

Second Peter Outline

Introduction: Although called Second Peter and made to appear to be another letter from the Apostle Peter, scholars are also in wide agreement that the letter of Second Peter is probably written by someone else at least two decades after Peter's death in 64 CE. And it isn't merely language and stylistic differences that account for this belief; it's the subject matter.

The main concern of Second Peter is another group of Christians questioning Christ's second coming as well as other elements that made the faith appear strange and unattractive. Because the Christian community only began to openly question Christ's second coming towards the end of the First Century, scholars believe this letter was written during that period, and simply followed the popular convention of writing pseudonymously, meaning writing under a more popular pen name. Further, Second Peter and the Letter of Jude share a close relationship, and most agree now that Second Peter depended on Jude, using and shaping Jude's material to serve the community of Second Peter.

We know very little about the community to which Second Peter was writing; what we do see is an excellent example of contrast between the "soft difference" of First Peter and the far harsher "hard differences" expounded here in Second Peter. Indeed, Second Peter devotes nearly the entire second chapter of his letter to the terrible fate awaiting the teachers and preachers espousing beliefs with which he disagrees. Reading First Peter and Second Peter together are extremely helpful in this way as they force us to ask our own questions about where we draw the boundaries around ourselves and our community- what offenses are forgivable and what aren't?

Chapter 1: The calling of all believers; exhortation to spiritual discipline; Peter's authority

Chapter 2: The danger of false teachers and their punishment;

Chapter 3: Christ is coming back soon; Christ not slow but patient- allowing time for all to repent

Paul's letters hard to understand ☺

Stories to know: Proverbs of turning back (2); God and time (3); Comment about Paul's letters (3)