



Epistle of 1 Peter

2 Peter 2:1-3 - The Characteristics of False Teachers

• **2 Peter 2:1** – *“But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.”*

- So what preceded this ‘But’?
 - Let’s look back at *2 Peter 1:19-21*.
- What are the attributes of these *false prophets among the people (Israelites mostly)*?
 - Can we equate *false teachers (pseudodidaskalos)* with *false prophets (pseudoprophētēs)*?
 - *pseudodidaskalos* - propagator of erroneous Christian doctrine
 - » Paul prophesied this: *Acts 20:29* - “For I know this, that after my departure **savage wolves** will come in among you, not sparing the flock.
 - *pseudoprophētēs*) - one who, acting the part of a divinely inspired prophet, utters falsehoods under the name of divine prophecies



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- » Of trivial interest, one of these terms is used 11 times, the other once?
- *they will secretly bring in destructive (damnable) heresies*
 - How does this happen?
 - Is the issue *even denying the Lord who bought them really* done in secret?
 - *secretly introduce* means to be brought in alongside.
 - » Gal 2:4 - *And this occurred because of false brethren secretly brought in (who came in by stealth to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage),*
 - » Jude 4:1 - *For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God[fn] and our Lord Jesus Christ.*
 - Of note, the same Greek word that is *heresies (hairesis)* is used 6 times in Acts as *sect*.
 - Don't you find this interesting?
- *even denying the Lord who bought them*
 - Wouldn't this be obvious and if so, why not?
 - I John 4: 3 - *and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has*



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come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

- Promised among them to *bring on themselves swift destruction*

Constable – ‘The destruction of these heretics will be swift in the sense that when their judgment descends it will be sudden, not that it was about to descend as Peter wrote’

Backham – ‘Ironically, the false teachers incur judgment by teaching that there will be no future judgment and thereby leading themselves and others into immorality. False teachers are better known for what they deny than for what they claim.’

•2 Peter 2:2 – “*And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.*”

- And who are these *many* and why do they *follow the destructive (pernicious) ways of the false teachers?*

- Earlier versions use *licentiousness* rather than *pernicious (apōleia)*.



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- Licentiousness - promiscuous and unprincipled in sexual matters but the Greek term here is best translated as *pernicious (apōleia)* - *utter destruction*.
- Might this false direction relate to a misinterpretation or misappropriation of *Rom 6:1*?
 - *Rom 6:1* - *What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?*
 - » Lillie – ‘no doctrine, however, senseless and monstrous, which under the guise of a religious faith ministers to the sensuous appetites of men, will ever want followers.’
- What are the consequences?
 - *the way of truth will be blasphemed.*
 - *Jude 1:10* - *But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves.*

•2 Peter 2:3 – “By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.”



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- *By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words (ILG - shall they with feigned (plastos) or insincere words make merchandise of you)*
 - Describe what you think this complicated phrase means.
 - Interesting to note is *plastos* - our plastic.
 - Have you ever used the term plastic to describe someone?
- *for a long time (now as from old) their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.*
 - How do we interpret *now as from old*?
 - Let's distinguish *judgment* from *destruction*.
 - *judgment (krima)* – condemnatory sentence, penal judgment
 - *destruction (apōleia)* – utter destruction unto waste
 - To whom is this behavior directed?
 - *Rom 16:18 - For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of **the simple**.*



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- Compare this judgment with that of the Lord.
 - 2 Peter 3:9 - The Lord is **not slack** concerning His promise, as some counts lackness, but is **longsuffering** toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.
- Do you think that the danger of false teaching is greater in our day than it has ever been?
 - If so, where do we find false teaching today?

