

2 Peter 2

Chapter one gave us Peter's focus/mission and ended with Peter's defense against charges of teaching myths. Chapter two moves Peter from defense to an offensive attack of the false teachers who are slandering him and misleading the people

2 Peter is an aggressive attack which seems to be similar to books from later in the apostle's lives such as 2 Timothy, Jude and 2 John and 3 John

False prophets in the OT:

- Deut. 13:1-5 – False prophet is a test from God
- 1 Kings 22:5-28 – Micaiah (good) vs. Zedekiah (false)
- 2 Chronicles 18:21-22 – Lying Spirit in the mouth of prophets can be compared with teachers with doctrines of demons in 1 Tim. 4:1-5
- Isaiah 9:15 – the prophets who teach lies
- Isaiah 28:7-8 – prophets who stagger when seeing visions
- Isaiah 29:9-12 – stagger...deep sleep...sealed eyes of prophets...covered heads of seers...
- Jeremiah 2:8, 26 – prophets prophesied by Baal
- Jeremiah 5:31 – prophets prophesy lies...priests rule y own authority
- Jeremiah 6:13 – prophets and priests practice deceit for gain saying "peace"
- Jeremiah 14:13-15 – prophets say "peace...lies...not sent...delusions of their mind
- Jeremiah 23:9-40 –prophets follow evil course and use power unjustly
- Jeremiah 27:9-18 – do not listen to prophets who say...
- Jeremiah 28:1-29:8 - August 593 BC Jeremiah (good) vs. Hananiah (false)
- Ezekiel 13:1-23 – own imagination
- Ezekiel 22:23-31 – priests and princes are violent and prophets whitewash their deeds
- Micah 3:5-12 – prophets used position to gain... sun will set on prophets
- Zephaniah 3:4 – prophets are arrogant and treacherous
- Zechariah 13:2 – remove the prophets and impure spirit
- Luke 6:26 – woe when men speak well of you, this is how they spoke of the false prophets
- Matt. 7:15 – watch out for false prophets, they come as sheep, but are wolves
- Acts 13:6 – Bar-Jesus the sorcerer at Paphos on Cyprus
- 1 John 4:1 – Do not believe every spirit, test spirits, many false prophets have gone out

Peter is not facing "false prophets" because they are not claiming to have "revelation", but calls them false teachers because they are misrepresenting the message from God through Jesus and apostles. But, the style, type and doom of the false teacher is the same as that of the OT false prophet.

Peter uses the future tense in 2:1-3 and 3:3 (as does Paul in 2 Tim. 2:16-17; 3:2-5, 13; 4:3-4) because he is possibly quoting earlier apostolic teaching and simply preserves the future tense (Jude 17-18).

These false teachers are already present in 2 Peter's day: 2:10-22 (feasting, 13; making converts, 2:14, 19; perverted Paul's teaching 3:15-16)

The Three Denials or the three teachings of the false teachers (false prophet) that deny the Truth that John taught:

1. 1 John 2:22-23 - There is no Father and Son as God (Deny the Trinity)
2. 1 John 4:3 – Jesus is not the Christ or savior from God (Deny Jesus is the Christ)
3. 2 John 7-11 – Jesus did not come in the flesh (Deny God came in the flesh)

3 John –

1. **Gaius**, the man who received the letter of 3 John;
2. **Demetrius**, the traveling teacher sent by John with the letter we call 3 John;
3. **Diotrephes**, the pastor who had taken over the church in Asia that had rejected John, Apostolic teaching and any of John's student/disciples and any believers who did not reject John and his teaching.

Islam, Quran and the Three Denials

Inside the Dome of the Rock in classical Arabic is inscribed,

"O you People of the Book, overstep not bounds in your religion, and of God speak only the truth. The Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary, is only an apostle of God, and his Word which he conveyed unto Mary, and a Spirit proceeding from him. Believe therefore in God and his apostles, and say not Three. It will be better for you. God is only one God. Far be it from his glory that he should have a son."



Israeli soldiers outside the Dome of the Rock on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem

Chapter (4) sūrat I-nisāa (The Women) – Verse 4:171

يٰٓأَهْلَ الْكِتٰبِ لَا تَغْلُوْا فِى دِيْنِكُمْ وَلَا تَقْوُلُوْا عَلٰى اللّٰهِ اِلَّا الْحَقَّ اِنَّمَا
الْمَسِيْحُ عِيسٰى ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ رَسُوْلًا لِّلّٰهِ وَكَلِمَتُهُ اَلْقِيْلَتْ اِلٰى مَرْيَمَ وَرُوْحٌ مِّنْهُ
فَاٰمَنُوْا بِاللّٰهِ وَرُسُلِهِۦٓ وَلَا تَقْوُلُوْا ثَلٰثَةً اَنْتَهُمْ خَيْرًا لَّكُمْ اِنَّمَا اللّٰهُ اِلٰهٌ وَّاحِدٌ
سُبْحٰنَهُ اَنْ يَكُوْنَ لَهٗ وَلَدٌ لَّهٗ مَا فِى السَّمٰوٰتِ وَمَا فِى الْاَرْضِ وَكَفٰى بِاللّٰهِ
وَكَيْلًا

