

A LOOK AT THE BOOK

2 Peter

Ralph Porter
© 2003

AUTHOR AND DATE

2 Peter makes a clear claim to have been written by the apostle Peter.

Although external and internal evidence have provided debate, there is no clear evidence to contradict the claim of the book itself.

Debate:

Centers around number of books claiming to have been written by him.

Close parallels to Jude.

There is a qualitative difference between 2 Peter and the pseudonymous writings which claim him as author.

According to tradition, Peter was crucified upside down in A.D. 68.

The book was probably written late in his ministry, perhaps about A.D. 65.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The letter was written to the same group as his first letter (3:1).

They are saints who have been scattered throughout Asia Minor.

They have demonstrated their faith in God.

They have apparently passed through the persecution mentioned in 1 Peter.

They are now struggling against a new enemy: false teachers have come into their midst.

PURPOSE AND THEME

Peter wants the readers of his letter to continue our progressive development in the virtues taught in God's Word.

He wants us to reject the false teachers who are contradicting the truth they've been taught.

They are hindering people's growth.

They are causing stagnation.

In essence, the book contains an exhortation to keep growing and not let the false teachers stop us or "stunt" our spiritual growth.

Since God is going to intervene and judge the world, those who claim to be His people should remain faithful to Him and concentrate on that which will contribute to our growth.

2 PETER

CONCENTRATE ON GROWING!

Ralph Porter

Exhortation to Growth 1:1-11	Instruments for Growth 1:12-21	Warning concerning False Prophets 2:1-22	Exhortation based on God's Plan 3:1-18
Introduction 1-2	Peter's revelation 12-18 His purpose 12-15 His confirmation 16-18	Fact of false prophets 1-3 False prophets in the past 1a False prophets in the future 1b False prophets at work 1c-3a	Reminder of God's revelation 1-2
Provision for growth 3-4		Fate of false prophets 3b-9 Condemnation declared 3b Condemnation illustrated 4-8 Conclusion 9	Denial of God's intervention 3-7 Arrival of scoffers 3 Denial by scoffers 4 Ignorance of scoffers 5-7
Process for growth 5-7	Prophetic revelation 19-21		
Reasons for growth 8-9		Fruit of false prophets 10-22 Corrupt desires 10a Arrogant slander 10b-12 Carousing and adultery 13-14 Covetousness 15-16 Empty and enslaving words 17-22	Certainty of God's intervention 8-18 Cause of delay 8-9 Promise of intervention 10 Implications of intervention 11-13 Exhortations based on intervention 14-18
Results of growth 10-11			