

Expanded Analysis of

# SECOND PETER

## "FENDING OFF FALSE TEACHERS UNDER JUDGMENT"

"...The Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment." (2 Peter 2:9, NAS)

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# SECOND PETER

## "FENDING OFF FALSE TEACHERS UNDER JUDGMENT"

### A 1 GROWTH IN CHRISTIAN VIRTUE 1

#### B 1 Introduction 1:1-2

C 1 The author: 1:1a

D 1 His name: {1} Simon Peter,

D 2 His identity: a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,

C 2 The recipients 1:1b

D 1 Their receipt of faith: To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours,

D 2 Their status as beneficiaries of Jesus' righteousness: by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ:

C 3 The salutation 1:2

D 1 The author's blessing of grace and peace: {2} Grace and peace be multiplied to you

D 2 The anticipated sphere of the blessing: in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord;

#### B 2 Provision for Growth 1:3-4

C 1 The instrumentality of God's power 1:3a

D 1 The activity of God's power: {3} seeing that His divine power has granted to us

D 2 The sphere of God's power: everything pertaining to life and godliness,

C 2 The instrumentality of the true knowledge of God: through the true knowledge of Him 1:3b

C 3 The instrumentality of God's superlative active call: who called us 1:3c

D 1 His glory: by His own glory

D 2 His excellence: and excellence.

C 4 The instrumentality of the promises of God 1:4

- D 1 The excellence of the promises: {4} For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises,
- D 2 The benefit of the promises: so that by them you may become partakers of *the* divine nature,
- D 3 The sanctifying effect of the promises: having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

### **B 3 Effort in Growth 1:5-11**

- C 1 The kind of effort: {5} Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, 1:5a
- C 2 Virtues to add 1:5b-9
  - D 1 The list of virtues 1:5b-7
    - E 1 Faith: in your faith 1:5b
    - E 2 Moral excellence: supply moral excellence, 1:5c
    - E 3 Knowledge: and in *your* moral excellence, knowledge, 1:5d
    - E 4 Self-control: {6} and in *your* knowledge, self-control, 1:6a
    - E 5 Perseverance: and in *your* self-control, perseverance, 1:6b
    - E 6 Godliness: and in *your* perseverance, godliness, 1:6c
    - E 7 Brotherly kindness: {7} and in *your* godliness, brotherly kindness, 1:7a
    - E 8 Love: and in *your* brotherly kindness, love. 1:7b
  - D 2 The value of these virtues 1:8-9
    - E 1 Positively 1:8
      - G 1 The necessary condition
        - H 1 Possession: {8} For if these *qualities* are yours
        - H 2 Growing: and are increasing,
      - G 2 The positive result
        - H 1 You will not be useless: they render you neither useless
        - H 2 You will not be unfruitful: nor unfruitful

- G 3 The sphere of operation: in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- E 2 Negatively 1:9
  - G 1 The sad condition: {9} For he who lacks these *qualities*
  - G 2 The perspective assessment
    - H 1 Spiritually unperceptive: is blind
    - H 2 Spiritually myopic: *or* short-sighted,
  - G 3 The spiritual assessment: having forgotten *his* purification from his former sins.
- D 3 Making one's calling and election sure 1:10-11
  - E 1 The exhortation: {10} Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent<sup>1</sup> to make certain about His calling and choosing you; 1:10a
  - E 2 The condition: for as long as you practice these things, 1:10b
  - E 3 The assurances 1:10c-11
    - G 1 In the present: you will never stumble; 1:10c
    - G 2 In the future: {11} for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you. 1:11
- B 4 The Author's Contribution to Growth 1:12-21**
  - C 1 His present efforts 1:12-13
    - D 1 His readiness to remind: {12} Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things, 1:12a
    - D 2 Their present awareness 1:12b
      - E 1 They already know: even though you *already* know *them*,

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<sup>1</sup> 2 Peter 1:10 - diligent: "The Greek word for "sure" [i.e. "diligent" - NASB] (*bebaian*) was used in classical Greek to refer to a warranty deed somewhat like those people use today on houses and other pieces of property. One's godly behavior is a warranty deed for himself that Jesus Christ has cleansed him from his past sins and therefore that he was in fact called and elected by God." Kenneth O. Gangel, The Bible Knowledge Commentary, Vol. II, p. 866.

