

Dr. Dave Mathewson, New Testament Literature, Session 32, 2 Peter, Jude Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Mathewson, NT Literature, Session 32, 2 Peter, Jude, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Mathewson's lecture focuses on 2 Peter and Jude, two New Testament books that share thematic and textual similarities. The lecture explores how both letters address false teachers promoting antinomianism, the idea that Christians are free from moral law. Mathewson discusses the authorship of 2 Peter, noting debates surrounding its Petrine origins and its resemblance to testamentary literature. He highlights that 2 Peter combats the denial of future judgment by answering objections raised by false teachers, while Jude uses Old Testament stories to warn against immoral behavior. The lecture suggests Jude's inclusion in the canon may be due to Jude's status as Jesus's brother, despite its brevity and overlap with 2 Peter. The relationship between the letters is addressed with Mathewson suggesting that Jude was written first, and that 2 Peter utilized most of Jude in its writing.

2. 28 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Mathewson, NT Literature, Session 32 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Old Testament → Major Prophets → Daniel).



**Mathewson_NTLit_S
ession32.mp3**

3. Briefing Document: Mathewson, NT Literature, Session 32, 2 Peter, Jude

Okay, here's a briefing document summarizing the main themes and ideas from Dr. Mathewson's Lecture 32 on 2 Peter and Jude:

Briefing Document: 2 Peter and Jude

Main Themes:

- **Addressing False Teaching (Antinomianism):** Both 2 Peter and Jude primarily address the issue of false teachers promoting a form of *antinomianism*. This teaching essentially absolved believers of any responsibility to live a moral or ethical life, leading to the indulgence in immoral behaviors like sexual immorality. These teachers questioned the authority of scripture and promoted lifestyles that were contrary to established Christian teachings. As Mathewson states, "Second Peter is one of those documents that share features with some of Paul's letters that we've looked at that address some kind of false teaching or some kind of a deviant teaching... promoting a teaching that absolved one of any authority or responsibility to live life in a certain way."
- **Denial of Future Judgment:** A key component of the false teaching in 2 Peter is the questioning or denial of God's future judgment. The teachers were calling into question the fact that God was really going to return and judge humanity and judge wickedness and sin. This denial allowed them to justify their immoral behavior, arguing that if God wasn't going to judge, they were free to live however they wanted.
- **Emphasis on Ethical Living (Orthopraxy):** Both letters emphasize that true faith is not just about correct belief (orthodoxy) but also about right living (orthopraxy). Ethical deviation is viewed as equally problematic as theological deviation. Mathewson emphasizes that "false teaching is just as much a deviant lifestyle as it is a deviant manner of teaching."
- **Importance of Scripture and Apostolic Witness:** 2 Peter defends the authority of the apostles and the Old Testament prophets, arguing that their messages about Jesus' return and future judgment were not "cleverly devised myths" but based on eyewitness accounts (like the Transfiguration) and divine inspiration.

- **God's Judgment in the Past as a Warning:** Jude relies heavily on Old Testament examples of God's judgment on wickedness (e.g., the Israelites in the desert, the angels who rebelled, Sodom and Gomorrah). The purpose of these stories is to warn the readers that God will judge immoral behavior in the present, just as he did in the past.
- **Contend for the Faith:** Jude's purpose is summarized in verse 3, *"Beloved, while eagerly preparing to write to you about the salvation we share, I found it necessary to write and appeal to you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints."*

Key Ideas and Facts:

- **Genre of 2 Peter as a Testament:** 2 Peter resembles a "last will and testament," a common literary type in the first century, where a dying hero passes on final instructions. This explains the farewell tone and emphasis on remembering previous teachings. *"Peter in a sense is writing a testament much like 2 Timothy."*
- **Peter's Strategy in 2 Peter:** Peter addresses the false teachers' objections by systematically refuting them with theological arguments and scriptural evidence. *"What Peter does is he seems to take up a series of objections or possible objections by the false teachers and replies to them and responds to them."*
- **Objections Addressed in 2 Peter**
 - The apostles were teaching myth.
 - The prophets were simply wrong.
 - Judgment simply will not happen.
 - The fact that God has delayed, the fact that God has not intervened to judge suggests that there's not going to be a judgment.
- **Authorship of 2 Peter:** The authorship of 2 Peter is debated among scholars. Some argue against Petrine authorship due to differences in writing style, vocabulary, and the resemblance to pseudonymous testaments. The concept of "early Catholicism" and its characteristics (fading of the belief in Christ's soon return, institutionalization of the church, and crystallization of the faith) are sometimes used to argue for a later date of composition. However, Mathewson expresses skepticism about these arguments and defends the traditional view that Peter wrote 2 Peter.

