

Class Member Reading: 1 Peter; 2 Peter; and Jude

1 Peter 1 - 2 Peter NRSV

1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To the exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, 2 who have been chosen and destined (the Greek word means “foreknown” which I think is softer than “destined”) by God the Father and sanctified by the Spirit to be obedient to Jesus Christ and to be sprinkled with his blood:

May grace and peace be yours in abundance.

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! **By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you rejoice, even if **now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials**, 7 so that the **genuineness of your faith**—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Challenges often do reveal our true nature, and hopefully also refine it. As a side note, I like the idea that life brings out our best selves, rather than changing us into something we weren’t before. That insight makes me want to be more careful with how I talk about transformation. 8 Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, 9 **for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls**. I appreciate the present tense. Paul wouldn’t approve, but I embrace the Mormon idea that we can receive the rewards of salvation even in this life. “Saved” is a type of existence, not a destination.

10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the **grace** (The meaning of the Greek word *Charis* is a freely bestowed gift) that was to be yours **made careful search and inquiry**, 11 inquiring about the person or time that the Spirit of Christ within them indicated when it testified in advance to the sufferings destined for Christ and the subsequent glory. 12 It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in regard to the things that have now been announced to you through those who brought you good news by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look!

13 Therefore **prepare your minds for action; discipline yourselves**; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed. 14 Like obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires that you formerly had in ignorance. 15 Instead, as he who called you is holy, **be holy** yourselves in all your conduct; 16 for it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

17 If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in **reverent fear** during the time of your exile. 18 You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, 19 but with the

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precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. 20 He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. 21 Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

22 Now that you have **purified your souls by your obedience to the truth** so that you have **genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart**. *Being filled with genuine love.. is there anything more important?* 23 You have been **born anew**, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

24 For

“All flesh is like grass
and all its glory like the flower of grass.
The grass withers,
and the flower falls,
25 but the word of the Lord endures forever.”

That word is the good news that was announced to you.

Chapter 2

1 **Rid yourselves**, therefore, of all **malice**, and all **guile**, **insincerity**, **envy**, and all **slander**. *In sum, develop loving integrity.* 2 Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk (*Hmm, is this anti spiritual meat?*), so that by it you may **grow into salvation**— 3 if indeed you have **tasted that the Lord is good**. (*love that language... taste goodness*).

I like this quote by Joseph:

This is good doctrine. It tastes good. I can taste the principles of eternal life, and so can you. They are given to me by the revelations of Jesus Christ; and I know that when I tell you these words of eternal life as they are given to me, you taste them, and I know that you believe them. You say honey is sweet, and so do I. I can also taste the spirit of eternal life. I know that it is good; and when I tell you of these things which were given me by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, you are bound to receive them as sweet, and rejoice more and more.

<https://www.lds.org/ensign/1971/05/the-king-follett-sermon?lang=eng>

4 Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and **5 like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house**, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

6 For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

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7 To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,”

8 and

“A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined (The Greek word usually means “put, place” so “as they were set to do?” This author does seem to believe in predestination) to do.

9 But you are a **chosen race** (The title is taken from this verse—“genos” means kind, and is mistranslated “generation” in the KJV (Generation comes from a very similar word with the same root, “genea”). This wording is taken from Exodus 19:6 and Isaiah 43:20-21. The Greek for “chosen race” is and the Hebrew also has people/nation), a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

10 Once you were not a people,
but now you are God’s people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

11 Beloved, I urge you as aliens and exiles to abstain from the desires of the flesh that wage war against the soul. 12 **Conduct yourselves honorably** among the Gentiles, so that, though they malign you as evildoers, they may see your honorable deeds and glorify God when he comes to judge.

