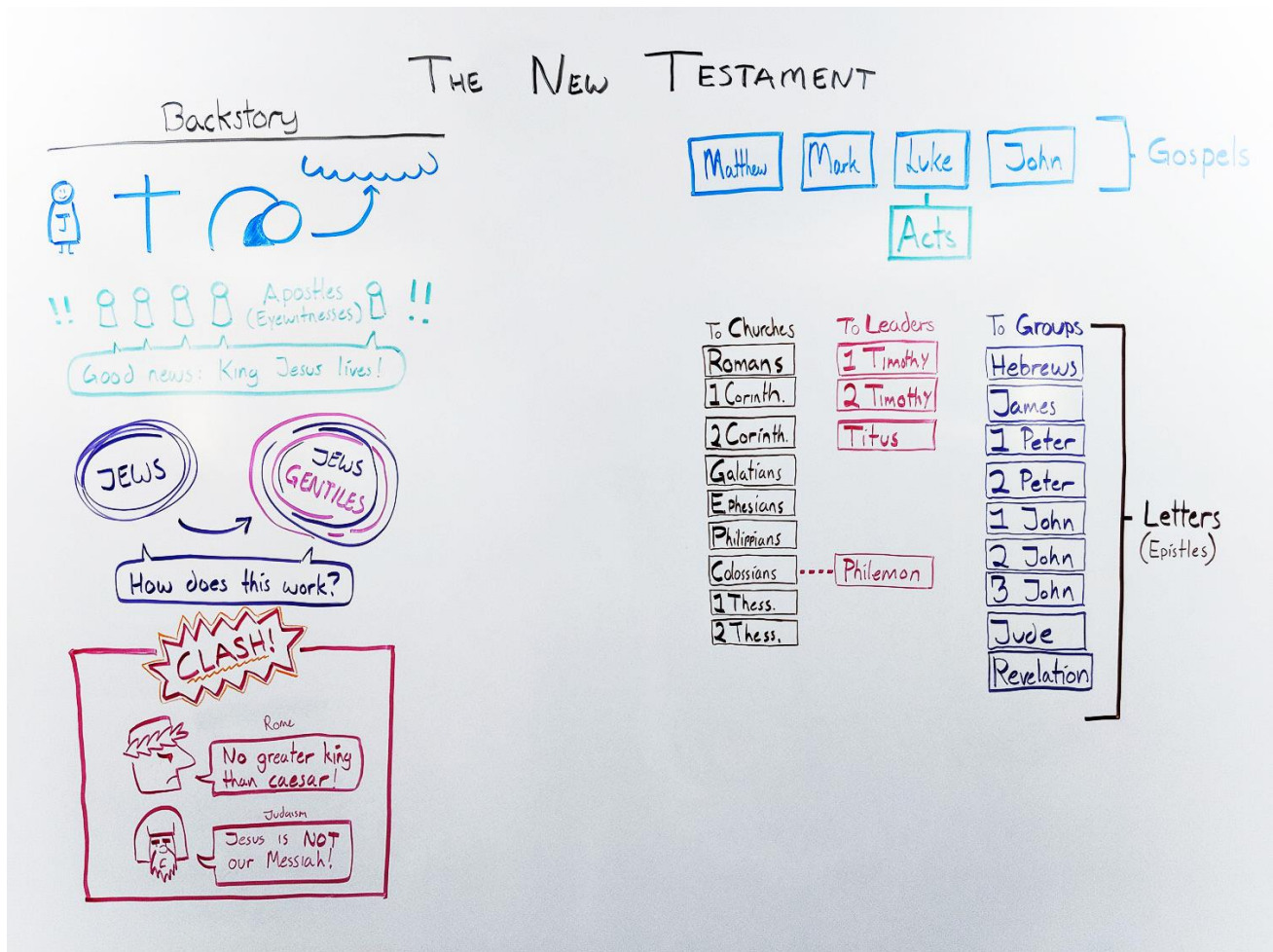


# 2020 VISION: BEHOLD JESUS

NEW TESTAMENT OVERVIEW (Overviewbible.com by Jeffrey Kranz)



## The New Testament: 27 books in 5 categories

The New Testament books fall into five general categories: the Gospels, the single book of Acts, Paul's letters to churches, Paul's letters to church leaders, and a collection of letters sent out (mostly) to large groups of people. Let's take a quick tour of how these books are grouped together in our Bibles.

