



2nd Peter Summary

In July of 64 AD, Rome burned nearly to the ground and many people believed that Nero, the emperor, was responsible. You see, Nero had this insatiable appetite for building stuff and many people in Rome believed that he had burned the city down in order to have an excuse to build it again.

The Romans were devastated because in a sense, their culture had burned down with their city: their gorgeous temple, their art, their very culture itself was reduced to ash and rubble. In the midst of this ash and rubble, stood myriads of homeless people; their homes, businesses and lives turned to smoke. And their gods did not save them! These gods, to whom they had sacrificed and prayed and in some cases mutilated their physical bodies, were also burned to the ground. So, the people were furious and their fury was turning into revolt.

Nero was in a tough position. He knew that unless their anger was funneled somewhere, they would destroy him and so he looked at their culture for a scapegoat. In the midst of their culture was this group known as “The Way.” This group followed a dead Jewish rabbi named Jesus. The Jews in the city hated them and so did the Romans. It would not take much to convince the people that the followers of “The Way” were responsible for the devastating fire. So a few well-placed rumors and accusations later a vicious and bloodthirsty persecution began and it spread out from Rome to Christians throughout the empire.

During this time of persecution, Peter writes the book of 1st Peter. But in the time since his first letter, something had begun to face the church that was worse than the persecution. You see, churches traditionally grow during persecution. But this great influx of new people brought a new, more dangerous problem: false teachers.

At this critical point, Peter writes 2nd Peter. This letter details his final words to the church he has given his life to help build. He paints pictures of hope, warning, and finally victory.

Study

Read 2 Peter 1:1

Have you ever considered your faith as “precious?”

Surf to www.studylight.org. Type in the word “faith” and select “New Testament”. Now read some of the nearly 230 verses on faith.

What do these verses teach you about faith?

What are ways in which you would think or behave or believe differently if you really lived that kind of life of faith?

Read Hebrews 11:1

How does this definition of faith compare with yours?

Read James 2:17

Faith is belief + movement. And faith is something that God gives you as a gift. How should this affect how you live your life?

Read 2nd Peter 1:3

What is an area of your life where you have a hard time trusting that God has given you “everything we need for life and godliness?”

How do you get “everything you need,” according to this verse?

Read 2nd Peter 1:4

What are some promises of God that you cling to?

If you don't have any, here are a few of the hundreds in the Bible: Mt 7:7-11; Phil 4:19; Matt 6:32-33; John 15:7; 1 Cor 3:21-23; Jas 1:5; Rom 8:32; Jas 4:7; Matt 7:7-11; 1 John 3:20-22; 5:14-15; 1 Pet 3:10-11; Ps 34:12-13; Matt 10:41-42; Matt 5:8; Mt 10:39; John 12:26; Matt 6:30; Heb 4:14-16; Rom 14:4; Jude 24; John 14:23; Ps 9:9; Ps 50:15; 2 Cor 4:16; Rom 5:1; John 16:13; Col 3:4; Jas 1:5; 1 Cor 15:55-58

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