

I. James c. AD 45-48**II. 1 Thessalonians c. AD 51****III. Galatians. c. AD 49 (prior to Jerusalem Council)****IV. 2 Thessalonians c. AD 51****V. 1 Corinthians c. AD 54-55****VI. 2 Corinthians c. AD 55****VII. Romans c. AD 56****VIII. Ephesians c. AD 60****IX. Colossians c. AD 60****X. Philippians c. AD 61****XI. 1 Timothy c. AD 64-65****XII. Titus c. AD 65****XIII. 1 Peter c. AD 65****XIV. 2 Peter c. AD 66-67****A. 2 Peter 1.10-11**

1. The preceding passage exhorts Christians to add various kinds of Christian virtues to their life, with a warning concerning the Christian who lacks these qualities (5-9)
2. Consequently, Peter exhorts believers to be all the more diligent to make certain of their “calling and choosing” (10)
 - a. The word “make certain” has the idea of “keeping in force” like validating a warranty
 - b. If you practice “these things” (the virtues of 5-8), you will never stumble (be unsure or uncertain) concerning your salvation
3. The pursuit of the virtues influences your entrance into the eternal kingdom also (11)
 - a. Your entrance becomes “abundantly supplied”
 - b. This does not mean some believers will find their way barred
 - c. Rather, diligent believers will find their entrance enhanced — it is an allusion to rewards and the rich welcome that awaits the faithful

4. Compare Acts 7.56 and Steven's welcome into heaven:

Ac 7.56 and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

- a. Christians should not seek to just barely make it to heaven; they ought to be fruitful believers
- b. The possibility of abundant entrance is a powerful motivation for holiness

5. Additional note: Christ's here Kingdom is the eternal kingdom

- a. The term here is broad enough to encompass the Millennium, but ultimately the eternal Kingdom belongs to the final state of Creation
- b. This passage maintains the forward look to the future Kingdom: "If we are not in it yet, this must be the eschatological Kingdom." — Custer

B. 2 Peter 1.19-21

1. Peter just described the scene on the Mount of Transfiguration. The voice he heard made the prophetic word more sure (19)
 - a. Consequently believers "do well" to pay close attention
 - b. The prophetic word is as valuable as a lamp shining in a dark place
 - c. The prophetic word remains your light until the day dawns and the Lord returns
2. Peter adds instructions of prime importance ("know this first of all" 20)
 - a. Scripture is not simply the word of men ("of one's own interpretation")
 - b. We know this because Scripture never came as an act of the human will, but through men moved by God (21)
 - c. The work of the Holy Spirit makes the word valuable

C. 2 Peter 2.3, 9, 12

This is the “gruesome” chapter of 2 Peter 2, where Peter describes false teachers and the doom that awaits them.

1. The judgement of false teachers is certain (3)
2. The Lord distinguishes again between the godly and the unrighteous (9)
 - a. The Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation: *i.e.* the hour of trial
 - b. On the other hand, the unrighteous are kept unto the Day of Judgment: this is just as certain
3. The doom of false teachers is destruction, but they will follow their own irrational desires into destruction (12)
 - a. “Unreasoning animals” are compared here: animals are led to destruction by their lusts (consider the cheese in the mouse trap)
 - b. “Unreasoning false teachers” will likewise follow their appetites to their own certain destruction

D. 2 Peter 3.3-14

1. In the last days mockers will say: “Where is the promise of His coming?” (3)
 - a. These are led by their own desires
 - b. They assume that what they see is the way things have always been
 - c. The claims of “science” and uniformitarian geology fit this description
 - d. Such claims ignore the many drastic changes God brought on the world suddenly when it suited his purposes
2. The great example of God’s cataclysmic intervention in the world is Noah’s flood (5-6)
3. In the same way the present heavens and earth are reserved unto fire in the Day of Judgment (7)

4. The Lord's actions may seem indifferent or slow to the casual observer, but God is not slow, he is patient (8-9)
 - a. Time has no relevance to the Lord, who knows all things, at every moment of time
 - b. A thousand years is as weighty as a day to God
 - c. God exercises patience with men so that men might come to repentance
5. The Day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, that is, suddenly (10)
 - a. In that Day, the heavens will pass with a roar, and the elements will be destroyed by the intense heat of judgement
 - b. The reference isn't specific, it is simply a promise that judgement on sins is coming
 - c. The mocker who asks why God delays simply has no idea: God waits, so men may repent, otherwise all men will fall into destruction with the earth
 - d. Before the advent of atomic energy, men could not imagine what was meant by "the elements shalt melt with fervent heat."
6. The coming judgement of our earth ought to reorient our perspectives (11-12)
 - a. The transitory nature of creation ought to make us less concerned with tangible things and collecting riches
 - b. The coming judgement ought to be another motivation for holiness, for only holiness endures the destruction (and our lost friends have nothing to look for)
7. Despite the shock and horror of coming judgement, believers also look forward to the new heavens and new earth (13)
 - a. The world as we know it will be completely renovated (or replaced)
 - b. The abiding characteristic of the new world is righteousness

8. Peter closes with a final exhortation for spiritual diligence, since we look forward to these certainly coming things, both judgement and joy (14)

XV. 2 Timothy c. AD 67-68

A. 2 Timothy 2. 11-13

1. This passage also looks forward to our prospects in the age to come
2. We who died with him will live and reign with him
3. The warning of 12b causes some concern: what does “deny” mean?
 - a. The passage seems to have believers in view
 - b. There is such a thing as loss of reward as we have seen in other passages
 - c. The assurance of v. 13 seems to say that the Lord remains faithful to his promises and will redeem even the weak and stumbling believer, because “He cannot deny Himself”
 - d. Thus, his denial has something to do with rebuke at the judgement seat of Christ and loss of reward in the age to come

B. 2 Timothy 2.18

1. In the preceding verse, Paul names as an example “Hymenaeus and Philetus”
2. Their loose talk claimed that the resurrection had happened already come
3. They upset the church by shaking the faith of some
4. Their error was like some who upset the faithful in 1 Corinthians

1 Cor 15.12 ¶ Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

C. 2 Timothy 3.1-7, 13

1. In the last days difficult times will come
2. Men will put SELF first with disastrous results for all:
 - a. Vicious qualities of character will become manifest (2-4)

- b. Men will love pleasure more than God (4)
 - c. They will have a form of godliness, but will deny the power
 - d. They will be always learning but never able to come to the knowledge of the truth (7)
3. Evil men and swindlers will get worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived (13)
- D. 2 Timothy 4.1-8, 18
1. The Lord Jesus Christ will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His Kingdom
 2. We should preach the word now, because a time is coming when men will not endure wholesome teaching (2-4)
 - a. Men will seek teachers whose teaching pleases them, and feeds their desires
 - b. They will turn aside from truth to myths
 3. Despite these times, our calling is to remain faithful, endure hardness, be evangelists, and minister to needs (5)
 4. Paul himself was ready to be poured out, satisfied that he had faithfully run his course (6-7)
 5. He anticipated the crown of righteousness, which also awaits all those who love His appearing (8)
 6. Paul was sure that the Lord would preserve him unto his heavenly Kingdom (18)