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**A VERSE BY VERSE
STUDY GUIDE FOR CATHOLICS**

**THE SECOND LETTER OF
PETER**

Featuring

- ***Analysis of the book***
- ***Translation Insights (approved for Catholics)***
- ***Catholic Commentary Insights***
- ***Scripture – cross references & Catechism***
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2 PETER

General Information: Second Peter is probably the latest book written in the New Testament, written around A.D. 100-25. The authorship is attributed to Simon Peter. It is believed that this Epistle, like the First, was sent to the Christians of Asia Minor, the majority of whom were converted Gentiles. False teachers (2 Pet. 2:1), heretics and deceivers (2 Pet. 3:3), of corrupt morals and denying the Second Advent of Christ and the end of the world, sought to corrupt the faith and the conduct of the Christians of Asia Minor. Peter wrote to excite them to the practice of virtue and chiefly to turn them away from the errors and bad example of the false teachers. (The Catholic Encyclopedia, Volume XI 1911 edition.) *Nihil Obstat, February 1, 1911.* Remy Lafort, S.T.D.,

Censor. *Imprimatur*. +John Cardinal Farley, Archbishop of New York.

2 PETER CHAPTER 1

Catholic scholars served on the committees that prepared each of the Translations used in this booklet. The *nihil obstat* and *imprimatur* are official declarations that a book or pamphlet is free of doctrinal or moral error. The RSVCE, NAB, JB, NJB, CEV, GNB, Knox Version, translations have received the *imprimatur*. Therefore, Catholics may use them with confidence.

Instructions for individual study or Group Study.

Read and meditate on the Catholic approved translation(s). Answer each question or questions. Read the Catholic commentary. If you are in a group you may stop and discuss. Then proceed to the next verse or verses and continue the process.

TRANSLATION INSIGHTS: (2 PETER 1:1)

Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours in the

righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: ^(RSVCE)

¹ Symeon Peter, a slave and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have received a faith of equal value to ours through the righteousness of our God and savior Jesus Christ: ^(NAB)

¹ From Simeon Peter, servant and apostle of Jesus Christ; to all who treasure the same faith as ourselves, given through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ. ^(JB)

¹ From Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ. To everyone who shares with us in the privilege of believing that our God and Savior Jesus Christ will do what is just and fair. ^(CEV)

¹Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who share with us the common privilege of faith, justified as we are by our God and Saviour Jesus Christ; ^(Knox Version)

1. **Read 2 Peter 1:1.** The Apostle Peter is writing to:
a. non-Christians. b. his mother. c. old friends. d. believer's who share in common his Christian faith.

CATHOLIC COMMENTARY INSIGHTS: (2 Pet. 1:1) – “Simeon Peter” was one of the original twelve disciples of Jesus. The name “Peter” in Greek is *Petros* and means *a rock*. Peter holds first place among the twelve in that our Lord declared that “on this rock I will build my Church” (Matt. 16:18). His mission was to keep the faith from every lapse and to strengthen his brothers in it (Lk. 22:32; CCC 552-553). Simeon Peter was **“a servant”** that is, he gave himself up to the will of Jesus his Messiah and Savior. **“And apostle of Jesus Christ”** “Apostle” (Gk. *apostolos*) means *one who is sent, an ambassador of the Gospel, a messenger of Christ*. Apostles often were given grace from God to perform miraculous signs and power (See 2 Cor. 12:12). Peter

healed the sick, cast out devils, and raised the dead (See Matt. 10:1, 7-8; Acts 3:6-7; Acts 5:12-16; Acts 9:33-35; CCC 434, 548-549). **“To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours”** Peter is writing to believer’s who share in common his Christian faith. **“In the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:”** Peter’s point is that believers share equally in the Christian faith because God is righteous, just and fair. The word “faith” could refer to the whole content of the Christian faith (See Jude 3) or to God’s grace in giving us as an individual the ability to believe (See CCC 153).

TRANSLATION INSIGHTS: (2 PETER 1:2-3)

² May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. ³ His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, ^(RSVCE)

²may grace and peace be yours in abundance through knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. ³His divine power has bestowed on us everything that makes for life and devotion, through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and power. (NAB)

²May you have more and more grace and peace as you come to know our Lord more and more. ³By his divine power, he has given us all the things that we need for life and for true devotion, bringing us to know God himself, who has called us by his own glory and goodness. (JB)

² I pray that God will be kind to you and will let you live in perfect peace! May you keep learning more and more about God and our Lord Jesus. ³ We have everything we need to live a life that pleases God. It was all given to

us by God's own power, when we learned that he had invited us to share in his wonderful goodness. ^(CEV)

2. **Read 2 Peter 1:2-3.** God's divine power gives us everything we need for living a godly life. True or False

CATHOLIC COMMENTARY INSIGHTS: (2 Pet. 1:2) – “May grace and peace be multiplied to you” Peter opens his letter by wishing the multiplication of both “grace and peace” to the Church. “**Grace**” is *favor, the free and undeserved help of God*, especially the divine influence upon the heart and its reflection in one's life (CCC 1996). “**Peace**” carries the fundamental ideas of prosperity and well-being. “**In the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord**” “Grace and peace” is multiplied to us in the “**knowledge**” of God and Jesus our Lord. This Greek word for “**knowledge**” is *epignosis* and carries the idea of a more complete comprehension of something that is already known. It is a greater participation in the truth of the Father and His Son, that more powerfully influences us (CCC 94).

(2 Pet. 1:3) - “His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness,” God’s divine power has bestowed upon us all things that belong and relate to an active, vigorous life devoted to God. **“Through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,”** Through a better acquaintance of God (spiritual knowledge), He has called us to His own glory and moral excellence (divine power expressing itself in character and conduct) (2 Thess. 2:14; 1 Pet. 5:10).

TRANSLATION INSIGHTS: (2 PETER 1:4)

⁴ by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, that through these you may escape from the corruption that is in the world because of passion, and become partakers of the divine nature. (RSVCE)

⁴Through these, he has bestowed on us the precious and very great promises, so that through them you may come to share in the

divine nature, after escaping from the corruption that is in the world because of evil desire. ^(NAB)

⁴In making these gifts, he has given us the guarantee of something very great and wonderful to come: through them you will be able to share the divine nature and to escape corruption in a world that is sunk in vice. ^(JB)

⁴ God made great and marvelous promises, so that his nature would become part of us. Then we could escape our evil desires and the corrupt influences of this world. ^(CEV)

3. **Read 2 Peter 1:4; Gal. 2:20.** God promises us that we may partake of His divine nature. True or False

CATHOLIC COMMENTARY INSIGHTS: (2 Pet. 1:4) –
“By which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, that through these you may

escape from the corruption that is in the world”...

By God’s divine power and His mighty promises, He has promised us that we can escape the corruption of the world (See 2 Peter 2:20). **“And become partakers of the divine nature.”** “Partakers of the divine nature” denotes human participation in the divine life of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is a mystery of grace that Paul describes as the indwelling of the Father (1 Cor. 6:16), the Son (Rom. 8:10; Gal. 2:20), and the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19). Sharing in God’s divine nature sums up the fruits that grace (by God Spirit) produces in the life of His people (Rom. 8:12-14; Gal. 6:8-10) (CCC 1997).

