

## SECOND PETER

### Conversational Version

#### Salutation

**1:1**Simon Peter, servant and apostle of Jesus Christ<sup>Messiah</sup>, to those who've received a faith that's equally precious to us—*faith* in the goodness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ. **2**Grace and peace many times over because you know God and Jesus our Lord. **2 Pet 1:1-2**

#### God's Sufficient Provisions

**3**His divine power has given us everything related to life and godliness. He has provided it all by our knowing the One who called us by his own honor and goodness. **4**Through *that honor and goodness* he has provided us great, precious promises so we can partake of the divine character and escape the corruption that's in the world from living by lust. **5**So do your best to add to your faith virtue, to your virtue knowledge, **6**to knowledge self-control, endurance, **7**godliness, brotherly kindness, love. **8**If these keep developing in you, they'll make you useful and fruitful as a result of personally knowing our Lord Jesus Christ. **9**Those who lack them are nearsighted and blind. They've forgotten that they were cleansed from *their* old sins. **10**So be all the more diligent in confirming your calling and being chosen. As long as you live that way, you won't stumble. **11**You'll be making abundant provision for entering the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **2 Pet 1:3-11**

**12**So I'll keep reminding you even though you know all this and are standing firm in the truth already. **13**As long as I'm in this body, I think it's good to keep you alert by reminding you. **14**I know I'll be laying aside my tabernacle soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ has shown me. **15**I'll be diligent so after I'm gone, you can remember what I've said. **2 Pet 1:12-15**

#### Events, not Myths

**16**We didn't follow clever, made-up myths when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We saw his majesty with our own eyes. **17**He received from God the Father honor and glory when the Majestic Glory declared, "*This is my dearly loved Son that I delight in.*" **18**We heard that voice from heaven ourselves when we were with him on the holy mountain. **19***And so* we have verified the prophetic word. You do well *then* to pay attention to it as to a lamp shining in a dark place till the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. **20**First of all, get this: no prophecy in scripture comes from somebody's own insight *into things*. **21**No prophet ever *just* decided to make a prophecy. Instead, the Holy Spirit moved them to speak from God. **2 Pet 1:16-21**

### Watch Out for False Teachers

**2:1**As false prophets arose among the people before, false teachers will arise among you. Under false pretenses they'll bring in destructive heresies. They'll even deny the Master who bought them and bring swift destruction on themselves. **2**Many will follow their sensual practices, and people will slander the true Way because of them. **3**In their greed they'll exploit you with *their* made-up ideas. Their sentence from of old won't delay; their destruction won't sleep.

**2 Pet 2:1-3**

### God's Judgment on Evil

**4**God didn't spare angels that sinned; he imprisoned them with chains in the dark underworld [Tartarus] to hold them for judgment. **5**God didn't spare the ancient world; he preserved Noah, one of eight, a man who preached righteousness when *God* brought a flood on the ungodly world. **6**God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah and reduced them to ashes. He made an example out of them for ungodly people later on. **7**But he rescued righteous Lot; their corrupt conduct weighed on that good man. **8**While he lived among them, the immoral deeds he saw and heard about day after day tormented him. **9**So, the Lord knows how to rescue godly people from temptation and keep ungodly ones under punishment till judgment day—**10**especially those who chase after physical lusts and despise authority.

**2 Pet 2:4-10a**

### Evil People Described

Daring and arrogant, they rail at angels without qualms. **11**But angels, though more powerful, don't rail out condemnations at them in front of the Lord. **12***People like that* are like wild animals that can't reason, creatures that live by instinct from birth who need to be trapped and exterminated. They rail out about things they don't know. In their destroying, they'll get destroyed. **13**They'll suffer wrong as payback for doing wrong. They think it's fun to carouse in broad daylight. They are stains and blemishes who enjoy deceiving you while they eat with you. **14**They're always looking around for someone to commit adultery with. They sin without ceasing, they lure unsteady souls, they have hearts well-practiced in greed. They're accursed offspring **15**that forsake the right way to follow Balaam son of Beor that loved to make money from his sin. **16**But a donkey, talking like a person, reprimanded him for it and stopped him from carrying out his madness.

**2 Pet 2:10b-16**

**17**They're springs without water, fog swirled by the wind. It's pitch dark where they're going. **18**They say arrogant, meaningless things, and lure with lust the ones just escaping from error. **19**They promise freedom while themselves being slaves to corruption. What overcomes people puts them in servitude. **20**If they've escaped the defilements of worldly living by knowing the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and then get tangled up in them again, they're worse off than

before. <sup>21</sup>They'd been better off not to know how to live God's way, than to know *it* and turn away from the holy commandment they'd received. <sup>22</sup>They illustrate the proverb,

**"The dog returned to its vomit"** [Pro 26:11],

and,

**"the washed sow went back to wallowing in the mud."**

**2 Pet 2:17-22**

#### Reminders About the Future

**3:1**This is the second letter I've sent you. In both *of them*, I'm trying to keep your sincere minds alert <sup>2</sup>by reminding you about the message from the holy prophets and about your apostles' commandments from the Lord Savior. <sup>3</sup>Get this, first of all: later, mockers will follow their lusts and say, <sup>4</sup>"*Where's the promise about his coming? From the time our ancestors died, everything's like it's been since creation.*" <sup>5</sup>They choose to forget that by God's word the skies came into existence long ago and the earth consisted of water and emerged from water. <sup>6</sup>By God's word, the flood destroyed that world. <sup>7</sup>By that same word, the earth and sky that exist now are destined for fire; *they're being* kept for the judgment day and the destruction of ungodly people.

**2 Pet 3:1-7**

#### Assurance About the Future

**8**Friends, don't miss this one point: to the Lord, a day *is* like 1,000 years, and 1,000 years *is* like a day. <sup>9</sup>He's not slow about *keeping* his promise the way people might think. He's not being slow; he's being patient. He doesn't want anybody to perish; he wants everyone to repent. <sup>10</sup>The day of the Lord will come—like a thief: the sky will pass away with a loud noise; the elements will burn up; earth and its works will disappear. <sup>11</sup>Since they're destined for destruction, how should you live <sup>12</sup>as you anticipate the time when God destroys the sky with fire and melts the elements with heat? <sup>13</sup>According to his promise, we look forward to a new earth and sky where goodness prevails.

**2 Pet 3:8-13**

#### Living Meantime

**14**So, as you look forward to that, try hard to be at peace, spotless and blameless, when he finds you. <sup>15</sup>Consider our Lord's patience *a chance* to be saved, as our dear brother Paul wrote to you with the wisdom he's received. <sup>16</sup>In all *his* letters, he talks about those things. Some of them are hard to understand, and unlearned and unsteady people twist them—like *they do* the other scriptures—to their own destruction. <sup>17</sup>So, since you know *all that* ahead of time, make sure not to get deceived by unprincipled people and fall from your steadfastness. <sup>18</sup>Keep growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Glory to him now and forever.

**2 Pet 3:14-1**