

PRECEPT
UPON
PRECEPT

2 Peter

HOW TO BE KEPT
FROM FALLING

2 PETER
PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT
HOW TO BE KEPT FROM FALLING

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HELPFUL STUDY TOOLS

ARTHUR, KAY

How to Study Your Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 1994

The New Inductive Study Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2000

Greek Word Study Tools

Commentaries on 2 Peter

(See commentary list below.)

RECOMMENDED COMMENTARIES

BAXTER, J. SIDLOW

Explore the Book

Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1960

BARBIERI, JR., LOUIS A.

Everyman's Bible Commentary: First and Second Peter

Chicago, Illinois: Moody Press, 1977

BLUM, EDWIN A.; BARKER, GLENN W.

The Expositor's Bible Commentary: 1, 2 Peter; 1,2,3 John; Jude

Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1996

GREEN, MICHAEL

Tyndale New Testament Commentaries: 2 Peter and Jude

Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1987

WIERSBE, WARREN W.

Be Alert

Colorado Springs, Colorado: Chariot Victor Publishing, 1984

RECOMMENDED SOFTWARE

Logos Bible Software

Powerful search engines and up to 4,000 electronic Bible study resources (commentaries, lexicons, Bible dictionaries etc.) make it fast and easy to do simple and complex searches of multiple sources, then pull materials together for orderly presentation—excellent for word and topical studies based on English or original Hebrew and Greek. Available at www.logos.com.

LESSON ONE

Overview

THIS LESSON INCORPORATES Observation Worksheets of 2 Peter, located in the Appendix

Second Peter—things of which we need to be continually reminded.

DAY ONE AND DAY TWO

Use your Observation Worksheets, located in the Appendix, this week. Do not use any other study helps.

In this week's lesson you will be doing an overview of 2 Peter. The purpose of the overview is to help you understand the context of the book before you begin to dissect it chapter by chapter.

1. Because truth is revealed by God's Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:9-10), always begin with prayer asking God to guide you into His truth (John 16:13).
2. In the Appendix you will find the book of 2 Peter printed double-spaced. These are your Observation Worksheets. Read 2 Peter using these Observation Worksheets. Do not stop to ponder, question, or meditate. Simply sit down and read it as if it were a letter that had just come in the mail.
3. At the end of this lesson you'll find a section entitled "2 Peter Observations." As you read 2 Peter, record in this section who wrote this book and to whom it was written.
4. Read 2 Peter again. Your purpose for reading this time is to learn what you can about the **author**, looking only for those facts that are obvious. You can learn a great deal about the author by constantly asking the 5 Ws and an H (who, what, when, where, why, and how). For example, what does the text reveal about him, why did he write, when in his life did he write? These are just a few questions to get you started. These facts can be seen by noticing that the author will refer to himself using the pronouns *I*, *me*, *my*, *we*, and *us*. Record your insights on the "2 Peter Observations" pages. Don't panic if you

don't find an answer to every one of the 5 Ws and an H. Just record the obvious facts.

Read 2 Peter again looking for information about the **recipients**. Notice the pronouns *you* and *your*. Also, once again note only the obvious facts at this point. Record your insights on your "2 Peter Observations" pages.

5. Also on the "2 Peter Observations" pages, record what type of literature 2 Peter is.
6. Read 2 Peter again. Keeping in mind what you learned about the author and the recipients, what did you notice about the time in which they are living? This will give you information on the **historical background** of the book. On your "2 Peter Observations" pages record what you glean regarding the historical background.

DAY
THREE
AND
DAY
FOUR

Your assignment for this study session is to look for the **key words** used throughout the book of 2 Peter. Do this assignment step-by-step. Review the author's (Peter's) stated purpose for writing this letter to believers, 2 Peter 3:1-2.

1. A key word is a word which the author uses repeatedly or which when removed from the text leaves the content devoid of meaning. When you look for key words, it will be helpful to mark them on your Observation Worksheets. Key words can be marked in one of two ways:
 - a. by coloring each use of the same word and its synonyms and pronouns in one color,
 - b. by using a symbol to mark that particular word to distinguish it from others.

Keeping in mind what you learned as you identified Peter as the author and why he wrote, read 2 Peter again. What words does he repeat throughout the book? Mark these on your Observation Worksheets.