Sahih International:

O People of the Scripture, do not commit excess in your religion or say about Allah except the truth. The Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary, was but a messenger of Allah and His word which He directed to Mary and a soul [created at a command] from Him. So believe in Allah and His messengers. And do not say, "Three"; desist - it is better for you. Indeed, Allah is but one God. Exalted is He above having a son. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. And sufficient is Allah as Disposer of affairs.

Pickthall:

O People of the Scripture! Do not exaggerate in your religion nor utter aught concerning Allah save the truth. The Messiah, Jesus son of Mary, was only a messenger of Allah, and His word which He conveyed unto Mary, and a spirit from Him. So believe in Allah and His messengers, and say not "Three" - Cease! (it is) better for

you! - Allah is only One Allah. Far is it removed from His Transcendent Majesty that He should have a son. His is all that is in the heavens and all that is in the earth. And Allah is sufficient as Defender.

Yusuf Ali:

O People of the Book! Commit no excesses in your religion: Nor say of Allah aught but the truth. Christ Jesus the son of Mary was (no more than) a messenger of Allah, and His Word, which He bestowed on Mary, and a spirit proceeding from Him: so believe in Allah and His messengers. Say not "Trinity" : desist: it will be better for you: for Allah is one Allah: Glory be to Him: (far exalted is He) above having a son. To Him belong all things in the heavens and on earth. And enough is Allah as a Disposer of affairs.

Shakir:

O followers of the Book! do not exceed the limits in your religion, and do not speak (lies) against Allah, but (speak) the truth; the Messiah, Isa son of Marium is only a messenger of Allah and His Word which He communicated to Marium and a spirit from Him; believe therefore in Allah and His messengers, and say not, Three. Desist, it is better for you; Allah is only one Allah; far be It from His glory that He should have a son, whatever is in the heavens and whatever is in the earth is His, and Allah is sufficient for a Protector.

Muhammad Sarwar:

People of the Book, do not exceed the limits of devotion in your religion or say anything about God which is not the Truth. Jesus, son of Mary, is only a Messenger of God, His Word, and a spirit from Him whom He conveyed to Mary. So have faith in God and His Messengers. Do not say that there are three gods. It is better for you to stop believing in the Trinity. There is only One God. He is too glorious to give birth to a son. To God belongs all that is in the heavens and the earth. God alone is a Sufficient Guardian for all.

Mohsin Khan:

O people of the Scripture (Jews and Christians)! Do not exceed the limits in your religion, nor say of Allah aught but the truth. The Messiah 'Iesa (Jesus), son of Maryam (Mary), was (no more than) a Messenger of Allah and His Word, ("Be!" - and he was) which He bestowed on Maryam (Mary) and a spirit (Ruh) created by Him; so believe in Allah and His Messengers. Say not: "Three (trinity)!" Cease! (it is) better for you. For Allah is (the only) One Ilah (God), Glory be to Him (Far Exalted is He) above having a son. To Him belongs all that is in the heavens and all that is in the earth. And Allah is AllSufficient as a Disposer of affairs.

Arberry:

People of the Book, go not beyond the bounds in your religion, and say not as to God but the truth. The Messiah, Jesus son of Mary, was only the Messenger of God, and His Word that He committed to Mary, and a Spirit from Him. So believe in God and His Messengers, and say not, 'Three.' Refrain; better is it for you. God is only One God. Glory be to Him -- That He should have a son! To Him belongs all that is in the heavens and in the earth; God suffices for a guardian.

2:1	<u>1096-1161</u> εγένοντο δε	But there existed	<u>2532</u> και	also
<u>5578</u>	ψευδοπροφήται	false prophets	<u>1722</u> εν	among
<u>2992</u>	λαώ	people	<u>5613</u> ως	as
<u>1722</u>	εν	among	<u>1473</u> υμίν	you
<u>5572</u>	ψευδοδιδάσκαλοι	false teachers	<u>1510.8.6</u>	έσονται
<u>3919</u>	παρεισάξουσιν	shall introduce privately		there will be
<u>2532</u>	και	and	<u>3748</u>	οίτινες
<u>1473</u>	αυτούς	them		ones who
<u>1863</u>	επάγοντες	bringing	<u>139</u>	αιρέσεις
<u>5031</u>	ταχινήν	quick	<u>684</u>	απωλείας
			<u>59</u>	αγοράσαντα
			<u>720</u>	αρνούμενοι
			<u>1473</u>	ευτοίς
			<u>684</u>	απόλειαν
				destruction

Peter is not focused on false prophets because the threat is not men receiving false revelation from God, but instead is focused on false teachers because they were currently misrepresenting the message that had already been received. The New Testament revelation had been communicated by Jesus and the Apostles over the last 30 years. The churches had been founded on this teaching, but now false teachers were twisting the received revelation.

