

A Tour Through the Divine Library
(2 Peter)

I. General Introduction to 2 Peter

-Title and Recipients: “Second of Peter” (1:1a); same recipients as the first letter (3:1): Christians who were scattered throughout the five provinces of Asia Minor (1 Pet. 1:1b)

-Author, Date: written by Peter (Cephas; Matt. 16:18), one of the twelve, leader/spokesman for the group (Matt. 10; Mark 3; Luke 6; Acts 1) in AD 66 or 67 (1:1; 1:14 with John 21:18, 19; 1:16-18; 3:1)

-Purpose: warn against false teachers (2:1-3:2, 16); urge growth in grace (3:17, 18)

-Structure:

- I. Development of Christian Virtue (ch. 1) [Holiness]
- II. Danger of False Teachers (ch. 2) [Heresy]
- III. Day of the Lord (ch. 3) [Hope]

II. General Overview of 2 Peter

-Introduction (1:1, 2)

-Ch. 1: spiritual growth (vs. 3-11; trustworthiness of the apostolic message (vs. 12-21)

-Ch. 2: influence (vs. 1-3), judgment (vs. 4-9), description (vs. 10-19) of false teachers; their example as a warning (vs. 20-22)

-Ch. 3: exhortation (vs. 1, 2); return of Christ (vs. 3-9); new heaven and new earth (vs. 10-13); holiness (vs. 14-16)

-Conclusion (3:17, 18)

III. Prominent Themes in 2 Peter

-False Teachers (2:1-22; 3:1, 2, 16, 17); Spiritual Growth and Maturity (1:3-11; 3:18); Day of the Lord (3:3-14)

IV. Christ in 2 Peter

-Mentioned nine times in three chapters; deity of Christ (1:1); spiritual maturity achieved through knowledge of Christ (1:2, 3, 8; 2:20; 3:18); abundant entrance into Christ’s kingdom (1:11); Peter an eyewitness of Christ’s divine glory on the mount of Transfiguration (1:16-18); Christ’s return (3:3-15)

V. Practical Lessons in 2 Peter

1) Growth in Grace

2) Hope and Holiness (3:11-14; 1 John 3:2, 3)