- E 2 They are already established: and have been established in the truth which is present with *you*.
- D 3 His present priority on reminding: {13} I consider it right, as long as I am in this *earthly* dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder, 1:13
- C 2 His ongoing efforts after his death 1:14-15
  - D 1 His conviction of his imminent death: {14} knowing that the laying aside of my *earthly* dwelling is imminent, 1:14a
  - D 2 The source of his conviction: as also our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. 1:14b
  - D 3 His diligence in ensuring they will remember these things: {15} And I will also be diligent that at any time after my departure you will be able to call these things to mind. 1:15
- C 3 His eyewitness account of our Lord Jesus Christ 1:16-19
  - D 1 The source of the apostolic account of Jesus' dynamic transfiguration 1:16
    - E 1 Not cunning myths: {16} For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ,
    - E 2 Eyewitness reporting: but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty.
  - D 2 The recounting of the transfiguration 1:17-18
    - E 1 The characterization of the event: {17} For when He received honor and glory 1:17a
    - E 2 The source of the event: from God the Father, 1:17b
    - E 3 The majestic pronouncement at the event 1:17c
      - G 1 The source of the pronouncement: such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory,
      - G 2 The content of the pronouncement: "This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased"—
    - E 4 The apostolic witnesses of the event: {18} and we ourselves heard this utterance 1:18
      - G 1 The location of the utterance: made from heaven
      - G 2 The occasion of the utterance: when we were with

Him on the holy mountain.

D 3 The certainty of the prophetic word 1:19

E 1 The certainty of the prophetic word: {19} *So* we have the prophetic word *made* more sure,

E 2 The necessity of heeding the prophetic word: to which you do well to pay attention

E 3 The graphic description of the prophetic word: as to a lamp shining in a dark place,

E 4 The duration of heeding the prophetic word

G 1 Until the dawn: until the day dawns

G 2 Until the morning star arises: and the morning star arises in your hearts.

C 4 His Spirit-borne Scripture 1:20-21

D 1 The source of prophecy written down 1:20

E 1 A matter of primary concern: {20} But know this first of all,

E 2 Not a matter of personal opinion: that no prophecy of Scripture is *a matter* of one's own interpretation,

D 2 The origin of genuine prophecy 1:21

E 1 Never originated by human will: {21} for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will,

E 2 Rather, men were borne along by the Holy Spirit: but men moved by the Holy Spirit

E 3 Those so borne along received their message directly from God: spoke from God.

**A 2 THE DANGER OF FALSE TEACHERS 2**

**B 1 The Prediction of False Teachers 2:1**

C 1 The historical precedent for false teachers: {1} But false prophets also arose among the people,

C 2 The prediction of false teachers among them: just as there will also be false teachers among you,

C 3 The tactics of the false teachers

- D 1 Secret introduction of destructive heresies: who will secretly introduce destructive heresies,
- D 2 Denying the master who bought them: even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.

## **B 2 The Effects of the False Teachers 2:2-3a**

- C 1 Many followers {2} Many will follow their sensuality,<sup>2</sup> 2:2a
- C 2 A damaged reputation for Christianity: and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned;<sup>3</sup> 2:2b
- C 3 Greedy exploitation of the believers with false words: {3} and in *their* greed they will exploit you with false words; 2:3a

## **B 3 The Judgment of the False Teachers 2:3b-10**

- C 1 The statement of judgment 2:3b
  - D 1 Judgment: their judgment from long ago is not idle,
  - D 2 Destruction: and their destruction is not asleep.
- C 2 The examples of judgment 2:4-6
  - D 1 God's not sparing sinning angels: {4} For if God did not spare angels when they sinned,<sup>4</sup> 2:4

<sup>2</sup> 2 Peter 2:2 - Many will follow their sensuality: Sadly, a hedonistic, immoral lifestyle has appeal for a great many people. When those who profess to be Christian leaders pursue fleshly indulgence, they will gain a following.

