

## The 2nd letter that Peter wrote This page tells a bit more about Peter's 2nd letter

Peter was one of the 12 close followers of Jesus, and he knew Jesus well. At first his name was Simon, but Jesus gave him the name Cephas in their language, which is Peter in our language. Both of those names mean stone.

Peter wrote 2 letters that are now part of the Holy Bible. This is the 2nd one.

About 2,000 years ago Jesus went back to heaven but Peter kept working for him. Then, about 36 years later, Peter wrote this letter. Soon after that Peter died.

Peter wrote this letter to Christians that wanted to live the right way. But there were some people that taught the wrong things about God.

So Peter wrote this letter to help the Christians understand God's true word. In this letter he told them not to believe those lying teachers. And he told them that Jesus will come back to this earth, so we have to be ready at the time when he comes.

<sup>1</sup> I am Peter, and this letter is from me. My other name is Simon. I work for Jesus Christ, and he sent me to tell people his message.

You people believe in Jesus Christ just like I do, so I'm writing this letter to you. Jesus helps us trust him and that is really special for us. Jesus Christ is God, and he saves us. He is always right and he is always fair.

<sup>2</sup> You already know God, and our leader, Jesus, so I pray that you will know them better every day. And I'm asking

God to be really good to you, and to make you happy and quiet inside yourselves.

*God helps us live the right way*

<sup>3</sup> You know, God is really powerful. And God is very great and very good too. He picked us out to be his own people, so we can get to know him properly. After that he gives us everything we need to live the right way. <sup>4</sup> And he promised us some very important things. He promised that we can be the same kind of people that he is, really good people. He says that we can stop ourselves from thinking about doing bad things. We are not like the people that belong to this world. They want to do bad things, then they get up and do those bad things, and those bad things spoil them. But God says that we can get away from all that. Isn't this great? He promised us this, and it is really dear to us.

<sup>5</sup> So think about this and you will know that you have to be as good as you can. You believe in Christ all right, but you have to keep trying to get better and better all the time. You always have to try to do whatever is right, and you have to try to know God better, <sup>6-7</sup> and you have to try to control yourselves properly too, and you have to learn to keep going strong no matter what happens. And you have to be good to each other too, so that you will make God happy. And you have to love other Christians like they are your own brothers and sisters, and you have to love everybody else too.

<sup>8</sup> If you keep on getting better and better like this you will get to know our leader, Jesus Christ, better and better. And you will be a good worker that does a good job for him every time. <sup>9</sup> But some people don't do this. They don't think that it is important. They are like blind people

that can't see anything properly. They forget about what God did for them. They used to do wrong things before, but God made them free from all that, and he made them clean inside themselves. But they forget all about that.

<sup>10</sup> So, my friends, try hard to do all these good things. God picked you to be his own people, and whenever you do these good things you show everybody that you really are God's people. If you do these things, you will never turn away from God, <sup>11</sup> Then God will be very happy with you and he will bring you into Jesus Christ's family, and you will live with him for ever. He is the one that saves us.

*Don't forget this message*

<sup>12</sup> I will keep on telling you about these things even though you already know them and you know that they are true. But I will keep telling you about them anyway.

<sup>13</sup> I reckon it's right for me to remind you about these things, and I will keep doing it while I'm still alive in this body so that you will keep thinking about these things and you will not forget them.

<sup>14</sup> Our leader, Jesus Christ, told me that soon I will die. He will take me out of this body. <sup>15</sup> But while I'm still alive in this body I will do everything I can to keep telling you these things so that after I die you will always remember them.

*Jesus Christ is really great. Peter saw this himself*

<sup>16</sup> You remember that we told you about our leader, Jesus Christ. That was a true story. We didn't make up smart stories to tell you. We told you that Jesus is powerful, and he will come back here to this earth again. We saw for ourselves that Jesus is very great, and we told you everything we saw. <sup>17-18</sup> We went with Jesus up on

to that special mountain, and God, the Father, showed us that Jesus is very great and powerful. God told us this, he said, "This is my son. I love him very much. He makes me very happy." And we ourselves heard God's wonderful voice. He talked from heaven and told us that message.

*The messages in God's book are true*

<sup>19</sup> So now we can be really sure about those messages in God's book. We can be sure they are true. A long time ago God told his men to write those words in his book. You have to think carefully about those messages. They are like a light shining in the night. Think about them and God will help you understand them, just like a light helps you see things in the night. And those words will keep on shining for you till daylight starts to come, and Jesus comes, just like the morning star. <sup>20</sup> You see, those men that wrote those words a long time ago, they didn't think up their own stories or <sup>21</sup> write down their own ideas. No. The Holy Spirit worked inside them and told them God's messages. Those words came from God and they wrote them down in his book.