The similarity between the false prophets and the false teachers are seen in chapter two:

1. Same motive
2. Same style of manipulation
3. Same type of person
4. Same ultimate doom

“Pseudo” indicates men with false credentials, anointings or callings from God, besides having false teaching, information and application.

The future tense is used because Peter is quoting from Jesus, Paul’s and other teachings over the past 30 years that said these men were coming. (Same as Jude 17-18 and 2 Tim. 2:16-17; 3:2-5, 13; 4:3-4)

The false teachers are already active as chapter 2 indicates and Peter states clearly in 2 Peter 3:15-16.

“Introduce” (*pareisaxousin*) does not have in its meaning the idea of “secret” or “stealth”. The word *pareisago* (παρεισαγω) means “to bring into alongside of” and “to smuggle in.” The idea is to bring something not expected in along with something that is expected. It could be done “in secret” or may be done carelessly. The fact the false teachers are described the way they are in chapter 2 would seem to indicate they were bringing in false teaching on purpose while someone (the listener) was not paying attention or while the listener was being manipulated.

“Heresies” (*haireseis*, ‘αιρέσεις, or sects):

1. originally referred to a choice that was made between two options
2. then it began to refer to a group, sect, school of thought as it is used in:
 - a. Acts 5:17 – “But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and filled with jealousy...”
 - b. Acts 15:5 – “But some believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees rose up and said, ‘It is necessary to circumcise them and to order them to keep the law of Moses.’”
 - c. And, Acts 24:5; 26:5; 28:22

3. In 1 Corinthians and Galatians 5:20 it refers to a faction or division among the believers who held to a particular doctrinal slant.
4. Heresies (*haireseis*) began to mean doctrine or teaching that was no longer in agreement with the Truth. This is how Peter uses it in 2 Peter in 63-64 AD.

The nature of this “heresies” is said to be “destructive” and includes:

- a) the denial of the coming of the Lord
- b) the denial of the Lord’s future judgment
- c) the acceptance of immoral lifestyle

The “destructive” aspect includes the destruction of the lives of those who accept the heresy and the destruction of the false teachers.

Jude 4 is similar to this verse in Peter when Jude writes, “For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation.”

“Deny the Master who bought them” (*ton agorasanta autous despoten arnoumenoī*) includes these words:

“to deny” (*αρνουμενοι arnoumenoī*) meaning the opposite of “to confess” the Lord:

- John 1:20 – “He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.”
- 2 Timothy 2:12 – “if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us.”
- Titus 1:16 – “They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works.”
- 1 John 2:22-23 – “Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also.”

To “deny” the Lord is to say “no” in word or in deed instead of agreeing by saying “yes” and living in agreement.

“Master” (*δεσποτην, despoten*) – refers to masters of slaves in 1 Tim. 6:1-2. It is used to refer to God. The main idea of the use of “master” is to focus on the legal right the master has over the subject.

The concept of the “master” is intensified and clarified when Peter goes on to explain by adding phrase “who bought them” (*τον αγορασαντα αυτους, ton agorasanta autous*). This is the language used of a free man buying the slave and setting them free. It is called manumission. In the United States manumission this was a common practice when the will of a slave owner called for the release of his slaves upon his death. The ancient papyri uses this same phrase as Peter does to refer to slaves who had been bought and then released. In these documents stipulations were included that would not allow the freed slave to be enslaved again. Violations were met with penalties:

Believers are those who belong to Christ:

- 1 Corinthians 15:23 – “But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.”
- Galatians 5:24, - “And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”

These false teachers have been freed by the Lord, but have not only enslaved themselves again, but are going about re-enslaving others. Clearly their judgment should be swift and complete.

2:2 2532 και And 4183 πολλοί many 1811 εξακολουθήσουσιν shall follow after
1473 αυτών them 3588 ταις in the 684 απωλείαις destruction
1223 δι' through 3739 ους whom 3588 η the
3598 οδός way 3588 της of the 225 αληθείας truth
987 βλασφημηθήσεται shall be blasphemed.

2:3 2532 και And 1722 εν by 4124 πλεονεξία a desire for wealth
4112 πλαστοίς with shaped 3056 λόγοις words
1473-1710 υμάς εμπορεύσονται they shall make trade of you 3739 ος for whom
3588 το the 2917 κρίμα judgment 1597 έκπαλαι of old
3756-691 ουκ αργεί is not idle 2532 και and 3588 η
684-1473 απώλεια αυτών their destruction 3756 ου shall not 3573 νυστάζει slumber.

