

# ***THE SECOND LETTER OF PETER***

**Read 2 Peter Chapter two in a modern translation or read it in the King James Version (below). Discuss the general content of the chapter.**

## **THE SECOND EPISTLE OF PETER CHAPTER 2 King James Version**

2PE 2:1 ¶ But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. [2] And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

[3] ¶ And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not. [4] For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; [5] And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly; [6] And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an example unto those that after should live ungodly;

[7] ¶ And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: [8] (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;) [9] The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

[10] ¶ But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, self-willed, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities. [11] Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord. [12] But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption; [13] And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you; [14] Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children: [15] Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; [16] But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet. [17] These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever. [18] For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. [19] While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage. [20] For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. [21] For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. [22] But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

**Instructions for the Group:** Read and discuss each verse and translation along the “Additional Information” in each box provided.

## 2 Peter Chapter 2 Verse 1

**CHAPTER 2:1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. (King James Version).**

2 Peter 2:1 But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. **(English Standard Version).**

2 Peter 2:1 In the past there were false prophets among God’s people. It is the same now. You will have some false teachers in your group. They will teach things that are wrong-teachings that will make people be lost. And those false teachers will teach in a way that will be hard for you to see that they are wrong. They will even refuse to accept the Master (Jesus) who bought their freedom. And so they will quickly destroy themselves. **(Holy Bible: Easy-To-Read Version).** **Additional Information:** The word “among” means **in the midst of; surrounded by; in the group.** (American Heritage Dictionary).

“**Privily**” is the Greek word *pareisago* and means “to bring in privily, to bring in beside, to introduce secretly” (Vine’s Lexicon).

“In the NT, *apomleia* (**damnable**) refers to the state after death wherein exclusion from salvation is a realized fact, wherein man, instead of becoming what he might have been, is lost and ruined. Destruction, either temporal, or the second death which is eternal exclusion from Christ’s kingdom. ‘Heresies of destruction’ in 2 Pet. 2:1 means fatally destructive heresies” (Word Studies, Spiros Zodhiates, Th.D.) In Strong’s Lexicon (684) *apoleia* { **ap-o’-li-a** } ajpwwleia means destroying, utter destruction, ruin, the destruction which consists of eternal misery in hell. It is translated in the King James Version in the following ways: perdition 8 times, destruction 5 times, waste 2 times, damnable 1 time, to die 1 time, perish 1 time, pernicious 1 time (*Strong’s Lexicon*).

“**Heresy**” means to pick or choose, especially the choosing of a self-willed opinion which is substituted for the truth. Such opinions are frequently personal preference or for the prospect of advantage. “**Damnable heresy**” (2 Peter 2:1) signifies that which leads to spiritual ruin or destruction. (See Strong’s Lexicon number 139 in the Greek and also Vine’s Dictionary under the word “heresy.”)

**DENY**, *arneomai* (720) signifies, “to contradict,” “to deny” by way of disowning the Lord Jesus as master, or to “deny” the Father and the Son, by apostatizing and by spreading harmful teachings, to “deny” Jesus Christ as master and Lord by immorality under a cloak of religion, (2 Pet. 2:1; Jude 4). W.E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger and William White, *Vine’s expository dictionary of Old and New Testament words*. The Greek word for “**Lord**” in 2 Peter 2:1 is *despotes* { **des-pot’-ace** } and means “an absolute ruler,” and is Translated “Lord” 5 times and “master” 5 times in the New Testament. (Strong’s Lexicon).

The word “**bought**” in 2 Peter 2:1 is *agorazo* { **ag-or-ad’-zo** } and means **to go to a market and purchase and redeem**. It is translated “buy” 28 times and “redeem” 3 times in the New Testament. (Strong’s number 59 in the Greek).

The word “**destruction**” used in 2 Peter 2:1 is *apoleia* { **ap-o’-li-a** } and means ruin or loss (physical, spiritual or eternal). It is translated perdition 8 times, destruction 5 times, waste 2 times, damnable 1 time, to die 1 time, perish 1 time, and pernicious 1 time in the New Testament King James Version. (See Strong’s Lexicon, number 684 in Greek).

See **Paul’s concern** with false teachers and prophets: Acts 20:28-36.

