

R E M E M B E R Y O U R

H O P E

2 Peter 2:12-22

Introduction

- False teachers are like animals in their thinking – creatures of instinct, following the pleasures of the flesh rather than the Word of God.
- They have left the narrow path, like the false prophet Balaam who led people astray for money. Yet God will rebuke them as He did Balaam.
- The Church is called to confront these false teachers and, if they don't repent, to purge them from their midst.
- These false teachers will destroy themselves with their own sin and be judged by God in the end.

They are like animals
in their thinking

2 Peter 2:12-14

Animals

- Peter was not gentle in his denouncement of these false teachers.
- Like animals, they simply followed their instincts and fleshly desires rather than the Word of God.
- Peter's comments on false teachers are very similar to Jude 1:10 – “these people blaspheme all that they do not understand, and they are destroyed by all that they, like unreasoning animals, understand instinctively.”
- Psalm 73:22 - the psalmist said he had been toward God – “brutish and ignorant ... like a beast.”

Animals

- These false teachers don't listen to the Word of God.
- They follow their natural desires and are destroyed by them.
- Animals follow their instinct – they are “born to be caught and destroyed,” but these false teachers should know better.
- They voluntarily sought their own destruction.
- The implication is that, as animals are destroyed literally, the false teachers were destroyed morally.

Animals

- These false teachers were “blots and blemishes” on the Church.
- Animal’s blot or a blemish made it unfit for sacrifice to God (Exodus 12:5).
- The wording used here is the same as the phrase he used in 1 Peter 1:19 to refer to the perfection of the sacrifice of Jesus – “without blemish or spot.”
- Peter was making an intentional contrast between the way these false prophets were living and the holy lives in Christ that Peter himself had taught the people they were called to live in his first letter (1 Peter 1:13–21).

Animals

- They feasted with the Church even while they reveled in their deceptions.
- This refers to the practice of the love feast the early churches ate together before they celebrated the Lord's Supper or in conjunction with it.
- The purpose of the love feast was for both rich and poor to share a large meal together.
- Peter said the false teachers were also ruining the love feast because of the great hypocrisy of their lifestyle, and that they were trying to deceive others with their false teaching.

Animals

- Peter's description of them:
 - lust of defiling passion, despising authority, bold and willful (verse 10)
 - blaspheming (verse 12)
 - reveling in their deceptions (verse 13)
 - eyes full of lust, appetite for sin, hearts trained in greed (verse 14)

Animals

- Peter concluded with a strong final judgment – “Accursed children!”
- This Hebrew phrase literally means “children of the curse,” referring to the curses of the Mosaic covenant.
- It describes those who would be destroyed for their rejection of God’s law and desire to live their own way.
- The Church needed to confront them and, if they were unwilling to change, purge them from the fellowship so they didn’t bring others down with them.

They follow the wrong path and lead other
people astray with them

2 Peter 2:15-19

False Prophets

- Balaam was a false prophet from Aram (Numbers 22–24) during the time when Israel wandered in the wilderness and defeated many other armies by the strength of the Lord.
- He was well-known for the effectiveness of his curses and blessings. He cursed or blessed whoever paid him for it. But when the king of Moab asked him to curse the Israelites, God intervened.
- Balak, the king of Moab, afraid of the bigger, stronger Israelite army coming to invade him, hired Balaam to curse the people of Israel for him.

False Prophets

- Balaam had a vision in which God appeared to him and told him not to go with them. So Balaam refused.
- But then God appeared to him again and said he could go, but he had to do whatever God told him to do. So he went with them, riding on his donkey.
- The angel blocked them again, and the donkey laid down in the path. Balaam struck it again.
- Then God made the donkey able to speak to Balaam and opened Balaam's eyes to see the angel of the Lord standing in his way.

False Prophets

- Christians sometimes point to this story as proof that God can speak through anyone, even a donkey.
- If God wants to get your attention, He will.
- It may be through ordinary circumstances, or through a vision, or through an angel, or even through a talking donkey.
- Peter was reminding the people that God was in control, and He would rebuke these false teachers just as He did Balaam.