## The 4 Gospels

If you've spent much time around Christians, you've probably heard the word "gospel." It's a word that means "good news." Christians through the centuries have used it primarily to refer to a very specific bit of good news: Jesus, the Son of God, rose from the dead and will one day return to govern the whole world in peace and justice.

So it's no wonder that the four books of the New Testament which tell the story of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection are called "the gospels." They are as follows:

- Matthew
- Mark
- Luke
- John

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## **Acts**

The book of Acts is a sequel to the gospel of Luke (Acts 1:1–2; Luke 1:1–4). It's the author's account of how the followers of Jesus grew from a small group of witnesses to a movement that spread throughout the Roman empire. The central characters in this narrative are Peter and Paul: two prominent leaders in the early church.

## **Paul's letters to local churches**

In the book of Acts, we see how Paul spread the good news about Jesus throughout the first-century Roman empire. As he did this, he and his associates established gatherings of people ("churches") who regularly met. Paul kept tabs on how these churches developed, and on several occasions sent letters to local churches to educate and instruct them on, just what it meant to be a church, and how churches should conduct themselves.

For the most part, these letters were sent to churches in individual cities—which is where they get their names:

- Romans
- 1 Corinthians
- 2 Corinthians
- Galatians
- Ephesians
- Philippians
- Colossians
- 1 Thessalonians
- 2 Thessalonians

This isn't the complete works of Paul—there's evidence in the Bible that he wrote other letters, too. These are just the ones Christians preserved long enough and spread wide enough for them to make it into the Bible ... but that's another story.

## **The Pastoral Epistles: Paul's letters to church leaders**

Paul didn't just write to congregations. Four of our New Testament books are correspondence from Paul to individual church leaders. These letters are named after the people Paul sent them to:

- 1 Timothy
- 2 Timothy
- Titus
- Philemon

A quick note on Philemon: this is a tricky book to categorize. It's an open letter to the man Philemon, but also to his church. There's a good chance that it was delivered at the same time as the letter to the Colossians.

## **The General Epistles: Letters to large groups**

For the most part, the following letters were written to large groups of Christians living in the first-century Roman empire. These letters address a wide array of topics important to Christians of the time. With the exceptions of Hebrews and Revelation, these letters are named after their traditional authors.

- Hebrews
- James
- 1 Peter
- 2 Peter
- 1 John
- 2 John
- 3 John
- Jude
- Revelation

# 2020 VISION: BEHOLD JESUS

## MARK OVERVIEW (Overviewbible.com Jeffrey Kranz)

Mark is the story of what Jesus did for us. The author, John Mark, wrote this book based on the apostle Peter's memories of Jesus' words and deeds.

Mark is the second Gospel (an account of Jesus' life and ministry) in the New Testament. Like the other Gospels, Mark records Jesus' life: His miracles, betrayal, death, resurrection, and commission. However, Mark's Gospel is very brief (nearly half as long as Luke) and focuses more on things Jesus did than things Jesus said. Mark's stories are not arranged chronologically; instead they're put together to give us a quick, accurate view of Jesus.

This Gospel emphasizes two important characteristics of Jesus Christ:

- His authority as the Son of God
- His compassionate service to people (particularly in miracles)

As you read Mark, you'll see the word "immediately" repeated often: Mark is a quick, urgent, bold message about who Jesus is and what He did.

### **Theme verse of Mark**

*"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."* Mk 10:45

### **Key Term: "Servant"**

Omitting Jesus' birth and reporting relatively few of his teachings, this Gospel emphasizes Jesus' deeds as One who actively served the needs of people.