**2 Peter Chapter 2  
Verse 2**

**[2] And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. (King James Version).**

<sup>2</sup>Many people will follow their evil ways and cause others to tell lies about the true way. **(Contemporary English Version).**

[2] And many will follow their debauched lifestyles. Because of these false teachers, the way of truth will be slandered. **(NET Bible).**

**Additional Information:** **Many** = A large, indefinite number, the masses. (American Heritage Dictionary) The word **“follow”** is *exakoloutheo* { **ex-ak-ol-oo-theh'-o**} in Greek, and means to follow one's authority, to comply with, yield to and to imitate one's ways of acting. *Enhanced Strong's Lexicon*, (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.).

The word **“pernicious”** means leading to ruin or loss both spiritually or eternally. The phrase **“evil spoken of”** in 2 Peter 2:2 (KJV), is the Greek word *blasphemeo*, blas-fay-meh'-o, and is translated blaspheme, defame, rail on, revile, speak evil.

**2 Peter Chapter 2  
Verse 3**

**[3] And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not. (King James Version).**

[3] ¶ And in their desire for profit they will come to you with words of deceit, like traders doing business in souls: whose punishment has been ready for a long time and their destruction is watching for them. **(Bible in Basic English).**

<sup>3</sup>In their greed they will make up clever lies to get hold of your money. But God condemned them long ago, and their destruction is on the way. **(New Living Translation).**

**Additional Information:** The word for **“covetousness”** (2 Pet. 2:3) is *pleonexia* and means “the desire for having more or for what he has not” (Word Study N.T).

The definition of **feign** is “To give a false appearance of; To represent falsely; pretend to; to imitate so as to deceive; To fabricate. *Archaic.* To invent or imagine.” *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language.*

**2 Peter Chapter 2  
Verses 4-5**

**[4] ¶ For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; [5] And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly; (King James Version).**

**2 Peter Chapter 2  
Verse 6**

**[6] ¶ And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an example unto those that after should live ungodly; (King James Version)**

**2 Peter Chapter 2  
Verses 7-9**

**[7] ¶ And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: [8] (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;) [9] The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished: (King James Version).**

[7] And if he rescued lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the depraved conduct of the lawless [8] (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard) – [9] if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment. **(Today's New International Version).**

<sup>7-8</sup>Lot lived right and was greatly troubled by the terrible way those wicked people were living. He was a good man, and day after day he suffered because of the evil things he saw and heard. So the Lord rescued him. <sup>9</sup>This shows that the Lord knows how to rescue godly people from their sufferings and to punish evil people while they wait for the day of judgment. **(Contemporary English Version).**

[7] But God rescued Lot, a just man, who was deeply distressed by the shameless conduct of the evil men of Sodom and Gomorrah. [8] (For that righteous man was in constant torment at the sights and sounds of their crimes as he lived among them). [9] So the Lord is well able to rescue the godly out of temptation and to reserve the wicked for punishment at the Day of Judgment, **(The New Translation).**

**Additional Information:** The word “vexed” is *basanizo*, (bas-an-id'-zo) and means **to torture, to be harassed or distressed**. It is used of men struggling in a boat against wind and waves.

## 2 Peter Chapter 2 Verses 10-11

**[10] ¶ But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, self-willed, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities. [11] Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord. (King James Version).**

[10] Most of all, this is true of people who follow the evil longings of their sinful natures. They hate to be under authority. Those false prophets are bold and proud. They aren't afraid to speak evil things against heavenly beings. [11] Angels are stronger and more powerful than those people. But even angels don't bring to the Lord evil charges against heavenly beings. **(New International Reader's Version).**

<sup>10</sup>He is especially hard on those who follow their own evil, lustful thoughts, and those who are proud and willful, daring even to scoff at the Glorious Ones without so much as trembling, <sup>11</sup>although the angels in heaven who stand in the very presence of the Lord, and are far greater in power and strength than these false teachers, never speak out disrespectfully against these evil Mighty Ones. **(The Living Bible).**

**Additional Information:** The Greek word for "government" is kuriotes and denotes "lordship" (kurios, "a lord"), "power and dominion." (Vine's Lexicon).

"**Presumptuous**" (tolmetes) means daring and is used in 2 Peter 2:10 of shameless and irreverent daring. (Vine's Lexicon).

"**Self-willed**" is the Greek word *authades* and means self-pleasing, i.e. arrogant. It is translated self-willed 2 times in the KJV.

