

## Introduction to NT Books

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### XX. The Book of II Peter

#### A. The authorship of II Peter

##### 1. External Evidence

- a. Early patristics were silent on attestation, but later patristics such as Jerome and Augustine accepted Petrine authorship as well as Carthage Council (AD 397).
- b. The Petrine authorship and canonicity are questioned more than any other NT book. Many rationalistic liberals of the 19<sup>th</sup> century rejected Petrine authorship and thereby influenced many 20<sup>th</sup> century biblical critics. Their contention was that the content and style were different from First Peter.

##### 2. Internal Evidence

- a. The author identified himself as Simon Peter (1:1), referred to personal relationships with the Lord (1:13-14 and 15-18), and alluded to a first epistle (3:1).
- b. Peter's content and style are different from the First Epistle because he deals with different subjects using different jargon!

B. The Audience and Time of II Peter: The Apostle wrote to the same group of scattered Jewish Christians (3:1) to warn about coming apostasy through false teachers. He apparently wrote soon after the first letter and shortly before his predicted martyrdom, around AD 64-65.

C. The Purpose of II Peter: He knew he was going to die soon and wanted a permanent written record of his teaching (1:15; 3:1).

#### D. The Characteristics of II Peter

1. He taught the classic Greek προκοπή or moral advance, revealing how saints are to cooperate with the Lord in sanctification (1:5-7).
2. Peter expected to die shortly, referring to his “*decease*” (ἐξοδον)<sup>1</sup> in 1:15.
3. He listed the great statement on the role of the Holy Spirit in inspiration, saying that the writers “*were moved*” (φερόμενοι) by the Holy Ghost (1:21; Acts 27:15-17).

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<sup>1</sup>Peter used the word for “exodus” referring to his death, as Moses and Elijah used the same to refer to the Lord's death (Lk. 9:31).

4. He warned of false teachers coming into the churches, and predicted that God would judge them as others in the past (2:1-6).

*Tartarus.*<sup>2</sup>

a. The Lord judged the fornicating angels of Gen. 6:4, placing them in

b. The Lord judged the world with the Noahic flood in Gen. 7-8.

c. The Lord judged the sodomites with fire and brimstone in Gen. 19.

5. He described the character, work, and destiny of false teachers (2:9-22).

6. Peter identified the specific apostate Balaam by name and his wicked way and sin (2:15-16).

7. He referred to scoffers who questioned the return of Christ by willful ignorance. They have rejected the teaching and the event of the world-wide flood, and they reject the teaching of the final conflagration (3:3-7).

8. Peter outlined the future in terms of days:

a. The Day of the Lord will commence unexpectedly and conclude with a “big bang” (3:10-11).

b. The Day of God will commence with the concluding conflagration of the present heaven and earth (3:12-13). It is the same as the Day of Eternity (3:18).

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<sup>2</sup>This *hapax legomena* behind the word “hell” is apparently a holding cell in ᾗδης (hades).