

# The Letter of 2 Peter

## \*. **Who wrote the letter?**

The writer of the letter is identified in the opening words as “Peter, an apostle.” Of course, we understand this to be Peter who is one of the original twelve – the apostle who spent much time in close contact with Jesus. Though the letter is brief, it does have some similarities to 1 Peter and to Peter’s speeches as recorded in Acts.

## \*. **When was it written?**

The letter appears to be written about 63/64 a.d. This was the time immediately preceding the great Neronian persecution which was about to happen against the Christians specifically.

## \*. **To whom was it written?**

In the opening verses, the letter is addressed in a generic sense to those who have “received a faith of the same kind as ours.” Apparently, Peter addressed this letter to other Christians in the area, perhaps in the churches in which he has either preached or had influenced.

## \*. **Why was it written?**

Peter recognizes, probably through the work of the Holy Spirit in his life, that a major persecution against the Christian church is about to occur. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, he writes this letter to help provide some guidance for these times.

## \*. **What is the main topic?**

Christians should seek after understanding more about God in order to find comfort and strength in times of need.

## **2 Peter 1:16-21:**

<sup>16</sup> For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. <sup>17</sup> For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, “This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased”— <sup>18</sup> and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. <sup>19</sup> So we have the prophetic word *made* more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. <sup>20</sup> But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is *a matter* of one’s own interpretation, <sup>21</sup> for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

## **2 Peter 3:1-9:**

<sup>1</sup> This is now, beloved, the second letter I am writing to you in which I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, <sup>2</sup> that you should remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior *spoken* by your apostles. <sup>3</sup> Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with *their* mocking, following after their own lusts, <sup>4</sup> and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For *ever* since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.” <sup>5</sup> For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God *the* heavens existed long ago and *the* earth was formed out of water and by water, <sup>6</sup> through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water. <sup>7</sup> But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. <sup>8</sup> But do not let this one *fact* escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. <sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

## **2 Peter 3:14-18:**

<sup>14</sup> Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, <sup>15</sup> and regard the patience of our Lord *as* salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, <sup>16</sup> as also in all *his* letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction. <sup>17</sup> You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness, <sup>18</sup> but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.