

Lesson 5: 2nd Peter; Acts 13,14

Week One: Scripture Reading – 2nd Peter

Read the Study Notes from Lesson 3

1. What impressed you from the notes or scripture reading from Lesson 4?

Read 2nd Peter 1:1-21 *Our Christian Hope*

2. a. List from verses 3 & 4 the things that Peter says have been “given unto us.”

b. What two things are we enabled to do once we have those things “given unto us” ?

3. a) PERSONAL: What is one worldly corruption that God has helped you escape from?

4. Peter lists here a marvelous chain of 8 virtues (a little like Pres. Hinckley’s 6 B’s, though of an earlier day). List them here, with simple definitions and examples from your life. The first one is done for you.

THE VIRTUE	SHORT DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
faith	believing God for what you can't see	staying on my knees in prayer
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

5. a. Look at Moroni 7:46-48. What does this scripture say is the source of charity?

b. What is the “divine power” of verse 3 that enables the cascade of blessings and positive virtues to flow?

c. Could a person develop Peter’s list of virtues without the divine assistance of the Spirit? Explain.

6. Peter says that those who do not progress in their Christian life (i.e. seek to grow in virtue), are blind and “cannot see afar off”. What do you think this might mean?

7. Peter describes in vs. 17, 18, & 19 an experience that happened to him during Jesus’ ministry. Give the name usually given to that experience, or describe it in your own words. (see footnote b. in verse 18 for the reference)

8. The “day-star” or “morning star” refers to a bright star, actually the planet Venus, which appears over the Eastern horizon just before the sun rises. See Rev 22:16 to find who this metaphor refers to. How is this a fitting metaphor for this person?

Read 2 Peter 2: 1-22 *False Teachers*

9. This entire chapter is a warning against “false teachers,” those who teach their falsehoods either by precept or example. What damage does Peter say can be done by false teachers? Cite verse.
10. List phrases from verses 7 through 15 that describe the “ungodly.”
11. Balaam (v. 15) was an O.T. prophet who agreed to curse Israel for an enemy king in return for riches. What do you think Peter is teaching by the use of this story?
12. What does Peter say about those who have found the truth and then abandon it to return to the world?

Read 2 Peter 3:1-18 *The Last Days*

13. What things will the “scoffers” say against believers in the last days?
14. a. Peter reminds the church that God will eventually judge the world, sending destruction upon the ungodly. By what means did God judge the wicked in Old Testament times? Cite verse.
- b. What means will he use to judge the earth in the last days? Cite verse.
- c. Which verses make some reference to this method of destruction?
15. a. What things does Peter say will be “dissolved” by the “fervent heat”?
- b. Personalize this. What specific things in your life will be dissolved?
- c. What things in your life would not be burned up?
16. What is the reason God seems to be “slack,” or slow, in his judgments against mankind’s wickedness?
17. a) Peter says the Lord will come at his second coming “as a thief in the night.” Name some ways this might be true of the second coming?
18. Peter warns the saints to “beware, lest ye also, be led away with the error of the wicked.” What errors of the wicked are prevalent in our world today that threaten to lead the saints away from “steadfastness?”
19. This letter of Peter is made particularly tender by his statement in 1:14 that he knows he is going to die soon. Like a loving parent he exhorts the children he will not be with much longer. Which of all his exhortations in this letter particularly spoke to you?

Week Two: Scripture Reading – Acts 13, 14

Read Acts 13: 1-52

1. List three or four spiritual works that preceded the mission of Paul, Barnabus and John Mark.

2. a) There was no MTC or missionary manual. But they were “sent forth by the Holy Ghost.” How would the Holy Ghost equip a person for such a rigorous missionary endeavor?

 b) PERSONAL: What is a time that the Holy Ghost has given you a specific assignment in your family, community or church calling?

3. Find Cyprus, Salamis and Paphos on your map. In Salamis, where did Paul and Barnabus go first to preach?
4. What do we know about Sergius Paulus?

5. What did Bar-Jesus, also referred to as Elymas, attempt to do?

6. Can you think of any reason why he would not want Paul to convert Sergius Paulus?

7. a. Have you ever attempted to influence someone for good and felt the Adversary trying to thwart your good work? Explain.

 b. What counter weapons do we have when Satan comes against us in this way?

Note verse 5 & verse 13. The young man John, mentioned in these verses, was John Mark, a cousin of Barnabus (Col.4:10) who had started on this missionary journey with Paul and Barnabus. He did not last long. You should note this because it will come up again in Acts, causing a split between the two missionaries.

8. Paul & Barnabus go next to Perga and Antioch in Pisidia. Find these on your map. Read the sermon Paul preached in Antioch in Psidia. Apparently a number of curious Gentiles were listening in, for they asked him to preach to them the following week. What truth do we find in verses 38 & 39 that would have appealed to them?

9. What is the result of the Gentiles interest in the gospel message in that city?

10. How does Paul use Isaiah 49:6, quoted in Acts 13:47, as justification for turning from the rejecting Jews to a ministry direct to the Gentiles?

11. a. Why would “stirring up” (v.50) the honorable women and chief men be such a powerful tool of the adversary?

 b. How does Satan attempt to use this same tactic in our world today?

12. What was the experience of the new disciples in verse 52 and how would this protect them?

Acts 14: 1-28

13. Iconium was an important Roman city of the region of southern Galatia. It was a large, cosmopolitan city. Find it on your map. Describe the first reaction of the people of the city.
14. a. The Jews most probably made trouble for the missionaries by asserting that what they preached was not Judaism at all but a new cult religion, and it should not be tolerated for it was not an allowed religion under Roman law. Why would this have made the Gentiles nervous about joining the Christians?
- b. How do people try to use this same approach against the church today?
15. Why did Paul and Barnabus have to leave the city?
16. Find Lystra on your map. What miracle did Paul do upon arriving in this city?
17. Describe the reaction this caused among the citizens of Lystra.
18. What did Paul say to the crowd who wanted to offer sacrifice to him?
19. a. Who caused trouble for Paul in Lystra, and what might they have said?
- b. How did the people in Lystra turn upon Paul?
- c. What sad truths about human nature can we learn from the experiences in Lystra?
20. a. Paul exhorted the disciples he had converted, saying “we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.” (v. 22) How is this true?
- b. Do you think this applies to us today?
21. What might have been the feelings of Paul and Barnabus when they ordained newly converted elders to take charge of the brand new churches and left, “commending them to the Lord, on whom they believed.”
22. Find Pisidia, Pamphylia, and Perga on your map. Attalia is not on your map, but is a seaport next to Perga. What report do the missionaries make when they are back in their home city of Antioch?
23. How significant was “opening the door of faith to the Gentiles” do you think?
24. Name some great qualities you see in the leadership of Paul and Barnabus?