

**The 2nd letter that Peter
wrote
(The book in the Holy Bible
called 2 Peter)
About this letter**

Peter was one of Jesus's 12 special workers. He went everywhere with Jesus and knew him well.

Peter wrote 2 letters that are now in the Holy Bible. This is the 2nd letter. He wrote it about 2,000 years ago, about 30 years after Jesus went back to heaven.

In this letter Peter told Christians how to become strong for Jesus. And he told them about people that reckon they were saying God's words, but they were lying. And he wrote about what it will be like in the last days of this world, before God finishes it up.

These words that Peter wrote have very important messages for all of us Christians.

¹ I am Peter, and this letter is from me. My other name is Simon. I work for Jesus Christ. I am one of his special workers.

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.

² 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 properly good

to you, and to make you really happy and quiet inside yourselves.

God helps us live the right way

³ You know, God is really powerful. He is very great, and very good too. He picked us out to be his own people, so we can get to know him properly. And he gives us everything we need to live the right way. ⁴ And he promised us some very important things, and they are very special to us. He promised that we can think the way he thinks, so that we become really good people. He says that we can get away from bad things. We are not like the people that belong to this world. They want to do bad things, then they go and do those bad things, and they become bad people. But God says that we can get away from all that.

⁵ So think about what I am saying, and you will know that you have to be as good as you can. You believe in Christ, and you have to keep trying to live his way all the time. This is what you have to do,

- you always have to try to do what is right, and you have to try to know God better,
- ⁶⁻⁷ and you have to learn to control yourselves 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.

⁸ If you keep on living like that more and more, 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. ⁹ But if you don't live like that, it shows that you don't understand God's message properly. You are like blind people that can't see anything properly. It's like you forget about what God did for you. You used to do wrong things before, but God made you free from all that, and he made you clean inside yourselves. So don't forget that. Don't do wrong things again.

¹⁰ My Christian friends, try hard to do all those good things. God picked you to be his own people, and whenever you do those good things, you show everybody that you really are God's people. If you do those things, you will never turn away from God. ¹¹ Then God will be very happy with you, and he will make sure you live with him for ever. You will be in Jesus Christ's family. He is our leader, and he saves us.

Don't forget this message

¹² I will keep on telling you about these things, even though you already know them, and you know that they are true. I will keep on telling you about them anyway. ¹³ I reckon it's good for me to remind you about these things, and I will keep on doing it while I'm still alive in this body, so that you will keep on thinking about these things and you will not forget them.

¹⁴ Our leader, Jesus Christ, told me that soon I will die. He will take me out of this body.

15 But while I'm still alive in this body, I will do everything I can to keep on telling you these things, so that after I die, you will always remember them.

Peter saw that Jesus Christ is really great

16 Remember the story we told you about our leader, Jesus Christ. That was the true story. We didn't make up smart stories to tell you. We told you that Jesus is powerful, and that 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. ¹⁷⁻¹⁸ It happened like this. Me and 2 other followers of Jesus, we went with him up on to a special mountain, and God the father, he showed us that Jesus is very great and powerful. God told us this, he said, "This is my son. I love him very much, and I'm very happy with him." Yes, we ourselves heard the voice of our great God. He talked to us from heaven, and he told us that message.*

The messages in God's book are true

19 So now we can be really sure about the messages that are in God's book. We can be sure that 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 can help us understand the true story about God, like a light helps us see things in the night. Those messages will keep on helping you until Jesus comes back and he helps you know God

* **1:17-18** Matthew 17:1-5; Mark 9:2-7; Luke 9:28-35

properly. Then it will be like Jesus is a really bright light that shows us everything clearly, like the really bright star that shines in the morning, and then the sun comes up. ²⁰ You see, those men that wrote those words a long time ago, they didn't think up their own stories. ²¹ No. They didn't write down their own ideas. 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

¹ In God's book we read about his people a long time ago. Sometimes some liars started to teach God's people things that were wrong. They reckoned they were saying God's words, but they were lying. And the same sort of thing will happen now. There will be people among you that will teach things that are wrong. If you listen to them, you will go wrong, and it will be bad for you. Those people will even turn against Jesus. He is our leader, and he died to save them. And one day soon, God will punish them for that wrong thing they do. ² Those liars will teach people to do 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 that, they will rubbish God and his true way.