2. Key words will give you a clue to the general subjects which in turn will show you what the theme of the book is. Considering why Peter wrote, what these believers were facing, and the key words repeated throughout, summarize his message using words from the text.

DAY
FIVE

An **At a Glance** chart is a tool that is useful in understanding an overview of a book. It is a chart on which you can record much of the information you have already observed. The purpose of constructing an **At a Glance** chart is to see how the different parts (chapters) relate to the whole (book).

1. Record on the “**2 Peter at a Glance**” chart the following:
 - a. author
 - b. recipients
 - c. purpose
 - d. key words
 - e. book theme
2. Now see how each chapter relates to the overall message of 2 Peter. Again, the key words will give you direction. As you identify the theme of each chapter, record it on the **At a Glance** chart.
3. Since 2 Peter is such a short epistle, it would be very helpful to become familiar with the book paragraph by paragraph. Again, the key words will give you direction. As you identify the theme of each paragraph, record it in the space provided on your **At a Glance** chart.
4. Sometimes, as you study a book, you’ll see a general or broad division of the book. This is a segment division.

In shorter books, such as 2 Peter, you may not find many clear segment divisions. If you see any segment divisions, record these on your **At a Glance** chart.
5. As you look at this **At a Glance** chart, you can clearly see the framework of the book of 2 Peter. You have done the research necessary to begin to see the overall picture of the book. These insights are absolutely vital because they give you the basic understanding of the context of the book necessary to accurately handle the message.
6. As you have studied this week, has God spoken to you in any particular way? If so, how?

7. Memorize 2 Peter 1:2-3.

2 PETER OBSERVATIONS

Author

Recipients

Type of literature

Why written

Historical background or setting

Questions raised

2 PETER AT A GLANCE

Book Theme

	Paragraph Themes	Chapter Themes	Segment Divisions
Author	1:1		
Recipients	1:5		
Purpose	1:12		
When Written	2:1		
Key Words	3:1		
	3:8		
	3:14		

2 PETER 1

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

SIMON Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ:

- 2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord;
- 3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.
- 4 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of *the* divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.
- 5 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in *your* moral excellence, knowledge,
- 6 and in *your* knowledge, self-control, and in *your* self-control, perseverance, and in *your* perseverance, godliness,
- 7 and in *your* godliness, brotherly kindness, and in *your* brotherly kindness, love.
- 8 For if these *qualities* are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 9 For he who lacks these *qualities* is blind *or* short-sighted, having forgotten *his* purification from his former sins.
- 10 Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble;

- 11 for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.
- 12 Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you *already* know *them*, and have been established in the truth which is present with *you*.
- 13 I consider it right, as long as I am in this *earthly* dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder,
- 14 knowing that the laying aside of my *earthly* dwelling is imminent, as also our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me.
- 15 And I will also be diligent that at any time after my departure you will be able to call these things to mind.
- 16 For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty.
- 17 For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, “This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased”—
- 18 and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.
- 19 So we have the prophetic word *made* more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.
- 20 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is *a matter* of one’s own interpretation,
- 21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

2 PETER 2

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- BUT** false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.
- 2 Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned;
 - 3 and in *their* greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.
 - 4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment;
 - 5 and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;
 - 6 and *if* He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing *them* to ashes, having made them an example to those who would live ungodly *lives* thereafter;
 - 7 and *if* He rescued righteous Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men
 - 8 (for by what he saw and heard *that* righteous man, while living among them, felt *his* righteous soul tormented day after day by *their* lawless deeds),
 - 9 *then* the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment,
 - 10 and especially those who indulge the flesh in *its* corrupt desires and despise authority.