TRANSLATION INSIGHTS: (2 PETER 1:5-7)

⁵ For this very reason make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, ⁶ and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, ⁷ and godliness with brotherly

affection, and brotherly affection with love.
(RSVCE)

⁵For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, virtue with knowledge, ⁶knowledge with self-control, self-control with endurance, endurance with devotion, ⁷devotion with mutual affection, mutual affection with love. ^(NAB)

⁵But to attain this, you will have to do your utmost yourselves, adding goodness to the faith that you have, understanding to your goodness, ⁶self-control to your understanding, patience to your self-control, true devotion to your patience, ⁷kindness toward your fellow men to your devotion, and, to this kindness, love. ^(JB)

⁵ Do your best to improve your faith. You can do this by adding goodness, understanding, ⁶

self-control, patience, devotion to God, ⁷
concern for others, and love. ^(CEV)

4. **Read 2 Peter 1:5-7.** The divine nature manifests in:
a. virtue, moral excellence, a noble character. b.
knowledge, spiritual understanding, knowing God better.
c. self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly
affection. d. charity and love. e. all of the above.

**CATHOLIC COMMENTARY INSIGHTS: (2 Pet. 1:5) –
“Make every effort to supplement your faith with ...”**

Peter admonishes his readers to give all diligence and persistent effort to supply your faith with **virtue** (the moral excellence, the divine power manifested in character and conduct); To virtue seek to know and enquire spiritual understanding (**knowledge**).

(2 Pet. 1:6) To knowledge seek **self-control** and self-control *add* **steadfastness**, that is, patient continuance, endurance, and perseverance; to steadfastness *add* **godliness** (the reverence of God that is characterized by acts of godliness);

(2 Pet. 1:7) To godliness *add* **brotherly affection** and kindness; and to brotherly affection *add* **agape love**. The divine nature is expressed through

these virtues. It begins with faith and ends with love. As the Apostle Paul expresses, “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is of any avail, but faith working through love” (Gal. 5:6) (CCC 25).

TRANSLATION INSIGHTS: (2 PETER 1:8-9)

8 For if these things are yours and abound, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.⁹ For whoever lacks these things is blind and shortsighted and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. (RSVCE)

⁸If these are yours and increase in abundance, they will keep you from being idle or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁹ Anyone who lacks them is blind and shortsighted, forgetful of the cleansing of his past sins. (NAB)

⁸If you have a generous supply of these, they will not leave you ineffectual or unproductive: they will bring you to a real knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ But without them a man is blind or else shortsighted; he has forgotten how his past sins were washed away. (JB)

⁸If you keep growing in this way, it will show that what you know about our Lord Jesus Christ has made your lives useful and meaningful. ⁹ But if you don't grow, you are like someone who is nearsighted or blind, and you have forgotten that your past sins are forgiven. (CEV)

5. Read 2 Pet. 1:8. The person who lacks moral excellence, knowledge of God, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love (verses 5-7) is: a. unhappy. b. glad. c. barren and unfruitful – in a real knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

6. **Read 2 Pet. 1:9.** The person who lacks the virtues listed in 2 Peter 1:5-7 is: a. insightful and sees clearly. b. blind and shortsighted.

CATHOLIC COMMENTARY INSIGHTS: (2 Pet. 1:8-9) – “unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” A true knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ engulfs the virtues listed in verses 5-7. The one who does not possess these qualities becomes like a branch that does not bear fruit (Jn. 15:2, 6) or like a seed that is choked by thorns (Mk. 4:18-19). This person is blind because he has closed his eyes to the truth. Peter reflects on the need of *continual conversion*. **“Cleansed from his old sins”** means *past sins* that were committed prior to their initial conversion.

Conversion means a radical reorientation of the whole life away from sin and evil, and toward God. This change of heart or conversion is a central element of Christ’s preaching, of the Church’s ministry of evangelization, and of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation (CCC Glossary, p. 873; CCC 1427, 1432).

TRANSLATION INSIGHTS: (2 PETER 1:10-11)

¹⁰ Therefore, brethren, be the more zealous to confirm your call and election, for if you do this you will never fall; ¹¹ so there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. ^(RSVCE)

¹⁰ Therefore, brothers, be all the more eager to make your call and election firm, for, in doing so, you will never stumble. ¹¹ For, in this way, entry into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ will be richly provided for you. ^(NAB)

¹⁰ Brothers, you have been called and chosen: work all the harder to justify it. If you do all these things there is no danger that you will ever fall away. ¹¹ In this way you will be

granted admittance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (JB)

¹⁰ My friends, you must do all you can to show that God has really chosen and selected you. If you keep on doing this, you won't stumble and fall. ¹¹ Then our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will give you a glorious welcome into his kingdom that will last forever. ^(CEV)

7. **Read 2 Peter 1:10.** If a person *does not* supplement their faith with virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, affection, and love (2 Pet. 1:5-7), that person: a. has confirmed their call an election. b. has not confirmed their call an election.

8. **Read 2 Peter 1:10.** A Christian is to: a. be zealous to confirm your call an election. b. be a slacker concerning God's calling an election.

9. **Read 2 Peter 1:10.** A person who practices the virtues found in 2 Peter 1:5-7 will: a. stumble and fall.
b. will never fall.

10. **Read 2 Peter 1:10-11.** When a Christian has made his calling and election sure by adding to his faith the virtues found in verses 5-7, not only will he not fall but it is as if the narrow road of entrance into the eternal kingdom has been broadened. The entrance is now: a. blocked. b. barely seen. c. richly provided to you.

CATHOLIC COMMENTARY INSIGHTS: (2 Pet. 1:10) - “Therefore, brethren, be the more zealous to confirm your call and election” The Apostle Peter urges his readers to confirm their call and election. The believer who pursues the spiritual virtues listed in 2 Peter 1:5-7, guarantees to himself by spiritual fruit that he was called and chosen by God to salvation (1 Pet. 1:2; CCC 2087). **“For if you do this you will never fall;”** Such a believer will never fall. The Greek word for “fall” means “to trip up” or “to experience a reversal” or “to fail” to receive salvation.

(2 Pet. 1:11) “So there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our

Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The one whose faith is accompanied by good works, that is, works that demonstrate his faith, will have an entrance richly provided into the eternal kingdom (See Matt. 25:31-46; CCC 2447).

TRANSLATION INSIGHTS: (2 PETER 1:12-15)

¹² **Therefore I intend always to remind you of these things, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have.** ¹³ **I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to arouse you by way of reminder,** ¹⁴ **since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me.** ¹⁵ **And I will see to it that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.** (RSVCE)

¹² You are holding firmly to the truth that you were given. But I am still going to remind you of these things. ¹³ In fact, I think I should keep

on reminding you until I leave this body. ¹⁴ And our Lord Jesus Christ has already told me that I will soon leave it behind. ¹⁵ That is why I am doing my best to make sure that each of you remembers all of this after I am gone. (CEV)

11. **Read 2 Peter 1:12.** Even though the believers Peter was speaking to were holding firmly to the truth they were given, Peter was still going to remind them of what? They had everything they need to live a godly life, they had the divine nature, they were to add to their faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, affection, and love (2 Pet. 1:5-7). They were to be zealous to confirm their calling an election, etc.

