



(2 PETER 2:1-3)

# 2 PETER

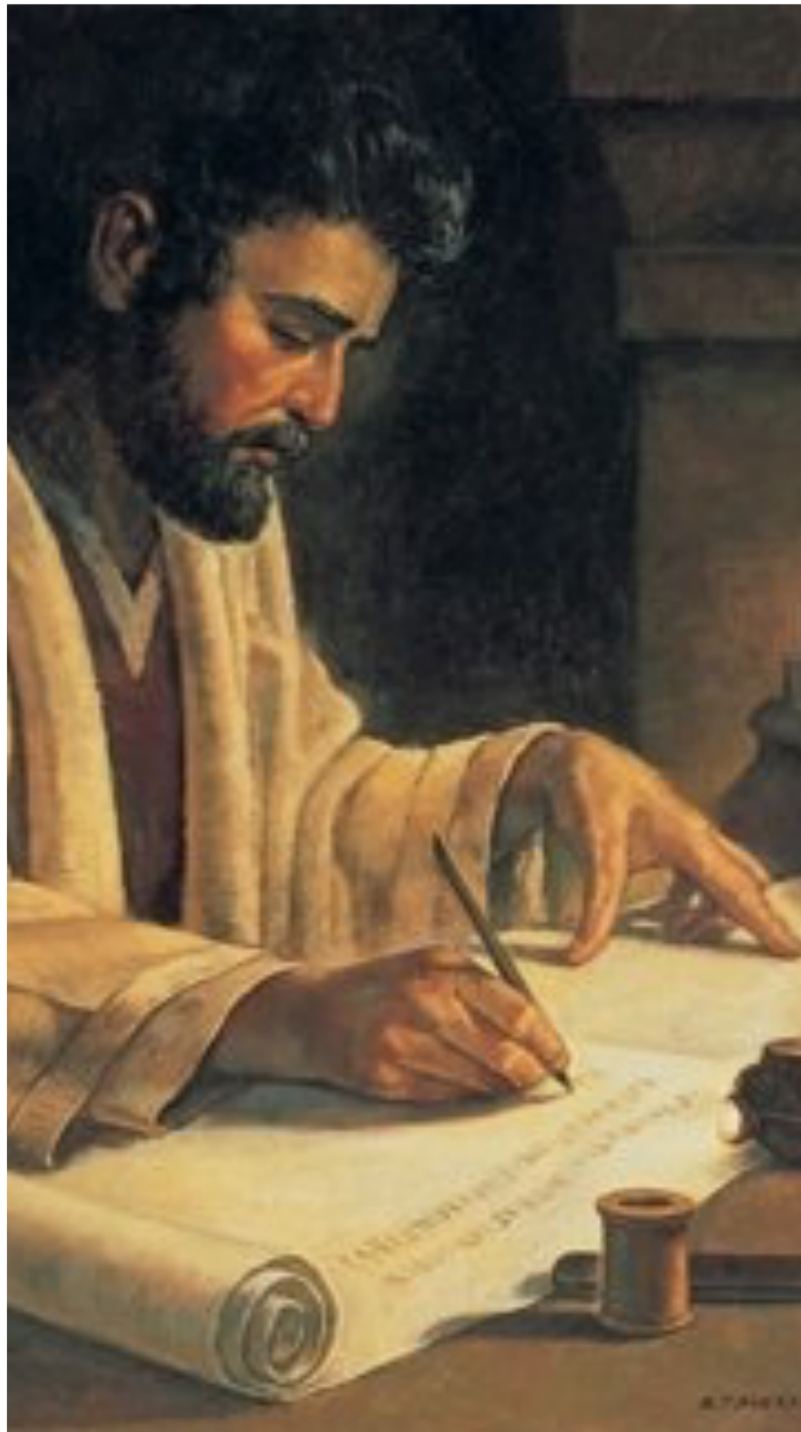
“BEWARE OF FALSE TEACHERS AND  
THEIR METHODS”



# “BEWARE OF FALSE TEACHERS”

## 2 Peter 2:1–3 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, *and* bring on themselves swift destruction. <sup>2</sup> And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. <sup>3</sup> By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.



