

GREAT & PRECIOUS PROMISES

A Study in Second Peter

LESSON ONE

Prayerfully read through 2nd Peter, chapter one.

- 1) As we look at the first verse of this letter, we find it is packed with important theology. How does Peter identify himself in **verse 1**?

- 2) As in his first letter, Peter isn't writing to a specific church. Who does he address as his recipients?

- 3) Notice that Peter identifies himself as a **bondservant** first, and then as an apostle. In whatever area or capacity that we minister to others in, we must first be a bondservant before we are qualified and equipped to be anything else. Who else referred to themselves in this way? Look up the following verses and beside each verse, write **the name of the one being called a bondservant.**

Romans 1:1 –

Philippians 2:7 -

Colossians 4:12 -

James 1:1 -

Jude 1:1 –

- 4) What did Jesus say about being a bondservant in **John 12:26**?

- 5) Looking again at **2 Peter 1:1**, what name did Peter use in addressing his recipients?

- 6) Simon was Peter's given name. Peter was the name Jesus gave to him, which means "Rock." It could be that Peter was remembering his roots, where he came from, knowing that the only way he could be the man Jesus described him to be was by the power of God. It was something he could never attain or maintain on his own. Jesus Himself had warned Peter and the others of this truth in **John 15:5**. What did He say?

- 7) Our **like precious faith** is what binds us in love as believers with one another. How does **2 Peter 1:1** say that we obtain this precious faith?

- 8) Look again at the last part of **verse 1**. How does Peter describe Jesus? What does he call Him?

- 9) Look up Titus 2:13. What description does Paul give in this verse of Christ?

- 10) For those who deny the Trinity and that Christ was God, we see in these verses that there is no doubt that both Peter and Paul boldly proclaimed the deity of Christ. What do these other verses say that proclaim Christ's deity?

John 1:1 & 14a -

John 20:28 -

Romans 9:5 -

Hebrews 1:8 -

1 John 5:20 -

11) Peter pronounced a blessing of **grace and peace** upon his readers. These gifts are a **byproduct** of our “**precious faith.**” As we look at **verse 2** of our chapter, how does Peter say that the grace and peace given are **multiplied** to us? According to this verse, how does this happen?

12) **Verses 3 & 4** are a continuation of Peter’s sentence in verse 2. Peter has already stated that grace and peace (gifts given to us in our salvation), are **multiplied** to us as we grow in our knowledge of God. Looking now at **verse 3**, Peter describes other gifts given to us. By what means have these gifts been given. Fill in the blanks of verse 3, written below in the NKJV.

“...as His _____ has given to us all things that pertain to _____ and _____ through the _____ of Him who has _____ by [*His*] glory and virtue.”

13) In **Ephesians 1:15-21** Paul lifts up a prayer for the Ephesian church. In his prayer he asks that they would come into an understanding of the hope of God’s calling, the riches of the inheritance He has given to us, and the **exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe**; the same power that raised Christ from the dead and seated Him in heavenly places at the right hand of the Father. Look up the following Scriptures and write beside each one **the power of Christ** that has been given to us.

1 Corinthians 1:18 -

1 Corinthians 2:5 -

1 Corinthians 6:14 -

Colossians 1:11 -

2 Timothy 1:7 -

14) Looking at the **first part** of **2 Peter 1:4**, what else does Peter say Christ’s divine power, through the knowledge of Him, has given to us?

- 15) Looking now at the **second half** of the verse, for **what purpose** have these things been given to us?
- 16) These **great and precious promises** found in God's Word are rock solid in their reliability. We can have complete trust and confidence in them because they are based upon the very glory and virtue of the One who has promised them. What do the following Scriptures tell us about God's Word?

Psalm 138:2 -

Numbers 23:19 -

Luke 21:33 -

Hebrews 6:18 -

- 17) Having partaken of the divine nature of Christ through our faith in Him and the working of His divine power within us by the Holy Spirit, Peter exhorts us to grow spiritually, and he makes it clear that spiritual growth will not take place unless we pursue it with all diligence. Looking at **2 Peter 1:5-7**, write down all the things Peter states we should be **adding** to our faith.
- 18) What promise does Peter give us in **verse 8**, as an **end result** of our diligence to pursue these things?
- 19) What does Peter say in **verse 9** about those who "lack these things?"

