

God's Masterwork, Volume Seven

The Final Word — A Survey of Hebrews – Revelation

2 Peter: Beware . . . Be Ready!

A SURVEY OF 2 PETER



The Heart of the Matter

In 1 Peter, the apostle was concerned for the Christians who were scattered throughout the Roman Empire and undergoing suffering and persecution from enemies outside the church body. In 2 Peter, Peter dealt with the internal enemies—false prophets and other subtle adversaries—who twisted the truth. Of special interest to Peter were false teachings regarding the return of the Lord as well as our life of service and purity prior to that epochal event. The tone of 2 Peter is that of an urgent warning, urging all readers to beware . . . to be ready.



Discovering the Way

1. Some General Facts about 2 Peter

Second Peter is more difficult to read and understand than 1 Peter. Second Peter is strange and surprising, whereas 1 Peter is straightforward. Second Peter hides its theme rather than highlighting it as 1 Peter does.

2. Themes Interwoven through the Letter

Like an arrow, which is made up of feathers, a shaft, and a point, 2 Peter is made up of three themes.



3. An Overview of the Three Chapters

Second Peter divides easily into topics of moral corruption (chapter 1), doctrinal compromise (chapter 2), and prophetic concern (chapter 3).

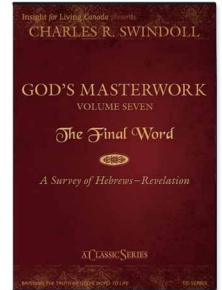


Starting Your Journey

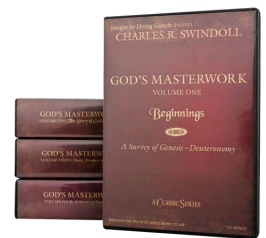
Second Peter points us toward HOPE: Heed what you already know; Open your eyes and ears; Pursue a godly lifestyle; and Expect Christ's return.



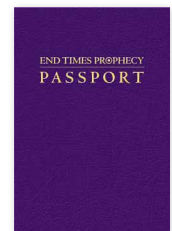
Tools for Digging Deeper



God's Masterwork,
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SECOND PETER

<i>Introduction (1:1–2)</i>	<p>Exhortation to Spiritual Maturity</p> <p>Answers question: How can I grow in grace and knowledge? (1:2–3)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>CHAPTER 1</i></p>	<p>Denunciation of False Teachers</p> <p>Answers question: What should I expect from so-called prophets?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>CHAPTER 2</i></p>	<i>Conclusion (3:17–18)</i>
Warning	Be pure! (1:4)	Be aware! (2:1–3)	Be diligent! (3:1–14)
Reminder	1:12–13	2:21–22	3:1–2
Promise	“You will never stumble.” (1:10)	“The Lord knows how to rescue.” (2:9)	“We are looking for new heavens and a new earth.” (3:13)
Perspective	Looking within	Looking back	Looking ahead
Theme	Spiritual maturity as a remedy for false teaching and a right response in light of Christ's second coming		
Key Verses	3:17–18		
Christ in 2 Peter	Jesus is the Morning Star, who rescues the righteous from temptation and reserves the wicked for judgment (1:19; 2:9).		

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