

II Peter

BACKGROUND:

This epistle as well as I Peter was written about 63-64 A.D. near the end of Peter's life and is addressed to Christians, predominantly Gentiles, throughout Asia Minor in areas not evangelized when Acts was written.

While Peter's first epistle deals with the proper response to problems outside the church including persecution and suffering, this epistle concentrates on knowledge of the truth as the proper response to error from within. False teachers were perverting the doctrine of justification and promoting a rebellious and immoral way of life. Peter writes to believers to warn them to be on their guard lest they be led astray. The best defense against false teaching is, of course, sound doctrine and spiritual maturity. (Any counterfeit is best discovered by knowledge of the true).

The clearest declaration of the process of inspiration of the Scriptures is found in 1:21.

One of the most astonishing passages in all of Scripture is 3:5-13, which tells of the dissolution of the universe and creation of the new heavens and earth. In light of the imminent return of Christ, Peter admonishes his readers to live lives of holiness, steadfastness and growth (3:14-18).

A BRIEF OUTLINE OF II PETER:

I. Cultivation of Christian Character (1:1-1:21) . . . Holiness.

II. Condemnation of False Teachers (2:1-2:22) . . . Heresy.

III. Confidence of Christ's Return (3:1-3:18) . . . Hope.

HELPS: Before turning to these, read prayerfully the Word of God, praying that the Holy Spirit will guide you and instruct you.

If you don't own a Bible dictionary, encyclopedia, atlas, or reference search, don't worry. They are all available on the link below.

<http://www.preceptaustin.org>

This excellent website is full of helps including commentaries. You will find John MacArthur, Ray Stedman and John Piper along with Charles Spurgeon and the Intervarsity Press Commentary (Navigators) as well as Matthew Henry's Commentary.