2

*Look out, some people teach lies*

<sup>1</sup> In God's book we read about his people a long time ago. Some liars got up among God's people and said they were telling God's words, but they were lying. And the same kind of thing will happen now. People will get up among you and teach things that are wrong. If you listen to them you will go wrong, and God will soon wreck you. Those people will even turn against our leader, Jesus, the one that died to save them. And one day God will quickly punish them for this wrong thing they do. <sup>2</sup> These people

will teach bad things and a lot of people will listen to them and do those bad and dirty things. And if people that are not Christians see this they will rubbish the true way that God wants us to live.

<sup>3</sup> These lying teachers only want your money. So, they will tell you tricky lies to get you to give them money. A long time ago God said he will punish them, and he is ready to do that. One day he will properly finish up those liars.

*God punishes bad people, but he helps good people*

<sup>4</sup> Think about these stories from a long time ago. At one time some of God's angel messengers did wrong. They didn't do what God told them to do, so God punished them. He threw them down into the dark hole called hell. He is keeping them there now, and later he will judge them.

<sup>5</sup> At another time the people in the world did lots of bad things. There was only one man that did good things. His name was Noah. He tried to tell all the other people to be good too, but they didn't listen to him. So God sent a big flood of water and drowned all those bad people. But he kept Noah safe, and 7 other people of his family too.

<sup>6-8</sup> Then, later, the people in the towns called Sodom and Gomorrah did really bad things. But one good man called Lot lived there with those bad people. Lot saw all the bad things they did and he got really upset. Every day he saw them and heard them do really bad and dirty things, and it really upset him. It made him so sad that he felt sick. Then God judged those bad people in those towns and punished them. He properly burned up those towns and the people in them, and finished them up. God did that to show everybody that he will punish bad people

that will not listen to him. But God saved Lot. God didn't burn him up.

<sup>9</sup> These stories show us that God knows his people. They are people that listen to him, and he will save them. If other people make trouble for them, God will save them from that trouble. But he will punish those bad people. He will keep punishing them till the day comes for him to be the judge of everyone. <sup>10</sup> God will punish those people that do the dirty things. They think about wrong ways to get their bodies to feel good, then they do those bad things. They reckon they don't have to listen to any boss, not even God. So God will properly punish those bad people more than he will punish other bad people.

### *Lying teachers are like animals*

These lying teachers think they are better than everyone else and they think they can do anything they want to. They even laugh at strong spirits and rubbish them. Not even God's angel messengers do that. <sup>11</sup> Angels are much stronger than the other spirits but whenever angels stand in front of God they don't talk against those other spirits or tell God to punish them.

<sup>12</sup> But these lying teachers are like animals that don't think at all, animals that people catch and kill. These people rubbish things they don't understand, and they will end up dead, just like those stupid animals. <sup>13</sup> They do a lot of things that wreck other people, so God will do payback to them. He will wreck them. They think it's fun to do whatever bad things they want to do, even in the daylight. And whenever you Christians have a meal together they join in with you, and they laugh about their lies and the bad things they do. Now think about a white sheet. If it has a few dirty spots on it the whole sheet is

no good. Well, you good people are like that white sheet and these people are like dirty spots among you. They do these bad things and shame you all. <sup>14</sup> They are always looking for a woman to sleep with, like a man sleeps with his wife. They do bad things, and they keep wanting to do more bad things. If somebody doesn't strongly trust Christ these people will trick that person and get them to go wrong. They are really greedy, wanting lots of money and things. They train themselves to be greedy. These are the sort of people that God says he will properly punish. <sup>15-16</sup> They left the right way and went the wrong way. They stopped doing good things and now they do bad things. Do you remember the story about Balaam, the son of Beor? He loved money so much that he was happy to do bad things to get it. Then God made a donkey talk to him with a man's voice. It told him he was going wrong and it stopped him from being even more stupid. These people are just like Balaam. They are stupid and they go the wrong way, just like Balaam did.

### *God will punish lying teachers*

<sup>17</sup> These lying teachers are useless. You know that a dry waterhole is useless, and so is a cloud if no rain comes out of it. The wind blows it away. This mob are just the same, they are useless. God has got a really dark, sad place for these liars, and he is going to put them in it and keep them there. <sup>18-19</sup> This mob teach with words that sound good but they are useless. They say we are free now so we can do anything we like, and it is all right to do bad things. This is what they teach, but it is wrong.

You know, there are some people that used to go wrong, but then they turned around and started to go right. But now these liars are tricking them and getting them to

go wrong again. They tell them they can do any bad things they like, to get their bodies to feel good. These liars promise to free people, but they themselves are not free. They can't stop themselves from doing bad and dirty things. It's like this. If anyone can't stop themselves from doing something, that thing is their boss and they have to work for it. They are not free.