12. **Read 2 Peter 1:13-15.** The Lord Jesus showed Peter that his death would be soon, that is why he was doing his best to: a. enjoy life. b. save a lot of money. c. make sure they remember his instructions long after he is gone.

CATHOLIC COMMENTARY INSIGHTS: (2 Pet. 1:12-15) – It was revealed to Peter by the Lord Jesus that his

death was at hand. It is said that Peter was crucified upside down at his own request because he did not feel worthy to die in the same manner as his Lord. Peter wanted his readers to remember what he had taught long after his death, thus he penned this inspired letter.

TRANSLATION INSIGHTS: (2 PETER 1:16-18)

¹⁶ For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For when he received honor and glory from God the Father and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” ¹⁸ we heard this voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. (RSVCE)

¹⁶ When we told you about the power and the return of our Lord Jesus Christ, we were not

telling clever stories that someone had made up. But with our own eyes we saw his true greatness.¹⁷ God, our great and wonderful Father, truly honored him by saying, “This is my own dear Son, and I am pleased with him.”¹⁸ We were there with Jesus on the holy mountain and heard this voice speak from heaven. ^(CEV)

13. **Read 2 Peter 1:16.** Peter in making known to the believers the power and the coming (or return) of the Lord Jesus, was not using: a. the wisdom of intellectuals. b. a rumor that he heard. c. cleverly devised myths, that is, clever stories that were made up.

14. **Read 2 Peter 1:16.** Peter was an eyewitness to the Majesty. This is a reference to Jesus as: a. the most popular teacher of his day. b. the coming messianic King. c. a Rabbi.

CATHOLIC COMMENTARY INSIGHTS: (2 Pet. 1:16-18) – A Christian’s faith does not rest on cleverly devised

myths as did the doctrines of the false teachers. Peter says that the apostles were eyewitnesses of the gospel events. Peter recalls vividly hearing the voice of Almighty God who proclaimed on that holy mountain. “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.” Peter knew what he was talking about when he preached. Could false teachers have this kind of authority? This *past* revelation of Christ’s glory seen in the transfiguration (See Matt. 17:1-8; Mk. 9:2-8; Lk. 9:28-36) by Peter, James and John is considered a preview of the *future* revelation of the glory of Christ to be seen at his Second Coming (CCC 554-555, 673).

TRANSLATION INSIGHTS: (2 PETER 1:19 – 21)

¹⁹ And we have the prophetic word made more sure. You will do well to pay attention to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰ First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, ²¹ because no prophecy ever

came by the impulse of man, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.
(RSVCE)

¹⁹ Moreover, we possess the prophetic message that is altogether reliable. You will do well to be attentive to it, as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰ Know this first of all, that there is no prophecy of scripture that is a matter of personal interpretation, ²¹ for no prophecy ever came through human will; but rather human beings moved by the holy Spirit spoke under the influence of God. (NAB)

15. Read 2 Peter 1:17-21. God the Father honored His Son when He spoke from heaven, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased!” Peter, James and John heard this voice that came from heaven. Yet their conclusion is that there is a word, the prophetic message that is also reliable, it is the Old Testament prophets speaking through the Holy Scripture. Peter tells us that

we should: a. read the Bible from time to time. b. take heed, pay attention and follow the Scriptures closely.

16. **Read 2 Peter 1:20.** No prophecy of Scripture is a matter of: a. Jewish tradition. b. personal interpretation, that is interpretation according to one's own liking.

17. **Read 2 Peter 1:21.** No prophecy of Scripture was ever written as a mere: a. suggestion that it could be a best seller in book stores. b. act of human will.

18. **Read 2 Peter 1:21.** Scripture was written (spoken from God) as men were moved on (led or guided) by: a. their wives. b. their friends. c. the Holy Spirit.

CATHOLIC COMMENTARY INSIGHTS: (2 Pet. 1:19-21) This section contains a strong statement concerning the inspiration of the Scripture. The Scripture is not a collection of fables about God. It is God's very words that were given *through* people *to* people. Nearly 40 writers were involved over a period of some 1,500 years. Peter emphasized his authority as an eyewitness to Christ's glory (2 Pet. 1:16) and the God-inspired

authority of Scripture (2 Pet. 1:21; CCC 104, 120, 123, 134) to prepare his readers for the harsh words that will follow concerning false teachers (2 Pet. 2:1-3). If these wicked men are contradicting the apostles and the Scripture, then their message cannot be from God.

2 PETER CHAPTER 2

TRANSLATION INSIGHTS: (2 PETER 2:1)

¹ But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. ^(RSVCE)

¹ There were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will introduce destructive heresies and even deny the Master who

ransomed them, bringing swift destruction on themselves. ^(NAB)

¹ As there were false prophets in the past history of our people, so you too will have your false teachers, who will insinuate their own disruptive views and, by disowning the Lord who bought them freedom, will bring upon themselves speedy destruction. ^(NJB)

¹ Sometimes false prophets spoke to the people of Israel. False teachers will also sneak in and speak harmful lies to you. But these teachers don't really belong to the Master who paid a great price for them, and they will quickly destroy themselves. ^(CEV)

19. **Read 2 Peter 2:1.** There were false prophets in Israel even as there shall be false teachers: a. in the cults. b. in witchcraft. c. among you.

20. **Read 2 Peter 2:1.** The false teacher will secretly:
a. bring in destructive heresies. b. insinuate their own disruptive views. c. sneak in and speak harmful lies.
d. all of the above.

21. **Read 2 Peter 2:1.** The heresies that the false teacher brings is: a. destructive. b. disruptive.
c. harmful. d. good to help you grown in Christ.

22. **Read 2 Peter 2:1.** When we pick or choose part of God's Word (to believe) instead of all of God's Word, we are in danger of entering into heresy. True or False.
Can you think of some examples?

23. **Read 2 Peter 2:1.** Notice the word "*teachers.*" Peter is not describing a false teacher (singular), he is describing several individuals (teachers) that are: a. in a foreign land. b. among you. c. locked up in jail.

24. **Read 2 Peter 2:1.** These false teachers deny the Lord. What does it mean to deny the Lord in this context? To disown or deny the Lord by contradicting His teachings (whether in doctrine or lifestyle).

25. **Read 2 Peter 2:1.** The false teacher denies in practice Jesus: a. is Saviour. b. Lordship. c. teachings.

26. **Read 2 Peter 2:1.** The false teacher will bring: a. swift destruction upon himself. b. a life of comfort and ease upon himself.

CATHOLIC COMMENTARY INSIGHTS: (2 Pet. 2:1) –
In Deuteronomy 13:1-5 God warned the people that if a false prophet came and tried to draw them away from the worship of the true and living God, that they should not listen. The Apostle Peter is telling his readers the same thing (CCC 2089).

TRANSLATION INSIGHTS: (2 PETER 2:2)
² **And many will follow their licentiousness, and because of them the way of truth will be reviled.** ^(RSVCE)

² Many will follow their licentious ways, and because of them the way of truth will be reviled. (NAB)

² Many will copy their debauched behavior, and the Way of Truth will be brought into disrepute on their account. (NJB)

² Many people will follow their evil ways and cause others to tell lies about the true way. (CEV)

27. **Read 2 Peter 2:2.** a. Only a few. b. Many.
c. Some shall follow the false teachers shameful behavior.