# “BEWARE OF FALSE TEACHERS”

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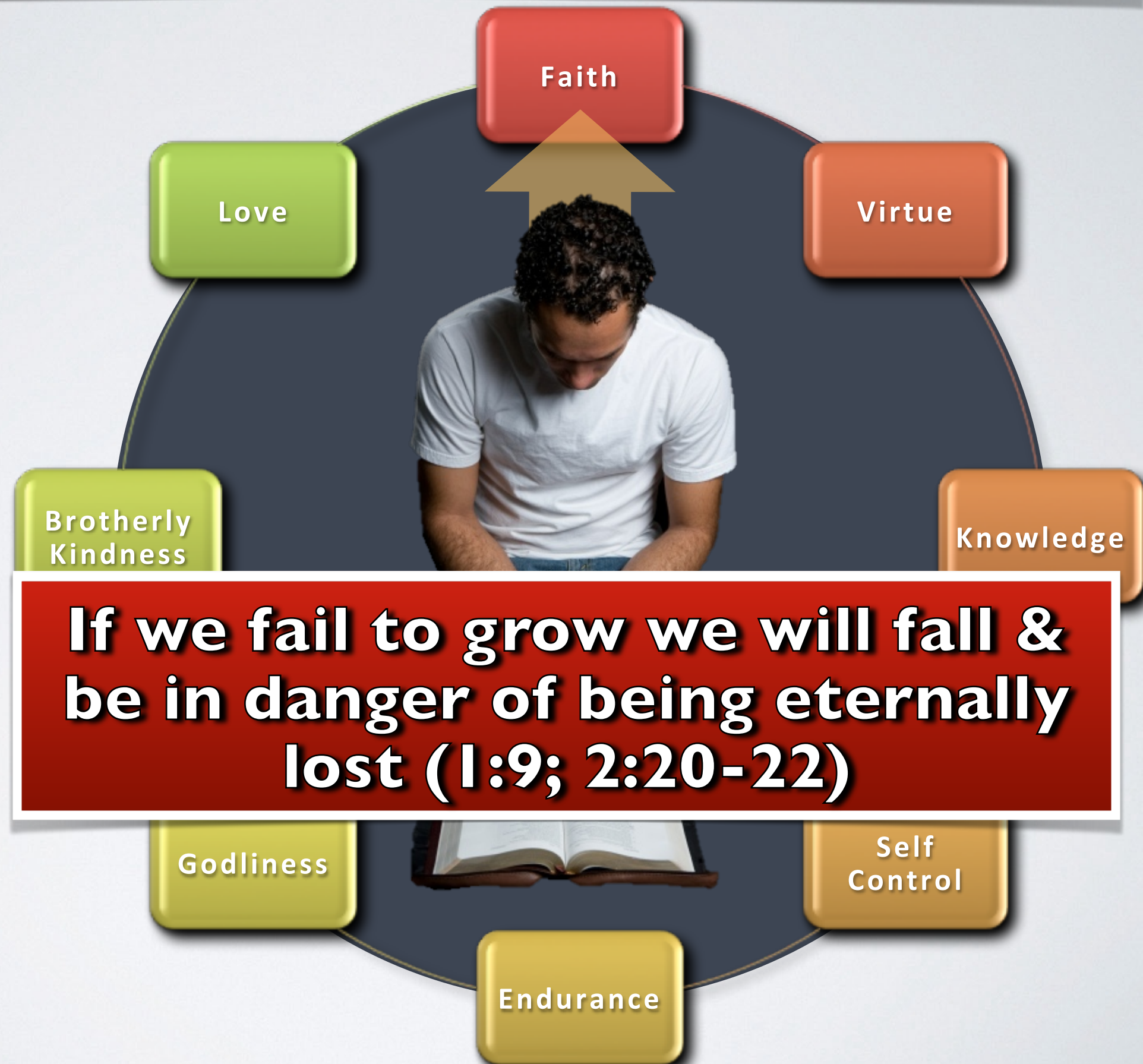
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(2 PETER 1:12-21)

**Let us accept the testimony  
of the apostles.**

**Let us accept all the words  
of scripture!**

**Let us have confidence in  
the promises of the Lord!**

# 2 PETER

“THE CONFIRMED PROPHETIC WORD”



# “BEWARE OF FALSE TEACHERS”

## FALSE TEACHERS WILL EXIST

2 Peter 2:1 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, *and* bring on themselves swift destruction.

✦ **“there were also false prophets among the people” (2:1)**

- Peter’s carries over his thoughts regarding the Old Testament prophecies (1:20-21).
- What makes a person a false teacher is the false doctrine that he or she spreads (2:1).
- Doctrine does matter! (John 8:32; 1 Tim. 4:1, 2, 13-16)



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“there were also false prophets among the people” (2:1)