<sup>3</sup> 2 Peter 2:2 - the way of the truth will be maligned: When those who profess to be Christians but are not, and pursue an evil lifestyle, they severely damage the reputation of the Church. This damage is even greater when those professing Christians are seen to be leaders.

<sup>4</sup> 2 Peter 2:4 - God did not spare angels when they sinned: The flow of this passage is eerily similar to that of [Jude 1:6-7](#). In my view, both passages refer to the same event. Succinctly, that event was, I believe, the demonic contamination of the human race to which Moses referred in [Genesis 6:1-4](#). Something sufficiently vile and evil happened there which caused God to conclude that His only alternative was to destroy the entire human race, with the exception of eight people, and make a fresh beginning ([Gen. 6:5-9:19](#)). The "sons of God" (fallen angels) cohabited with women ([Gen. 6:2, 4](#)). [Jude 1:6](#) refers to "angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode ...." [Jude 1:7](#) adds that the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, "in the same way as these" (angels) "indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh."

If these passages all refer to the same event, and I think they do, they reveal that when certain angels sinned by contaminating the human race, God did not spare them, but cast them into Tartaros, committing "them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment." The phrase in the NASB, "cast them into hell" in [2 Pet. 2:4](#) is the translation of a single Greek verb, *tartaroō* (5020), used only here in the N.T.

Here is a literal translation of [2 Peter 2:4](#): "For if God, angels having sinned spared them not, but into pits of darkness having Tartarused<sup>1</sup> them, He delivered them over, for the purpose of judgment keeping them..." We do not know for certain where Tartaros is. It is my judgment that the place Peter labeled as "pits of darkness," to which God "Tartarused" certain angels who sinned, is equivalent to the "abyss," (*abussos*, [12](#)) a place to which certain demons begged Jesus not to send them ([Luke 8:31](#)). The abyss is the place from which certain demons will emerge during the Tribulation ([Rev. 9:1, 2, 11](#)); it is the place from which the Antichrist ("beast") will emerge ([Rev. 11:7](#);

- E 1 Cast into Tartaros: but cast them into hell
- E 2 Confined in pits of darkness: and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment;
- D 2 God's not sparing the world of Noah's day 2:5
  - E 1 God's judgment of that world: {5} and did not spare the ancient world,
  - E 2 God's preservation of Noah: but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others,
  - E 3 God's flooding the world: when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;
- D 3 God's condemnation of Sodom and Gomorrah 2:6
  - E 1 God's consigning the cities to destruction: {6} and *if* He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction
  - E 2 Their destruction by fire: by reducing *them* to ashes,
  - E 3 Their serving as an example to the ungodly: having made them an example to those who would live ungodly *lives* thereafter;
- C 3 Mercy amid judgment: Lot 2:7-8
  - D 1 God's rescue of righteous Lot: {7} and *if* He rescued righteous Lot, 2:7a
  - D 2 The description of Lot 2:7b-8
    - E 1 Oppressed by evil-doers: oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men 2:7b
    - E 2 Righteous: {8} (for by what he saw and heard *that* righteous man, 2:8a
    - E 3 Lived among the Sodomites: while living among them, 2:8b
    - E 4 Righteous: felt *his* righteous soul 2:8c
    - E 5 Tormented: tormented day after day by *their* lawless deeds),

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[17:8](#)); and it is the place in which Satan will be confined for a thousand years ([Rev. 20:1, 3](#)). For a further discussion of this particular sin of certain angels read the comments under the footnote on "sons of God" in [Genesis 6:2](#) in my [Annotated Outline of Genesis](#).