28. **Read 2 Peter 2:2.** The false teacher's ways are:
a. delightful. b. fun. c. licentious and evil, leading to ruin and loss both spiritually and eternally.

29. **Read 2 Peter 2:2.** Because of false teaching and teachers the way of the truth may not always be the

popular message. Because of these false teachers, the way of truth will be: a. lied about. b. brought into disrepute. c. reviled. d. praised. e. well spoken of.

CATHOLIC COMMENTARY INSIGHTS: (2 Pet. 2:2) –

The problem facing Peter and the Church is that “many shall follow” the immoral behavior of false teaching and teachers. The Apostle Paul mentioned a great falling away from the true faith at the end of time (See 2 Thess. 2:3; 2 Tim. 4:1; 2 Tim. 4:3-4). Many people will profess to be Christians but deny Christ’s lordship over their lives. The world mocks and scoffs the gospel because of hypocritical people who profess that they know Christ yet deny Him with their actions (See Titus 1:16; CCC 2472).

TRANSLATION INSIGHTS: (2 PETER 2:3)

³ And in their greed they will exploit you with false words; from of old their condemnation has not been idle, and their destruction has not been asleep. ^(RSVCE)

³ In their greed they will exploit you with fabrications, but from of old their condemnation has not been idle and their destruction does not sleep. ^(NAB)

³ In their greed they will try to make a profit out of you with untrue tales. But the judgement made upon them long ago is not idle, and the destruction awaiting them is forever on the watch. ^(NJB)

³ They will be greedy and cheat you with smooth talk. But long ago God decided to punish them, and God doesn't sleep. ^(CEV)

30. **Read 2 Peter 2:3.** One of the marks of a false teacher is: a. his kindness. b. his greed. c. his long sermons.

31. **Read 2 Peter 2:3.** The false teacher will try to take advantage of you and your pocket book (money) by

using: a. truthful statements. b. kind words. c. false words, fabrications and untrue tales.

32. **Read 2 Peter 2:3.** The end result of the false teacher in 2 Peter 2:3 is: a. lots of money to travel with. b. destruction that is awaiting. c. a saving account in Switzerland.

CATHOLIC COMMENTARY INSIGHTS: (2 Pet. 2:3) – Peter observed that the underlying motive of the false teachers was not love for people, but love of money (See 2 Pet. 2:14; CCC 2514). They exploit people through their lies and falsehoods. Judgment and destruction are sure since they are the enemies of God.

TRANSLATION INSIGHTS: (2 Peter 2:4-6)

⁴ For if God did not spare the angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of nether gloom to be kept until the judgment; ⁵ if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved

Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven other persons, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; ⁶ if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction and made them an example to those who were to be ungodly; ^(RSVCE)

⁴ **Warning:** God did not spare the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell (Tartarus), the abode of the wicked dead. He delivered them into chains of darkness and blackness. *There they are reserved and guarded until their judgment and condemnation.* ⁵ **Warning:** *Neither did He spare the old world and its inhabitants on the earth, but saved Noah with seven others. Noah's message was righteousness, being right with God. This message was followed by the flood and brought judgment upon the world of the*

ungodly. ⁶ **Warning:** God turned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes and brought judgment and punishment against them by their destruction. This is an example and warning to those that continue to live ungodly, filthy lives of evil. (The Simplified Catholic Study Bible – paraphrase).

33. **Read 2 Peter 2:4-5.** What is the contrast found in verses four and five? Judgment upon angels and the world of the ungodly, mercy upon Noah the preacher of righteousness.

34. **Read 2 Peter 2:6.** Sodom and Gomorrah is an example and warning to: a. Noah. b. your friends. c. those that continue to live ungodly, filthy lives of evil.

CATHOLIC COMMENTARY INSIGHTS: (2 Pet. 2:4-6) – (2 Peter 2:4) The Apostle Peter draws from the Old Testament the fact that false teachers will certainly be punished in the Day of Judgment by our Righteous and Just God. Three examples are given. “**For if God did**

not spare the angels when they sinned.” In Jude 6 they are called “the angels that did not keep their own position but left their proper dwelling.” These are said to be in “eternal chains in the deepest darkness until the Judgment of the Great Day.” (CCC 391)

(2 Peter 2:5) The second example is “**the ancient world,**” meaning the people who lived before the Flood in the time of Noah. God destroyed the whole world by “**a flood**” (Gen. 6-8), and preserved (or saved) only eight people (1 Pet. 3:20). The word “**preserved**” here literally means *to guard* or *protect*, and this is what God did for Noah and his family. (CCC 1219)

(2 Peter 2:6) The third example is the destruction of “**Sodom and Gomorrah**” from which only Lot was delivered or rescued (Gen. 19:29). These examples are a warning to those who continue to live ungodly, filthy lives of evil. The Flood and Sodom and Gomorrah were also used by Jesus as examples of judgment (Lk.17:26-29). (CCC 1022)

TRANSLATION INSIGHTS: (2 Peter 2:7-9) –
⁷ and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the licentiousness of the

wicked ⁸ (for by what that righteous man saw and heard as he lived among them, he was vexed in his righteous soul day after day with their lawless deeds), ⁹ then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trial, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment,
(RSVCE)

⁷⁻⁸ Lot lived right and was greatly troubled by the terrible way those wicked people were living. He was a good man, and day after day he suffered because of the evil things he saw and heard. So the Lord rescued him. ⁹ This shows that the Lord knows how to rescue godly people from their sufferings and to punish evil people while they wait for the day of judgment. (CEV)

35. **Read 2 Peter 2:7-8.** What affect did living among ungodly and immoral people have upon Lot? a. He had lots of opportunity to tell others about God. b. He began to party with those ungodly people. c. His righteous soul was vexed day by day, that is, he suffered because of the evil things he saw and heard.

36. **Read 2 Peter 2:9.** God knows how to: a. rescue godly people from their trials. b. punish the unrighteousness. c. all of the above.

CATHOLIC COMMENTARY INSIGHTS: (2 Pet. 2:7-9)

The Apostle Peter had spoken about the deliverance of Noah and his family in 2 Peter 2:5. He now speaks about another rescue, that is, righteous Lot (2 Peter 2:7). Lot hated the sins of his culture and was greatly distressed by their life style. He also sought to protect God's angels that entered the city and obeyed the Lord by not looking back at Sodom's destruction (See Gen. 19:4-8; Gen. 19:17). Lot was deeply troubled about the behavior of the people living in Sodom and Gomorrah.