- They told people what they wanted to hear (Jer 5:31; 6:14; 14:13-16; 23:17; 27:9-10, 14, 16-18; 29:8-9; 1 Ki 22).
- They were interested in personal profit (Jer. 6:13; Micah 3:11).
- They were often immoral in their personal lives (Isaiah 28:7; Jeremiah 23:14,32).
- They claimed to speak from God, but they lied (Jeremiah 14:14).
- Destroyed their followers (Jer. 23:16)



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❖ **“there will be false teachers among you” (2:1)**

- Peter is not the only New Testament writer who warned us about such individuals:
  - ▶ Jesus also sounded the warning (Matthew 7:15; 24:5, 11, 24)
  - ▶ As did Paul (Acts 20:29-30; Gal 1:6-9; 4:17; 2 Cor 11:13-15; Rom 16:18; Eph. 4:14; 2 Thess. 2:1-12; 1 Tim. 4:1-4; 2 Tim. 3:1-9; 4:3-4; etc.).
  - ▶ As did John (1 John 2:18-19, 26; 4:1)
  - ▶ As did Jude (Jude 4, 10-13, 17-19)



# “BEWARE OF FALSE TEACHERS”

## FALSE TEACHERS WILL DESTROY

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<sup>1</sup> But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, *and* bring on themselves swift destruction.

❖ **“who will secretly bring in destructive heresies” (2:1)**

- They will not have big signs around their necks, saying, “I am a false teacher, so please do not listen to me.”
- They will be highly plausible, and they will secretly introduce, or “smuggle in”, their ideas’ usually working “behind the scenes.”
- Error is not always easy to spot. The approach won’t be, ‘Stop serving God, or become an atheist’. Rather, it will be subtle.
- They will teach some truth, but alongside of that truth, will come error.



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❖ **“who will secretly bring in destructive heresies” (2:1)**

- “Come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.” - Mat 7:15
- “but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way.” - Mat 13:25
- “False brethren secretly brought in (who came in by stealth . . .)” - Gal 2:4
- “By the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,” - Eph 4:14
- “Crept in unawares” – Jude 1:4



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❖ **“who will secretly bring in destructive heresies” (2:1)**

- Strong's - Destructive - apoleia, ap-o'-li-a; - ruin or loss (physical, spiritual or eternal) ...
- Vines – “Destructive - ... indicating "loss of well-being, not of being," ... (b) of persons, signifying their spiritual and eternal perdition, Mat\_7:13; Joh\_17:12; 2Th\_2:3, ...”
- Vines – Heresies – 139 hairesis - denotes (a) "a choosing, choice" ... especially a self-willed opinion, which is substituted for submission to the power of truth, and leads to division and the formation of sects.



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❖ **“even denying the Lord who bought them” (2:1)**

- Denying’-‘disowning’ (TCNT); ‘repudiate, disown’ (Arndt p. 107). ‘the Master’-i.e. Jesus. ‘who bought them’-(1 Cor 6:20; Rev 5:9).
- ▶ By living an ungodly life (Titus 1:16).
- ▶ By teaching things that contradict His authority or by simply not obeying Him (Lk 6:46; Jn 14:15)
- ▶ By denying His right to judge us, or the denial that we will be judged (2 Pet 3:4ff)
- ▶ By teaching another Jesus (2 Cor. 11:3,4)



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✦ **“and bring on themselves swift destruction” (2:1)**

- Swift'-quick, 'speedy ruin' (TCNT); 'sudden and unexpected' (Alford p. 1679).
- The idea isn't that God will strike them dead at any moment, but rather, when destruction comes (and it will), it will catch those who have failed to repent by surprise, with no chance for repentance (1 Thess. 5:3).
- When judgment comes it will be swift, unexpected and impossible to escape. The very teachings that they deny (the judgment day, hell, etc...) will come upon them.



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✦ **“and bring on themselves swift destruction” (2:1)**

- 2:9 - “to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,”
- 2:3-7 ... [4] ... angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell ... [5] and did not spare the ancient world, ... [6] and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, ... making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly;
- 2:12-13 [12] ... will utterly perish in their own corruption, [13] and will receive the wages of unrighteousness,
- 2:17 “reserved the blackness of darkness forever.”