### **One-Sentence Summary**

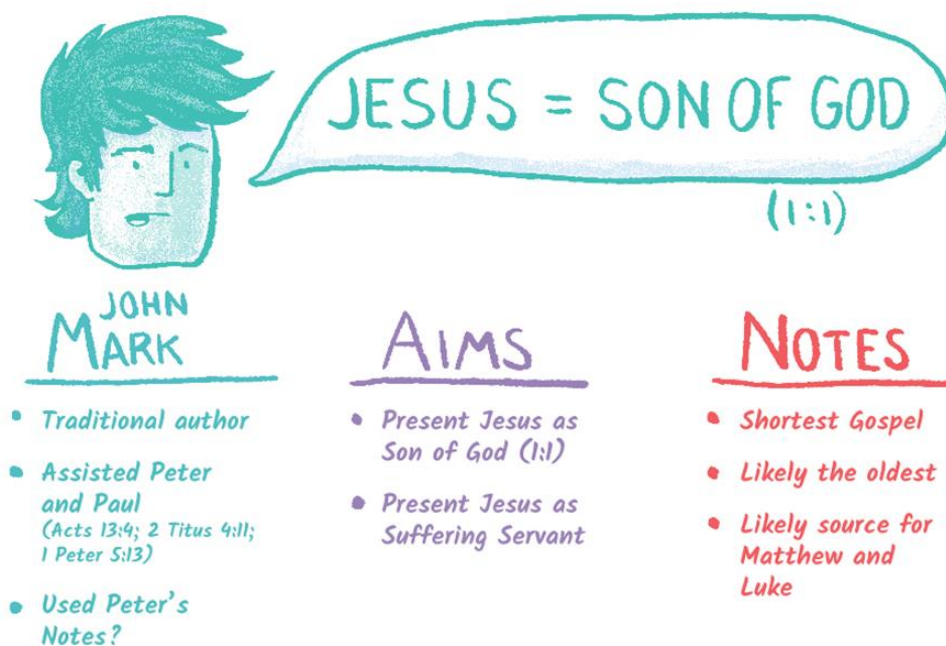
In his life, death, and resurrection, Jesus did the deeds of the (suffering) Servant of the Lord, notably through his death as a "ransom for many."

### **Why Mark was written**

Mark opens with a quick overview of what the book is about: *"the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God"* Mk 1:1. Every passage in Mark, every miracle, every conversation, every deed, points back to Jesus' authority as the Son of God.

Mark is a brief synopsis of Jesus, and could have been meant for reading in one sitting—or aloud to an audience. It's an exciting account of the Son of God that could speak to the Jews and the non-Jews of Mark's day.

### **Quick outline of Mark**



### **Christ in Mark**

Mark's presentation of Jesus is action-packed and fast-paced. He emphasizes Jesus' mighty acts as Son of God and his role as Suffering Servant who calls followers to take up their own cross and follow him.

# 2020 VISION: BEHOLD JESUS

## GALILEE → JERUSALEM

JESUS=SON OF GOD (1:1)

**THE NEW KING**  
(1:1-3:6)

- Dismantling devil's work
- Preaching and miracles
- Gathers first followers

The KINGDOM is NEAR! (1:15)

**JEWISH LEADERS REJECT HIM**  
(3:6)

8:22-26  
**BLIND MAN**

8:27-9:29  
**JESUS PREDICTS HIS DEATH 3 TIMES**

1

- Peter confesses Jesus: "Messiah"
- "TAKE UP YOUR CROSS"

"MY SON"

**THE SUFFERING SERVANT**  
(ch 11-15)

<b>KING</b> (11:1-11)	<b>LAWGIVER</b> (11:2-12:44)
<b>PROPHET</b> (ch 13)	<b>SACRIFICE</b> (14:1-26)

**A NEW KINGDOM**  
(3:7-6:6)

- 12 apostles = new Israel
- Parables on the Kingdom of God

KINGDOM has small beginnings! (4:3)

**JESUS' TOWN REJECTS HIM**  
(6:6)

2

9:30-10:31

- "LAST WILL BE FIRST"
- Blesses children
- Rich young man
- No infighting

100x return in the KINGDOM

**BETRAYED & KILLED**

- JUDAS BETRAYS
- DISCIPLES RUN
- PETER DENIES 3x
- JEWS ACCUSE
- ROME EXECUTES...