These examples were cited by the Apostle Peter to show that **“the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trial, and to keep the unrighteous under**

**punishment until the Day of Judgment” (2 Peter 2:9)
(CCC 681, 682).**

**TRANSLATION INSIGHTS: (2 Peter 2:10-11) –
¹⁰ and especially those who indulge in the
lust of defiling passion and despise
authority. Bold and wilful, they are not
afraid to revile the glorious ones, ¹¹ whereas
angels, though greater in might and power,
do not pronounce a reviling judgment upon
them before the Lord. (RSVCE)**

¹⁰ and especially those who follow the flesh
with its depraved desire and show contempt for
lordship. **False Teachers Denounced.** Bold
and arrogant, they are not afraid to revile
glorious beings, ¹¹ whereas angels, despite
their superior strength and power, do not bring
a reviling judgment against them from the Lord.
(NAB)

¹⁰ especially those who follow the desires of their corrupt human nature and have no respect for the Lord's authority. Such self-willed people with no reverence are not afraid of offending against the glorious ones, ¹¹ but the angels in their greater strength and power make no complaint or accusation against them in the Lord's presence. ^(NJB)

¹⁰ The Lord is especially hard on people who disobey him and don't think of anything except their own filthy desires. They are reckless and proud and are not afraid of cursing the glorious beings in heaven. ¹¹ Although angels are more powerful than these evil beings (wicked teachers), even the angels don't dare to accuse them to the Lord. ^(CEV)

37. **Read 2 Peter 2:10-11.** What kind of people are unafraid to abuse verbally, (evil) spiritual beings?

a. those who follow the desires of their corrupt human nature. b. people who hate to be under authority. c. self willed people. d. false teachers. e. all of the above.

CATHOLIC COMMENTARY INSIGHTS: (2 Pet. 2:10-11) Like the wicked people of Noah's and Lot's time, the false teachers followed the desires of their corrupt nature and had no respect for the Lord's authority. They also blasphemed and ridiculed angels, probably fallen creatures of a higher order of being (2 Peter 2:10; CCC 311). Angels who are greater in power than human beings, would not make an accusation against these wicked spirits in the Lord's presence (2 Peter 2:11). Jude 8-9 tells us that the archangel Michael, recognizing the presence and power of Satan would not speak evil of him but said "The Lord rebuke you" (Jude 9). Peter describes the false teachers as bold and willful slanders even of celestial beings that they know nothing of.

TRANSLATION INSIGHTS: (2 Pet. 2:12-13) ¹² But these, like irrational animals, creatures of instinct, born to be caught and killed,

reviling in matters of which they are ignorant, will be destroyed in the same destruction with them,¹³ suffering wrong for their wrongdoing. They count it pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their dissipation, carousing with you. (RSVCE)

¹² These people are no better than senseless animals that live by their feelings and are born to be caught and killed. They speak evil of things they don't know anything about. But their own corrupt deeds will destroy them.¹³ They have done evil, and they will be rewarded with evil. They think it is fun to have wild parties during the day. They are immoral, and the meals they eat with you are spoiled by the shameful and selfish way they carry on. (CEV)
Some manuscripts have "and the meals they eat with you are spoiled by the shameful way

they carry on during your feasts of Christian love.”

38. **Read 2 Peter 2:12-13.** The false teacher is like an animal that lives by his instincts. They will be rewarded with: a. good. b. evil.

39. **Read 2 Peter 2:12.** These false teachers: a. shall live eternally. b. shall have life more abundant. c. own corrupt deeds will destroy them.

40. **Read 2 Peter 2:13.** The false teachers indulge in evil pleasures. They are deceitful even as they: a. try to flee to country. b. eat with you (probably a reference to the agape love-feast shared among Christians).

CATHOLIC COMMENTARY INSIGHTS: (2 Pet. 2:12-13) “The meals they eat with you” (CEV). In the early Church this celebration feast was probably a meal that ended with the Eucharist. The false teachers, although they were in willful sin, took part. In doing so they partook in one of the greatest of hypocritical acts. The apostle Paul told the Corinthians, “Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord unworthily

will have to answer for the body and blood of the Lord” (1 Cor. 11:27; CCC 1385).

TRANSLATION INSIGHTS: (2 Pet. 2:14) ¹⁴ They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin. They entice unsteady souls. They have hearts trained in greed. Accursed children! (RSVCE)

¹⁴ All they think about is having sex with someone else’s husband or wife. There is no end to their wicked deeds. They trick people who are easily fooled, and their minds are filled with greedy thoughts. But they are headed for trouble! ^(CEV)

41. **Read 2 Peter 2:14.** False prophet’s or teacher’s eyes are full of: a. a bright sparkle. b. adultery. c. bright light.

42. **Read 2 Peter 2:14.** The false prophet and teacher are commonly known to deceive: a. the uneducated. b. unsteady souls, that is, unsteady people who are not firm in the faith.

CATHOLIC COMMENTARY INSIGHTS: (2 Pet. 2:14)

“They have eyes full of adultery.” In Greek this statement is in the present tense meaning, *Having and continuing to have eyes full of adultery.* In Scripture, doctrine and morals are never divided by any sharp line. *Errors* in doctrine are not infrequently the effect of relaxed morality, and vice versa (Vine’s Greek Lexicon). These false teachers thought only of adultery when they saw women (CCC 2380). **“Insatiable for sin”**, that is, *unceasing in sin.* **“They entice unsteady souls.”** To *entice* means to catch with bait. These men do not capture those strong in the faith, but prey on the weak and unstable. **“They have hearts trained in greed.”** They concentrate on nothing but forbidden things for which their passions lust. **“Accursed children!”** A Hebraism denoting certain destruction from the hand of God.

TRANSLATION INSIGHTS: (2 Pet. 2:15-16) ¹⁵

Forsaking the right way they have gone astray; they have followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved gain from wrongdoing, ¹⁶ but was rebuked for his own transgression; a dumb ass spoke with human voice and restrained the prophet's madness. (RSVCE)

¹⁵ They have left the true road and have gone down the wrong path by following the example of the prophet Balaam. He was the son of Beor and loved what he got from being a crook. ¹⁶ But a donkey corrected him for this evil deed. It spoke to him with a human voice and made him stop his foolishness. (CEV)

43. Read 2 Peter 2:14-15. It appears from these verses that the false teacher or prophet at one time followed the Lord but had wandered off and gone astray. This is a lesson to us all. The fruit of their life now is

manifesting: a. adultery. b. an unceasing continuance in sin. c. leading others into sin. d. a heart of greed.

44. **Read 2 Peter 2:15-16.** Balaam the Son of Beor was an example of a prophet that had gone bad (astray). We learn from the New Testament that it would have been better for him to have not known the way of righteousness than to have turned from it (2 Pet. 2:21). His latter end was destruction (Num. 31:8). Look up the following scriptures and discuss them among your group. Num. **22:8**, 17-18; **23:3**, 5, 12, 16, 23, 26; **24:13**; 31:8, 16; **Revelation 2:14**.

45. **Read 2 Peter 2:15-16.** Turn to the Old Testament and read Numbers 22:22-33. Balaam almost lost his life for his way was: a. good & upright. b. perverse before God (Num. 22:32). c. a good example of a Christian.

CATHOLIC COMMENTARY INSIGHTS: (2 Pet. 2:15-16) “Forsaking the right way.” The “**right way**” is an Old Testament metaphor for obedience to God (Acts 13:10). Balaam was hired by a pagan king to curse Israel. He did what God told him to do for awhile (Numbers 22-24), but eventually his evil desire for

money won out (Num. 25:1-3; 31:16) “**Balaam**” served as an illustration and example of false teachers and prophets. He was an Old Testament compromising prophet who went bad for the love of wealth over faithfulness and obedience to God (CCC 2536). Through a talking donkey, God kept him from cursing Israel (Numbers 22:21-35), but later he urged the Moabites to trick Israelite men into illicit relationships with Moabite women, thereby introducing immorality into the camp of Israel. (Num. 31:16; Num. 25:1-3). The misuse of money and sex continue to bring spiritual ruin to many people. This is the error of Balaam that is mentioned in Jude 11, and Revelation 2:14.