2:8d

C 4 Conclusion about the Lord and judgment 2:9

D 1 He rescues the godly: {9} *then* the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation,

D 2 He secures punishment for the unrighteous: and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment,

**B 4 Further Descriptions of the False Teachers 2:10-17**

C 1 Their character 2:10a

D 1 Self-indulgent lifestyle: {10} and especially those who indulge the flesh in *its* corrupt desires

D 2 Disrespectful: and despise authority.

D 3 Presumptuous: Daring,

D 4 Head-strong: self-willed,

C 2 Their disrespect for authority 2:10b-11

D 1 Brash toward fallen angels: they do not tremble when they revile angelic majesties, 2:10b

D 2 The comparison with angels 2:11

E 1 Good angels are more powerful: {11} whereas angels who are greater in might and power 2:11

E 2 Yet much more cautious: do not bring a reviling judgment against them before the Lord.

C 3 Their comparison with wild animals 2:12-13

D 1 Their comparison to animals 2:12a

E 1 Like uncomprehending animals: {12} But these, like unreasoning animals,

E 2 Doomed for slaughter: born as creatures of instinct to be captured and killed,

D 2 Their ignorant denunciations: reviling where they have no knowledge, 2:12b

D 3 Their eventual destruction: will in the destruction of those creatures also be destroyed, 2:12c

D 4 Their just punishment: {13} suffering wrong as the wages of doing wrong. 2:13a

C 4 Their hedonism 2:13b-14

D 1 Their party attitude: They count it a pleasure to revel in the daytime. 2:13b

D 2 Their dysfunction: They are stains and blemishes, 2:13c

D 3 Their dishonest partying: reveling in their deceptions, as they carouse with you, 2:13d

D 4 Their immoral bent: {14} having eyes full of adultery 2:14a

D 5 Perpetual sinners: that never cease from sin, 2:14b

D 6 Luring the vulnerable: enticing unstable souls, 2:14c

C 5 Their greed 2:14-16

D 1 Greedy hearts: having a heart trained in greed, 2:14a

D 2 Incurable children: accursed children; 2:14b

D 3 Pursuing the wrong path: {15} forsaking the right way, they have gone astray, 2:15a

D 4 Following the way of Balaam: having followed the way of Balaam, the *son* of Beor, 2:15b-16

E 1 Balaam's love: who loved the wages of unrighteousness; 2:15b

E 2 Balaam's rebuke: {16} but he received a rebuke for his own transgression, 2:16

G 1 The talking donkey: *for* a mute donkey, speaking with a voice of a man,

G 2 The rescued prophet: restrained the madness of the prophet.

C 6 Their emptiness: They are 2:17

D 1 Like worthless springs: {17} These are springs without water

D 2 Like fog without rain: and mists driven by a storm,

C 7 Their doom: for whom the black darkness has been reserved.

## **B 5 The Deceptions of the False Teachers 2:18-22**

- C 1 Their exaggerated hype: {18} For speaking out arrogant *words* of vanity 2:18a
- C 2 Their seductive ploy: they entice 2:18B
  - D 1 By bodily cravings: by fleshly desires,
  - D 2 By lustful immorality: by sensuality,
- C 3 Their prey: those who barely escape from the ones who live in error, 2:18c
- C 4 Their false promise: {19} promising them freedom 2:19a
- C 5 Their hypocrisy 2:19b
  - D 1 Their own slavery: while they themselves are slaves of corruption;
  - D 2 The principle: for by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved.
- C 6 Their <sup>5</sup> plight 2:20-21
  - D 1 Their initial exposure to the benefits of salvation: {20} For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, 2:20a
  - D 2 Their subsequent defilement: they are again entangled in them and are overcome, 2:20b
  - D 3 Their worsened condition: the last state has become worse for them than the first. 2:21
    - E 1 The preferable beginning: {21} For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, 2:21
    - E 2 The worse end: than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment handed on to them.
- C 7 Their proverbs: {22} It has happened to them according to the true