THIS MAN = SON OF GOD!  
(15:39)

**A NEW ORDER**  
(6:7-8:21)

- Passes through waters } New Moses
- Feeds multitudes
- Explains Jewish law

HEROD & PHARISEES!  
(8:13)

**DISCIPLES DON'T SEE...**  
(8:18)

3

10:33-10:45

- "SON CAME NOT TO BE SERVED, BUT TO SERVE"
- James and John ask for honor

GREATEST in the KINGDOM is the SLAVE of ALL

BLIND MAN  
(10:46-52)

**JESUS IS RISEN** (OTHER ENDINGS)

GO TELL!

{ AFRAID }  
(WILL THEY REJECT?)  
(16:1-8)

SHORT (after 16:8)

LONG: DISCIPLES COMMISSIONED (16:9-20)

### OUTLINE;

1. Jesus announces the kingdom (Mk 1:1-8:21)
  - Jesus is the new king (1:1-3:6)
  - Jesus starts a new kingdom (3:7-6:6)
  - Jesus sets up a new order (6:7-8:21)
2. Jesus predicts his death to the disciples three times (Mk 8:14-10:52)
  - Jesus heals a blind man (8:22-26)
  - First prediction cycle (8:27-9:29)
  - Second prediction (9:30-10:31)
  - Third prediction cycle (10:32-10:45)
  - Jesus heals another blind man (10:46-52)
3. Jesus: the suffering servant (Mk 11-15)
  - Jesus enters Jerusalem as king and lawgiver (11-12)
  - Jesus predicts the fall of Jerusalem (13)
  - Jesus suffers (14-15)
  - Jesus' resurrection (Mk 16:1-8)
  - [Possibly added endings of the disciples' response]

# 2020 VISION: BEHOLD JESUS

## 1 PETER: SUFFERING AND GLORY (Overviewbible.com by Jeffrey Kranz)

Christians just don't fit in, and that's not easy for the first-century church. Christians are suffering all over the world (1 Pe 5:1), and the Christians in modern-day Turkey need to know why. They need to know how to deal with it. They need to know how to live. And they need to know it's not in vain.

The apostle Peter writes these Christians a letter to address these issues in two ways:

- Testify the truth. The more they know about Jesus, themselves, and the world, the better they'll understand their difficult situation.
- Exhort them to live accordingly.

The book reflects this focus. Peter explores a piece of doctrine, and then encourages the Christians to apply it to their lives. He makes four of these back-and-forth cycles:

1. Peter begins his letter by calling Christians "aliens," or residential foreigners to the Roman Empire (1 Pe 1:1, 17). He then goes on to explain the relationship between suffering and salvation: suffering lasts now, but it proves our faith so that joy and glory can come later. Therefore, Christians should be holy, or set apart (1 Pe 1:14). They should love one another and long for the word of God.
2. After explaining why Christians are different, Peter goes into what the Christian family is: a spiritual house, a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession (1 Pe 2:5, 9). Therefore, Christians ought to keep their behavior excellent, so that even their oppressors will glorify God. They should submit to authorities, submit to one another, honor their spouses, and demonstrate kindness—even when they're suffering as Christians.
3. And who set the finest example of suffering to glorify God? Jesus Christ. Therefore, the Christians should live for the will of God and use their spiritual gifts to serve one another and glorify God.
4. And as if these folks had any more questions about suffering, Peter goes into it one more time. Suffering tests us. It's a way that we identify with Christ. And it never gives us an excuse to sin—the suffering Christian will still do what is right (1 Pe 4:19). Therefore, church leaders should set a good example, and all Christians should humble themselves under God, standing firm as they look forward to Jesus' return.

To Peter, suffering is something the Christian should always see coming. We're foreigners here, and we shouldn't expect to be treated differently until our King claims dominion forever and ever (1 Pe 5:10–11).