## 2 Peter Chapter 2 Verses 12-13

**[12] ¶ But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption; [13] And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you; (King James Version).**

<sup>12</sup>These people are no better than senseless animals that live by their feelings and are born to be caught and killed. They speak evil of things they don't know anything about. But their own corrupt deeds will destroy them. <sup>13</sup>They have done evil, and they will be rewarded with evil. They think it is fun to have wild parties during the day. They are immoral, and the meals they eat with you are spoiled by the shameful and selfish way they carry on. **(Contemporary English Version).**

<sup>12</sup>But these people speak against things they do not understand. They are like animals that act without thinking, animals born to be caught and killed. And, like animals, these false teachers will be destroyed. <sup>13</sup>They have caused many people to suffer, so they themselves will suffer. That is their pay for what they have done. They

take pleasure in openly doing evil, so they are like dirty spots and stains among you. They delight in trickery while eating meals with you. **(New Century Version).**

<sup>12</sup> These false teachers are like unthinking animals, creatures of instinct, who are born to be caught and killed. They laugh at the terrifying powers they know so little about, and they will be destroyed along with them. <sup>13</sup> Their destruction is their reward for the harm they have done. They love to indulge in evil pleasures in broad daylight. They are a disgrace and a stain among you. They revel in deceitfulness while they feast with you. **(New Living Translation).**

**Additional Information:** “**Spots**” is from the Greek word “spilos” meaning “stain or blemish.” Metaphorically used of a moral blemish or lascivious person(s) (Vine’s Lexicon).

“**Feast with you**” or “eat with you,” probably is a reference to the agape love-feast (or communion) that was shared among Christians.

## 2 Peter Chapter 2 Verse 14

**[14] Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children: (King James Version).**

[14] Their eyes are full of adulterous lust, roving constantly in sin. They seduce the unsteady. Their hearts are fixed on greed. They are people under a curse. **(The New Translation).**

[14] They stare at women who are not their wives. They want to have sex with them. They never stop sinning. They trap those who are not firm in their faith. They have mastered the art of getting what they want. God has placed them under his curse. **(New International Reader’s Version).**

<sup>14</sup> All they think about is having sex with someone else’s husband or wife. There is no end to their wicked deeds. They trick people who are easily fooled, and their minds are filled with greedy thoughts. But they are headed for trouble! **(Contemporary English Version).**

<sup>14</sup> Every time they look at a woman they want her, and their desire for sin is never satisfied. They lead weak people into the trap of sin, and they have taught their hearts to be greedy. God will punish them! **(New Century Version).**

**Additional Information: ERROR**

*Plane*, “a wandering, a forsaking of the right path,” see Jas. 5:20, whether in doctrine, or in morals. In Scripture, doctrine and morals are never divided by any sharp line. “Errors” in doctrine are not infrequently the effect of relaxed morality, and vice versa.

(W.E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger and William White, *Vine’s complete expository dictionary of Old and New Testament words*).

## 2 Peter Chapter 2 Verses 15-16

**[15] Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; [16] But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet. (King James Version).** (See Numbers 22-24; Rev. 2:14)

[15] They have left God's way. They have wandered off. They follow the way of Balaam, son of Beor. He loved to get paid for doing his evil work. [16] But a donkey corrected him for the wrong he did. Animals don't speak. But the donkey spoke with a human voice. It tried to stop the prophet from doing a very dumb thing. **(New International Reader's Version).**

[15] They have abandoned the straight road and lost their way. They have followed in the steps of Balaam son of Beor, who consented to take pay for doing wrong, [16] but had his offence brought home to him when the dumb beast spoke with a human voice and put a stop to the prophet's madness. **(New English Bible).**

<sup>15</sup>They have gone off the road and become lost like Balaam, the son of Beor, who fell in love with the money he could make by doing wrong; <sup>16</sup>but Balaam was stopped from his mad course when his donkey spoke to him with a human voice, scolding and rebuking him. **(Living Bible).**

**Additional Information:** Look up the following scriptures and discuss them among your group. Num. 22:8, 17-18; 23:3, 5, 12, 16, 23, 26; 24:13; 31:8, 16; Revelation 2:14.