2:4 1487-1063 ει γαρ For if 3588 ο 2316 θεός God 32 αγγέλων of angels 264
αμαρτησάντων sinning 3756-5339 ουκ εφείσατο spared not 235 αλλά but 4577
σειραίς in chains 2217 ζόφου of the infernal 5020 ταρταρώσας region 3860
παρέδωκεν delivered them up 1519 εις for 2920 κρίσιν judgment 5083 τετηρημένους
being kept for.

2:5 2532 και and 744 αρχαίου *the ancient* 2889 κόσμου world 3756-5339 ουκ εφείσατο
 he spared not 235 αλλά but 3590 όγδοον *the eighth* * Νώε Noah 1343 δικαιοσύνης of
 righteousness 2782 κήρυκα proclaimer 5442 εφύλαξε kept 2627 κατακλυσμόν
the flood 2889 κόσμω world 765 ασεβών *to the impious* 1863 επάξας
 having brought

2:6 2532 και and 4172 πόλεις *the cities* * Σοδόμων of Sodom 2532 και and
 * Γομόρρας Gomorrah 5077 τεφρώσας having reduced to ashes 2692 καταστροφή by a final
 event 2632 κατέκρινεν he condemned 5262 υπόδειγμα an example 3195
 μελλόντων for *the ones* being about 764 ασεβείν to be impious 5087 τεθεικώς having
 set

2:7 2532 και and 1342 δίκαιον [²righteous * Λωτ³ Lot 2669 καταπονούμενον⁴ being
 harassed 5259 υπό⁵ by 3588 της⁶ the 3588 των 113 αθέσμων⁷ unlawful
 ones 1722 εν⁸ in 766 ασελγεία⁹ lewdness 391 αναστροφής¹⁰ of behavior, 4506 ερρύσατο¹ he rescued], 2:8 990-
1063 βλέματι γαρ (for by

sight²⁵³²καιand¹⁸⁹ακοήhearing,³⁵⁸⁸οthe¹³⁴²δίκαιοςrighteous *man*¹⁴⁶⁰εγκατοικώνdwelling¹⁷²²ενamong¹⁴⁷³αυτοίςthem,²²⁵⁰ημέρανday¹⁵³⁷εξby²²⁵⁰ημέραςday⁵⁵⁹⁰ψυχήν[³soul¹³⁴²δικαίαν²his righteous⁴⁵⁹ανόμοις⁴by their lawless²⁰⁴¹έργοις⁵works⁹²⁸εβασάνιζεν¹tormented];) 2:9 ¹⁴⁹²⁻²⁹⁶²οίδε κύριος*but the Lord knows*²¹⁵²ευσεβείς[²the pious¹⁵³⁷εκ³from³⁹⁸⁶πειρασμών⁴tests⁴⁵⁰⁶ρύεσθαι¹to rescue],⁹⁴⁻¹¹⁶¹αδίκους δεand *the unrighteous*¹⁵¹⁹εις[²for²²⁵⁰ημέραν³a day²⁹²⁰κρίσεως⁴of judgment²⁸⁴⁹κολαζομένους⁵being punished⁵⁰⁸³τηρεῖν¹to keep]; 2:10 ³¹²²⁻¹¹⁶¹μάλιστα δεand especially³⁵⁸⁸τους*the ones*³⁶⁹⁴οπίσω[²after⁴⁵⁶¹σαρκός³the flesh¹⁷²²εν⁴in¹⁹³⁹επιθυμία⁵a desire³³⁹⁴μιασμού⁶for defilement⁴¹⁹⁸πορευομένους¹going],²⁵³²καιand²⁹⁶³κυριότητος[²lordship²⁷⁰⁶καταφρονούντας¹ones disdaining];⁵¹¹³τολμηταί*daring*,⁸²⁹αυθάδεις*self-willed*,¹³⁹¹δόξας[⁴glories³⁷⁵⁶ου¹they do not⁵¹⁴¹τρέμουσι²tremble⁹⁸⁷βλάσφημούντες³in blaspheming]. 2:11 ³⁶⁹⁹όπου*Where*³²άγγελοι*angels*²⁴⁷⁹ισχύϊ[²in strength²⁵³²και³and¹⁴¹¹δυνάμει *power*³¹⁷³μείζονες⁴greater¹⁵¹⁰.⁶όντες¹being],³⁷⁵⁶ουdo not⁵³⁴²φέρουσι*bring*²⁵⁹⁶κατ' *against*¹⁴⁷³αυτών*them*³⁸⁴⁴παρά*before*²⁹⁶²κυρίω*the Lord*⁹⁸⁹βλάσφημον a blasphemous²⁹²⁰κρίσιν*case*.