### **Key Text: 1 Peter 4:13**

*"But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy."*

### **Key Term: "Hope"**

This epistle emphasizes hope for suffering believers. Hope (Greek, *elpis*) means "future certainty" rather than a vague expectation of some future occurrence.

### **One-Sentence Summary**

As Christians grow in understanding their privileges in salvation, their blessings of election, and the theology of suffering, they will live in holiness and humility, waiting for their great future hope of sharing Christ's glory.

### **Christ in 1 Peter**

The Spirit of Christ was present in the Hebrew prophets pointing them to the sufferings of Christ and the glory that followed his sufferings. Christ is like a lamb without defect or blemish. His precious blood redeems believers from their futile ways. Believers can expect to suffer as he suffered and anticipate the joy of his coming in glory.

# 2020 VISION: BEHOLD JESUS

## 1 Peter's role in the Bible

No other book of the Bible focuses on suffering and glory as much as First Peter. This epistle was written to give Christians a fuller understanding of what's going on: the present sufferings and the glories to come.

First Peter is the second of the General Epistles, the writings of apostles to the church at large. While Paul wrote to specific congregations and individuals, Peter, James, John, and Jude wrote to broader audiences across the Roman Empire.

This letter from Peter focuses on the sufferings and glory of Christ and His church. While Paul briefly explores Christian suffering with the Thessalonian church, Peter writes a whole letter on the issue. To Peter, Christian suffering isn't just something to put up with—it's something to expect.

*Do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you (1 Pe 4:12).*

No suffering is enjoyable, but Peter actually calls it a blessing. Here's a list of reasons why he sees it this way:

- When we suffer as Christians, we identify with Jesus (1 Pe 4:1, 13).
- After we share in His hardship, we will share in our King's glory (1 Pe 5:10).
- Suffering is an opportunity to prove our faith (1 Pe 1:6–7).
- It's an opportunity to do what is right—even when we are wronged (1 Pe 2:20).
- Christ set an example of suffering for us to follow (1 Pe 2:21).
- The way we deal with persecution will bring our persecutors to glorify God (1 Pe 2:12).
- When we do what is right no matter what the circumstances, God is pleased (1 Pe 2:20)

And if anyone's an expert on this, it's Peter. He saw Christ suffer with his own eyes (1 Pe 5:1). He knew from early on that he would be martyred for Christ's sake (Jn 21:18–19). And he'd caught a glimpse of the glory to follow (2 Pe 1:16–18; Mk 9:2–3).

This book was likely written in the early 60s, and the second book attributed to Peter was probably written a few years later.

