

Author - STEVEN R. DOUGLAS 2017

# THE HOLY BIBLE **NKJV** REFERENCE GUIDE

**NEW TESTAMENT**

**BOOK 61**

**2 PETER**



**The Crucifixion of St. Peter by Michelangelo Caravaggio**

## SUMMARY

Peter introduced himself at the beginning of the letter as a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, and he addressed the letter to those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours.

Only later does it become apparent that Peter was writing to the same group of believers who had received his first letter. In 2 Peter 3:1, the author reflected that this is the second letter I am writing to you.

Peter wrote this letter from Rome soon after he wrote 1 Peter in AD 64–66. So what would have prompted another letter to the same group so soon after the first? From the contents of the letter, it appears that Peter had received reports of false teachers in and among the churches in Asia Minor.

The apostle warned them about the insidious presence of those who spread heresies among the people, marking such difficulties as a sign of the last days. Peter wanted to encourage his people to stand firm and to instruct them on how best to do that.

The churches of Asia Minor were not just struggling with the persecution and suffering addressed in Peter's first letter; they also had strife and dissension within their ranks. In an effort to stem the tide of heresy and false teaching among the Christians, Peter emphasized the importance of learning and clinging to the proper knowledge of God.

In fact, this concept was so important to him that the word knowledge appears in one form or another some fifteen times in the span of this short, three-chapter letter.

Peter's theme in his second letter is a simple one: pursue spiritual maturity through the Word of God as a remedy for false teaching and a right response to heretics in light of Christ's promised second coming.

When false teachers begin to whisper their sweet words into the ears of immature Christians, the body of Christ begins to break apart, to lose what makes it distinctive in the first place, faith in the unique person and work of Jesus Christ.

Peter repeatedly points to the Word of God as the primary means of growth for the Christian. Peter encouraged his readers to apply themselves to acquiring the true knowledge of God and living out the life of faith with all diligence, so that they may be found by [Jesus] in peace, spotless and blameless.

And if believers did not follow his advice, they would be giving their Christian community over to the heretics, people who look to exploit with false words.

As with the recipients of Peter's letter, we all go through difficult times. Those trials seem to hit us even harder when the source of the struggles comes from somewhere or someone close to us.

Believers can create dissension in multiple ways, particularly in the areas of relationships and theology. To guard against that kind of discord both in our families and our churches God's people need to know who He is.

Our knowledge of God through His Word is the first line of defense against the conflicts that threaten to tear us apart.

## SUMMARY Continued

As Peter wrote: Be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

With that in mind, what means are you taking to grow in your faith? Let's take the time to guard our minds with the proper knowledge of God so that we may not drift off from the path that God has laid out for us.

## NKJV SELECTED SCRIPTURE

- 1:2** Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,  
**1:3** as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,  
**1:4** by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.  
**1:5** But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge,  
**1:6** to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness,  
**1:7** to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.  
**1:8** For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
**1:9** For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.  
**1:10** Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble;  
**1:11** for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.  
**1:19** And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;  
**1:20** knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation,  
**1:21** for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.  
**3:8** But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.  
**3:9** The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.  
**3:10** But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.  
**3:11** Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

## NKJV SCRIPTURE Continued

- 3:12** looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?
- 3:13** Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.
- 3:17** You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked;
- 3:18** but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

## CHARACTER Definitions

### APOSTLE DEATH TIMELINE

**These are the probable dates and manners of death of each of the saintly Twelve Apostles.**

- 44 AD** **St. James** the Greater beheaded with a sword in Jerusalem by Herod Agrippa I.
- 60 AD** **St. Matthew** burned alive upside down without bodily harm in Ethiopia.
- 60 AD** **St. Andrew** bound and crucified on decussate cross in Patras by order of Roman Governor Aegeas.
- 62 AD** **St. James** the Just (brother of JESUS), first Bishop of Jerusalem, thrown off the roof of the Temple, stoned, and beaten with clubs as he prayed for his attackers.
- 63 AD** **St. Matthias**, the replacement for the damned traitor Judas Iscariot, stoned and beheaded in Jerusalem with a halberd or ax.
- 64 AD** **St. Peter**, Prince of the Apostles and first Bishop of Rome (Pope), crucified upside down in Rome.
- 65 AD** **St. Jude Thaddeus** fatally beaten and then beheaded with a halberd in Suanir, Persia.
- 65 AD** **St. Simon** the Zealot sawn in half in Suanir, Persia. He did not succeed St. James the Just as Bishop of Jerusalem, because he, unlike the St. Simeon (son of St. Clopas) who was the second bishop of Jerusalem (crucified 107 AD), died before St. John the Apostle († 100 AD).
- 68 AD** **St. Bartholomew** (Nathaniel) crucified upside down, flayed alive, and beheaded in Albanopolis (Baku), Armenia by order of Astyages upon the conversion of his brother, King Polymius of Armenia.



## CHARACTERS Continued

- 72 AD**      **St. Thomas** pierced with five spears while in prayer on a hill in Mylapore, India.
- 81 AD**      **St. Philip** crucified upside down and stoned in Hieropolis under Emperor Domitian at the age of 87.
- 100 AD**     **St. John** the Theologian voluntarily buried alive outside of Ephesus and his body disappears.

## BIBLE TIMELINE

67 AD                      Peter Writes his Second Letter                      2 Peter 1 - 3

## MAP REFERENCES

## SAINT PETER'S BASILICA, ROME

