The Epistles Of

1 & 2 PETER

"...but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 3:18

NASB Text & Study Guide



1 PETER 1:1-9

- 1:1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen
- 2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, that you may obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in fullest measure.
- <u>3</u> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
- 4 to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.
- <u>6</u> In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials,
- <u>7</u> that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;
- 8 and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,
- <u>9</u> obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.

	In your own words, state what you believe to be the main point of this text.
	Questions for Discussion
1.	To whom does Peter write this letter? Based on how Peter addresses his audience, what trials do you think they might have been facing?
2.	Why do you think Peter might want his readers to know the information he gives in v. 2?
3.	What do you learn from this text about the purpose of trials?

1 PETER 1:10-16

<u>10</u> As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful search and inquiry,

<u>11</u> seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.

12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven — things into which angels long to look.

13 Therefore, gird your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

<u>14</u> As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance,

<u>15</u> but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior:

<u>16</u> because it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

	In your own words, state what you believe to be the main point of this text.
	Questions for Discussion
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1.	How does Peter describe the message of the prophets in this text? Does this teach us anything
	about how we should read the prophets today?
2.	Explain how vv. 13-16 follow the progression of thought in the first twelve verses of the
	chapter.
3.	What does it mean to "fix your hone completely on the grace to be brought to you at the
٦.	What does it mean to "fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ" (v. 13)?
	revelation of Jesus Christ (v. 13):

1 PETER 1:17-25

- 17 And if you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each man's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay upon earth;
- 18 knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers,
- 19 but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.
- <u>20</u> For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you
- <u>21</u> who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.
- <u>22</u> Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart,
- <u>23</u> for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and abiding word of God.
- <u>24</u> For, "All flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls off,
- <u>25</u> but the word of the Lord abides forever." And this is the word which was preached to you.

	In your own words, state what you believe to be the main point of this text.
	Questions for Discussion
1.	Before studying any further, take some time to mark anything in the text that you recognize from the Old Testament – whether a direct quote or an allusion that sounds familiar (this will be a good habit to get into as you study 1 Peter). Why do you think Peter would quote so extensively from the Old Testament?
2.	According to this text, for what purpose has God purified us?

3. From where does Peter quote verses 24 & 25? Do you see any connection between that text

and this one?

1 PETER 2:1-8

- <u>2:1</u> Therefore, putting aside all malice and all guile and hypocrisy and envy and all slander,
- <u>2</u> like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,
- <u>3</u> if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.
- 4 And coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected by men, but choice and precious in the sight of God,
- <u>5</u> you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
- <u>6</u> For this is contained in Scripture: "Behold I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious corner stone, and he who believes in Him shall not be disappointed."
- <u>7</u> This precious value, then, is for you who believe. But for those who disbelieve, "The stone which the builders rejected, this became the very corner stone,"
- <u>8</u> and, "A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense"; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed.

In your own words, state what you believe to be the main point of this text.

	Questions for Discussion
1.	Explain the transition from chapter one to chapter two.
2.	What do you think it means to "grow in respect to salvation" (v. 2)?
3.	What pictures does Peter use to describe God's people in this text? What do you learn from these descriptions about the expectations God has for His people?
4.	Explain the metaphor Peter uses in vv. 4-8.

1 PETER 2:9-17

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

<u>10</u> for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

<u>11</u> Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts, which wage war against the soul.

12 Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may on account of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.

13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority,

<u>14</u> or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right.

15 For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men.

<u>16</u> Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves of God.

<u>17</u> Honor all men; love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.

	In your own words, state what you believe to be the main point of this text.
	Questions for Discussion
1.	How does Peter identify his audience in this section? Do you see any relationship between their identity and the instructions Peter gives them?
2.	From this text, what do you learn about how a Christian should respond to opposition?
3.	What is "the day of visitation" Peter refers to in v. 12?
4.	Explain v. 16.

1 PETER 2:18-25

18 Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable.

19 For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a man bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly.
20 For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God.

<u>21</u> For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,

<u>22</u> who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth;

<u>23</u> and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously; <u>24</u> and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

<u>25</u> For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

	In your own words, state what you believe to be the main point of this text.
	Questions for Discussion
1.	How do vv. 21-25 fit in with the preceding context?
2.	List all of the things you can find in this text that are accomplished by suffering. Can you think of any other things that suffering might accomplish in the life of a Christian?
3.	What is the relationship between our ability to trust God and our ability to patiently endure suffering?

3:1 In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives,

<u>2</u> as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.

<u>3</u> And let not your adornment be merely external — braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses;

4 but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.

<u>5</u> For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands.

<u>6</u> Thus Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.