13 For the Lord’s sake **accept the authority of every human institution**, whether of the emperor as supreme, 14 or of governors, as sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to praise those who do right. 15 For **it is God’s will that by doing right you should silence the ignorance of the foolish**. Great advice. 16 As servants of God, **live as free people**, yet do not use your freedom as a pretext for evil. 17 **Honor everyone. Love the family of believers**. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

18 Slaves, accept the authority of your masters with all deference, not only those who are kind and gentle but also those who are harsh. 19 For it is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. 20 If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God’s approval. 21 For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. This is dangerous teaching, as it keeps those who are abused trapped within those abusive contexts.

22 “He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

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23 When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. 24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. 25 For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the **shepherd and guardian of your souls**.

Chapter 3

1 Wives, in the same way, accept the authority of your husbands, so that, even if some of them do not obey the word, they may be won over without a word by their wives' conduct, 2 when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. **We need boundaries, to stand up for ourselves.** 3 Do not adorn yourselves outwardly by braiding your hair, and by wearing gold ornaments or fine clothing; 4 rather, let your adornment be the inner self with the lasting beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in God's sight. 5 It was in this way long ago that the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves by accepting the authority of their husbands. 6 Thus Sarah obeyed Abraham and called him lord. **Patriarchal, damaging rhetoric. We need to be able to call such passages out.** You have become her daughters as long as you do what is good and never let fears alarm you.

7 Husbands, in the same way, show consideration for your wives in your life together, paying honor to the woman as the weaker sex (**UGH. So this is the origin of this phrase**), since they too are also heirs of the gracious gift of life—so that nothing may hinder your prayers.

8 Finally, all of you, have **unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart (Oh, what a precious, costly, challenging trait is this)**, and a **humble mind**. 9 Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called—that you might inherit a blessing.

10 For

“Those who desire life
and desire to see good days,
let them keep their tongues from evil
and their lips from speaking deceit;
11 let them **turn away from evil and do good**;
let them **seek peace and pursue it**.
12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,
and his ears are open to their prayer.
But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

13 Now who will harm you if you are **eager to do what is good**? 14 But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, 15 but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. **Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; 16 yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear**, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. 17 For **it is better to suffer for doing good**, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil (**Truth. It is very important to properly diagnose our source of suffering. Is this a natural consequence of our own**

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mistakes? Is this caused by the agency of someone else? Is this suffering because we live in flawed world where suffering must remain possible?). 18 For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, 19 in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, 20 who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. 21 And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Chapter 4

1 Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same intention (for whoever has suffered in the flesh has finished with sin), 2 so as to live for the rest of your earthly life no longer by human desires but by the will of God. 3 You have already spent enough time in doing what the Gentiles like to do, living in licentiousness, passions, drunkenness, revels, carousing, and lawless idolatry. 4 They are surprised that you no longer join them in the same excesses of dissipation, and so they blaspheme. 5 But they will have to give an accounting to him who stands ready to judge the living and the dead. 6 For this is the reason **the gospel was proclaimed even to the dead**, so that, though they had been judged in the flesh as everyone is judged, they might live in the spirit as God does.

7 The end of all things is near; therefore be serious and discipline yourselves for the sake of your prayers. 8 Above all, **maintain constant love for one another**, for **love covers a multitude of sins**. I strongly believe this. The word “cover” is the literal meaning of the Hebrew word “cafar”, “to Atoner” 9 Be hospitable to one another without complaining. 10 Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, **serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received**. 11 Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; **whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies**, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the **fiery ordeal** that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ’s sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. 14 If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. 15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, a criminal, or even as a mischief maker. 16 Yet if any of you suffers as a Christian, do not consider it a disgrace, but glorify God because you bear this name. 17 For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God; if it begins with us, what will be the end for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

18 And

“If it is hard for the righteous to be saved,
what will become of the ungodly and the sinners?”

19 Therefore, let those suffering in accordance with God’s will entrust themselves to a faithful Creator, while continuing to do good.

Chapter 5

1 Now as an elder myself and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as one who shares in the glory to be revealed, I exhort the elders among you 2 to tend the flock of God that is in your charge, exercising the oversight, not under compulsion but willingly, as God would have you do it —not for sordid gain but eagerly. 3 Do not lord it over those in your charge, but **be examples to the flock**. 4 And when the chief shepherd appears, you will win the crown of glory that never fades away.

