

2 Peter 2

2 Peter 2.1-11

V1 – The word “*but*” is in contrast to the words of the Old Testament prophets

- When is Peter referring to here?** Old Testament days when there were many false prophets
- In the same way, there would be false prophets in the New Testament church
- What specific false doctrine did Peter have in mind?** Denying the deity of Jesus
- What false doctrine did John write against in *1 John*?** Gnosticism
- What doctrine did the Gnostics hold to?** They denied the humanity of Christ
- What was the result of the false doctrine in *v 1*?** Swift destruction
- Who was responsible for this destruction?** False teachers

V2 – **What kind of lives did the false teachers live themselves?** Very wicked - there is a relationship between denying the deity of Christ and the sin of sensuality

- The result of their wickedness?** The way of truth was spoken evil of
- In other words, it gave the whole church a bad reputation

V3 – **How did they deceive people?** With false words

- The results for their lives?** Eternal destruction

V4 – A logical argument: – if – **What was the first “if”?** God punished the angels

- Was this true about the angels?** Yes (*Rev. 12*)
- Note: *Tartarus* – Greek word for the place of the dead who are lost (as with rich man in *Luke 16*)
- Tartarus is the name for the part of Hades for the lost people waiting for eternal punishment
- Paradise is the name of the place for the saved people waiting for heaven

V5 – **The second “if”?** God spared Noah and seven others and punished the rest of the world

- True?** Yes

V6 – **The third “if”?** God punished Sodom and Gomorrah

- True?** Yes

V7-8 – Very interesting – **What did God do for Lot?** Rescued him from Sodom and Gomorrah

- What was Lot's attitude toward Sodom and Gomorrah?** Tormented day and night
- Has Peter's argument held together so far?** Yes, every point is valid

V9 – **What are Peter's two conclusions?** God can rescue the godly from temptations, and he can punish the wicked

V10 – **Those to be punished?** Those who indulge in fleshly desires, daring and self-willed, those who revile angelic majesties

V11 – **Do angels revile satanic majesties?** No

Zechariah 3.2 – *And the Lord said to Satan, “The Lord rebuke you, Satan! Indeed, the Lord who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?”*

Jude 9 – But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him railing judgment, but said, “The Lord rebuke you.”

2 Peter 2.12-16

V 12 – What a powerful verse!

-**What will be the result for those false teachers?** They will be destroyed, along with those whom they have misled

V 13 – Usually the wicked do their wicked deeds at night, but these false teachers did their deeds in the daytime

Jude 12 – These men are those who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted....

V 14 – **What constantly filled the hearts of those false teachers?** Lust and greed

V 15 – **Had they ever been faithful Christians?** Yes: “forsaking” – a person cannot “forsake” a way of life he has never been in

-In other words, they had fallen away from the faith

-**Who was Balaam?** *Numbers 22-24* – he wanted to accept a bribe, but couldn’t get the words out

-God kept defeating him

V 16 – **How did God speak to Balaam?** Through a donkey

-What an insult to Balaam! - not in lightning, or a storm, or a whirlwind, but through a donkey

Numbers 22.28 – And the Lord opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, “What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?”

2 Peter 2.17-22

V 17 – **Those false teachers gave the appearance of being impressive, but what would be their result?** Black darkness

Jude 13 – Wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam; wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever.

V 18 – **Who were the most likely victims of those false teachers?** The new converts and weaker Christians

-The ones who had just escaped the world

-Many times, false teachers prey on weaker members of the congregation

Romans 16.17-18 – Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them. For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting.

V 19 – **What did the false teachers promise?** Freedom

- What did they deliver?** Slavery
- What is “slavery”?** Being overcome by something

V 20 – **Had those false teachers been faithful Christians?** Yes, they had known Jesus Christ

- What happened?** They became entangled and trapped in a net, like a fly in a spider web
- Final state?** Worse than first

V 21– **Why would it have been better if they had never become Christians?** Because they also led others astray and hurt the reputation of the church

V 22– **How did the Jews look on dogs and pigs?** The lowest of all animals

- They had been washed, but had returned to their former lifestyle
- In other words, the dog had vomited up what was not good in his life

Revised 2013-07-14