

Tuesday Evening Bible Study  
Series #9: 1 Peter, Jude and 2 Peter  
Session #7: 2 Peter, Chapter 2  
Tuesday, November 14, 2017

**Outline of 2 Peter**

- A. Salutation (1:1-2)
- B. Body of the Letter (1:3 – 3:16)
  - a. An Exhortation to Progress and Virtue (1:3-21)
    - i. Peter's Testament (1:3-15)
    - ii. The Grounds of Christian Hope (1:16-21)
  - b. Condemnation of False teachers (2:1-22)
    - i. False Teachers (2:1-3)
    - ii. Biblical Precedents (2:4-11)
    - iii. Denunciations (2:12-22)
  - c. Delay of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming (*parousia*) (3:1-16)
    - i. The Promise of the Lord's Coming (3:1-10)
    - ii. Final Exhortations (3:11-18a)
- C. Doxology (3:18b)

**Notes**

- This section switches to testament form. It begins using the future tense.
- The author uses elements from Jude a lot in Chapter 2.
- It is not clear exactly who the “false teachers” (*pseudodidaskaloi*) are, but they are probably some group of Christian teachers who were causing trouble for the Christian community. They are likened to the “false prophets” (*pseudoprophētai*) of the Old Testament, and will bring shame upon the “way of truth” (=the Christian religion)
- Although the false teachers will bring trouble and harm to other Christians, ultimately, they will bring destruction upon themselves in their own time and before the judgment seat of God. (exhortation)
- In vv. 4-11, the author cites several biblical precedents of wickedness that was punished by God
  - The fall of the angels
  - The Flood
  - The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah
  - But he also mentions Lot who was saved by his righteousness
- Although the author uses a lot of material from Jude in Chapter 2, he seems to avoid the non-canonical literature: the *Assumption of Moses* & *1 Enoch*.
  - No mention of the dispute between St. Michael and the devil over the body of Moses.
- Vv. 12-16 – people get what they deserve. The wise and righteous are rewarded, but the foolish and wicked are punished.
- In the final verses, the author further denounces the false teachers and what effect they will have on the Christian community.

- Vv. 17-19 – The false prophets and teachers promise liberation from divine judgment, but as they themselves are slaves to sin, they cannot offer freedom from it.
- Verse 22 contains two proverbs: one from Proverbs 26:11, and the other from Semitic wisdom literature (Syriac *Ahikar*) and Greek tradition. Dogs were not regarded so much as pets, but were considered scavengers. They were associated with uncleanness and male prostitution.

### Resource

“2 Peter” in *Sacra Pagina*, Daniel J. Harrington, ed. (Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 2008)

Raymond E. Brown, “Second Epistle (Letter) of Peter” in *An Introduction to the New Testament* (New York: Doubleday, 1997)