

## 1. Second Peter

### a. Introduction

- i. The letter claims to have been written by Simon Peter. It even mentions that this is the second time he wrote.
  1. Origen doubted Simon wrote it.
  2. It is not even addressed to the same churches as 1<sup>st</sup> Peter was addressed to
  3. No one knows the actual author
- ii. The language, style, and situation facing these Christians is very different from those in 1<sup>st</sup> Peter. This author is familiar with Greek rhetorical methods and likes to use fancy and unusual words.
- iii. By the time this was written, collections of Paul's letters were circulating and were considered as Scripture. At least one of the Gospels was considered by this author to be Scripture as well. The letter was probably written in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century.
- iv. The writer knew the letter of Jude and uses portions of it in his letter-the section against false teachers.

### b. Concerns of the writer

- i. False teaching about the second coming of Jesus.
- ii. Concerned about true teaching of Jesus in the Post Apostolic era

### c. Theological themes

- i. God's power created and sustains all that is
- ii. God is totally different from all that is not God.
- iii. Jesus gives us access to God's power, a power which makes it possible to transform us from sinners to saints.
- iv. When Jesus does return he will reward the good and punish the bad.
- v. God will destroy the old creation by fire.
  1. He will save the righteous from this fire.
  2. He will recreate the heavens and the earth.
- vi. The righteous must strive to be purified and ready for the eternal life which they will inherit. Passions and the desire for the material must be checked-these are no part of God and therefore no part of the eternal life he is offering us.
- vii. God must help us in this quest since we have not the power to do it ourselves.