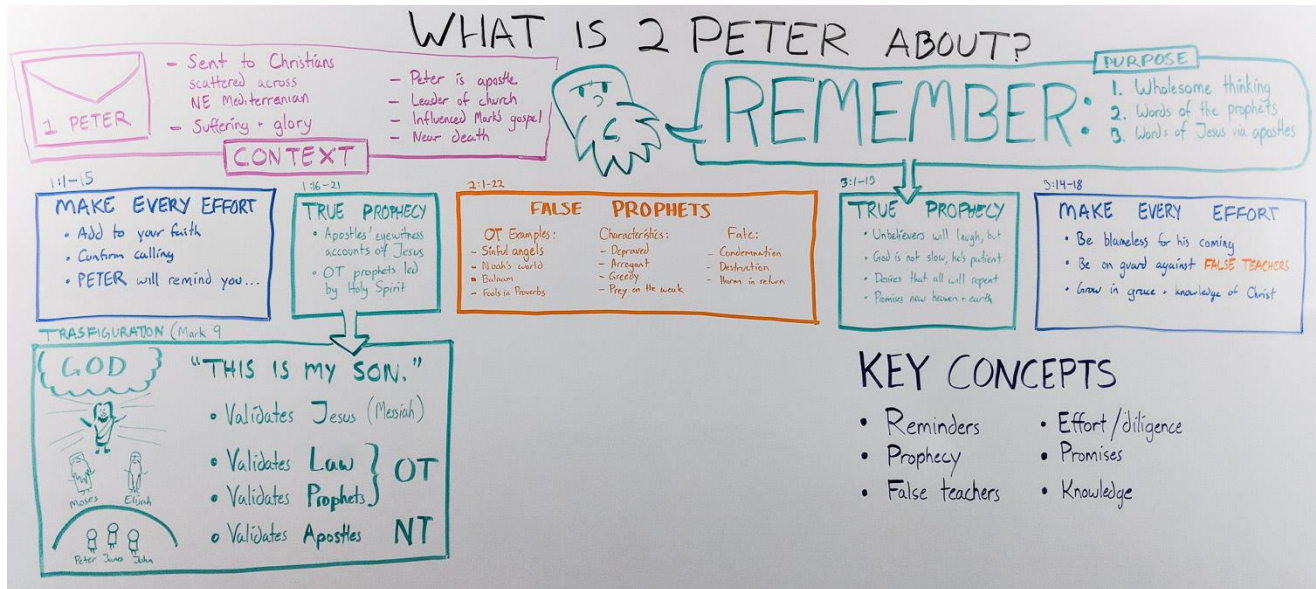
## Outline of 1 Peter

1. Suffering proves salvation (1 Pet 1:1-12)  
Therefore:
  - Be holy (1 Pet 1:13–21)
  - Love one another (1 Pet 1:22–25)
  - Long for the word (1 Pet 2:1–3)
2. We are a holy people (1 Pet 2:4–11)  
Therefore, pursue excellent behavior:
  - Toward authority (1 Pet 2:11–25)
  - Toward spouses (1 Pet 3:1–7)
  - Toward all (1 Pet 3:8–12)
3. Christ suffered for us (1 Pet 3:13–22)  
Therefore:
  - Live for the will of God (1 Pet 4:1–6)
  - Exercise spiritual gifts (1 Pet 4:7–11)
4. Suffering tests us (1 Pet 4:12–19)  
Therefore:
  - Elders should guard the flock (1 Pet 5:1–5)
  - Humble yourselves under God (1 Pet 5:6–7)
  - Stand firm (1 Pet 5:8–14)

# 2020 VISION: BEHOLD JESUS

## 2 PETER: REMEMBER THE TRUTH (Overviewbible.com by Jeffrey Kranz)

The second epistle of Peter is a brief letter of reminders for first-century Christians. Peter urges his readers to make every effort to grow in their faith, to remember that the promises of God (spoken by the prophets and apostles) are trustworthy, and to beware those who teach otherwise.



### About 2 Peter

After Jesus rose from the grave, He had a special conversation with Peter about how the apostle would die:

*"Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to gird yourself and walk wherever you wished; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will gird you, and bring you where you do not wish to go." Now this He said, signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God (Jn 21:18–19).*

Peter knows that he will die for the Lord, and that his time was drawing near.

But there is so much the church needs to know and remember! False teachers are everywhere, causing divisions in the body of Christ (2 Pe 2:1–3). People will mock the promise of Christ's return (2 Pe 3:4). There are those who twist the Old Testament, and even the letters of Paul (2 Pe 3:16).

The church needs to remember the Scriptures: the words of the Old Testament prophets and the words of Jesus that the apostles had passed on. Peter is an undisputed authority in the church, and so before he gives up his life, he writes a letter.

One last letter.

### Key Text: 2 Peter 1:12

*"Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth."*

### Key Term: "Return"

This epistle shows the importance of holding firmly to the truth in the face of false teachings, particularly the truth that Jesus will visibly, bodily, and gloriously return and bring about the consummation of all things.

### One-Sentence Summary

As Christians grow in understanding, they will be safeguarded from false teachers, especially those who deny the return of Christ and the end of the world as it now exists.

