

The Second Epistle of Peter

BYU New Testament Commentary Translation

(prepublication version)

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About the Brigham Young University New Testament Commentary Series

Welcome to the BYU New Testament Commentary, a project by a group of Latter-day Saint specialists offering to readers a careful, new look at the biblical records that witness the life and ministry of Jesus Christ and the first generation of his church. The commentary series seeks to make the New Testament more accessible to Latter-day Saint general readers and scholars by employing much of current biblical scholarship while reflecting important LDS insights. At the same time, this effort may also be helpful to interested readers of other faiths who want to learn how a group of Latter-day Saint scholars understands the Bible. A fundamental article of faith for Latter-day Saints (Mormons) affirms the Bible “to be the word of God” while adding, understandably, that it needs to be “translated correctly” in order for it to be accurately comprehensible to modern language speakers.

These objectives have helped shape the purposes and parameters of this commentary series. Serious LDS readers of the Bible search the scriptures, looking for depth and breadth in passages whose meanings and mandates may ultimately be plain but not shallow. Such readers and interpreters are served by treatments that unite faith and research, reason and revelation, in prayerfully confronting profound and difficult issues that arise in the texts and affect one’s path of progression. The New Testament has served as an influential guide to western civilization for centuries. As such, its records have long been studied by lay people and scholars alike, resulting in a rich reservoir of information that illuminates the New Testament era culturally, historically, and linguistically. Selectively, the BYUNTC builds upon this vast body of knowledge, resting on the Greek texts of the New Testament and connecting helpful elements of linguistic, literary, historical, and cultural research and traditional scholarship together with LDS scriptures and doctrinal perspectives. The combination of all these features

distinguishes the BYUNTC from other commentaries, which are readily available elsewhere and which readers may also want to consult for more encyclopedic or specialized discussions.

The tone of the BYUNTC aims to be informative rather than hortatory, and suggestive rather than definitive in its interpretation. The opinions expressed in this series are the views of its contributors and should not necessarily be attributed to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; Brigham Young University, where many of those involved here are headquartered; or anyone else, though these works have benefited from input and guidance from a number of colleagues, advisers, editors, and peer reviewers.

Each volume in this series contains a new working translation of the New Testament. Calling it the “BYU New Testament Commentary Translation” ties it to the Commentary series and clarifies that it does not seek to replace the authorized KJV adopted by the LDS Church as its official English text. Rather, it aims to enhance readers’ understanding conceptually and spiritually by rendering the Greek texts into modern English with LDS sensitivities in mind. Comparing and explaining the new Translation in light of the KJV then serves as one important purpose for each volume’s notes, comments, analyses, and summaries. This effort responds in modest ways to the desire President J. Reuben Clark Jr. expressed in his diary in 1956 that someday “qualified scholars [would provide] . . . a translation of the New Testament that will give us an accurate translation that shall be pregnant with the great principles of the Restored Gospel.”

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The Second Epistle of Peter

To Those Who Are Prepared to Advance (1:1–4)

1:1 Simeon Peter, bondman and Apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have obtained the same precious covenant as we have in the justification of our God and Savior Jesus Christ. 2 May grace and peace be multiplied unto you by your recognition of God and Jesus our Lord.

3 Whereas his divine power has bestowed upon us all things that will lead us to life and piety, through the recognition of him who has called us to his own glory and excellence;

4 and also, through these things God has gifted us the greatest and most valuable promises, so that through these things you might share in the divine nature, having fled from the ruin in the world because of inappropriate desire:

The Starting Point (1:5–9)

5 Now, this being the case: applying all exertion, add to your faithfulness, excellence; and to your excellence, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, endurance; and to endurance, piety; 7 and to piety, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, add charity. 8 While these characteristics are present and abound in you, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But if these things are not present in any person, that person is blind—myopic—forgetting long ago the cleansing of his sins.

The Goal of Knowing with Assurance (1:10–11)

10 Instead, brothers and sisters, earnestly make your calling and election sure. For by doing these things, you shall never ever stumble. 11 For richly in this way, entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be provided for you.

Peter Testifies, Even as He Prepares to Die (1:12–15)

12 Therefore, I will always be likely to remind you of these things, even if you already know them and are firmly set in the truth at hand.

13 Indeed, I think it is right, as long as I am in this “tent” of flesh, to awaken you in remembrance, 14 for I know that very soon I will put aside my “tent,” just as our Lord Jesus Christ has made plain to me. 15 Nevertheless, I will eagerly make it possible, each time you have need, to recall these things after my departure.

Knowledge Is Revealed by the Voice of God (1:16–21)

16 For we have not followed sophistic myths when we made known to you the power and presence of our Lord Jesus Christ, for we became endowed eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17 For he received from Heavenly Father honor and glory, when a voice enveloped him under from his majestic splendor saying: “This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased.” 18 And we heard this voice emanating from heaven, when we were with him up on the sacred mountain.

19 We have, therefore, the more sure prophetic word, to which you do well to pay attention, as you would to a lamp that shines in a dark place, until when day breaks and the morning star rises again in your hearts. 20 But first know this, that every prophecy in scripture did not come about by one’s own explanation. 21 For prophecy does not come about from the will of mankind, but men speak prophecies of God as they are carried about by the Holy Ghost.