7 You husbands likewise, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

<u>8</u> To sum up, let all be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit;

9 not returning evil for evil, or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.

<u>10</u> For, "Let him who means to love life and see good days Refrain his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking guile.

11 "And let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it.

12 "For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, And His ears attend to their prayer, But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

	In your own words, state what you believe to be the main point of this text.
	Questions for Discussion
1.	Write down all of the connections you see in this text between our relationships with other people and our relationship with God.
2.	What does it mean to speak guile (v. 10)? Why is it something we should avoid?
3.	From where does Peter quote vv. 10-12? Do you see any parallels between that text and this one?

13 And who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good?

<u>14</u> But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled,

15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; 16 and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

17 For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong.

18 For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;

19 in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison,

<u>20</u> who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water.

<u>21</u> And corresponding to that, baptism now saves you — not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience — through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

<u>22</u> who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.

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	Questions for Discussion						
1.	In what ways are those who "suffer for the sake of righteousness" blessed?						
2.	What does Peter say will happen to those who oppose God's people? How is this accomplished? Where does Peter teach a similar idea elsewhere in this letter?						
3.	How do verses 18-22 follow the progression of thought in this section?						
4.	Do you notice any themes that are prominent in chapters two & three? Explain how these themes are connected to Peter's summary of the letter in 5:12.						

1 PETER 4:1-11

- 4:1 Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, 2 so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.
- <u>3</u> For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousals, drinking parties and abominable idolatries.
- 4 And in all this, they are surprised that you do not run with them into the same excess of dissipation, and they malign you;
- <u>5</u> but they shall give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.
- 6 For the gospel has for this purpose been preached even to those who are dead, that though they are judged in the flesh as men, they may live in the spirit according to the will of God.
- <u>7</u> The end of all things is at hand; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer.
- <u>8</u> Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.
- <u>9</u> Be hospitable to one another without complaint.
- <u>10</u> As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.
- 11 Whoever speaks, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever serves, let him do so as by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

In y	your own	words,	state what	you believe t	to be the	main	point of	this text.
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	Questions for Discussion
1.	Do you notice a shift in the tone somewhere in this section?
2.	Explain v. 6.
3.	Why are sound judgment and sobriety important in prayer?
4.	How does love cover a multitude of sins?
5.	Can you think of any reasons why the things Peter mentions in vv. 7-11 might have been difficult for his audience?

1 PETER 4:12-19

12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you;

13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing; so that also at the revelation of His glory, you may rejoice with exultation.

14 If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

<u>15</u> By no means let any of you suffer as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler;

<u>16</u> but if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not feel ashamed, but in that name let him glorify God.

<u>17</u> For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

<u>18</u> And if it is with difficulty that the righteous is saved, what will become of the godless man and the sinner?

19 Therefore, let those also who suffer according to the will of God entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.

In your own words, state what you believe to be the main point of this text.
Questions for Discussion
What is the "fiery ordeal" Peter refers to in v. 12? Why do you think Peter's audience might have been surprised by it?
Why do you think Peter continues to emphasize the revelation and the glory of Jesus (compare v. 13 to 1:7, 11, 13, 21; 2:4; 3:22; 4:11)? Do you see any connection between this theme and the circumstances the readers of this letter were facing?
Explain vv. 17-18.

1 PETER 5:1-7

5:1 Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, 2 shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid

gain, but with eagerness;

 $\underline{3}$ nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.

<u>4</u> And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

<u>5</u> You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,

<u>7</u> casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you.

In your own words, state what you believe to be the main point of this text.
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Questions for Discussion
1. How does this section fit in with what Peter has written so far?
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2. From this text, what do you learn about the responsibility elders have toward the people they shepherd? What do you learn about the responsibility God's people have toward the elders who

3. Peter identifies himself as an "elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed." What lessons do you think Peter had learned during his life

shepherd them?

about leadership and humility?

1 PETER 5:8-14

- <u>8</u> Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.
- 9 But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.
- <u>10</u> And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.
- <u>11</u> To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen.
- 12 Through Silvanus, our faithful brother (for so I regard him), I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it!
- 13 She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you greetings, and so does my son, Mark.
- <u>14</u> Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace be to you all who are in Christ.

In	your own	words,	state what	you believe	to be the	main	point of	this text.

	Questions for Discussion
1.	Do you see any connection between this section and the previous one?
2.	What ideas in this text do you find most helpful for someone facing persecution or suffering?
3.	Explain Peter's reference to Babylon in v. 13. What do you think this might mean? Why might he include this detail in his final greetings?
4.	Take some time to reflect on 1 Peter as a whole. What is your overall impression of this letter? How would you summarize 1 Peter now after studying through it in detail? What have been some of the most memorable lessons you have learned from this study?