<sup>20</sup> At one time these liars did know our leader, Jesus Christ, the one that saves us. Jesus helped them get away from the dirty things that the people in this world do. But now they are leaving him and getting mixed up again with those bad things. Those bad things are now their boss and they are worse off now than before. <sup>21</sup> Suppose these people never knew the right way. If that is true, God will not punish them very much. But that is not true. They did know the right way and then they turned back and went the wrong way, so God will really punish them a lot.

<sup>22</sup> People sometimes say these true words, "A dog gets sick and vomits up its food, but then it comes back and eats that same food again." And people also say, "You can wash the mud off a pig but then it goes back and rolls in the muddy ground again." These words tell about those lying teachers – they are just like that dog and that pig, they turned back to the bad things again.

### 3

#### *God will judge everybody one day*

<sup>1</sup> My dear friends, this is now my 2nd letter that I'm writing to you. Both of these letters are to help you remember things. I want you to think properly about these things. <sup>2</sup> I want you to remember the words from God that his men wrote a long time ago, and the words



that God's men tell us today. God sent you his men with his message, to tell you the things God wants you to do.

<sup>3</sup> And this is very important so I want you to understand it. These days are the last days before Christ will come back, and now some people will come and laugh at you and say you are stupid. These people always do any bad thing they feel like doing. They will laugh at God's true story. <sup>4</sup> They will say, "Jesus promised to come back but where is he? He didn't come back. Those old people used to be our leaders. But they all died, and everything is still the same now. Nothing changed. God made everything a long time ago and it all keeps going just the same. So we reckon Jesus will not come back."

<sup>5</sup> These people know the true story but they don't want to remember it. They forget that God made the sky and the earth a really long time ago. God only said a word, and with that word he made the sky. Then he said another word, and with that word he made the land, and he lifted that land up out of the water. <sup>6</sup> Then, later, God used a big flood of water to finish up everybody in the world at that time. <sup>7</sup> And now God is saying his word again in the same way. He is telling the sky and the earth that he will judge them, and he will burn them with fire and finish them up. That will be the judgement day. He will judge everybody, and he will finish up all the bad people.

<sup>8</sup> But, dear friends, don't forget this one thing about God. He can use time in a different way. God can make one day be like 1,000 years, and he can make 1,000 years be like one day. <sup>9</sup> God is not slow to do that thing that he promised to do. Some people think that he is being slow to do it. But no, he is quietly waiting for you people. He doesn't want anyone to die for ever. He wants everyone to turn around and stop doing wrong things. <sup>10</sup> But one

day Jesus, our leader, will come back, and everybody will get a shock. You know the way people get a shock if somebody comes in the night time and robs them? Listen, they will get a big shock like that when Jesus Christ will suddenly come back. The sky will go away with a very loud noise and it will not be there any more. Fire will burn up everything in it. God will finish up all the earth and everything on it.

<sup>11</sup> Think about it. God will finish up everything like that. Then think about yourselves. You've got to be really good people. You have to live God's way, to make him happy. <sup>12</sup> You want Jesus to come back soon and you are waiting for that day to come, so do whatever he wants to get him to come soon. Then, on that day, God will finish up everything. He will burn up the sky and everything in it will melt away in that fire. <sup>13</sup> But don't worry. God promised to make a new sky and new earth for us. Everyone in this new place will be good. They will always do things that are good and right. Yes, we are waiting for God to do that.

<sup>14</sup> So now, dear friends, while you are waiting for that to happen, try hard to always do good things, so that God will not blame you for doing wrong. And always be calm and settled, so that he will not see any trouble between you and anyone else. <sup>15</sup> Think about this. Jesus, our leader is waiting. He wants to save people, so he is waiting for them. He is giving them time to turn back to him. But, later, he will come back.

You know our Christian friend Paul. We love him like he is our brother. Well, God helped him to understand about these things <sup>16</sup> and he writes about them in all his letters. Paul often writes things in his letters that are hard to understand. Some people don't know much about God

and they talk about Paul's letters the wrong way. They turn Paul's words around so that they say something that is wrong. And they do that too with other words in God's book. Those people are never sure about the things they believe, and in the end they will wreck themselves.

<sup>17</sup> But, dear friends, you know these things already. So be very careful. Don't believe the lies that those bad people say. Don't let them lead you away from God. If you listen to them, you might stop being sure about the true things. <sup>18</sup> Don't do that. You have to believe, more and more, that our leader, Jesus Christ, will be good to you. He is the one that saves us. You have to know him better and better all the time.

Everyone has to say that Jesus Christ is very great and good. Everyone has to always say that, now and for ever. That's right.

*From Peter*

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language

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