

## Second Peter Chapter Two

### Prophecy of Infiltration of False Teachers (v.1)

**VERSE 1** **But false prophets also arose among the people** (δὲ ψευδοπροφήται καὶ ἐν τῷ λαῷ [*conj., de, but, + n.m.p., pseudoprophetes, false prophet, + conj./adjunc., kai, + aor.dep.ind.3.p., ginomai, “arose”, + prep.w/def.art.w/loc.m.s., laos, people*]), **just as there will also be false teachers among you** (ὡς καὶ ἐν ὑμῖν ἔσονται ψευδοδιδάσκαλοι [*conj./compar., hos + conj./adjunc., kai, + fut.mid.ind.3.p., eimi, + n.m.p., pseudodidaskos, false teacher*]), **who will secretly introduce destructive heresies** (οἵτινες παρεισάξουσιν αἰρέσεις ἀπωλείας [*pro./rel.n.m.p., hostis, such a kind as, + fut.act.ind.3.p., παρεισάγω pareisago, bring in from the outside; IX, + acc.f.p., αἵρεσις, hairesis, sect; faction; heresy, + gen.f.s., apoleia, destruction; “destructive”*]), **even denying the Master who bought them** (καὶ ἀρνούμενοι δεσπότην τὸν ἀγοράσαντα αὐτοὺς [*conj./ascen. + pres.dep.pt.n.m.p., ἀρνέομαι, arneomai, deny, + acc.m.s., δεσπότης, despotes, master, sovereign, + def.art. w/aor.act.pt.acc.m.s., ἀγοράζω, agorazo, purchase, + pro.acc.m.p., autos*]), **bringing swift destruction upon themselves** (ἐπάγοντες ταχινὴν ἀπώλειαν ἑαυτοῖς [*pres.act.pt.n.m.p., ἐπάγω, epago, bring upon; Acts.5:28; 2Pet.2:1,5 + adj.acc.f.s., ταχινός, tachinos, swift; imminent; quick; 2X: 2Pet.1:14; 2:1 + acc.f.s., apoleia, destruction, + pro./reflex.dat.m.p., heautou, himself; themselves*]).

### ANALYSIS: VERSE 1

1. This chapter is closely linked with the preceding chapter.
2. Indeed, it has been observed that 2Pet.1:16–2:3 has a chiastic order:
  - a. Apostles (1:16-18).
  - b. Prophets (1:19-21).
  - c. False Prophets (2:1a).
  - d. False Teachers (2:1b-3).
3. In this chapter, Peter goes on the attack against his counterparts – the false teachers.
4. Peter’s thoughts still linger in the O.T. history.
5. In Israel “there were also false prophets among the people”, as well as true, and now history was repeating itself.
6. A definition of a false prophet is found in Deut.18:20.
7. The phenomenon was all too familiar under the Mosaic Covenant (e.g., Deut.13:1-5; 1Kgs.22:5-28; Jer.5:31; Ezek.13; Micah.3:5-12).

8. The words “there will also be” are a future indicative, which is a prophetic statement relative to future developments within the current dispensation.
9. This prophecy is fulfilled over the course of the Church Age.
10. These “false teachers” (notice the quick change from *pseudoprophetai* to *pseudodidaskaloi*, suggesting that perhaps the false teachers did not put forth any pretensions to being prophets) are the type of individuals who (οἵτινες, *hoitines*) introduce heretical views “secretly”.
11. The verb “introduce” has two overtones: it means to “bring in alongside” (true teachings) and also to “introduce secretly” (cf. Gal.2:4).
12. These individuals operate as wolves in sheep’s clothing (Mt.7:15; cp. Acts.20:29).
13. “Destructive heresies” (literally, “of destruction” – a Hebraism) means doctrines destructive of true faith.
14. The word “heresies” (αἵρεσις, *haireis*; literally, “choice”) was applied to a party or sect (cf. Acts.5:17; 15:5) or to the views held by a sect.
15. Divisiveness (Gal.5:20; 1Cor.11:18ff) and arrogant independence (Ti.3:10) are Pauline uses of the term.
16. The term is used here as a synonym for false doctrine.
17. The extent to which these heretics would sink into error is reflected in the words “even denying the Master (or ‘Sovereign’) who bought them”.
18. The term “bought” (aorist participle of *agorazo*, to purchase) shows the helplessness of man’s plight and the costliness of Christ’s rescue.
19. The verb is used of the redemption of Israel out of Egypt.
20. In the Cross, as in the Exodus, we see God’s personal intervention for His people, not only to deliver them from bondage and death, but also to redeem them as His own people (cf. 2Sam.7:23).
21. This statement, that Christ “bought them”, points to the doctrine of unlimited atonement if we accept the fact that the false teachers in view here are unbelievers.
22. The purchase price of the false teachers is the blood of Christ, or the spiritual death of Christ during the three hours of darkness on the Cross.
23. The liberal false teachers attack the very thing that provides them with the potential of eternal salvation.
24. Theological liberals typically deny the deity of Christ and the necessity of the substitutionary death of Christ.
25. They follow in the way of Cain.
26. The final statement, “bringing swift destruction upon themselves”, can only refer to their Ph3 judgment.
27. As individuals they will die, and their judgment in hell will be swift and certain.
28. The basis for their condemnation is failure to believe in “the Master who bought them” (cf. Jn.3:36).
29. Those who deny the Lord by rejecting His person and work will find themselves in the hands of a living and all-powerful Judge.
30. These “false teachers” operate in the name of Christianity.
31. So far their profile is as follows:
  - a. They are rivals to the true teachers of the faith.
  - b. They operate within Christian circles (“among you”).