# “BEWARE OF FALSE TEACHERS”

## FALSE TEACHERS WILL HAVE ‘SUCCESS’



### “And many will follow their destructive ways” (2:2)

- False doctrine spreads! (Mat. 16:6, 12; Gal. 5:9; 2 Tim. 2:17; 4:2,3)
- We should put little confidence in numbers, the majority opinion, the ‘mainstream’, (Mat 7:13,14)
- They bring destruction upon themselves and upon others. (Matthew 15:14)
- Their teachings encourage the casting off of restraint and rules (2:19; Jude 4,8)
- God’s name being blasphemed by the heathen because of the hypocritical life of His people is common in the Bible (Romans 2:24; Isaiah 52:5)



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## FALSE TEACHERS WILL HAVE ‘SUCCESS’



2 Peter 2:3 (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup> By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.

✦ **“By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words” (2:3)**

- Indicating that part of their motivation stems from greed. ‘Flattering people for the sake of gaining an advantage’ (Jude 16; Eze. 33:31).
- These false teachers look at religion as a means to personal gain (1 Tim. 6:5; Titus 1:11).
- This isn’t just financial gain. ‘Gain’ can also come in the form of popularity, fame and praise (Mat. 6:1,2, 5, 16; Jno. 5:44; 12:43).
- *Exploit you* - ‘to make you a source of profit.’ - But it is also true the pew basically gets the preaching that it wants. (Je. 5:31)!



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### **Romans 16:17–18 (NKJV)**

<sup>17</sup> Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. <sup>18</sup> For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.



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✦ **“By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words” (2:3)**

- When personal prestige is the goal, then truth no longer matters. “Our ministry” now takes priority over serving God. Promoting my book, seminar or video series, is more important than preaching the Word.
- Attracting greater audiences and making a name for myself is more important than getting back to the Bible. Therefore, a person will be willing to ‘fabricate’ arguments, definitions of words, etc...whatever it takes to hold on to his or her status or position. (Eph. 4:14)



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❖ **“their destruction does not slumber” (2:3)**

- False prophets/false teachers have always been condemned (Deut. 13:1-5).
- From ancient times God has made it clear that sin will be punished (Jude 14-16).
- Let us not be envious of people, who like the Pharisees, have traded an eternal reward for the praise of men (Matthew 6:1-5)
- If we become discouraged due to the spread and success of false teachers---remember these verses!



# “BEWARE OF FALSE TEACHERS”

## HOW CAN WE SPOT A FALSE TEACHER?



### ◆ If They:

- Minimize the Need for Authority
- Depend on human wisdom
- Minimize the need to OBEY God
- Teach that God's love & grace permits a continuance in sin
- Reject examination

### ◆ If WE Know & Grow in the Truth! (3:18,19)









# (2 PETER 2:1-3)

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# 2 PETER

“BEWARE OF FALSE TEACHERS AND  
THEIR METHODS”



# Jeremiah 23:11–20 (NKJV)

<sup>11</sup> “For both prophet and priest are profane;  
Yes, in My house I have found their  
wickedness,” says the Lord. <sup>12</sup> “Therefore  
their way shall be to them Like slippery  
*ways*; In the darkness they shall be driven on  
And fall in them; For I will bring disaster on  
them, The year of their punishment,” says the  
Lord. <sup>13</sup> “And I have seen folly in the  
prophets of Samaria: They prophesied by  
Baal And caused My people Israel to err.



# Jeremiah 23:11–20 (NKJV)

<sup>14</sup> Also I have seen a horrible thing in the prophets of Jerusalem: They commit adultery and walk in lies; They also strengthen the hands of evildoers, So that no one turns back from his wickedness. All of them are like Sodom to Me, And her inhabitants like Gomorrah. <sup>15</sup> “Therefore thus says the Lord of hosts concerning the prophets: ‘Behold, I will feed them with wormwood, And make them drink the water of gall; For from the prophets of Jerusalem Profaneness has gone out into all the land.’ ”



# Jeremiah 23:11–20 (NKJV)

<sup>16</sup> Thus says the Lord of hosts: “Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. They make you worthless; They speak a vision of their own heart, Not from the mouth of the Lord. <sup>17</sup> They continually say to those who despise Me, ‘The Lord has said, “You shall have peace” ’; And *to* everyone who walks according to the dictates of his own heart, they say, ‘No evil shall come upon you.’ ”



# Jeremiah 23:11–20 (NKJV)

<sup>18</sup> For who has stood in the counsel of the Lord, And has perceived and heard His word? Who has marked His word and heard *it*? <sup>19</sup> Behold, a whirlwind of the Lord has gone forth in fury— A violent whirlwind! It will fall violently on the head of the wicked. <sup>20</sup> The anger of the Lord will not turn back Until He has executed and performed the thoughts of His heart. In the latter days you will understand it perfectly.