


# Second Peter Lesson #6

Jim Hoffman



## 2 Peter 2:1-3

- 2 Peter 2:1 But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them — bringing swift destruction on themselves. 2 Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. 3 In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping. NIV
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2 Peter 2:1-3

How can we identify false teachers?






## 2 Peter 2:1-3

- Chapter one ends with Peter's assertion the scriptures are the word of God.
  - Chapter two begins with a 'but' that is intended to juxtapose two important ideas – the bible is the word of God, but there will be competing voices.
  - One type of attack is counterfeit versions of what God has said.
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## 2 Peter 2:1-3

- Another more subtle attack is “I know what the bible says, but.....”
  - He also seems certain of his statements – it was a matter of record that Israel had its problems with false prophets and to Peter it seems just as certain the church will have them too.
  - Many of the OT false prophets could be identified by their messages (supposed from God) of false hope or of false assessments of dire situations.
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## 2 Peter 2:1-3

- Jer 29:8 Yes, this is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: "Do not let the prophets and diviners among you deceive you. Do not listen to the dreams you encourage them to have. 9 They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I have not sent them," declares the Lord. 10 This is what the Lord says: "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my gracious promise to bring you back to this place. 11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. NIV
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## 2 Peter 2:1-3

- When Israel was carried away to Babylon the sentence was seventy years – yet false prophets arose saying their time in Babylon would be short.
  - If I am going to be in a bad place I will welcome those who paint a rosy picture for me, but what is my state when I am still in the bad place past the rosy picture prediction?
  - That's right – I feel even worse.
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## 2 Peter 2:1-3

- Notice too how the false teachers come in – secretly.
  - False teachers never announce their ill intentions because the church would reject them.
  - Instead they choose to appear as angels of light and as preachers and teachers who are very ‘with it’ spiritually.
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## 2 Peter 2:1-3

- Their message is often positive and one that people want to hear – everyone likes positive inputs to their thoughts.
  - If you do this you'll be rich, if you do this you'll be well, if you do this you'll be “fill in the blank”.
  - We all want a quick fix for life's problems and false teachers often prey on that desire.
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## 2 Peter 2:1-3

- They are often motivated by greed – they see believers as sheep ready and willing to be sheared in exchange for a moment of hope.
- To many false teachers what they call ministry is really nothing more than a business.
- 2 Peter 2:3 In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up. NIV






## 2 Peter 2:1-3

- So, aside from their message, how can we identify false teachers if they are not going to wear a name tag that reads ‘false teacher’?
  - Where do they stand on the doctrine of Jesus?
  - Where do they stand with Jesus?
  - What do their lives look like?
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## 2 Peter 2:1-3

- Peter says that ‘destruction’ is hanging over them even though it seems like God is ignoring them.
  - Let’s make an important distinction – some Christians have lousy testimonies and turn people off to the gospel. (sad, but not intended to destroy others)
  - The false teachers Peter is talking about seek to intentionally destroy the church as agents of the devil himself. (sometimes they are unaware of who is really behind their work)
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## 2 Peter 2:4-9

- 2 Peter 2:4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment; 5 if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; 6 if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; 7 and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the filthy lives of lawless men 8(for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)— 9 if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment. NIV
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## 2 Peter 2:4-9

- Peter now launches into a historical account of how God deals with sin.
  - He didn't spare:
    - The angels who rebelled with Lucifer
    - The rebellion of Noah's day
    - The debauchery of Sodom and Gomorrah
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## 2 Peter 2:4-9

- Peter asserts that God has a record of dealing with sin and delivering His people from sin and its effects.
  - God is also somewhat unpredictable with respect to the timing of His judgment of sin.
  - Sometimes it's slow and other times it's swift.
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## 2 Peter 2:4-9


- The angels who rebelled with Lucifer are still in jail awaiting judgment. (held without bail)
- The people of Noah's day were warned and then when judgment fell it took forty days.
- The reprobates of Sodom and Gomorrah were hit with a fire bomb.







## 2 Peter 2:4-9

- The bigger point is this – God does not and will not tolerate sin.
  - What is more wicked than distorting or changing what God has said?
  - Do we see that intentionally teaching false doctrine is as evil as molesting a child?
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## 2 Peter 2:4-9

- The false teachers on the outside of the church are easier to spot – they proudly wear the labels of their cults.
- But the ones within are far more dangerous and much harder to spot.
- Matt 7:15 "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. 16 By their fruit you will recognize them." NIV





## 2 Peter 2:4-9

- God takes the integrity of His Word very seriously because it is in the scriptures that we find life.
  - Rev 22:18 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. 19 And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book. NIV
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Questions / Comments

