

INSIGHTS ON 2 PETER: CONQUERING THROUGH CONFLICT

A LETTER THAT RATTLES OUR CAGE
2 PETER 1:10, 12–13; 2:1–3; 3:1–6, 8–16



The Heart of the Matter

Sequels are usually inferior to the originals. This is true of movies—*Rocky* was a blockbuster, but *Rocky II*, *Rocky III* . . . *Rocky VI* (or however many there are) didn't do as well. It's also true of books. In the original, the first edition, the initial idea is fresh and new. What follows is simply a rehash with a twist. It's interesting, however, that the pattern of inferiority for sequels isn't true of books in the Bible. Second Samuel isn't a less exciting or less truthful book than 1 Samuel. And 2 Corinthians isn't less insightful or less pointed than 1 Corinthians. Nor is 2 Timothy less important to the church than 1 Timothy. Most of us may be more familiar with the first book than we are the second, but second volumes have a world of spiritual wealth and deserve as much attention as their older siblings. This is true of 2 Peter.



Discovering the Way

1. A Few Introductory Comments

Second Peter differs from 1 Peter in four significant ways.

2. Three Themes Woven 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.



Starting Your Journey

Second Peter points us toward HOPE: **H**eed what you already know; **O**pen your eyes and ears; **P**ursue a godly lifestyle; and **E**xpect Christ's return.

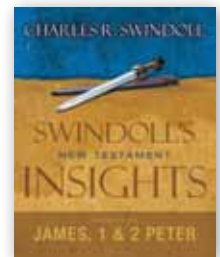


Tools for Digging Deeper



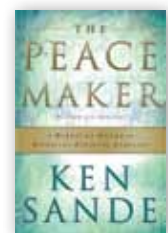
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SECOND PETER

	<i>Introduction (1:1–2)</i>	Exhortation to Spiritual Maturity Answers question: How can I grow in grace and knowledge? (1:2–3)	Denunciation of False Teachers Answers question: What should I expect from so-called prophets?	Anticipation of Christ's Return Answers question: What sort of people ought we to be? (3:11)	<i>Conclusion (3:17–18)</i>
		CHAPTER 1	CHAPTER 2	CHAPTER 3	
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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