Look up Numbers 22:32. Balaam's ways were **perverse** before God. **per·verse** (per-vûrs<sup>1</sup>, pûr<sup>1</sup>vûrs<sup>1</sup>) **1.** Directed away from what is right or good; perverted. **2.** Obstinate persisting in an error or a fault; wrongly self-willed or stubborn. **3. a.** Marked by a disposition to oppose and contradict. **b.** Arising from such a disposition. See PERVERT]. American Heritage Dictionary.

## 2 Peter Chapter 2 Verse 17

**[17] These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever. (King James Version).**

[17] Those false prophets are like springs without water. They are like mists driven by a storm. The blackest darkness is reserved for them. **(New International Reader's Version).**

[17] These false teachers are like waterless wells, and like rain clouds blown away by the wind. The blackest darkness has been reserved for them forever. **(The New Translation).**

[17] People like this are dried-up rivers, fogs swirling in the wind, and the dark underworld is the place reserved for them. **(Jerusalem Bible).**

<sup>17</sup>These men are as useless as dried-up springs of water, promising much and delivering nothing; they are as unstable as clouds driven by the storm winds. They are doomed to the eternal pits of darkness. **(New Living Translation).**

## 2 Peter Chapter 2

### Verses 18-19

**[18] For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. [19] While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage. (King James Version).**

[18] For they mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of sinful human nature, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error. [19] They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity--for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him. **(New International Version).**

<sup>18</sup> They brag about themselves with empty, foolish boasting. With lustful desire as their bait, they lure back into sin those who have just escaped from such wicked living. <sup>19</sup> They promise freedom, but they themselves are slaves to sin and corruption. For you are a slave to whatever controls you. **(New Living Translation).**

<sup>18</sup> They proudly boast about their sins and conquests, and, using lust as their bait, they lure back into sin those who have just escaped from such wicked living. <sup>19</sup> "You aren't saved by being good," they say, "so you might as well be bad. Do what you like; be free." But these very teachers who offer this "freedom" from law are themselves slaves to sin and destruction. For a man is a slave to whatever controls him. **(Living Bible).**

### 2 Peter Chapter 2 Verse 20

**[20] For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. (King James Version).**

[20] If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning. **(New International Version).**

[20] They may have escaped the sin of the world. They may have come to know our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. But what if they are once again caught up in sin? And what if it has become their master? Then they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning. **(New International Reader's Version).**

[20] And anyone who has escaped the pollution of the world once by coming to know our Lord and savior Jesus Christ, and who then allows himself to be entangled by it a second time and mastered, will end up in a worse state than he began in. **(Jerusalem Bible).**

[20] If by knowing the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ they escaped the world's corruptions, but then are entangled and conquered by them again, these people are worse off in the end than they were before. **(God's Word to the Nations N.T.).**

### 2 Peter Chapter 2

## Verses 21-22

**[21] For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. [22] But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire. (King James Version).** (See Proverbs 26:11).

21] For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them. [22] What the true proverb says has happened to them: “The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire.” **(English Standard Version).**

[21] What if they had not known the way of godliness? That would have been better than to have known it and then to have turned their backs on it. The way of godliness is the sacred command that was passed on to them. [22] What the proverbs say about them is true. “A dog returns to where it has thrown up.” And, “A pig that is washed goes back to rolling in the mud.” **(New International Reader’s Version).**

<sup>21</sup>It would be better if he had never known about Christ at all than to learn of him and then afterwards turn his back on the holy commandments that were given to him.

<sup>22</sup>There is an old saying that “A dog comes back to what he has vomited, and a pig is washed only to come back and wallow in the mud again.” That is the way it is with those who turn again to their sin. **(Living Bible).**

**Instructions for the Leader:** Go to “Questions & Answers” section of this program (2 Peter Chapter 2).

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

## **SPECIAL THANKS AND APPRECIATION FOR THE FOLLOWING TRANSLATIONS AND THEIR TRANSLATORS**

*The King James Version.* First published in 1611 and now public domain.

*English Standard Version.* A revision of the 1971 edition of revised Standard Version. Published in 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

*Holy Bible: Easy-To-Read Version.* Copyright 1987 by World Bible Translation Center, Inc. and used by permission.

*Contemporary English Version.* Copyright by the American Bible Society 1995.

*NET Bible.* Copyright 1996. Biblical Studies Press, L.L.C.

*Bible in Basic English.* Translated by Professor S.H. Hooke, release in 1941. Cambridge University Press.

*New Living Translation.* Copyright 1966 by Tyndale Charitable Trust. All rights reserved.

