*authadēs*) - arrogant, overbearing, stubborn self-will, self-pleasing

Daniel 4:30 (*Nebuchadnezzar before being cast into the wilderness*)

³⁰ and the king answered and said, “Is not this great Babylon, which I have built by **my** mighty power as a royal residence and for the glory of **my** majesty?”

Peter: Here’s an example of their reckless arrogance...”they do not tremble as they blaspheme the glorious ones”

“**Tremble**” - Gr. *τρέμω* (*tremō*) - shake the body, fear, respect

- Where we get the word “tremor”

Mark 5:33 (*Woman who touched Jesus’ garment and was healed*)

³³ But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and **trembling** and fell down before him and told him the whole truth.

“**Blaspheme**” - Gr. *βλασφημέω* (*blasphēmeō*) - insult, slander, curse

Mark 15:29 (*onlookers at the crucifixion*)

²⁹ And those who passed by **derided** (*blasphēmeō*) him, wagging their heads and saying, “Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days,

“**Glorious ones**” (ESV), “**Angelic Majesties**” (NAS), “**Dignitaries**” (NKJ)

- Gr. *δόξα* (*doxa*) - splendor, brightness, shine, radiance
- supernatural, state of being wonderful

2 Peter 1:3 “...through the knowledge of him who called us to his own **glory** and excellence”

False Teachers have an incredibly inflated view of themselves in world of spiritual warfare

Ephesians 6:12 (*Paul’s terms for Satan and his demons are very respectful*)

¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against **the rulers**, against the **authorities**, against the **cosmic powers** over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

John 12:31 (John calls Satan “ruler of this world”, not some pejorative)

³¹ Now is the judgment of this world; now will the **ruler of this world** be cast out.

Ephesians 2:2 “...the prince of the power of the air”

¹¹ whereas angels, though greater in might and power, do not pronounce a blasphemous judgment against them before the Lord.

Jude 9

⁹ But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, **he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment**, but said, “The Lord rebuke you.”

Acts 19:13-16

¹³ Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists undertook to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims."

¹⁴ Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this. ¹⁵ But the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?" ¹⁶ And the man in whom was the evil spirit leaped on them, mastered all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded

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Additional Resources:

2 Peter 2:9

Charles H. Spurgeon Sermon Notes on 2 Peter 2:9

2 Peter 2:9—“The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished.”

“The Lord knoweth.” Our faith in the superior knowledge of God is a great source of comfort to us—

In reference to perplexing doctrines.

In reference to puzzling prophecies.

In reference to amazing promises.

In reference to distressing providences.

In reference to grievous temptations.

In our entrance upon an unknown world in the last solemn article in death.

The government of this world and the next is in the hands of the all-knowing One, who cannot be mistaken, nor taken at unawares.

I. The Lord’s knowledge in reference to character.

1. He knows the godly—

Under trial, when they are not known to others.

Under temptation, when scarcely known to themselves.

2. He knows the unjust—

Though they may make loud professions of piety.

Though they may be honoured for their great possessions.

No error either as to partiality or severity is made by God.

II. The Lord’s knowledge in reference to the godly.

A people knowing, fearing, trusting, loving God.

He knows how to let them suffer, and yet to deliver them in the most complete and glorious manner.

1. His knowledge answers better than theirs would do.

2. His knowledge of their case is perfect. Before, in, and after temptation he knows their sorrows.

3. He knows in every case how to deliver them.

4. In every case there must therefore be a way of escape.

5. He knows the most profitable way of deliverance for themselves.

6. He knows the way which will be most glorifying to himself.

7. His knowledge should cause them to trust in him with holy confidence, and never to sin in order to escape.

III. The Lord’s knowledge in reference to the unjust.

They are unjust in all senses, for they are—

Not legally just by keeping the law;

Nor evangelically just through faith in Jesus;

Nor practically just in their daily lives.

The Lord knows best—

1. How to deal with them from day to day.

2. How to reserve them under restraints. He makes it possible to reprove them, and yet to maintain law and order.

2 Peter 2:9-11

3. How to punish them with unrest and fears even now.
4. How and when to strike them down when their iniquities are full.
5. How to deal with them in judgment, and throughout the future state. The mysteries of eternal doom are safe in his hand.

Two fine illustrations of the Lord's dealings with the righteous and the wicked may be found in Acts 12, in connection with Peter's life.

Peter in prison was unexpectedly set free.