- 20) Forgetting the forgiveness and cleansing we have received, and all that Christ has done for us, will cause us to be lukewarm, stagnant Christians. What warnings do the following Scriptures give us, and what do they tell us about the kind of influence our lives as Christians should have?

Matthew 5:13 16- (*Summarize*)

Luke 11:33 -

- 21) Record King David's heart cry from **Psalm 103:2-5** below.
- 22) When we reflect upon all that God has done for us it should fill our hearts with a gratitude that compels us to grow deeper in our knowledge of Him and live a life that honors Him and draws others to Him. What does Peter say about this in **2 Peter 1:10 & 11**?
- 23) What does Peter mean by, "...to make **your call and election SURE....**?" After looking up the following verses, **share what you think** this means. **Romans 6:4; Romans 8:29; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 4:21-24.**

According to the **Bible Knowledge Commentary**, the **end result** of such **diligence** will be that: The entrance **into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ** will be supplied with richness; it will be a wonderful **"welcome home!"**

24) Read **2 Peter 1:12-15**. Peter feels such an **urgent need** to leave them with **these reminders**. It is evident from these verses that part of Peter's reason for writing another letter so soon after the first one was because he was aware that his time on earth was short. Stop for a moment and think about what **"reminders"** you want to leave for the ones you love when you depart from this temporary life. Share the thoughts that come to your mind.

25) Looking at **verses 16-18**, Peter leaves them with reminders that will help them to have confidence in the testimony he has given them and the words that he is sharing with them. From these verses, record **the facts** that Peter gives to them that should help them to stand firm upon these truths.

Verse 16 -

Verse 17 -

Verse 18 -

There were many experiences that Peter and the other disciples had when they were with Jesus that could be described as **eyewitness confirmation** to His majesty. We can think of how Jesus walked on the water, how He raised Lazarus from the dead, how He calmed the storm, how He fed the four thousand with seven loaves of bread and a few fish. But the experience that stands foremost in **Peter's mind** is when he, James and John saw Jesus transfigured before them up on the mountain, standing beside Moses and Elijah. **Moses represented the Law**. **Elijah represented the prophets** of the Old Testament. This is noteworthy, because Christ **fulfilled both** the **Law** and the **prophets**.

- 26) What do the following Scriptures say concerning this? **Summarize these verses in your own words.**

Luke 24:44 -

John 1:45 -

Acts 28:23 -

- 27) Read through **2 Peter 1:19-21**. In **verse 19**, Peter puts a special emphasis on the **fulfillment of prophecy** as proof of the truth of his testimony. What does Peter say in **verse 19** about the “prophetic word,” and what warning does he give concerning it?

David Guzik states, “There are at least 332 distinct Old Testament predictions regarding the Messiah that Jesus fulfilled perfectly. The combination of this evidence together, from a simple statistical perspective, is absolutely overwhelming.”

Professor Peter Stoner has calculated that the probability of any one man fulfilling eight of these prophecies is one in 100,000,000,000,000,000 (10 to the 17th power). That number of silver dollars would cover the state of Texas two feet deep. Stoner says that if you consider 48 of the prophecies, the odds become one in 10 to the 157th power.

- 28) In **verses 20 & 21**, the last two verses of our chapter, Peter gives a final assurance of the reliability of the prophetic word. What is the first point that he makes in **verse 20**?

Commentator Albert Barnes states that Peter's meaning is that, **“the truths which the prophets communicated were not originated by themselves; were not of their own suggestion or invention; were not their own opinions, but were of higher origin, and were imparted by God.”**

29) Peter emphasizes this further in **verse 21**. What does he say?

Commentator Adam Clarke states, **“Far from *inventing* the subject of their own predictions, the ancient prophets did not even *know* the meaning of what they themselves wrote. They were *carried beyond themselves* by the influence of the *Divine Spirit*, and after ages were alone to discover the object of the prophecy; and the fulfillment was to be the absolute proof that the prediction was of God and that it was of *no private invention*.”** (Clarke)

30) We have great reason to be confident in Peter's eyewitness testimony of Christ. But we have even **greater reason** to be confident in Christ's deity and the truth of the Gospel because of His **fulfillment of prophecy**. What was your greatest take-away from this first lesson in 2 Peter?

This study was written and prepared by Shawn Van Hook, 2023