- **Relationship Between 2 Peter and Jude:** There are significant similarities between 2 Peter and Jude, suggesting a close relationship. The common view is that Jude was written first, and 2 Peter then utilized most of Jude.
- **Why Jude was Included in the Canon:** Despite its brevity and overlap with 2 Peter, Jude was likely included in the New Testament canon because Jude was Jesus's brother, lending it apostolic authority. It also reinforces the message that the church would not tolerate antinomianism and rejection of authority and disobedience.
- **Unique Content in Jude:** Jude contains unique stories and allusions not found elsewhere in the New Testament, such as the reference to the archangel Michael disputing with the devil about the body of Moses. This likely comes from extra-biblical Jewish literature, specifically the *Testament of Moses*.
- **Jude's use of Old Testament stories:** *"Almost the whole book of Jude is just this list of stories from the Old Testament."*

Quotes:

- "Second Peter is one of those documents that share features with some of Paul's letters that we've looked at that address some kind of false teaching or some kind of a deviant teaching... promoting a teaching that absolved one of any authority or responsibility to live life in a certain way."
- "False teaching is just as much a deviant lifestyle as it is a deviant manner of teaching."
- "Peter in a sense is writing a testament much like 2 Timothy."
- "What Peter does is he seems to take up a series of objections or possible objections by the false teachers and replies to them and responds to them."
- "Beloved, while eagerly preparing to write to you about the salvation we share, I found it necessary to write and appeal to you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints."
- "Almost the whole book of Jude is just this list of stories from the Old Testament."

Implications/Takeaways:

- The lecture highlights the ongoing struggle within the early church to combat false teachings and maintain ethical standards.
- It emphasizes the importance of grounding faith in both sound doctrine and moral living.
- It provides insight into the literary context and interpretive challenges of 2 Peter and Jude.
- It showcases the use of the Old Testament and extra-biblical traditions in early Christian literature.

4. Study Guide: Mathewson, NT Literature, Session 32, 2 Peter, Jude

2 Peter and Jude: A Study Guide

Quiz

Answer each question in 2-3 sentences.

1. What specific type of false teaching is 2 Peter addressing?
2. What literary genre does 2 Peter resemble?
3. What is Peter's primary strategy for combating the false teachers in 2 Peter?
4. Name one reason scholars have questioned the authorship of 2 Peter.
5. What is "early Catholicism," and how does it relate to discussions about 2 Peter?
6. What is the commonly accepted relationship between 2 Peter and Jude regarding authorship and borrowing?
7. What is one likely reason why the book of Jude was included in the New Testament canon, despite its brevity and similarity to 2 Peter?
8. What type of teaching is Jude combating?
9. What is Jude's primary method for persuading his readers to resist false teaching?
10. What Old Testament figures does Jude reference as examples of God's judgment?

Quiz Answer Key

1. 2 Peter addresses teachers promoting a form of antinomianism, suggesting that believers are absolved of any responsibility to live life in a certain way, particularly regarding sexual immorality. These teachers questioned the reality of future judgment, allowing them to indulge in pleasures without fear of consequences.
2. 2 Peter resembles a last will and testament, a common literary type in the first century where a dying hero passes on final instructions. This is evident in Peter's farewell instructions and his concern for his readers' spiritual well-being after his death.
3. Peter's primary strategy is to address and refute the objections of the false teachers who are calling into question the reality of future judgment. He presents

arguments based on eyewitness testimony (the Transfiguration), the authority of the prophets, and historical examples of God's judgment in the Old Testament.

4. Scholars have questioned the authorship of 2 Peter because the writing style, Greek vocabulary, and overall tone differ significantly from 1 Peter. This difference in style has led some to suggest that 2 Peter may be pseudonymous, written by someone other than Peter.
5. "Early Catholicism" refers to a set of characteristics thought to be indicative of the church later in the first century and into the second century AD. Characteristics include a fading expectation of the imminent return of Christ, the institutionalization of the church (hierarchy, deacons), and a crystallization of the faith (a more set body of beliefs). Some argue that the presence of these characteristics in 2 Peter suggests a later date of authorship, casting doubt on Petrine authorship.
6. The commonly accepted view is that Jude was written first, and 2 Peter then utilized most of Jude. Second Peter includes much of the material found in Jude, while also adding additional content.
7. One likely reason is Jude's relationship to Jesus, as Jude is identified as one of Jesus' brothers. This familial connection to Jesus, similar to James, would have given the book greater authority and increased its chances of inclusion in the canon.
8. Jude is combating a form of antinomianism that promotes the idea that one can pursue all kinds of sexual immorality and indulge in any kind of desires and pleasures that one wants with no responsibility or under no authority at all.
9. Jude primarily uses Old Testament stories and examples of God judging evil and wicked behavior, particularly immorality, to persuade his readers. By reminding them of God's past judgments, he aims to deter them from giving in to false teaching and to encourage them to live righteously.
10. Jude references the Israelites who were saved from Egypt but later destroyed for their disobedience, the angels who abandoned their positions of authority, and the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah who indulged in sexual immorality as examples of God's judgement.