### Christ in 2 Peter

Christ came to live, die, and rise again in space and time. This is not some myth cleverly made up by men. Peter says that he was an eyewitness of Christ's glory on the mount of transfiguration when he, James, and John heard the voice of the Father say, *"This is My beloved Son. I take delight in Him!"* (2 Pet. 1:17)

# 2020 VISION: BEHOLD JESUS

## 2 Peter's reminders for Christians

Second Peter is a last attempt to help the global church by reminding them of the truth. Peter explains several things that Christians will need to remember after he's gone:

1. Godly living is the evidence of salvation (2 Pe 1:10). If the Christians really believe what they say they believe, they will display moral excellence, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, kindness, and love.
2. Scriptural truth and prophecy are from God, not man. Peter and the rest of the apostles would die, but the word would remain forever (1 Pe 1:25). Furthermore, the teaching that Peter and the apostles had passed on wasn't just something they'd dreamed up; they were eyewitnesses (2 Pe 1:16–18). And all those Old Testament prophets? They were under the influence of the Holy Spirit (2 Pe 1:21).
3. False teachers will try to deceive the church. They'll introduce divisive teachings that encourage people to indulge in the sins of the world: a twisted, disgusting take on Jesus' grace (2 Pe 2).
4. Mockers will discount the idea of Jesus' return. Peter doesn't know when Jesus was coming back; he just knew better than to doubt Him. Peter assures the church that Jesus is indeed returning, and His church should behave accordingly (2 Pe 3:14).

Peter had urged the church to stand firm in his first letter, but there will be no more letters from Peter.

Second Peter urges the church to stand firm—because even when Peter is gone, the church must carry on.

Peter is about to die, and so he writes a quick reminder to Christians. He focuses on the sincere faith and teaching of the apostles, and warns that false teachers will arise.

## 2 Peter's role in the Bible

Second Peter is the apostle Peter's last reminder to the church. Tradition holds that he was crucified around 64–65 A.D., which means he would have written this letter about this time.

Second Peter is the third of the General Epistles, the writings of apostles to the church at large. While Paul wrote to specific congregations and individuals, Peter, James, John, and Jude wrote to broader audiences across the Roman empire.

There's one more “goodbye” letter in the New Testament: Paul's second letter to Timothy. Both apostles, when they knew they were going to die soon, wrote letters to remind others of what was important.

This letter's second and third chapters bear remarkable resemblance to the epistle of Jude. We don't know if Peter borrowed from Jude's letter, if Jude borrowed from Peter's letter, or if both men were drawing from a prior discussion. Both letters, however, warn the church of two dangerous influences:

1. False teachers who lead the people to indulge in sin
2. Mockers who dismiss the idea of Jesus' return

## 2 Peter emphasizes other Scriptures

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of Second Peter is its emphasis on the Scriptures, both Old and New Testament. Peter firmly believes that many of the books in our Bibles today are true:

- Peter was an eyewitness of Jesus' majesty when He was transfigured (you can read about that in Mark 9), and so he is not just following a made-up story of Jesus. He was there. He heard the voice of God affirming Jesus as His Son (2 Pe 1:17). Therefore, Jesus' ministry validates the prophets' writings (the Old Testament).
- And even those prophets weren't just making things up. They were “moved by the Holy Spirit” when they spoke for God (2 Pe 1:21).
- Peter holds the teachings of the apostles in high regard—on the level of the Old Testament prophets (2 Pe 3:2). The apostles included James, Matthew, and John, who went on to write some of the books in our New Testament.
- Peter especially esteems Paul's letters—even regarding them as Scripture themselves (2 Pe 3:15–16).

Peter had said in a previous letter that “the word of the Lord endures forever” (1 Pe 1:25). Peter would die, but he believed the Scriptures would live on—and his last recorded words urge us to remember them.

## Outline of 2 Peter

2 Peter displays some remarkable parallelism. Peter begins with a call to diligence in good works, reminds the reader that they can count on the prophets, and then warns that false prophets will arise. Peter then assures them that the old prophecies are true, and finishes with a call to be diligent and on guard.

1. Remember to be diligent (2 Pet 1:1–15)
2. True prophets and teachers (2 Pet 1:16–21)
3. False prophets and teachers (2 Pet 2)
4. Remember the true prophecies (2 Pet 3:1–13)
5. Be diligent; be on guard (2 Pet 3:14–18)