5 In the same way, you who are younger must accept the authority of the elders. And all of you must **clothe yourselves with humility** in your dealings with one another, for

“God opposes the proud,
but gives grace to the humble.”

6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. 7 **Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.** 8 **Discipline yourselves, keep alert.** Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, **steadfast in your faith**, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. 10 And after you have suffered for a little while, the **God of all grace**, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, **will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you**. 11 To him be the power forever and ever. Amen. *Good balance—discipline ourselves, then let go, surrender our anxiety to God.*

12 Through Silvanus, whom I consider a faithful brother, I have written this short letter to encourage you and to testify that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it. 13 Your sister church in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you greetings; and so does my son Mark. 14 Greet one another with a kiss of love.

Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

2 Peter NRSV Chapter 1

1 Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who have received a faith as precious as ours through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:

2 May **grace and peace be yours in abundance** (*Abundance is one of my favorite words. Makes me think of John 10:10, though the Greek words are different*) in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

3 His divine power has given us everything **needed for life and godliness**, through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 4 Thus he has given us, through these things, his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may escape from the corruption that is

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in the world because of lust, and may become participants of the divine nature. 5 For this very reason, you must make every effort to support your faith with goodness, and goodness with knowledge, 6 and knowledge with self- control, and self- control with endurance, and endurance with godliness, 7 and godliness with mutual affection, and mutual affection with love. (What an edifying progression worth reflecting on) faith → goodness → knowledge → self-control → godliness → mutual affection → love. It is clear how each of these progresses one to the other. 8 For if these things are yours and are increasing among you, they keep you from being **ineffective** and **unfruitful** in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For anyone who lacks these things is short-sighted and blind, and is forgetful of the cleansing of past sins. 10 Therefore, brothers and sisters, be all the more eager to **confirm your call and election** (Important verse in an LDS context, Calling & Election made sure), for if you do this, you will never stumble. 11 For in this way, entry into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be richly provided for you.

12 Therefore I intend to keep on reminding you of these things, though you know them already and are established in the truth that has come to you. 13 I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to refresh your memory, 14 since I know that my death will come soon, as indeed our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me (Pseudepigraphal author commenting on Peter’s death after the fact). 15 And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.

16 For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17 For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” 18 We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

19 So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the **morning star rises in your hearts**. 20 First of all you must understand this, that **no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation**, 21 because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. Problematic verse, because when we read scripture, what do we have access to other than our own interpretation? Context helps some—we are to understand scripture (or more specifically, prophecy) through the Spirit, not our own understanding. But then we go in a circle again because the influence of the Spirit is also interpreted according to our own understanding, expectations, and context!

Chapter 2

1 But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be **false teachers** among you, who will **secretly bring in destructive opinions** (both words have the beginning “pseudo” which has the straightforward meaning “contrary to the truth”). They will even deny the Master who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves. 2 Even so, many will follow their licentious ways, and because of these teachers the way of truth will be maligned. 3 And in their greed **they will exploit you with deceptive words**. Worth discussing. How do we discern “false” teachers from true? We risk thinking that if an idea is challenging or unfamiliar, the teaching or teacher must be false. Not so—Jesus specifically spoke against standard expectations. Exploitation for personal gain is a pretty good criterion. Their condemnation, pronounced against them long ago, has not been idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

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4 For if God did not spare the angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of deepest darkness to be kept until the judgment; 5 and if he did not spare the ancient world, even though he saved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood on a world of the ungodly; 6 and if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction and made them an example of what is coming to the ungodly; 7 and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man greatly distressed by the licentiousness of the lawless 8 (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by their lawless deeds that he saw and heard), 9 then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trial, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment 10 —especially those who indulge their flesh in depraved lust, and who despise authority. [Pretty dark scriptures to draw from...](#)