*Today's New International Version.* Copyright 2001 by International Bible Society. All rights reserved.

*The New Translation.* Copyright 1990 by The Society for the New Translation.

*The New International Reader's Version.* Copyright by International Bible Society. Used by permission of International Bible Society. All rights reserved.

*The Living Bible.* Copyright 1967 by Tyndale House Foundation, Wheaton, Illinois.

*New Century Version.* Copyright 1987, 1988, 1991 by Word Publishing, a division of Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

*New English Bible.* Copyright 1961, 1970 by The delegates of the Oxford University Press and the Syndics of the Cambridge University Press.

*The Jerusalem Bible.* Copyright 1966, 1967, 1968 by Darton, Longman & Todd Ltd.

*God's Word to the Nations New Testament.* Copyright 1988 by Mrs. William F. Beck. Used by permission of Biblion Publishing.

## **QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

## (2 Peter chapter 2)

**Instructions for Group Leader:** Do not let the group read the following questions and answers. The leader of your group should ask the group the following questions and encourage the group to discover the answers by going to the appropriate Scriptures. Discuss and answer the questions correctly by using the Scripture.

1. **Read 2 Peter 2:1.** There were false prophets in Israel even as there shall be false teachers: a. in the cults. b. in witchcraft. c. among you.

**Additional Information:** The word “**among**” means **in the midst of; surrounded by; in the group.** *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language.*

2. **Read 2 Peter 2:1.** The false teacher will bring in his heresy: a. secretly & unaware. b. so evident that everyone will know. c. to the cults.
3. **Read 2 Peter 2:1.** The false teacher will secretly: a. bring in damnable heresies. b. introduce damnable heresies. c. cause others to get acquainted with heresies that will bring about ruin. *All these things are true according to the KJV, NASV & the Webster’s Dictionary.*
4. **Read 2 Peter 2:1.** The heresies that the false teacher brings is: a. damnable. b. destructive. c. good to help you grow in Christ.

**Additional Information:** “In the NT, *apomleia* (damnable) refers to the state after death wherein exclusion from salvation is a realized fact, wherein man, instead of becoming what he might have been, is lost and ruined. Destruction, either temporal, or the second death which is eternal exclusion from Christ’s kingdom. ‘Heresies of destruction’ in 2 Pet. 2:1 means fatally destructive heresies” (Word Studies, Spiros Zodhiates, Th.D.) In Strong’s Lexicon (684) *apoleia* { **ap-o’-li-a** } ajpwvleia means destroying, utter destruction, ruin, the destruction which consists of eternal misery in hell. It is translated in the King James Version in the following ways: perdition (8 times, destruction 5 times, waste 2 times, damnable 1 time, to die 1 time, perish 1 time, pernicious 1 time (*Strong’s Lexicon*).

5. **Read 2 Peter 2:1.** When we pick or choose part of God’s Word instead of all of God’s word we are in danger of entering into heresy? True or False.

**Additional Information:** “Heresy” means to pick or choose, especially the choosing of a self-willed opinion which is substituted for the truth. Such opinions are frequently personal preference or for the prospect of advantage. “Damnable heresy” (2 Peter 2:1) signifies that which leads to spiritual ruin or destruction. (See Strong’s Lexicon number 139 in the Greek and also Vine’s Dictionary under the word “heresy.”)

6. **Read 2 Peter 2:1.** Notice the words “teachers, them, themselves.” Peter is not describing a false teacher (singular), he is describing several individuals (teachers) that are: a. among the believers. b. in a foreign land. c. locked up in jail.
7. **Read 2 Peter 2:1.** These false teachers deny the Lord that bought them. What does it mean to deny the Lord in this context? To contradict the Lord’s teaching in doctrine or lifestyle.

**Additional Information:** **DENY**, *arneomai* (720) signifies, “to contradict,” “to deny” by way of disowning the Lord Jesus as master, or to “deny” the Father and the Son, by apostatizing and by spreading harmful teachings, to “deny” Jesus Christ as master and Lord by immorality under a cloak of religion, (2 Pet. 2:1; Jude 4). W.E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger and William White, *Vine’s expository dictionary of Old and New Testament words*.

8. **Read 2 Peter 2:1.** The false teacher denies in practice Jesus: a. is Saviour. b. Lordship. c. Jesus teachings.

