The Development of the New Testament

Key Verse: Acts 1:8
The Common Message of Peter’s Epistles

The common purpose of both epistles (& all Scripture): 2 Peter 3:1-2
What are the words and commandments?

Holy Prophets:
– 1 Peter 1:10-11 – sufferings and glories to follow
– 2 Peter 1:19 – Peter’s word confirms theirs
– 2 Peter 3:16 – “the rest of Scripture”

Peter (2 Peter):
– 2 Peter 3:13 – new heavens & earth; righteousness
– 2 Peter 3:14 – Be diligent . . .
– 2 Peter 3:17-18 – Do not fall, but grow
– 2 Peter 3:15-16 – Paul (2 Timothy 4:8, 18)

Peter (1 Peter)
– 1 Peter 1:3 – Begotten to a living hope
– 1 Peter 1:13 – Hope in grace to be brought at His return
– 1 Peter 5:10-12 – Called to His eternal glory
– 1 Peter 1:15; 2:11 – Be holy while waiting

Distinctive of 1 and 2 Peter – obstacles to hope
– Suffering
– False teaching
An Outline of 2 Peter

1. The common faith affirmed (1:1-15)
   – God has given . . .
   – You must add . . .

2. The authority of the common faith (1:16-21)
   – Eyewitnesses
   – The inspired prophets

3. The opposition to the common faith (2:1-22)

4. The common faith displayed (3:1-18)
   – A warning – scoffers
   – An explanation – Why I should not doubt?
     The power of God
     The eternity of God
     The purpose of God
   – Our hope: The power and coming of the Lord
     Unexpected
     Catastrophic beyond imagination
     The new heavens and earth – righteousness
   – The moral implications
     What manner of persons ought you to be?
   – The Glory of God now and forever
The danger of false prophets (2 Peter 2)

The importance of Scripture/Revelation – a digression

An ongoing threat (2:1)
  – O.T. and N.T. era (cf. Jeremiah 2:11-13)
  – Destructive heresies.

A “successful” threat (2:1-3)
  – Deceptive – “secret” & “denial” (2:1, 3)
  – Many will follow . . . (2:2)
  – Way of truth blasphemed

A severe warning from history (2:4-9)
  – Swift destruction?
  – God judged angels
  – God judged by the flood
  – God judged Sodom and Gomorrah
  – God delivers the godly and punishes the ungodly

The wickedness of false teachers (2:10-23)
  – No spiritual capacity
    Fleshly - Despise authority - Presumptuous and self-willed
    Ignorant - Decadent - Materialistic - Wells without water
    Condemned forever
  – No spiritual ministry
    Empty words - Entice through lusts of the flesh
  – Condemned (2:9, 12, 13, 17, 19)
    Slaves of corruption - dogs - pigs
Exceedingly great and precious promises (2 Peter 3)

The message resumed (3:1-2)

A warning – scoffers will come
   – These are the false teachers
   – Challenging the faithfulness of God
   – Willfully forget = deny God’s Word
     Creation
     The Flood

God’s witness
   – Creation – by the Word of the LORD
   – The Flood – by the Word of the LORD
   – The nature of God
     His power – The same Word
     His eternity – God is above time
     God’s purpose – God is longsuffering

The promise of His coming – a certainty
   – Will come unexpectedly
   – Devastating destruction
   – A new heavens and earth wherein dwelleth righteousness
**Exceedingly great and precious promises (2 Peter 3)**

**Motivation for holy conduct and godliness (3:11)**
- Compare 1 Peter 1:13-16 – “grace to be brought”
- All these things will be dissolved – under wrath
- “Looking for and hastening” the Day of the Lord
- Look, according to His promise
- We are “pilgrims and sojourners” (1 Peter 2:11)
- Our “citizenship is in heaven” (3:13).

**Do diligence**
- See 1:5 – giving all diligence to adding virtue . . .
- See 1:10 – diligent to make your calling and election sure
- Hebrews 11:6 – “rewarder of those who diligently seek Him”
- Diligence to be found in peace, spotless and blameless
  - Peace with God and with all men
  - justification and sanctification

**Trust in God**
- Consider the longsuffering of God is salvation (3:15)
- The message of Paul also
- The focus of false teachers
- The challenge of our faith – Hab. 2:4 – 3:17-18
  - Live by faith in the Promise of His coming
  - Faith that is challenged by the longsuffering of God
The Final Word

You know this
  An old message  
  The power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (1:16)

Beware – be alert
  Not fall from steadfastness  
  The error of the wicked

Grow in grace and in knowledge of Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
  Grace – our present spiritual condition and future hope  
  Knowledge – produced life and godliness

Our living hope
  What do we think about the coming of the Lord?  
  This is the apex of the precious promises