³ Those lying teachers only want your money. So they will tell you tricky lies to get you to give

* **1:21** 2 Timothy 3:16

them money. A long time ago, God said that he will punish them, and he is ready to do that. One day, he will properly finish up those liars.

God saves people that live his way

⁴ Think about these stories from a long time ago. At one time, some of God's angel messengers did the wrong thing. 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.

⁵ At another time, the people in the world did lots of bad things and didn't live God's way. There was only one man that lived the right way. His name was Noah. He tried to tell all the other people to live God's way 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 he kept the 7 other people in his family safe too.*

⁶⁻⁸ Then later, the people in the towns called Sodom and Gomorrah did really bad things. But there was one man there that lived the right way. His name was Lot. He saw all the bad things that they did, and he got really upset. Every day, he heard them, and he saw them do really bad and dirty things, and he got really upset. He was so sad that he felt sick. Then God judged those bad people in those towns, and he properly punished them. He burned up those towns, and he burned up all the people in them. They were just piles of

* 2:5 Genesis 6:1—7:24

ashes after that. But God saved Lot. God didn't burn him up. You see, God did that to show everybody that he will punish bad people that will not listen to him.*

⁹ Those stories show us that God knows how to save his people. They are the people that listen properly to him and live his way, and he saves them from trouble. But when the day comes for him to judge everyone, he will punish people that don't live the right way. ¹⁰ Yes, God will really punish people that do 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, even more than he will punish other bad people.

Lying teachers are like animals

Those lying teachers think they are better than everyone else, and they think they can do anything they want to. They even rubbish strong spirits. ¹¹ Not even God's angel messengers do that. 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.

¹² But those lying teachers are like animals that don't think at all, like the animals that people catch and kill. Those teachers rubbish things they don't understand, and they will end up dead, just like those stupid animals. ¹³ They do a lot of things that hurt other people, so God will

* **2:6-8** Genesis 19:24

hurt them. He will do payback to them. They think it's fun to do any bad thing that they want to do, even in the day-light. And whenever you Christians have dinner together, they join in with you, and they laugh about their lies and the bad things they do. Now think about a white shirt. If it just has a few dirty spots on it, people say that the whole shirt is dirty. Well, you good people are like that white shirt, and those people are like the dirty spots on it. There are only a few of them, but they do bad things, and they shame all of you. ¹⁴ They are always looking for a woman to sleep with, like a man sleeps with his wife. They do bad things, and they keep looking for more bad things to do. If somebody doesn't strongly trust Christ, those people will trick that person and get them to go wrong. They are really greedy, wanting lots of money and things. They are the sort of people that God says he will properly punish. ¹⁵⁻¹⁶ They left the right way and went the wrong way. They stopped doing good things, and now they do bad things. Remember the story about Balaam, the son of Beyor. He loved money so much that he did 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. Those people are just like Balaam. They are stupid, and they go the wrong way, just like Balaam did.*

God will punish lying teachers

* **2:15-16** Numbers 22:4-35

¹⁷ Those lying teachers are useless. You know that a dry water-hole is useless, and so is a cloud that doesn't bring any rain. The wind just blows it away. That mob are just like that, they are useless too. God has got a place for those liars. It is a really dark, sad place, and he is going to put them in it and keep them there. ¹⁸⁻¹⁹ That mob teach with words that sound good, but they are useless. They say we are free now, so we can do anything we like. They say that it is all right to do bad things. That 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 those liars are tricking them and getting them to go wrong again. Those liars tell them that they can do any bad things they like, to get their bodies to feel good. Those 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 somebody can't stop themselves from doing something, that thing is their boss and they have to work for it. So it's like those bad things are their boss. They are not free.