**Additional Information:** The Greek word for “**Lord**” in 2 Peter 2:1 is *despotes* { **des-pot’-ace**} and means “an absolute ruler,” and is translated “Lord” 5 times and “master” 5 times in the New Testament. (Strong’s Lexicon).

9. **Read 2 Peter 2:1.** The false teacher denies “the Lord that bought them.” The word “bought” has the idea of: a. to purchase and redeem. b. to own only a small part. c. letting people go their own way.

**Additional Information:** The word “**bought**” in 2 Peter 2:1 is *agorazo* { **ag-or-ad’-zo**} and means **to go to a market and purchase and redeem**. It is translated “buy” 28 times and “redeem” 3 times in the New Testament. (Strong’s number 59 in the Greek).

10. **Read 2 Peter 2:1.** The false teacher will bring: a. swift destruction upon himself. b. a life of comfort and ease upon himself. c. the prosperity message to town.

**Additional Information:** The word “**destruction**” used in 2 Peter 2:1 is *apoleia* { **ap-o’-li-a**} and means **ruin or loss** (physical, spiritual or eternal). It is translated perdition 8 times, destruction 5 times, waste 2 times, damnable 1 time, to die 1 time, perish 1 time, and pernicious 1 time in the New Testament King James Version. (See Strong’s Lexicon, number 684 in Greek).

11. **Read 2 Peter 2:2.** a. Only a few b. Many c. Some shall follow the false teachers ways.

**Additional Information:** **Many** = A large, indefinite number, the masses. *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language*.

The word **“follow”** is **exakoloutheo { ex-ak-ol-oo-theh'-o}** in Greek, and means to follow one's authority, to comply with, yield to and to imitate one's ways of acting. *Enhanced Strong's Lexicon*, (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.).

12. **Read 2 Peter 2:2.** The false teachers ways are: a. delightful. b. fun. c. pernicious, that is, leading to ruin or loss both spiritually or eternally.
13. **Read 2 Peter 2:2.** Because of false teaching and teachers the way of the truth may not always be the popular message. The NET Bible says, “Because of these false teachers, the way of truth will be: a. slandered. b. well spoken of. c. praised.

**Additional Information:** The phrase “evil spoken of” in 2 Peter 2:2 (KJV), is the Greek word **blasphemeo**, blas-fay-meh'-o, and is translated blaspheme, defame, rail on, revile, speak evil.

14. **Read 2 Peter 2:3.** One of the marks of a false teacher is: a. his kindness. b. covetousness. c. his long sermons.

**Additional Information:** The word for “covetousness” (2 Pet. 2:3) is **pleonexía** and means “the desire for having more or for what he has not” (Word Study N.T).

15. **Read 2 Peter 2:3.** The false teacher uses feigned words to take advantage of you and your pocket book (money). “Feigned words” are: a. truthful words. b. kind words. c. words that are fabricated (made up) that give a false impression.

**Additional Information:** The definition of **feign** is “To give a false appearance of; To represent falsely; pretend to; to imitate so as to deceive; To fabricate. *Archaic.* To invent or imagine.” *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language*

16. **Read 2 Peter 2:3.** The end result of the false teacher in 2 Peter 2:3 is: a. lots of money to travel with. b. judgment and damnation. c. a saving account in Switzerland.
17. **Read 2 Peter 4-5.** What is the contrast found in verses four and five? Judgment upon angels and the world of the ungodly, mercy upon Noah the preacher of righteousness.
18. **Read 2 Peter 2:6.** What is Sodom and Gomorrha an example of? Of what shall happen to those who live ungodly, they will perish.

19. **Read 2 Peter 2:8.** What affect did living among ungodly and immoral people have upon Lot? a. he had lots of opportunity to witness. b. his righteous soul was vexed day by day. c. he began to party with them.

**Additional Information:** The word “vexed” is *basanizo*, (bas-an-id'-zo) and means **to torture, to be harassed or distressed**. It is used of men struggling in a boat against wind and waves.

20. **Read 2 Peter 2:10-11.** What kind of people are unafraid to abuse verbally, (evil spiritual beings)? a. people who follow their own evil longings. b. people who hate to be under authority. c. false teachers. d. self-willed people.

21. **Read 2 Peter 2:12-13.** The false teacher is like an animal that lives by his instincts. They shall receive a reward of: a. righteousness. b. unrighteousness.