TRANSLATION INSIGHTS: (2 Pet. 2:17)

¹⁷ These are waterless springs and mists driven by a storm; for them the nether gloom of darkness has been reserved.
(RSVCE)

¹⁷ People like this are dried-up springs, fogs swirling in the wind, and the gloom of darkness is stored up for them. (NJB)

46. **Read 2 Peter 2:17.** False prophets and teachers are like: a. waterless springs. b. mists driven by a storm. c. those going to school for an education.

47. **Read 2 Peter 2:17.** False prophets and teachers have made a reservation in advance to: a. the Motel 6. b. the beaches of Hawaii. c. the nether gloom of darkness.

CATHOLIC COMMENTARY INSIGHTS: (2 Pet. 2:17)

“These are waterless springs.” Peter uses two poetic figures (waterless springs and mists driven by a storm). A waterless spring would be a major disappointment in a hot and dry land. Likewise, false teachers have a pretense of spiritual water to quench the thirsty soul, but actually have nothing. **“Mists driven by a storm.”** A storm that drives away moisture would leave the land hot and dry. The false teacher seems to promise spiritual refreshment, but were all show with no substance (see Jude 12). **“The nether gloom of darkness has been reserved”** for these false teachers (see Matthew 8:12; Jude 13; CCC 1033). The Simplified Catholic Study Bible – paraphrased - states, “*These false prophets and people like them are waterless wells, rain clouds blown*

away; to whom the darkness of the nether world is reserved forever.”

TRANSLATION INSIGHTS: (2 Pet. 2:18-19)

¹⁸ For, uttering loud boasts of folly, they entice with licentious passions of the flesh men who have barely escaped from those who live in error. ¹⁹ They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption; for whatever overcomes a man, to that he is enslaved. (RSVCE)

¹⁸ With their high-sounding but empty talk they tempt back people who have scarcely escaped from those who live in error, by playing on the disordered desires of their human nature and by debaucheries. ¹⁹ They may promise freedom but are themselves slaves to corruption; because if anyone lets himself be dominated by anything, then he is a slave to it; (NJB)

48. **Read 2 Peter 2:18.** False prophets: a. love to be with people. b. always give money to the church. c. lure back people into sin that have just began to escape.

49. **Read 2 Peter 2:19.** False prophets promise liberty and freedom but are themselves: a. slaves to sin and corruption. b. happy go lucky.

50. **Read 2 Peter 2:19.** When a man is overcome by his poor choices, he is brought into: a. liberty & freedom. b. bondage & slavery. c. depression.

CATHOLIC COMMENTARY INSIGHTS: (2 Pet. 2:18)
“Uttering loud boasts of folly.” False teachers deceive with high sounding words that sound like profound spiritual insight. They may contradict the plain historic teachings of the Church and of Scripture. **“They entice with licentious passions of the flesh.”** In spite of all the empty talk, false teachers entice others to their philosophies. They offer a kind of religion that can embrace and still hold on to their fleshly desires. Peter may also be implying the false teachers desire to seduce women. **“Men who have barely escaped from those who live in error.”** The false teachers exploit and lure

back into sin those who have just escaped from their sinful living.

(2 Peter 2:19) “They promise freedom, but they themselves are slaves.” While the false teachers promise freedom from law and needless restraints, they themselves are slaves to corrupt living. A man is a slave and overcome by whatever controls him.

TRANSLATION INSIGHTS: (2 Pet. 2:20)

²⁰ For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overpowered, the last state has become worse for them than the first. (RSVCE)

²⁰ and anyone who has escaped the pollution of the world by coming to know our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and who then allows himself to be entangled and mastered by it a second time, ends up by being worse than he was before. (NJB)

20 If people have escaped from the corrupting forces of the world through their knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and then are again caught and conquered by them, such people are in worse condition at the end than they were at the beginning. ^(GNB)

51. **Read 2 Peter 2:20.** The person(s) mentioned in 2 Peter 2:20 had escaped the pollutions and defilement of the world through: a. a new year's resolution. b. a knowledge or knowing the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

52. **Read 2 Peter 2:20.** It appears that the person(s) in 2 Peter 2:20 had turned back to sin and its entanglements. His last state will be worse than his: a. years in school. b. last vacation. c. beginning, that is, his first state.

CATHOLIC COMMENTARY INSIGHTS: (2 Pet. 2:20)

A person is better off to have never known the Christian message, than to have known it and deliberately turned away. Peter and the other apostles warn that believers can turn away from God's grace (2 Cor. 6:1; CCC 2089).

TRANSLATION INSIGHTS: (2 Pet. 2:21-22)

²¹ For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them. ²² It has happened to them according to the true proverb, The dog turns back to his own vomit, and the sow is washed only to wallow in the mire. (RSVCE)

21 They would have been better off if they had never known about the right way. Even after they knew what was right, they turned their backs on the holy commandments that they were given. 22 What happened to them is just like the true saying,

"A dog will come back
to lick up its own vomit.
A pig that has been washed
will roll in the mud." (CEV)

53. **Read 2 Peter 2:21.** Which would be better? a. to know the way of righteousness and to turn from it. b. to not know the way of righteousness.

54. **Read 2 Peter 2:22.** To know the Saviour and then to turn from Him is: a. not as bad as you think. b. like a dog coming back to eat what he has vomited. c. like a washed pig going back to the mud again.

CATHOLIC COMMENTARY INSIGHTS: (2 Pet. 2:21)

It is more advantageous for people not to become acquainted with the way or course of righteousness, than after they have known, to turn their backs from the apostolic message (CCC 675).

(2 Peter 2:22) Jews considered dogs and pigs among the lowest of creatures (Matt. 7:6) so Peter chose these animals to describe people who knew the truth and turned from it.

2 PETER CHAPTER 3

TRANSLATION INSIGHTS: (2 PETER 3:1-2)

¹ This is now the second letter that I have written to you, beloved, and in both of them I have aroused your sincere mind by way of reminder; ² that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles. ^(RSVCE)

My dear friends, this is the second letter I have written to encourage you to do some honest thinking. I don't want you to forget ² what God's prophets said would happen. You must never forget what the holy prophets taught in the past. And you must remember what the apostles told you our Lord and Savior has commanded us to do. ^(CEV)

55. **Read 2 Peter 3:1-2.** Peter wrote two letters so that he might remind the believers of: a. the words spoken by the prophets and their predictions. b. the observance of a holy feast. c. the commands given by our Lord and Savior.

CATHOLIC COMMENTARY INSIGHTS: (2 Pet. 3:1-2)

Through the writings of 1 & 2 Peter, Peter reminds the Christians that, although there are false teachers among them who claim to be representing God, they must recognize, accept, and obey only the holy prophets of God (as recorded in the Old Testament) and the preaching of the apostles (meaning himself and the others). **“The commandment of the Lord and Savior”** refers to Jesus teachings, which were then proclaimed by the apostles (See Jude 17). We must remember what the apostles told us and commanded us to do (CCC 84).