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<sup>5</sup> 2 Peter 2:20-21 heading - Their plight: Who is the "their"? Is the apostle talking about the false teachers or about their victims? Four views, according to Kenneth Gangel, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, II, 874 are as follows: 1) False teachers; 2) unstable, unsaved listeners; 3) Both (and both can lose their salvation [JTB but why?]); 4) new believers are warned against a life of carnality.

JTB: Though there is a parallel between "having barely or scarcely escaped" ([668](#) *apopheugo*) in v. 18 (the innocents being deceived) and "having escaped" ([668](#)) in v. 20 = view #2, yet the false teachers themselves are said to be "slaves of corruption" in v. 19, and the people in question in v. 20 are said to have "escaped defilements" and yet have become entangled and defeated by them=view #1. Since the preponderance of the passage speaks of the folly and fate of the false teachers, the simplest view is that vv. 20-22 also refer to the false teachers. Of course the fate of the false teachers also becomes the fate of their victims, so by way of application, view #3 is also true, except that neither the false teachers nor their victims can be said to lose their salvation, even despite their having a "full knowledge" (*epignosis* - 1922) of Jesus Christ (v. 20) and of the way of righteousness (v. 21)!

proverb, 2:22

D 1 Indiscriminate diet: "A DOG RETURNS TO ITS OWN VOMIT,"<sup>6</sup>

D 2 Undiscerning behavior: and, "A sow, after washing, *returns* to wallowing in the mire."

### A 3 THE CYNICISM OF MOCKERS IN RELATION TO CHRIST'S RETURN AND COMING JUDGMENT 2 Peter 3

#### B 1 The Purpose of the Letter 2 Peter 3:1-2

C 1 The reference to the readers: {1} This is now, beloved, 3:1a

C 2 The number of the letter: the second letter I am writing to you 3:1b

C 3 The motive of the writing: in which I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, {2} that you should remember 3:1c-2

D 1 The messages of the prophets: the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and

D 2 The commands of Jesus through the apostles: the commandment of the Lord and Savior *spoken* by your apostles

#### B 2 The Coming of Mockers Denying Christ's Return 2 Peter 3:3-4

C 1 The time of the mockers: {3} Know this first of all, that in the last days 3:3a

C 2 The arrival of the mockers: mockers will come with *their* mocking, 3:3b

C 3 The motivation of the mockers: following after their own lusts,<sup>7</sup> 3:3c

C 4 The speech of the mockers 3:4

D 1 Their denial of Christ's return: {4} and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming?"

D 2 Their affirmation of uniformitarianism: For *ever* since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation."

#### B 3 The Failure of the Mockers in Denying Christ's Return: Their deliberate ignoring of God's creation and judgment 2 Peter 3:5-18

C 1 God's original creation of the universe by His Word 3:5

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<sup>6</sup> 2 Peter 2:22 - A DOG RETURNS TO ITS OWN VOMIT: Quoting Proverbs 26:11.