22. **Read 2 Peter 2:12.** The false teachers shall: a. utterly perish. b. shall live eternally. c. have life more abundant.

23. **Read 2 Peter 2:13.** The false teachers indulge in evil pleasures. They are deceitful even as they: a. try to flee to Canada. b. eat with you. (probably a reference to the agape love-feast shared among Christians).

24. **Read 2 Peter 2:14.** False prophet's or teacher's eyes are full of: a. a bright sparkle. b. adultery. c. greed.

**Additional Information: ERROR**

1. *plane* (4106), akin to *planao*, “a wandering, a forsaking of the right path,” see Jas. 5:20, whether in doctrine, or in morals. In Scripture, doctrine and morals are never divided by any sharp line. “Errors” in doctrine are not infrequently the effect of relaxed morality, and vice versa. (W.E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger and William White, *Vine's complete expository dictionary of Old and New Testament words*).

25. **Read 2 Peter 2:14.** The false prophet and teacher is commonly known to deceive: a. the uneducated. b. unstable souls, that is, unsteady people who are not firm in their faith.

26. **Read 2 Peter 2:14-15.** It appears from these verses that the false teacher or prophet at one time followed the Lord but had wandered off and gone astray. This is a lesson to us all. The fruit of their life now is manifesting: a. adultery. b. an unceasing continuance in sin. c. leading others into sin. d. a heart of greed.

27. **Read 2 Peter 2:15-16.** Balaam the Son of Bosor was an example a true prophet that had gone bad (astray). We learn from the New Testament that it had been better for him to have not know the way of righteousness than to have turned from it (2 Pet. 2:21). His latter end was destruction (Num. 31:8). Look up the following scriptures and

discuss them among your group. Num. **22:8**, 17-18; **23:3**, 5, 12, 16, 23, 26; **24:13**; **31:8**, 16; **Revelation 2:14**.

28. **Read 2 Peter 2:15-16**. Turn to the Old Testament and read Numbers 22:22-33. Balaam almost lost his life for his way was: a. good & upright. b. perverse before God (Num. 22:32). c. a good example of a Christian.

**Additional Information:** **per-verse** (per-vûrs', pûr'vûrs') *adjective*

1. Directed away from what is right or good; perverted.
2. Obstinate persisting in an error or a fault; wrongly self-willed or stubborn.
3. a. Marked by a disposition to oppose and contradict. b. Arising from such a disposition. [Middle English *pervers*, from Old French, from Latin *perversus*, past participle of *pervertere*, to pervert. See PERVERT]. American Heritage Dictionary.

29. **Read 2 Peter 2:17**. False prophets and teachers are like: a. wells without water. b. clouds driven by the wind. c. those going to school for an education.

30. **Read 2 Peter 2:17**. False prophets and teachers have made a reservation in advance to: a. the Motel 6. b. the beaches of Hawaii. c. blackest darkness, that is, eternal doom.

31. **Read 2 Peter 2:18**. False prophets: a. love to be with people. b. always pay their tithes. c. lure back people into sin that have just began to escape.

32. **Read 2 Peter 2:19**. False prophets promise liberty and freedom but are themselves: a. slaves to sin and corruption. b. controlled by drugs. c. alcoholics.

33. **Read 2 Peter 2:19**. When a man is overcome by his poor choices, he is brought into: a. liberty & freedom. b. bondage & slavery. c. depression.

34. **Read 2 Peter 2:20**. The person(s) mentioned in 2 Peter 2:20 had escaped the pollutions and defilement of the world through: a. his good works. b. a knowledge or knowing the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. c. a new year's resolution.

35. **Read 2 Peter 2:20**. It appears that the person(s) in 2 Peter 2:20 had again turned back to sin and its entanglements. His last state will be worse than his: a. beginning, that is, his first state. b. years in school. c. last vacation.

36. **Read 2 Peter 2:21**. Which would be better? a. to know the way of righteousness and to turn from it. b. to not know the way of righteousness.

37. **Read 2 Peter 2:22**. To know the Savior and then to turn from Him is: a. not as bad as not to have known Him. b. like a dog coming back to what he has vomited. c. like a washed pig going back to the mud again.

Copyright © 2009, Don W. Krow

Permission is granted to duplicate or reproduce for discipleship purposes on the condition that it is distributed free of charge.