TRANSLATION INSIGHTS: (2 PETER 3:3-4)

³ **First of all you must understand this, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own passions** ⁴ **and**

saying, “Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things have continued as they were from the beginning of creation.”
(RSVCE)

³ Know this first of all, that in the last days scoffers will come [to] scoff, living according to their own desires ⁴ and saying, “Where is the promise of his coming? From the time when our ancestors fell asleep, everything has remained as it was from the beginning of creation.” (NAB)

56. Read 2 Peter 3:3. Don't be surprised! In the last days there will be: a. a bad economy. b. lots of religious denominations to choose from. c. scoffers, those that mock and laugh at the truth.

57. Read 2 Peter 3:3. What will scoffers do in the last days? Live according to their own evil sinful desires.

58. **Read 2 Peter 3:4.** What will scoffers say in the last days? Where is the promise of Jesus return? All things remain the same from the beginning of creation.

CATHOLIC COMMENTARY INSIGHTS: (2 Pet. 3:3)

Peter understood that he and his readers were living “**in the last days.**” “**Scoffers**” are people who deny Jesus Christ (2 Pet. 2:1) and His promised return (2 Pet. 3:4). Jesus had said these deceivers would come (Matt. 24:3-5, 11, 24-25). The Apostle Paul had also written of these deceivers (1 Tim. 4:1-3; 2 Tim. 3:1-9). Peter now echoes the warning and adds their scoffing will be accompanied by the following of their own evil passions and desires.

(2 Pet. 3:4) Their mocking and scoffing are accompanied by this stinging question: “**Where is this coming He promised?**” The scoffers wanted to push their argument as far back as possible. So they referred to the fathers, our ancestors and to “**the beginning of Creation.**” Since nothing has happened in all this time, mockers reasoned, why expect the Lord to return now? (CCC 524)

TRANSLATION INSIGHTS: (2 PETER 3:5-6)

⁵ They deliberately ignore this fact, that by the word of God heavens existed long ago, and an earth formed out of water and by means of water, ⁶ through which the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. (RSVCE)

5 They purposely ignore the fact that long ago God gave a command, and the heavens and earth were created. The earth was formed out of water and by water, 6 and it was also by water, the water of the flood, that the old world was destroyed. (GNB)

59. **Read 2 Peter 3:5-6.** What are the scoffers willingly ignorant of? That God created the heavens and the earth and brought judgment upon the wicked by destroying them in a flood.

CATHOLIC COMMENTARY INSIGHTS: (2 Pet. 3:5-6)

“They deliberately ignore this fact” (Greek progressive present). The fact is, God destroyed the world in judgment once, and this confirms rather than disproves the warning that he will do it again (CCC 1040).

TRANSLATION INSIGHTS: (2 PETER 3:7)

⁷ But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist have been stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. ^(RSVCE)

⁷ But God has commanded the present heavens and earth to remain until the day of judgment. Then they will be set on fire, and ungodly people will be destroyed. ^(CEV)

60. **Read 2 Peter 3:7.** What will happen to the ungodly on the Day of Judgment? a. they will met their friends and have a good time. b. they will perish.

CATHOLIC COMMENTARY INSIGHTS: (2 Pet. 3:7)

Verses 7, 10, and 12 depict the future destruction of the world by fire. In the past the world was destroyed in the Flood (CCC 681).

TRANSLATION INSIGHTS: (2 PETER 3:8-9)

⁸ But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow about his promise as some count slowness, but is forbearing toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. (RSVCE)

⁸ But there is one thing, my dear friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. ⁹ The Lord is not being slow in carrying out his promises, as some people think he is; rather is he being patient with you,

wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to repentance. ^(NJB)

61. **Read 2 Peter 3:8-9.** The Lord isn't really being slow about His promise to return, rather He is operating in:

a. longsuffering and patience. b. His foreknowledge.

62. **Read 2 Peter 3:9.** Why is the Lord being patient and forbearing? a. because He doesn't want people to perish. b. He wants all to come to repentance and live.

c. none of the above.

63. **Read Acts 26:18-20; 1 Thessalonians 1:9.** What is repentance? Repentance is an inner change of mind, a change of heart that results in an outward turning around to face and move in a completely new direction (that direction is towards God). Through this act, the forgiveness of sins is offered (See Acts 24:47).

CATHOLIC COMMENTARY INSIGHTS: (2 Pet. 3:8-9)

Why should the Lord delay His coming? Peter offered two answers. (1) Peter quotes Psalm 90:4. People see time against time; but God sees time against eternity.

(2) God does not want people to perish. God wants all to repent and receive the salvation offered in Christ (1 Tim. 2:4; CCC 1037).

TRANSLATION INSIGHTS: (2 PETER 3:10)

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and the works that are upon it will be burned up.
(RSVCE)

¹⁰ The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and melt away, the earth and all that it contains will be burned up.
(NJB)

64. Read 2 Peter 3:10. The Day of the Lord will mean salvation for some and judgment for others. That Day

will come suddenly and without advance warning. It will come like: a. a visit from mother on Christmas day. b. a thief in the night. c. a credit card bill that is not yours.

65. **Read 2 Peter 3:10.** The Day of the Lord will be accompanied by: a. wind and rain. b. a terrible noise. c. fire.

CATHOLIC COMMENTARY INSIGHTS: (2 Pet. 3:10)

The description of the judgment of that Day is given in the most vivid apocalyptic terms: Noise, destruction of all the elements by burning, and the leveling of all earthly constructions. This will be unexpectedly and without warning (CCC 673). God will level the site in preparation for the new (2 Peter 3:13).

TRANSLATION INSIGHTS: (2 PETER 3:11)

¹¹ **Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of persons ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness,**
(RSVCE)

¹¹ Since everything is to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought [you] to be, conducting yourselves in holiness and devotion, ^(NAB)

66. **Read 2 Peter 3:11.** In light of the judgment that is coming against this fallen world, how should we behave and live? A life of repentance that involves us living in holy behavior and godliness (great reverence for God).

CATHOLIC COMMENTARY INSIGHTS: (2 Pet. 3:11)

Peter now reminds his readers that in the light of the coming Day, they should live holy and godly lives. The word “**lives**” is in the present tense, indicating that the qualities of holiness and godliness are to be constantly present in light of the Lord’s return (see Titus 2:12-14; 1 John 3:2-3; CCC 671).

TRANSLATION INSIGHTS: (2 PETER 3:12-13)

¹² **waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be kindled and dissolved, and**

the elements will melt with fire! ¹³ But according to his promise we wait for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. (RSVCE)

12 as you wait for the Day of God and do your best to make it come soon — the Day when the heavens will burn up and be destroyed, and the heavenly bodies will be melted by the heat. 13 But we wait for what God has promised: new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness will be at home. (GNB)

67. **Read 2 Peter 3:12.** We should be looking for and expecting: a. everything to remain the same. b. the coming of the Day of God (Lord).