- c. They infiltrate Christians ranks.
- d. They promote false doctrine, even denial of Who and What Christ is.
- e. They are held accountable and will face “destruction”.

### Their Effect and Judgment (v.2)

**VERSE 2 And many will follow their sensuality** (καὶ πολλοὶ ἐξακολουθήσουσιν αὐτῶν ταῖς ἀσελγείαις [*conj., kai, + adj.n.m.p., polus, many, + fut.act.ind.3.p., εξακολουθέω, exakoloutheo, follow after, + pro.gen.m.p., autos, + def.art.w/dat.f.p., ἀσέλγεια, aselgeia, sensuality*]), **and because of them the way of the truth will be maligne** (δι’ οὗς ἡ ὁδὸς τῆς ἀληθείας βλασφημηθήσεται [*prep.w/pro./rel.acc.m.p., hos, + def.art.w/n.f.s., hodos, way, + def.art.w/gen.f.s., aletheia, truth, + fut.pass.ind.3.s., blasphemeo, slander, malign*]);

### Their Greed (v.3)

**VERSE 3 and in their greed they will exploit you with false words** (καὶ ἐν πλεονεξίᾳ ἐμπορεύσονται ὑμᾶς πλαστοῖς λόγοις [*conj., kai, + prep.w/loc.f.s., πλεονεξία, pleonezia, greed, + fut.dep.ind.3.p., ἐμπορευόμαι, emporeuomai, carry on business; 2X: Jam.4:13; “will exploit”, or “will merchandise”, + pro.acc.m.p., su, + adj.instr.m.p., πλαστός, plastos, fabricated, formed; “false”, + instr.m.p., logos, word*]); **their judgment from long ago is not idle** (οἷς τὸ κρίμα ἔκπαλαι οὐκ ἀργεῖ [*pro./rel.dat.m.p., hos; “their”, + def.art.w/n.nt.s., krima, judgment, + adjectival adverb, ἔκπαλαι, ekpalai, of time long ago; 2X: 2Pet.3:5 + neg., Ouk + pres.act.ind.3.s. ἀργέω, argeo, be idle*]), **and their destruction is not asleep** (καὶ ἡ ἀπώλεια αὐτῶν οὐ νυστάζει [*conj. + def.art.w/apoleia, + pro.gen.m.p., autos; “their”, + neg. + pres.act.ind.3.s., νυστάζω, nustazo, be drowsy; fig. for inactive*]).

### ANALYSIS: VERSES 2-3

1. They will, predicts the Apostle Peter, have considerable success, as noted in the words “And many will follow their sensuality”.
2. The “many” here refers to believers who are taken in by their “destructive heresies”, along with unbelievers to whom aberrant Christianity is appealing.
3. These individuals are apparently professed antinomians (or libertines), as the theme of “their sensuality” recurs throughout the chapter either directly or indirectly (cf. 2Pet.2:10,14,18,19,22; cp. 3:3).
4. They encourage in others sexual freedom/license.
5. Biblically sound Christianity, called by Peter “the way of truth”, was brought into discredit when the false teachers and their followers promoted sexual freedom in the name of God and Christ.

6. Those who adopted the immoral practices of the libertines brought disrepute upon all Christians.
7. Those outside the Church were naturally scandalized by those who claimed to be Christian and embraced immorality in the name of God.
8. The expression in v.2 reflects the influence of Isa.52:5.
9. Paul cites the text in Rom.2:24 and accuses the Jews of bringing disrepute upon God by their hypocrisy.
10. The outside world forms an impression of the Church, favorable or unfavorable, based on the conduct of its members (e.g., 1Thess.4:12; 1Tim.6:1; Ti.2:5; 1Pet.2:12,15; 3:16).
11. A further charge is pressed in v.3.
12. The driving force behind them is their materialism/money lust (greed of gain; cp. v.14; Jude.11,16).
13. The N.T. warns spiritual leaders against this vice (1Tim.3:3; Ti.1:7; 1Pet.5:2).
14. Paul took particular care to avoid suspicion (Acts.20:33ff; 1Thess.2:5).
15. The verb “will exploit” (fut.dep.ind.3.p., *emporeuomai*, travel for business; trade; fig. for taking advantage of another; hence, cheat) has a bad connotation here and is akin to our word “cheat”.
16. The false teachers covered “*their greed*” (ἐν πλεονεξίᾳ) by using “false words”.
17. In other words, they used specious (having an appearance of legitimacy) arguments to persuade believers to give large sums of money into their hands.
18. The history of Christianity is filled with ministers and priests who exploited their people for financial gain.
19. Jesus taught this in the parable of Lk.12:42-48 dealing with the four categories of spiritual leaders.
20. The two indictments of vv.2,3 relate to sex lust and materialism lust.
21. Nevertheless, Peter assures his readers they will not escape future judgment.
22. There is a certain poetic rhythm in the words “their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep”.
23. The words “judgment” and “destruction” are almost personified.
24. When the wicked are successful and their misdeeds go unpunished, men tend to misinterpret the apparent inactivity and become discouraged, or worse, act lawless themselves.
25. God’s verdict has already been pronounced against them, and the doom that surely will overtake them has been set in motion “from long ago”.
26. As individuals, they die and face Ph3 wrath in sheol hades.
27. As a group, their counterparts will enter great tribulation and be destroyed from the earth in the judgments of the seven years.
28. Those who are believers will stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ and experience shame and loss.
29. The unbelievers will be further humiliated at the Great White Throne Judgment.