²⁰ Jesus Christ is our leader, and he is the one that saves us. At one time, those liars knew Jesus, and he helped them get away from the dirty things that the people in this world do. But now they are leaving him, and they are getting mixed up again with those bad things. Those bad things are now their boss, and they are worse off now than before. ²¹ God will punish everyone that

goes the wrong way. He will even punish people that never knew the right way. But these people knew the right way, and then they turned back and went the wrong way, so God will punish them more than those others.

²² 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 on the muddy ground again.” Those words tell us about those lying teachers. Those teachers are just like that dog and that pig, they turned back to the bad things again.*

3

God will judge everybody one day

¹ My 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. ² I want you to remember the words from God that his men wrote a long time ago, and the words from Jesus that his special workers told you. They told you the things that God wants you to do. Jesus is our leader, and he saves us.

³ And this is very important, so I want you to understand it. These days are the last days of this world, and now some people will come and laugh at you, and they will say that you are stupid. Those people always do any bad thing

* **2:22** Proverbs 26:11

they feel like doing. They laugh at God's true story.* ⁴ They will say, "Jesus promised to come back, but where is he? He didn't come back. He said that powerful things will happen to this world, and he said that he will come back, and that God will finish up the world. But nothing has happened. Some of our Christian leaders have already died, but none of those things have happened. Everything just keeps going the same, just like from the time God made everything."

⁵ Those people know the true story, but they don't want to remember it. They forget that God does lots of powerful things in this world. They forget that a long time ago, God only said words to make the sky and the earth. God said one word to make the sky, and then he said another word to make the land, and to lift that land up out of the water.* ⁶ Then later, God used a big flood of water to finish up everybody in the world at that time.* ⁷ 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 day when God will judge everybody, and he will finish up all the bad people.

⁸ But, my 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.* ⁹ God is not slow to do the things that he promised to do.

* **3:3** Jude 1:18 * **3:5** Genesis 1:6-9 * **3:6** Genesis 7:21

* **3:8** Psalm 90:4

Some people think that he is being slow, but no, he is quietly waiting for you people. He doesn't want anyone to die for ever. He wants everyone to turn around. He wants them to stop doing bad things and turn to him. ¹⁰ But one day our leader, Jesus, will come back, and everybody will get a shock. You know how people get a shock if a robber comes while they are asleep and steals their things? Listen, Jesus Christ will come back suddenly, and people will get a big shock like that. 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. And God will finish up all the earth and everything on it.*

¹¹ 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. ¹² You want Jesus to come back soon, so while you are waiting for that day, make sure you live that good way, so that he will 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. ¹³ But don't worry. God promised to make a new sky and new earth for us. Everyone in that new place will be good. They will always live the right way and do good things. Yes, we are waiting for God to do that.*

¹⁴ So now, my friends, while you are waiting for that to happen, try hard to always do good

* **3:10** Matthew 24:43; Luke 12:39; 1 Thessalonians 5:2; Revelation 16:15 * **3:13** Isaiah 65:17; 66:22; Revelation 21:1

things, so that God will not blame you for doing wrong things. And don't get angry with anyone and don't fight, then when God looks at you, he will not see any trouble between you and anyone else. ¹⁵ 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. Well, God helped him to understand about these things, ¹⁶ and he writes about them in all his letters. Some things in his letters are hard to understand. Some people don't know much about God, and they are not sure about the things they believe. 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 with other words in God's book too. When they do that, they make things bad for themselves, and in the end God will punish them.

¹⁷ But, my 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. ¹⁸ Don't do that. You have to believe that our leader, Jesus Christ, will be good to you, and you have to believe it more and more. 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

Plain English Version
Portions of the Holy Bible in the Plain English
Version translation for Australian Aboriginal people
who speak English as a second language

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Dialect: Australian Aboriginal

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2022-11-11

PDF generated using Haiola and XeLaTeX on 11 Nov 2022 from source files dated 11 Nov 2022

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