2 PETER 1:1-11

- <u>1</u> 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:
- <u>2</u> Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord;
- <u>3</u> 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, in order that by them you might 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;
- <u>6</u> and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness;
- <u>7</u> and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love.
- <u>8</u> 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.

In your own words, state what you believe to be the main point of this text.									

	Questions for Discussion						
1.	Compare the first two verses of 2 Peter with the first two verses of 1 Peter. What similarities/differences stand out to you?						
2.	If Peter's audience is generally the same as in his first letter, how might the information in thi section encourage them?						
3.	In what way(s) do the eight qualities listed in vv. 5-7 build on each other? In other words, do you see any progression from one quality to the next?						
4.	According to this text, what are some of the problems that can lead to a lack of growth in the life of a Christian? How can we overcome these problems?						

2 PETER 1:12-21

12 Therefore, I shall 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 And I consider it right, as long as I am in this earthly dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder,

<u>14</u> knowing that the laying aside of my earthly dwelling is imminent, as also our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me.

<u>15</u> And I will also be diligent that at any time after my departure you may 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" —

<u>18</u> and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

19 And 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.

<u>20</u> But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation,

<u>21</u> for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

	In your own words, state what you believe to be the main point of this text.						
	Questions for Discussion						
1.	Consider Peter's method in this letter – not only does he remind his readers of things they already know, but he also <i>tells</i> them he is reminding them. What is the value of this method?						
2.	To what event does Peter seem to refer in vv. 16-18? How does this event relate to the point he is making in this section?						
3.	What are some of the implications you can think of from Peter's statement in vv. 20-21?						

2 PETER 2:1-10A

<u>1</u> 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 And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned;

<u>3</u> 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 thereafter;

<u>7</u> 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 with 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,

<u>10</u> and especially those who indulge the flesh in its corrupt desires and despise authority.

	In your own words, state what you believe to be the main point of this text.
	Questions for Discussion
1.	Read Peter's description of the false teachers in chapter two. Do you see any similarities between the teaching & conduct of these false teachers and the teaching & conduct that are prevalent among people today?
2.	Explain the following statement from v. 3: "their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep."
3.	How do verses 4-10 fit with the flow of thought in chapter two? What point is Peter making to his audience?

2 PETER 2:10B-22

<u>10</u> Daring, self-willed, they do not tremble when they revile angelic majesties,

<u>11</u> whereas angels who are greater in might and power do not bring a reviling judgment against them before the Lord.

<u>12</u> 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,

<u>14</u> having eyes full of adultery and that never cease from sin, enticing unstable souls, having a heart trained in greed, accursed children;

<u>15</u> forsaking the right way they have gone astray, having followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness,

<u>16</u> but he received a rebuke for his own transgression; for a dumb donkey, speaking with a voice of a man, restrained the madness of the prophet.

<u>17</u> These are springs without water, and mists driven by a storm, for whom the black darkness has been reserved.

<u>18</u> 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.

<u>20</u> 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.

<u>21</u> 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 delivered to them.

<u>22</u> 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."

	In your own words, state what you believe to be the main point of this text.
	Questions for Discussion
1.	How does the opposition in this letter differ from the opposition in 1 Peter? Write down some of the things you find particularly challenging about the opposition in this letter.
2.	Who was Balaam? How would the false teachers described in this chapter behave similarly to him?
3.	Why do you think the process described in vv. 20-22 might happen to someone? What warnings can we take from this text that can help prevent this from happening to us?

2 PETER 3:1-10

- $\underline{1}$ 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.
- <u>3</u> 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.
- <u>Z</u> But the present heavens and earth by His word are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.
- <u>8</u> But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.
- <u>9</u> 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.
- <u>10</u> 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.

	In your own words, state what you believe to be the main point of this text.
	Questions for Discussion
1.	Write down all of the things you notice in this section about the character of God.
2.	To what story is Peter referring in vv. 5-6? What things could Peter's audience learn from that story to help them in their present circumstances?
3.	What do you learn from this text about the perspective we should have toward life?

2 PETER 3:11-18

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, on account of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!

<u>13</u> 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 to be salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you,

<u>16</u> 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.

<u>17</u> You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard lest, being carried away by the error of unprincipled men, you 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.

In your own words, state what you believe to be the main point of this text.	

Questions for Discussion

1.	How	does	this	section	fit	with	the	previous	one?
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2. From our study of 1 Peter, consider some of the trials Peter's audience is facing. What things might make it challenging for them to have the mindset he describes in this text?

3. Peter's final instruction in this letter is to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (v. 18). This phrase serves as a good summary of the letter as a whole. What are some of most vital lessons you have learned from this letter about growth in the life of a follower of Christ?