

STUDYING 2 PETER



1: Getting An Overview

In preparation for the Bible Study next week, read the whole of 2 Peter through a few times.

Make An Outline

Try to make your own outline of 2 Peter. Divide it into sections. Look for where divisions occur naturally — where there is a change of subject or where a new idea is introduced.

Each of your sections should have only one main point. Remember you can have sections and sub-sections. For example chapter 2 is about false prophets: verses 1 – 3 are a warning to expect them to teach destructive doctrines, verses 4 – 11 are a reminder about how God is going to bring them to account, verses 12 – 17 tell us just how evil and dangerous they are and verses 18 – 22 are about their methods.

Give each of your sections a title that describes what it is about and write them down in a list. Your finished outline for chapter 2 might look something like this:—

Chapter 2	False Prophets
Verses 1 – 3	Expect to meet them
Verses 4 – 11	Their doom
Verses 12 – 17	How evil and dangerous they are
Verses 18 – 22	Their methods

The Big Picture

As you read 2 Peter and work on your outline try to answer these questions:—

- Who wrote it?
What do you know about him?
- When was it written?
What was going on at the time?
- Who was it written for?
What kind of world did they live in?
- What kind of literature is it?
- Why was it written?
What was the main purpose of the book?

First try to work out answers to these questions just from what you read in 2 Peter, then use some other books or look on the internet to see if you are right and to find out more. You could use a Bible Dictionary or, if you have a commentary on 2 Peter, look in the section at the beginning — it is usually called the introduction — that should give you answers to all these questions and more. Alternatively you could do a Google search for “2 Peter introduction” but remember, don’t believe everything you read!