

**2 Peter 1:1–2:9**

**Memory Verse:** *Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure* (2 Pet. 1:10a NIV).

**Background Notes:**

Peter writes a second epistle (1:1) shortly before his death (1:14), perhaps to the same audience as his first letter (3:1). While 1 Peter was written to encourage believers in the face of hostile treatment by the outside world, 2 Peter is aimed at warning believers against false teaching and godless living arising from inside the church.

In both chapters one and three of 2 Peter, the certainty of Christ's Second Coming is emphasized and godly living in the light of that future event. Why not make this truth your theme for the next two weeks?

**Lesson Helps:**



According to 1 Peter 1:16-21, the Second Coming of Christ is rendered certain by:

1. The Transfiguration of Christ (1:16-18). Peter refers to this past event as evidence of the coming power and glory of Jesus Christ. He himself was an eyewitness of Christ's transfiguration glory. He sees this event as a preview, a forecast, a guarantee of our Lord's future glorious return. Suggestions:
  - a. Introduce your lesson with an illustration about previews of coming attractions on TV. The transfiguration is such a preview.
  - b. Review the dramatic story of the transfiguration in Matthew 16:27–17:8.
2. The prophecies of Scripture (1:19-21). Here is the second guarantee of Christ's return. The prophecies of Scripture predict this event, and these prophecies were written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Suggestion: Assign Scripture prophecies of the Second Coming to members of your class, taking these prophecies from both the Old and New Testaments. Have each one read his or her verse and summarize what it says about the future coming of Christ.

Now apply this lesson to the lives of your pupils. Jesus is certainly coming again. So what?

1. Consider the coming judgment when Jesus returns and the subsequent division of mankind between the righteous and the wicked: 2 Peter 2:4-9. These Old Testament examples of God punishing the wicked and rescuing the righteous are samples of the final separation that will come in the future.
2. Consider how we as Christians ought then to live in preparation for our future entrance into the kingdom of God (1:3-11).

**Assignment:**

-  Read 2 Peter 2:10–3:18.
-  Memorize: 2 Peter 3:18 NIV.