False Teachers Will Intrude among You (2:1–3a)

2:1 And there were false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will covertly bring in destructive heresies, repudiating the master who has purchased them and bringing upon themselves an impending destruction. 2 Many shall follow in the immoral ways of these teachers, and on account of them, the way of truth will be reviled. 3 In their greed they will take your money in exchange for their counterfeit ideas.

God Willingly Delays Their Punishment (2:3b–9)

The judgment against them issued by God long ago does not cease; their destruction does not slumber. 4 For if God did not spare fallen

angels, but committing them to the underworld in chains of darkness in the underworld where they are being held for judgment; 5 and if God did not spare the ancient world but protected only Noah (a herald of righteousness) and seven others, when God brought a flood on a world of the ungodly; 6 and if God condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha, turning them to ashes, making their destruction an object lesson of what happens to ungodly people; 7 and if God rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was oppressed by the licentious behavior of the lawless, 8 for this righteous man, living day after day among them, was tortured in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard— 9 then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly from temptation and how to retain the unrighteous to be punished at the day of judgement.

Telltale Sins and Doom of False Teachers (2:10–22)

10 Especially, he will punish those who walk after the flesh in the lust of impurity and who despise leadership. Bold and arrogant, they are not afraid to blaspheme against the dignitaries. 11 Even angels, who are greater in might and power, do not bring such a slanderous judgment against them before their Lord. 12 But these people, acting like irrational animals, naturally born to be caught and killed, blaspheme about things of which they are ignorant; in their own destruction, even they shall be destroyed. 13 Being unrighteous, they shall receive a reward of unrighteousness. They consider it pleasure to indulge themselves in the daytime. They are blots and blemishes, indulging themselves in their own deceptions as they feast together with you. 14 They have eyes full of adultery, eyes that never cease from sin. They beguile souls who are not well grounded. They have hearts trained to be covetous. Cursed children! 15 Having abandoned the straight way, they wander, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the reward of unrighteousness. 16 But Balaam was stopped short in his own misconduct: his mute donkey spoke in man's voice and restrained the prophet's insanity.

17 They are springs without water, mists of darkness that are blown in by a windstorm; to them the gloom of darkness has been held in store. 18 Speaking excessive boasts of vanity with indecent lusts of the flesh, they entice those few who had escaped from those who continue in error. 19 Promising liberty to them, they themselves are slaves of corruption: for by whom a person is overcome, by the same he has

been enslaved. 20 For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world by a recognition of their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in and overcome by them, their final state has become worse for them than where they started out. 21 For it would have been better for them to have not recognized the way of righteousness than, after they had recognized it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. 22 Then it has happened to them as it says in the true proverb, “The dog has returned to his own vomit” [Prov. 26:11]; and, the sow, having been washed, to her wallowing in the mud.

Remember Your Testimony (3:1–2)

3:1 This now, beloved ones, is the second letter I write to you. In these letters, I awaken pure thinking in you by way of remembrance, 2 that you may remember the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets and remember the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your Apostles.

God Willingly Delays His Second Coming (3:3–9)

3 Knowing this first, that in the last days there shall come mocking “deluders” [Isa. 3:4 LXX], walking after their own desires 4 and saying, “Where is the promise of Christ’s coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things still continue since the beginning of the creation.” 5 But of this they are willfully unaware, that a long time ago the heavens were organized, and the earth was organized from and through the water by God’s command, 6 and then the world was destroyed, flooded by water. 7 By the same command, the heavens and the earth are still being preserved by the same command of God and are held in store for fire on the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly people. 8 So beloved ones, do not forget this one thing, that for the Lord one day is as a thousand years and a thousand years is as one day. 9 The Lord does not delay his promise as some people consider delay; but he is simply patient toward us, not wanting that some perish, but that all progress to repentance.

Prepare for the Coming Day of the Lord (3:10–13)

10 But “the day of the Lord will come as a thief” [1 Thes. 5:2], and on that day, the heavens will disappear with a great sound, and the

elements will melt down in flames, and the earth also, and the deeds done on earth shall be made manifest.

11 As all worldly things will be destroyed in this way, what sort of people must you be to act in holy conduct and in all godliness, 12 expecting and hastening the arrival of the day of our God, on which day the heavens afire will be destroyed and the elements will melt down in flames. 13 Nevertheless, according to his promise, let us expect a “new heaven and an earth new” [Isa. 65:17; 66:22], in which righteousness dwells.

Be Patient and Understanding (3:14–16)

14 Wherefore, beloved ones, as you are expecting such things, make haste to be found by him to be at peace, without spot, and blameless. 15 Regard the patient magnanimity of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given to him. 16 He also speaks of these things in all his epistles, in which there are some things that are counterintuitive, which the untaught and those who are not well-grounded pervert, as they do also the rest of the scriptures, to their own destruction.

Be On Guard and Increase in Spirituality (3:17–18)

17 Therefore, beloved ones, since you know these things in advance, beware that you do not fall from your own firm foundation, being led away by the deceit of these lawless people. 18 Instead, increase in favor, and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to whom is glory and honor both now and unto the eternal day.