<sup>7</sup> 2 Peter 3:3 - lusts: powerful desires

- D 1 His speaking into existence the heavens long ago: {5} For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God *the* heavens existed long ago
  - D 2 His forming of the earth out of water and by water: and *the* earth was formed out of water and by water,
- C 2 God's judgment of the earth through the waters of the Great Flood 3:6
  - D 1 Universal destruction: {6} through which the world at that time was destroyed,
  - D 2 Global deluge: being flooded with water.
- C 3 God's coming judgment of the heavens and the earth through fire by His Word 3:7-18
  - D 1 The preservation for the fiery judgment: The present condition of the heavens and earth 3:7
    - E 1 Kept in store by the same Word [of God] for a fiery catastrophe: {7} But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire,
    - E 2 Preserved for judgment
      - G 1 The day of judgment: kept for the day of judgment
      - G 2 The day of destruction of the ungodly: and destruction of ungodly men.
  - D 2 The reason for the delay of the judgment 3:8-9
    - E 1 God's relation to time: {8} But do not let this one *fact* escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord 3:8
      - G 1 The duration of one day: one day is like a thousand years,
      - G 2 The duration of a thousand years: and a thousand years like one day.
    - E 2 God's longsuffering nature 3:9
      - G 1 God's integrity: {9} The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness,
      - G 2 God's mercy
        - H 1 His patience: but is patient toward you,
        - H 2 His unwillingness: not wishing for any to

perish

H 3 His fervent desire: but for all to come to repentance.

D 3 The nature of coming judgment 3:10-13

E 1 Its characterization: {10} But the day of the Lord 3:10a

E 2 Its unexpectedness: will come like a thief, 3:10b

E 3 Its catastrophic destruction 3:10c

G 1 Deafening noise: in which the heavens will pass away with a roar

G 2 Intense heat: and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat,

G 3 Fiery conflagration: and the earth and its works will be burned up.

E 4 Its perspective 3:11-13

G 1 Dissolution of matter: {11} Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, 3:11a

G 2 Perceptive living: what sort of people ought you to be 3:11b-12

H 1 Holy: in holy conduct 3:11b

H 2 Godly: and godliness, 3:11c

H 3 Vigilant: {12} looking for 3:12a

H 4 Speeding: and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which 3:12b

J 1 Burning heavens: the heavens will be destroyed by burning,

J 2 Melting elements: and the elements will melt with intense heat!

G 3 Anticipatory living 3:13

H 1 The basis for anticipatory living

J 1 His promise: {13} But according to His promise

- J 2 Our response: we are looking for
  - H 2 The prospect of anticipatory living
    - J 1 New universe: new heavens
      - J 2 New earth: and a new earth,
    - H 3 The character of anticipatory living: in which righteousness dwells.
- D 4 The exhortations in view of the coming judgment 3:14-18
  - E 1 The accompanying perspective: {14} Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, 3:14a
  - E 2 The expected effort in character formation: be diligent to be found by Him 3:14b
    - G 1 At peace with God: in peace,
    - G 2 Unstained: spotless
    - G 3 Without reproach: and blameless,
  - E 3 Perceive that the longsuffering of our Lord is for the purpose of salvation 3:15
    - G 1 Proper perspective: {15} and regard the patience of our Lord *as* salvation;
    - G 2 Apostolic corroboration: just as also our beloved brother Paul,
      - H 1 Revelation: according to the wisdom given him,
      - H 2 Communication: wrote to you,
  - E 4 Apostolic correspondence: {16} as also in all *his* letters, 3:16a
    - G 1 Attestation: speaking in them of these things,
    - G 2 Enigmatic: in which are some things hard to understand,
  - E 5 Deliberate distortion 3:16b
    - G 1 Deliberate misrepresentation: which the untaught and unstable distort,

- G 2 Characteristic with the whole Bible: as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures,
- G 3 Self-extermination: to their own destruction.
- E 6 Beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness 3:17
  - G 1 The description of the readers: {17} You therefore, beloved,
  - G 2 The background provided the readers: knowing this beforehand,
  - G 3 The warning to the readers: be on your guard
  - G 4 The dangers to avoid
    - H 1 Being led astray by false teaching: so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men
    - H 2 Falling from perseverance: and fall from your own steadfastness,
- E 7 But be growing: {18} but grow 3:18a
  - G 1 In grace: in the grace
  - G 2 In knowledge of Jesus: and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- E 8 Closing doxology: To Him *be* the glory, 3:18b
  - G 1 Presently: both now
  - G 2 Throughout the future: and to the day of eternity.
  - G 3 Agreement: Amen.

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