

SECOND PETER

Conversational Version

Salutation

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

God's Sufficient Provisions

³His 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. ⁴Through *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. ⁵So do your best to add to your faith virtue, to your virtue knowledge, ⁶to knowledge self-control, endurance, ⁷godliness, brotherly kindness, love. ⁸If these keep developing in you, they'll make you useful and fruitful as a result of personally knowing our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹Those who lack them are nearsighted and blind. They've forgotten that they were cleansed from *their* old sins. ¹⁰So be all the more diligent in confirming your calling and being chosen. As long as you live that way, you won't stumble. ¹¹You'll be making abundant provision for entering the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **2 Pet 1:3-11**

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

Events, not Myths

¹⁶We 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. ¹⁷He received from God the Father honor and glory when the Majestic Glory declared, "*This is my dearly loved Son that I delight in.*" ¹⁸We 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. ²⁰First of all, get this: no prophecy in scripture comes from somebody's own insight *into things*. ²¹No 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

2:¹As 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. ²Many will follow their sensual practices, and people will slander the true Way because of them. ³In 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

⁴God didn't spare angels that sinned; he imprisoned them with chains in the dark underworld [Tartarus] to hold them for judgment. ⁵God 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. ⁶God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah and reduced them to ashes. He made an example out of them for ungodly people later on. ⁷But he rescued righteous Lot; their corrupt conduct weighed on that good man. ⁸While he lived among them, the immoral deeds he saw and heard about day after day tormented him. ⁹So, the Lord knows how to rescue godly people from temptation and keep ungodly ones under punishment till judgment day—¹⁰especially 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. ¹¹But 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. ¹³They'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. ¹⁴They'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 ¹⁵that forsake the right way to follow Balaam son of Beor that loved to make money from his sin. ¹⁶But a donkey, talking like a person, reprimanded him for it and stopped him from carrying out his madness.

2 Pet 2:10b-16

¹⁷They're springs without water, fog swirled by the wind. It's pitch dark where they're going. ¹⁸They say arrogant, meaningless things, and lure with lust the ones just escaping from error. ¹⁹They promise freedom while themselves being slaves to corruption. What overcomes people puts them in servitude. ²⁰If 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. ²¹They'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. ²²They 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

³¹This is the second letter I've sent you. In both of *them*, I'm trying to keep your sincere minds alert ²by reminding you about the message from the holy prophets and about your apostles' commandments from the Lord Savior. ³Get this, first of all: later, mockers will follow their lusts and say, ⁴*"Where's the promise about his coming? From the time our ancestors died, everything's like it's been since creation."* ⁵They 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. ⁶By God's word, the flood destroyed that world. ⁷By 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

⁸Friends, don't miss this one point: to the Lord, a day *is* like 1,000 years, and 1,000 years *is* like a day. ⁹He'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. ¹⁰The 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. ¹¹Since they're destined for destruction, how should you live ¹²as you anticipate the time when God destroys the sky with fire and melts the elements with heat? ¹³According to his promise, we look forward to a new earth and sky where goodness prevails.

2 Pet 3:8-13

Living Meantime

¹⁴So, as you look forward to that, try hard to be at peace, spotless and blameless, when he finds you. ¹⁵Consider our Lord's patience *a chance* to be saved, as our dear brother Paul wrote to you with the wisdom he's received. ¹⁶In 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. ¹⁷So, since you know *all that* ahead of time, make sure not to get deceived by unprincipled people and fall from your steadfastness. ¹⁸Keep growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Glory to him now and forever.

2 Pet 3:14-1