Essay Questions

1. Compare and contrast the arguments and strategies used in 2 Peter and Jude to combat false teaching. How are their approaches similar, and where do they differ?
2. Discuss the significance of the Old Testament references and allusions in both 2 Peter and Jude. What role do these references play in their arguments, and what do they reveal about their understanding of Scripture?
3. Analyze the concept of "delay" in 2 Peter 3:1-10. How does Peter address the false teachers' argument that the delay in Christ's return disproves the promise of judgment? What is the theological significance of his response?
4. Examine the arguments for and against Petrine authorship of 2 Peter. What evidence supports traditional authorship, and what evidence challenges it? How does the debate over authorship affect our interpretation of the letter?
5. How does the social and historical context of the late first century and early second century influence the content and concerns of 2 Peter and Jude? What can these letters tell us about the challenges and tensions facing the early church?

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Antinomianism:** The belief that Christians are freed from the moral law through grace and are therefore not obligated to follow it.
- **Canon:** The collection of books recognized as divinely inspired and authoritative, forming the official scriptures of a religious community.
- **Eschatology:** The study of the end times or last things, including beliefs about death, judgment, heaven, and hell.
- **Early Catholicism:** A scholarly term used to describe perceived developments in the church during the late first and early second centuries, characterized by a fading of the belief in the imminent return of Christ, the institutionalization of the church, and the crystallization of the faith.
- **Gnosticism:** A religious movement prevalent in the first and second centuries that emphasized secret knowledge (gnosis) as the key to salvation and often rejected the material world.
- **Orthodoxy:** Correct or authorized doctrine or belief.
- **Orthopraxy:** Correct conduct or practice, as opposed to correct belief.
- **Pseudonymous:** Written or published under a false name or a name that is not the author's own.
- **Testament:** A literary genre common in the Second Temple period, often presented as the final words or instructions of a dying figure, offering ethical and eschatological guidance.
- **Transfiguration:** The event in the Gospels when Jesus was transformed and appeared in glory with Moses and Elijah, witnessed by Peter, James, and John.

5. FAQs on Mathewson, NT Literature, Session 32, 2 Peter, Jude, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

FAQ on 2 Peter and Jude

1. What is the primary issue or problem that 2 Peter addresses?

2 Peter confronts false teachers promoting a form of antinomianism, suggesting that believers are absolved of any responsibility to live a certain way. These teachers questioned the reality of God's future judgment, thus arguing they were free to indulge in immoral pleasures without consequence. They discredited the teachings of the apostles and Old Testament prophets concerning God's eventual return to judge the earth.

2. How does 2 Peter resemble a "last will and testament"?

2 Peter shares similarities with the literary genre of a testament, common in the first century, where a dying hero passes on final instructions. Verses 1:12-15 reflect this, as Peter, knowing his death is near, reminds his readers of the truth they already know. This resembles the last words of a leader passing on crucial teachings to be remembered after their departure.

3. What are the four objections raised by false teachers in 2 Peter, and how does Peter respond to each?

- **Objection 1:** The apostles were teaching myths. Peter responds by citing the Transfiguration as an eyewitness account of Christ's glory, a preview of His coming in power and judgment.
- **Objection 2:** The prophets were wrong. Peter counters that the prophets spoke under the influence of the Holy Spirit, delivering God's message of both salvation and judgment, not their own.
- **Objection 3:** Judgment will not happen. Peter uses examples from the Old Testament to demonstrate that God has intervened and judged in the past, making future judgment plausible.
- **Objection 4:** The delay of Christ's return implies there will be no judgment. Peter explains that God's timing is different from human timing and that the delay allows more time for repentance.

4. Why is the authorship of 2 Peter questioned, and what are some arguments for and against Peter's authorship?

Some scholars question Peter's authorship of 2 Peter due to differences in writing style and vocabulary compared to 1 Peter. The resemblance to testamentary literature, which was often pseudonymous, and themes associated with "early Catholicism" (like a fading belief in the soon return of Christ, institutionalization of the church and crystallization of faith) have also been cited. However, others argue that the early church affirmed Peter's authorship and that differences could be due to various factors, such as Peter using a different scribe. It's also argued that the themes associated with "early Catholicism" are present in other New Testament texts.

5. What is the relationship between 2 Peter and Jude?

2 Peter and Jude share many similarities in ideas, vocabulary, and wording, suggesting a direct relationship. The prevailing view is that Jude was written first, and 2 Peter later utilized much of Jude, incorporating it into the letter but also adding new material. This would explain why almost everything in Jude can be found in 2 Peter.

6. Why was the book of Jude included in the New Testament canon despite its brevity and similarities to 2 Peter?

Jude's inclusion in the canon is largely attributed to his identity as one of Jesus' brothers. This familial connection to Jesus gave his writing authority and credibility within the early church. Additionally, Jude reinforces the message that the church would not tolerate antinomianism.

7. What is the central concern addressed in the book of Jude?

Jude addresses the problem of antinomianism, a belief that one is free from moral law and can indulge in immoral desires without consequence. Jude emphasizes the importance of contending for the faith, both in belief and ethical living, warning against those who reject authority and defile the flesh.

8. How does Jude attempt to persuade his readers to resist antinomianism?

Jude uses a series of examples from the Old Testament where God judged evil and wicked behavior, particularly immorality. He reminds his readers of God's past judgment to warn them against giving in to antinomian teaching, implying that God will judge them as well if they follow a similar path. He also uses extra-biblical sources like the Testament of Moses.