

INTRODUCTION TO 2 PETER
(2 Peter 1:1)

I. Written by the APOSTLE PETER

A. Internal EVIDENCE

1. Explicit CLAIM of the OPENING salutation
2. Uses a RARE Hebraic SPELLING of his name: SIMEON (1:1; cf. Acts 15:14)
3. Refers to Christ's PREDICTION of his DEATH (1:14; cf. John 21:18)
4. Claims to be an EYEWITNESS of the TRANSFIGURATION (1:16-18; cf. Matt. 17:1)
5. Refers to an EARLIER LETTER (3:1)
6. Speaks familiarly of PAUL as his "beloved BROTHER" (3:15)

B. Critical ATTACKS on its authenticity

1. Consider personal REMINISCENCES the work of a FORGER
2. Exaggerate differences in VOCABULARY and STYLE
3. Allege HISTORICAL problems
4. Allege dependence upon JUDE
5. Misconstrue the significance of its being the LAST book to be RECOGNIZED as part of SCRIPTURE

- C. Historical ACCEPTANCE
 - 1. Took nearly 300 years to become widely KNOWN and ACCEPTED
 - 2. Authenticated from among many REJECTED forgeries
 - 3. INCLUDED in key 3rd and 4th century manuscripts

- II. Written within an HISTORICAL CONTEXT
 - A. The AUDIENCE addressed—probably the SAME as 1 Peter (3:1)
 - 1. Churches located in NORTHERN Asia-Minor (TURKEY)
 - 2. Christians of JEWISH and GENTILE heritage
 - B. The likely DATE of writing—AD 67 or 68
 - 1. Peter was martyred under NERO, who died in AD 68
 - 2. Rome BURNED in the FALL of AD 64
 - C. The PLACE of writing—probably from a ROMAN PRISON (1:14)

- III. Written as a Warning Against FALSE TEACHERS
 - A. By understanding SALVATION (1:3-11)
 - B. By understanding the SCRIPTURES (1:12-21)
 - C. By understanding FALSE TEACHERS (2:1-22)
 - D. By understanding the FUTURE (3:1-18)