

The False Teachers Who Were To Come

2 Pet. 2:1-22

Introduction

Peter devotes the second chapter of his second letter to an exposition on false prophets. He gives detailed descriptions of them, their pernicious ways, the damaging effects of their error, and the doom that awaits them. God has always been opposed to false teachers and those who do evil (**vv. 3b-8**), and those who would “exploit you with false words” will suffer the same awful fate every other opponent of God has through the ages. The solution to the crisis of false teachers has already been given: be diligent in forming a strong Christian character (**1:5-11**), and pay attention to the writings God has given through His servants (**1:19-21**).

1. How is **2:1** a contrast to what Peter just got through discussing in **1:19-21**? Where else in the New Testament do we read of similar warnings about false teachers?
2. How does Peter describe these false teachers, how they operate, and the effects of their error? (**2:1-3a**) How would Peter painfully know the danger of “denying the Master”?
3. What is already determined about such teachers? (**2:3b**) *Thought question:* be able to explain “judgment from long ago is not idle” (NASV).
4. Be prepared to discuss the 3 examples Peter cites as proof of the certainty of God’s punishment upon the wicked (**2:4-8**) What purpose do these verses serve in the chapter’s overall context?

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5. What conclusion does Peter offer in **2:9**, and how would it bring comfort to the readers of his second epistle?

6. Returning to the false teachers in **2:10-19**, how does Peter further describe them? (**2:10; cp. Jude 8**) What particular attitude is mentioned in **v. 10b**, and how is the depths to which they have fallen illustrated? (**2:11; cp. Jude 9**)

7. To what does Peter liken these false teachers in **2:12a**? What awaits them because of their conduct? (**2:12b-13a**) What statement in **2:13** especially highlights their depravity? (**cp. Jn. 3:19-20**) How else does Peter describe them? (**2:13b**)

8. What do you think is meant by the phrase "having eyes full of adultery..."? (**2:14a**) Upon whom did they prey and why? (**2:14b**)

9. What have these false teachers done? (**2:15a; cp. vv. 1, 20-22**) In what sense did they follow the example of Balaam? (**2:15b; cp. Num. 22**) How was Balaam shown his error? (**2:16**) *Thought question:* what do you think Peter hopes to gain by mentioning Balaam's rebuke from the donkey?

10. Having given his readers several good descriptions of such false teachers, how does Peter emphasize the worthlessness of what they taught? (**2:17-19**) What metaphors are particularly emphatic in **v. 17**?

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11. Basically, how did these false teachers operate? **(2:18)** What did they hypocritically promise? **(2:19)** How did the apostle Paul address this in **Gal. 5:13**?

12. What principle found in **Jn. 8:34** and **Rom. 6:16** did these false teachers overlook?

13. To whom does "they" refer in **2:20**? What is implied about these false teachers in **2:20-22**?

14. From where does Peter quote in **2:22**? *Thought questions:* in what way are these verses helpful in talking with friends & family about salvation? What other passage(s) could be used to corroborate these verses?

15. What truth is taught in **2:20b-21a**? Use **Mt. 12:43-45** & **Lk. 12:47-48** in your answer.