Bold and willful, they are not afraid to slander the glorious ones, 11 whereas angels, though greater in might and power, do not bring against them a slanderous judgment from the Lord. 12 These people, however, are like irrational animals, mere creatures of instinct, born to be caught and killed. They slander what they do not understand, and when those creatures are destroyed, they also will be destroyed, 13 suffering the penalty for doing wrong. They count it a pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their dissipation while they feast with you. 14 They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin. They entice unsteady souls. They have hearts trained in greed. Accursed children! 15 They have left the straight road and have gone astray, following the road of Balaam son of Bosor, who loved the wages of doing wrong, 16 but was rebuked for his own transgression; a speechless donkey spoke with a human voice and restrained the prophet’s madness. [Note the over the top, dehumanizing rhetoric. Certainly evocative.](#)

17 These are waterless springs and mists driven by a storm; for them the deepest darkness has been reserved. 18 For they speak bombastic nonsense, and with licentious desires of the flesh they entice people who have just escaped from those who live in error. 19 They **promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption; for people are slaves to whatever masters them. This is a profound principle. We are slaves to whatever limits our agency. At the same time, often discipline (self-imposed limits) increases our freedom.** 20 For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overpowered, the last state has become worse for them than the first. 21 For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than, after knowing it, to turn back from the holy commandment that was passed on to them.

22 It has happened to them according to the true proverb,

“The dog turns back to its own vomit,”
and,

“The sow is washed only to wallow in the mud.” [Some of the more evocative verses in scripture. It is true that deliberate mistakes after we know better do far greater spiritual damage than mistakes made in innocence.](#)

Chapter 3

1 This is now, beloved, the second letter I am writing to you ([so this author knew 1 Peter](#)); in them I am trying to arouse your sincere intention by reminding you 2 that you should remember the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets, and the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken

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through your apostles. 3 First of all you must understand this, that in the last days **scoffers will come** ([scoffing is different than skepticism, just as mockery is different than critique](#)), scoffing and indulging their own lusts 4 and saying, “Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since our ancestors died, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation!” 5 They deliberately ignore this fact, that by the word of God heavens existed long ago and an earth was formed out of water and by means of water, 6 through which the world of that time was deluged with water and perished. 7 But by the same word the present heavens and earth have been reserved for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the godless.

8 But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. [Very impactful verse. This idea comes from Psalm 90:4, and in both instances was an explanation of the apparent delay of God’s promised reparation of the earth.](#) 9 The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is **patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance** ([Second explanation of delay of God’s judgment/restoration](#)). 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

11 Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in **leading lives of holiness and godliness**, 12 waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? 13 But, in accordance with his promise, **we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.** [What beautiful language.](#)

14 Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him **at peace**, without spot or blemish; 15 and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, 16 speaking of this as he does in all his letters. There are some things in them hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other scriptures. ([Counting the letters of Paul among scriptures dates this book late, and also acknowledges the controversy around Paul](#)) 17 You therefore, beloved, since you are forewarned, beware that you are not carried away with the error of the lawless and lose your own **stability**. 18 But **grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

Jude 1:1-25 NRSV

1 Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James,

To those who are called, who are beloved in God the Father and kept safe for Jesus Christ:

2 May mercy, peace, and love be yours in abundance.

3 Beloved, while eagerly preparing to write to you about the salvation we share, I find it necessary to write and appeal to you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. 4 For certain intruders have stolen in among you, people who long ago were designated for this condemnation as ungodly, who pervert the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

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5 Now I desire to remind you, though you are fully informed, that the Lord, who once for all saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. 6 And the angels who did not keep their own position, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains in deepest darkness for the judgment of the great day. 7 Likewise, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which, in the same manner as they, indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural lust, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.