Daring, self-willed, they do not tremble when they revile angelic majesties,

- 11 whereas angels who are greater in might and power do not bring a reviling judgment against them before the Lord.
- 12 But these, like unreasoning animals, born as creatures of instinct to be captured and killed, reviling where they have no knowledge, will in the destruction of those creatures also be destroyed,
- 13 suffering wrong as the wages of doing wrong. They count it a pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are stains and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, as they carouse with you,
- 14 having eyes full of adultery that never cease from sin, enticing unstable souls, having a heart trained in greed, accursed children;
- 15 forsaking the right way, they have gone astray, having followed the way of Balaam, the *son* of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;
- 16 but he received a rebuke for his own transgression, *for* a mute donkey, speaking with a voice of a man, restrained the madness of the prophet.
- 17 These are springs without water and mists driven by a storm, for whom the black darkness has been reserved.
- 18 For speaking out arrogant *words* of vanity they entice by fleshly desires, by sensuality, those who barely escape from the ones who live in error,
- 19 promising them freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved.
- 20 For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first.
- 21 For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment handed on to them.
- 22 It has happened to them according to the true proverb, “A DOG RETURNS TO ITS OWN VOMIT,” and, “A sow, after washing, *returns* to wallowing in the mire.”

2 PETER 3

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- THIS** is now, beloved, the second letter I am writing to you in which I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder,
- 2 that you should remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior *spoken* by your apostles.
 - 3 Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with *their* mocking, following after their own lusts,
 - 4 and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For *ever* since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.”
 - 5 For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God *the* heavens existed long ago and *the* earth was formed out of water and by water,
 - 6 through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water.
 - 7 But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.
 - 8 But do not let this one *fact* escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day.
 - 9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.
 - 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

- 11 Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,
- 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!
- 13 But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.
- 14 Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless,
- 15 and regard the patience of our Lord *as* salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you,
- 16 as also in all *his* letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.
- 17 You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness,
- 18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

Isn't God's Word amazing? Now that you've studied and prayerfully considered the key principles in these scriptures, is there something new for you to believe or do, or did it move you to make a change or to do something specific in your life? It's one of the many amazing and supernatural results of being in His life-changing Word—God speaks to us. What is He asking you to do?

At Precept Ministries International, we believe that we have heard God speak very strongly about our part in the Great Commission. He has told us to make disciples by teaching people to observe His Word. For the next five years, we will do this by:

- Mobilizing an army of people with a passion for establishing others in Inductive Bible Study who want to use their Spiritual Gifts to serve the ministry and support Bible Study Leaders, and
- Reaching 10 Million people with Inductive Bible Study.

If you share our passion for establishing people in God's Word and our desire to respond to the Great Commission, **we invite you to join us!** Will you prayerfully consider giving monthly to the ministry to support our goal to reach 10 Million people?

We've done the math and estimate that for every \$2 you give, we can reach 1 person with life-changing Inductive Bible Study. If you give online at www.precept.org/ATC, we save on administrative costs so your dollars go 20% farther. And if you give monthly as a recurring gift, we can better plan our efforts. So, whether it's \$10, \$100 or more each month, you can be sure that, together, we're reaching others with God's Word.

And you can be sure that when you purchase materials from Precept Ministries International that we pour that revenue right into disciple-making—more training, more materials, for more people.

ABOUT PRECEPT MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

Precept Ministries International was raised up by God for the sole purpose of establishing people in God's Word to produce reverence for Him. It serves as an arm of the church without respect to denomination. God has enabled Precept to reach across denominational lines without compromising the truths of His inerrant Word. Believing the Word was verbally inspired and given to man as all that is necessary for him to become mature and thoroughly equipped for every good work of life, this ministry does not seek to impose its personal doctrines on others, but rather to direct people to the Master Himself, who leads and guides by His Spirit into all truth through a systematic study of His Word.

Precept Ministries International produces a variety of Bible studies and holds conferences and intensive Training Workshops designed to ground attendees in Inductive Bible Study. Conferences and weekly Bible studies are held at Precept Ministries International's headquarters and conference center, conveniently located on a beautiful 32-acre multi-building complex in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Jack Arthur and his wife, Kay, founded Precept Ministries in 1970. Kay Arthur is the creator and coauthor of the Precept Upon Precept and In & Out Bible studies, the New Inductive Study Series, 40-Minute Bible Studies, and Discover 4 Yourself Inductive Bible Studies for Kids. From years of diligent study and teaching experience, Kay and the staff have developed these unique, inductive courses.

If you want more information about Precept's teaching ministries or workshops, please contact **Precept Ministries International**, 800-763-8280, www.precept.org. A doctrinal statement is available upon request.