

SUMMARY CHART OF 2nd Peter

The identification of the underlying (implied) problem or contradiction to which Peter is actually responding.

Session	Surface Barriers	Peter's Solution (Addresses the Deep Problem and not the Surface Barrier)	The Deep Underlying Problem (These are always implied and reveal new information)
2 nd Peter 1: 1 - 21	<p>Vs. 1: 8, WS: The early church was not well prepared for Final Exams. There were ineffective and unproductive in their applied knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. IHOPer Reflections: One commented on the corruption of the world and its affect on the people. Another commented that 2nd Peter is an easy book to apply to today's world. . A third mentioned ineffective evangelism; their outreach to the world was not very effective.</p>	<p>Vss. 12 - 15, WS: Peter is going to make certain that before he dies the early church will be able to remember, and associate, their Christian experience with the traditional words of Christian belief and surrender (faith). IHOPer Reflections: Peter wanted the early church to be rooted and grounded in the truth of the gospel. One IHOPer noted that the reference to the prophets pointed to the necessity of working for social justice. Another IHOPer observed that the early church was using different sets of social/cultural glasses to look at reality. This person noted that today we see this in the churches that want everybody to use THEIR SET OF PRESCRIPTION GLASSES or none.</p>	<p>Vss. 9 – 11, WS: The early church was unable to associate their experience of Christ with the Christian lexicon of words; i.e., their beliefs were ungrounded in their human experience. Not realizing their ability to live above the problem. Their struggle, as it still is ours as well, is that the one and only reality can be approached through our human/natural inclinations, or it can be approached by our humane/spiritual inclinations. Peter wants to insure that the people don't go to live in the absence of God (hell) because of this worldly orientation.</p>
2 nd Peter 2: 1 - 22	<p>Vs. 2:1, WS: False prophets and teachers. One IHOPer added, "And there always will be."</p>	<p>10: 14 – 16, (Where do we find "Balaam's Ass" today? Be certain to read Numbers 22: – 24: 25). WS: God's judgment for selfish behavior. In other places, Jesus spoke about the stones crying out is the word of Good News is not promoted. Another way of saying this is the authentic message for living the humane and gracious life is made evident wherever authenticity is experienced; i.e., the rock demonstrates its Is-ness in the save degree that a cow demonstrates its Is-ness. In like manner, when we humans awaken to discipline—to pass judgment—on our inhumane behavior, it is then that we begin to practice living the humane and gracious life while working for justice and mercy.</p>	<p>Vss. 2: 10 - 13, WS: Judgment is discovered in the Deed <u>itself</u>. People thought they had found a better way than The Christian Way. It is difficult not to go back to old patterns.</p>
2 nd Peter 3: 1 - 18	<p>Vs. 3: 3, 17 WS: Vs. 3, "Scoffing and following evil desires." Vs. 17, Getting carried away by the error of lawless people. Name an evil desire. IHOPer response: Racism, selfishness and greed. How are these</p>	<p>Vss. 3: 1 – 2, 11 – 16, 18, WS: Vss. 1 -2, Wholesome thinking; Vs.11B, Living holy and godly lives; Vs. 18, grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. <u>Holiness</u> is experienced as living the Awakened life; <u>Godliness</u> is experienced as</p>	<p>Vss. 3: 5 – 7, WS: Vs. 5, "Deliberately forgetting God's word." Vs. 6, "Forgetting that the world <u>of that time was destroyed.</u> In Gut Trip Analysis, it is important to recall that the first 11 chapters of Genesis report WHY the world was created not HOW it</p>

characteristics **illusions of truth?** They are illusions because they represent our un-repentant and un-transformed human nature. They do not represent living as humane and gracious people working for justice and mercy.

living in At-One-Ment with our created purpose.
One IHOPer added that Vs. 14 may be a better summary: be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him (Christ).

was created; we humans are created to praise God, and we do this by fulfilling our intended creation of living the humane and gracious life. The Noah saga in Genesis is a theological myth; that is, it reveals something that is so true about life that it can only be told in story format. This truth is that our human/natural propensities (Thurman's "Outer Life") are the exact opposite of what our created purpose is to fulfill (Thurman's "Inner Sanctuary)! The judgment on this "missing the mark" is that human/natural inclinations were destroyed, but that God's patient forgiveness left a remnant. The Noah story is a national metaphor for the people of Israel and the story of their first Passover that was followed by a baptism and death/resurrection in the Red Sea.

The IHOP conversation suggested another metaphor to ground what it means to forget God's word. The recent Dairy Queen (DQ) ad pictures a couple enjoying an ice cream chocolaty treat. The woman encourages her date to try her ice cream specialty of rich chocolate. Immediately, he is transported up to heaven, sitting in a hot tube of clouds and being fed by a wing-flapping angel. Suddenly, the date is brought back to reality by the woman, and the scene ends with everyone falling and screaming from this heavenly abode.

What's wrong with this picture? *How does this support an illusion of truth?* The IHOPers immediately pointed to the idea of heaven as a place up in the sky. There is no such place, and the Jews never promoted such a concept because God is a close as our breath, but the Greeks—and subsequently—the rest of us rational scientific-minded people still embrace an illusion of truth that heaven is a place served by angels. To embrace this illusion is to live as "ungodly men." (Vs. 7.)

An interesting point is

that this picture is right for all the wrong reasons. Heaven is not a place, but it is a relationship in which we each are served with great joy.

Vs. 7, Concerns a judgment on the world for living in the Big Lie about life. The image is that of the "fire" is the method of bringing judgment and destruction on "ungodly men." Again it is necessary to say that judgment is not something that is added on to life; we are naughty, therefore we will be punished. Actually, judgment is much more severe than this. We humans are judged not because we are naughty, but because we miss the mark of fulfilling our intended creation. Perhaps, in this way, we are naughty as well.

But, think about it for a moment. To sin is to live in a state of separation. Our gender and race is the most general way to describe this human condition about which we can do nothing! We are what we are, and therefore live in a state of hope-less-ness of salvation. The judgment is that we are doomed to forever live in a state of separation and sin.

Our only hope becomes Jesus, who as the Christ demonstrates the possibility of dieing to the barriers preventing us from living in wholeness with self, neighbor and God. Another way of saying the same thing is that Jesus bridges the gap between genders and races. When men have a relationship with Jesus Christ, and women have a relationship to Jesus Christ, what is it that unites us, but Jesus Christ? In this way it can be affirmed that Jesus Christ is our personal Savior.