Herod on the throne was eaten of worms.

Spurgeon, C. H. (2009). [*My Sermon Notes & 4: Matthew to Revelation*](#) (Vol. 3, pp. 364–365). Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software.

Revelation 20:11-15 (*Great White Throne Judgment to come for the ungodly*)

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. ¹³ And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. ¹⁵ And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

2 Peter 2:10

Ever since Satan's initial rebellion (cf. Ezek. 28:17), pride has been the primary characteristic of God's enemies (cf. 1 Tim. 3:6). False teachers, of course, can be no exception to this. Both their words and their actions betray attitudes of self-centered arrogance and **self-willed** presumption typical of the unregenerate who are the devil's children. They are brazen and audacious, **daring** (*tolmētai*—literally “darters” or “reckless ones”) to defy God in exalting themselves, no matter the consequences (e.g., 2 Chron. 32:25; Est. 3:5; Dan. 4:30; 5:20, 22–23; Acts 12:21–23). They are determined to have their own way at any cost, being stubborn and **self-willed** (*authadeis*)—a term that connotes a self-pleasing conceit and obstinacy.

To illustrate the extent of their unshakeable presumption, Peter notes that these false teachers **do not tremble when they revile angelic majesties**. **Revile** (*blasphēmeō*), of which the English word *blaspheme* is a transliteration, means “to slander” or “to speak lightly or profanely of sacred things” (cf. 2 Kings 19:4, 22; Ps. 74:18; 1 Tim. 1:20; Rev. 16:10–11). And **angelic majesties** in this context refers to demons (cf. Jude 8), who are **majesties** (*doxa*, “glories”) in that they possess a transcendent, supernatural being, beyond the human level (Eph. 6:12). Although these false teachers were mere mortals, who were by nature “lower than the angels” (Ps. 8:5 nkjv), they arrogantly considered themselves superior to angelic beings.

The Bible indicates that even fallen angels retain the imprint of divine majesty, a shadow of their pre-Fall glory. In this sense, they are like sinful men—who still retain the divine image (Gen. 1:26; Ps. 8:5)—and post-Fall creation—which still evidences its God-given magnificence (1 Cor. 15:40–41). Thus there remains a transcendent amount of dignity for demons, even though they are fallen. The apostle Paul implied this when he referred to demons as principalities, powers, and rulers (cf. 2 Cor. 10:3–5)—delineating at least three levels of majesty and authority within the demonic realm. Although they are certainly subservient to God, fallen angels (under the leadership

2 Peter 2:9-11

of Satan) wield extensive influence and power in this world (John 12:31; cf. Eph. 2:2). A powerful demon hindered the mighty angel Gabriel for twenty-one days from doing God's work until the archangel Michael and the most powerful angels came to help him (Dan. 10:13). Yet, the false teachers of Peter's day simply mocked demons fearlessly, presuming that they (as fallen men) were somehow greater than fallen angels.

It should be recognized that many modern false prophets in the extreme sectors of the charismatic movement make their fortunes supposedly binding and flippantly damning demons, as if they had real power over them. They are actually false exorcists like the "sons of one Sceva" (Acts 19:13–16) and perfectly fit Peter's description. Pagans develop elaborate schemes to appease their demonic gods. Yet, pseudo-Christian teachers and preachers brashly declare their authority over the forces of hell.

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2005). [2 Peter and Jude](#) (pp. 97–98). Chicago: Moody Publishers.

2 Peter 2:11

the false teachers did not fear demonic powers. Peter called them "glories," not because they were good but simply because they were created by God himself, even though subsequently they fell into sin. Perhaps the teachers did not tremble before them because they disbelieved in their existence. This would fit nicely with the skeptical worldview they adopted about the coming of the Lord (3:3–7). Or they may have ridiculed any idea that human beings should be frightened about the power of spiritual beings. Bauckham and Moo suggest that the teachers ridiculed the notion that their sins would make them the prey of evil angels. By way of contrast, good angels do not even declare God's judgment against evil angels. They leave it with the Lord. The prepositional phrase in Greek may mean, as the NIV translates, "in the presence of the Lord."⁷⁵ In this case, however, the NRSV has a more fitting translation, "from the Lord." The angels do not venture to declare a judgment from the Lord, but they entrust the fate of demons to the Lord's judgment.

Schreiner, T. R. (2003). [1, 2 Peter, Jude](#) (Vol. 37, pp. 348–349). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.