68. Read 2 Peter 3:13. Because God has promised, we should be looking forward to: a. a lot of money. b. tax relief next year. c. new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells and will be at home.

CATHOLIC COMMENTARY INSIGHTS: (2 Pet. 3:12-13) When the “Day of God” comes the “day” of fallen man will be over. The corruption of the universe by man and Satan will be terminated and judged. The promise of new heavens and earth that is rooted in the Old Testament (see Psa. 102:25-26; Isa. 65:17; 66:22) will come into being. The universe will be new because righteousness has moved in and taken up permanent residence. The Apostle Paul too anticipates a future liberation of the created order from bondage of death and decay (Rom. 8:18-23) (CCC 1042-48).

TRANSLATION INSIGHTS: (2 PETER 3:14)
¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, since you wait for these, be zealous to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.
(RSVCE)

14 And so, my friends, as you wait for that Day, do your best to be pure and faultless in God's sight and to be at peace with him. ^(GNB)

69. **Read 2 Peter 3:14.** Since we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, make every effort (be diligent) to: a. be found pure (that is, without spot). b. do your best to be faultless. c. be at peace. d. relax.

CATHOLIC COMMENTARY INSIGHTS: (2 Pet. 3:14)

What kind of people should Christians be? Spotless [pure], without blemish [morally clean], and at peace with Him (CCC 2045). The false teachers, Peter said, “are blots and blemishes” (2 Peter 2:13), but Christians are to be morally clean (2 Peter 1:4) and like Christ the spotless One (1 Peter 1:19). This is the practical result of the grace of God described in 2 Peter 1:5-8.

TRANSLATION INSIGHTS: (2 PETER 3:15-16)

¹⁵ **And count the forbearance of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, ¹⁶ speaking of this as he does in all his letters. There are some things in them hard to understand, which the ignorant and**

unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other scriptures. ^(RSVCE)

15 Look on our Lord's patience as the opportunity he is giving you to be saved, just as our dear friend Paul wrote to you, using the wisdom that God gave him. 16 This is what he says in all his letters when he writes on the subject. There are some difficult things in his letters which ignorant and unstable people explain falsely, as they do with other passages of the Scriptures. So they bring on their own destruction. ^(GNB)

70. **Read 2 Peter 3:15.** What does the Lord's longsuffering and patience mean? a. That He really doesn't care what we do. b. The opportunity he is giving you to be saved.

71. **Read 2 Peter 3:16.** Unstable and ignorant people twist and pervert the Apostle Paul's teachings as they do

the other Scriptures. In so doing they bring upon themselves: a. good times. b. spiritual and eternal ruin and loss (destruction). c. a new translation of the Bible.

CATHOLIC COMMENTARY INSIGHTS: (2 Pet. 3:15-16) “Count the forbearance of our Lord as salvation.” The Lord’s forbearance and patience is because His desire is that people come to salvation (2 Peter 3:9)

Peter makes a point of affirming that both he and Paul are united in doctrine and in opposition to the false teachers. In Peter’s day (as today), there was perversion of the apostolic teaching. The fact that distorting Paul’s writings leads to destruction, proves that Paul was writing Scripture. Peter realized that the New Testament writers brought divine truth and insight that completed the Old Testament (1 Peter 1:10-12; CCC 106).

TRANSLATION INSIGHTS: (2 PETER 3:17-18)
¹⁷ You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, beware lest you be carried away with the error of lawless men and lose

your own stability. ¹⁸ But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen. ^(RSVCE)

17 But you, my friends, already know this. Be on your guard, then, so that you will not be led away by the errors of lawless people and fall from your safe position. 18 But continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory, now and forever! Amen. ^(GNB)

72. **Read 2 Peter 3:17.** Seeing that you know the end (destruction) of the wicked, you should be on guard and beware lest you: a. be led away by the errors of lawless people. b. fall from your safe position. c. lose your own stability. d. take things lightly because you go to the Church on Sunday.

73. **Read 2 Peter 3:17-18.** What final instructions did Peter give the believers? a. Be on guard not to be led away by the errors of lawless people. b. Beware that you do not fall from your safe position. c. Grow in grace, God's divine influence upon your heart that reflects in your life. d. Continue to grow in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

73. Read 2 Peter 3:18. To Jesus the Christ belongs:
a. glory, honor, praise, worship both now and forever.
Amen.

CATHOLIC COMMENTARY INSIGHTS: (2 Pet. 3:17-18) Peter closes his personal epistle with a word of warning (2 Peter 3:17) and with a word of encouragement (2 Peter 3:18).

(Verse 17) “Beware lest you be carried away with the error of lawless men.” Peter warned, Be on your guard or you could be carried away by the error of lawless men. Those who pay attention to the warnings, can maintain their secure position.

(Verse 18) “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” (CCC 428-429). The verb “**grow**” is a present

imperative, which could be translated “be continually growing.” Believers are to grow “in the grace,” the exercise of spiritual graces which Peter spoke on in 2 Peter 1:5-7. **“To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.”** Peter concludes with an affirmative word of praise.

ABBREVIATIONS

(NAB) *New American Bible*
(JB) *The Jerusalem Bible*
(NJB) *The New Jerusalem Bible*
(RSV) *Revised Standard Version*
(CEV) *Contemporary English Version*
(REB) *The Revised English Bible*
(Gk.) the Greek language of the Bible
(Heb.) the Hebrew language of the Bible
(NCBC) *New Collegeville Bible Commentary*
(ICSB) *Ignatius Catholic Study Bible*
(CCC) *Catechism of the Catholic Church*
(HCBC) *Haydock's Catholic Bible Commentary*
(CL) *Catholic Letters*, The Navarre Bible with commentary.

(v.v.) verses
(Matt.) Matthew
(Mk.) Mark
(Lk.) Luke
(Jn.) John
(Rom.) Romans
(1 Cor.) 1 Corinthians
(2 Cor.) 2 Corinthians
(Gal.) Galatians
(Eph.) Ephesians
(Phil.) Philippians
(Col.) Colossians
(1 Thess.) 1 Thessalonians
(2 Thess.) 2 Thessalonians
(1 Tim.) 1 Timothy
(2 Tim.) 2 Timothy
(Phile.) Philemon
(Heb.) Hebrews
(Jam.) James
(1 Pet.) 1 Peter
(2 Pet.) 2 Peter
(1 Jn.) 1 John
(2 Jn.) 2 John
(3 Jn.) 3 John

(Rev.) Revelation

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The Jerusalem Bible (JB). Originally published in France. One of the first and richest fruits of Catholic scholarship after Pope Pius XII's encyclical *Divino Afflante Spiritu*.

The New Jerusalem Bible (NJB) *Imprimatur* by Rt Rev John Crowley V.G. Bishop in Central London. Biblical text copyright by Darton, Longman & Todd Ltd and Doubleday.

The New American Bible (NAB). The first English translation of the New Testament by Roman Catholics was published at Rheims, France, in 1582; the Old Testament was published at Douay in 1609. This version translated from the Vulgate (Latin Bible) is known as the Douay-Rheims Bible. A revision of the New Testament was published in 1987.

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(CCC) Catechism of the Catholic Church, Second Edition, Revised in accordance with the official Latin text promulgated by Pope John Paul II. The

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