8 Yet in the same way these dreamers also defile the flesh, reject authority, and slander the glorious ones. 9 But when the archangel Michael contended with the devil and disputed about the body of Moses, he did not dare to bring a condemnation of slander against him, but said, “The Lord rebuke you!” 10 But these people slander whatever they do not understand, and they are destroyed by those things that, like irrational animals, they know by instinct. 11 Woe to them! For they go the way of Cain, and abandon themselves to Balaam’s error for the sake of gain, and perish in Korah’s rebellion. 12 These are blemishes on your love-feasts, while they feast with you without fear, feeding themselves. They are waterless clouds carried along by the winds; autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, uprooted; 13 wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame; wandering stars, for whom the deepest darkness has been reserved forever.

14 It was also about these that Enoch, in the seventh generation from Adam, prophesied, saying, “See, the Lord is coming with ten thousands of his holy ones, 15 to execute judgment on all, and to convict everyone of all the deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him.” 16 These are grumblers and malcontents; they indulge their own lusts; they are bombastic in speech, flattering people to their own advantage.

17 But you, beloved, must remember the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; 18 for they said to you, “In the last time there will be scoffers, indulging their own ungodly lusts.” 19 It is these worldly people, devoid of the Spirit, who are causing divisions. 20 But you, beloved, build yourselves up on your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; 21 keep yourselves in the love of God; look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. 22 And have mercy on some who are wavering; 23 save others by snatching them out of the fire; and have mercy on still others with fear, hating even the tunic defiled by their bodies.

24 Now to him who is able to keep you from falling, and to make you stand without blemish in the presence of his glory with rejoicing, 25 to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen

Additional Reading: 1 John 3:2–3; 3 Nephi 12:48; Doctrine and Covenants 122:7–8

1 John 3:2-3 NRSV

Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. 3 And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure

3 Ne. 12:48

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48 Therefore I would that ye should be perfect even as I, or your Father who is in heaven is perfect.

D&C 122:7-8

7 And if thou shouldst be cast into the pit, or into the hands of murderers, and the sentence of death passed upon thee; if thou be cast into the deep; if the billowing surge conspire against thee; if fierce winds become thine enemy; if the heavens gather blackness, and all the elements combine to hedge up the way; and above all, if the very jaws of hell shall gape open the mouth wide after thee, know thou, my son, that all these things shall give thee experience, and shall be for thy good.

8 The Son of Man hath descended below them all. Art thou greater than he?

Scripture Chain: **2 Peter 2:1–3; Matthew 7:15–20; Matthew 24:24; 2 Nephi 28:7–9; D&C 45:57**

2 Peter 2:1-3 NRSV

1 But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive opinions. They will even deny the Master who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves. 2 Even so, many will follow their licentious ways, and because of these teachers the way of truth will be maligned. 3 And in their greed they will exploit you with deceptive words. Their condemnation, pronounced against them long ago, has not been idle, and their destruction is not asleep

Matthew 7:15-20 NRSV

15 “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. 16 You will know them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorns, or figs from thistles? 17 In the same way, every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Thus you will know them by their fruits

Matthew 24:24 NRSV

For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and produce great signs and omens, to lead astray, if possible, even the elect

2 Ne. 28:7-9

7 Yea, and there shall be many which shall say: Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die; and it shall be well with us.

8 And there shall also be many which shall say: Eat, drink, and be merry; nevertheless, fear God—he will justify in committing a little sin; yea, lie a little, take the advantage of one because of his words, dig a pit for thy neighbor; there is no harm in this; and do all these things, for tomorrow we die; and

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if it so be that we are guilty, God will beat us with a few stripes, and at last we shall be saved in the kingdom of God.

9 Yea, and there shall be many which shall teach after this manner, false and vain and foolish doctrines, and shall be puffed up in their hearts, and shall seek deep to hide their counsels from the Lord; and their works shall be in the dark.

D&C 45:57

57 For they that are wise and have received the truth, and have taken the Holy Spirit for their guide, and have not been deceived—verily I say unto you, they shall not be hewn down and cast into the fire, but shall abide the day.