False Prophets

- Peter called these false teachers “waterless springs” and “mists driven by a storm.” Both metaphors say the same thing.
- These false teachers made promises of happiness and fulfillment in their lifestyle of pleasure, but their promises and their lives were empty and meaningless (2:18–19).
- Those who have developed maturity in Christ are less likely to be swayed by the empty promises of false teachers. They are more likely to be able to recognize them for what they are, as Peter did.

False Prophets

- The false teachers promised freedom, but they were slaves to their sin (2:19).
- Peter spoke again of their judgment – “For them the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved” (2:17).
- Peter was so strong in his condemnation because he was trying to save others from being led astray.
- He did not want his readers to be deceived. This was not just a matter of life and death. It was a matter of eternal life or death.

They once knew Christ,
but they have relapsed into sin

2 Peter 2:20-22

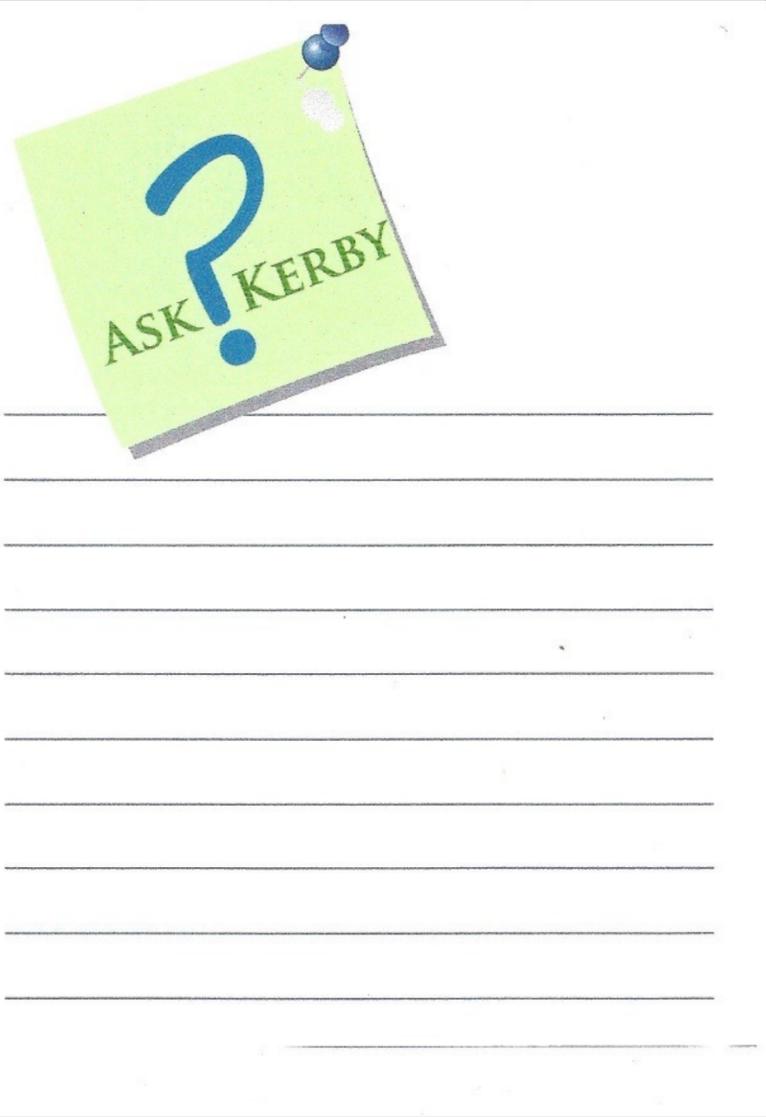
Apostasy

- Peter described their apostasy in a way similar to how Jesus described what happened with some of the seed in the parable of the sower.
- False teachers were like the seed that was sown among thorns. Matthew 13: 22 - “This is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word and it proves unfruitful.”
- Jesus explained the first three types of seed as people who have heard the Word of the kingdom and responded, but didn't grow deep roots and bear fruit, that is, didn't really become believers.

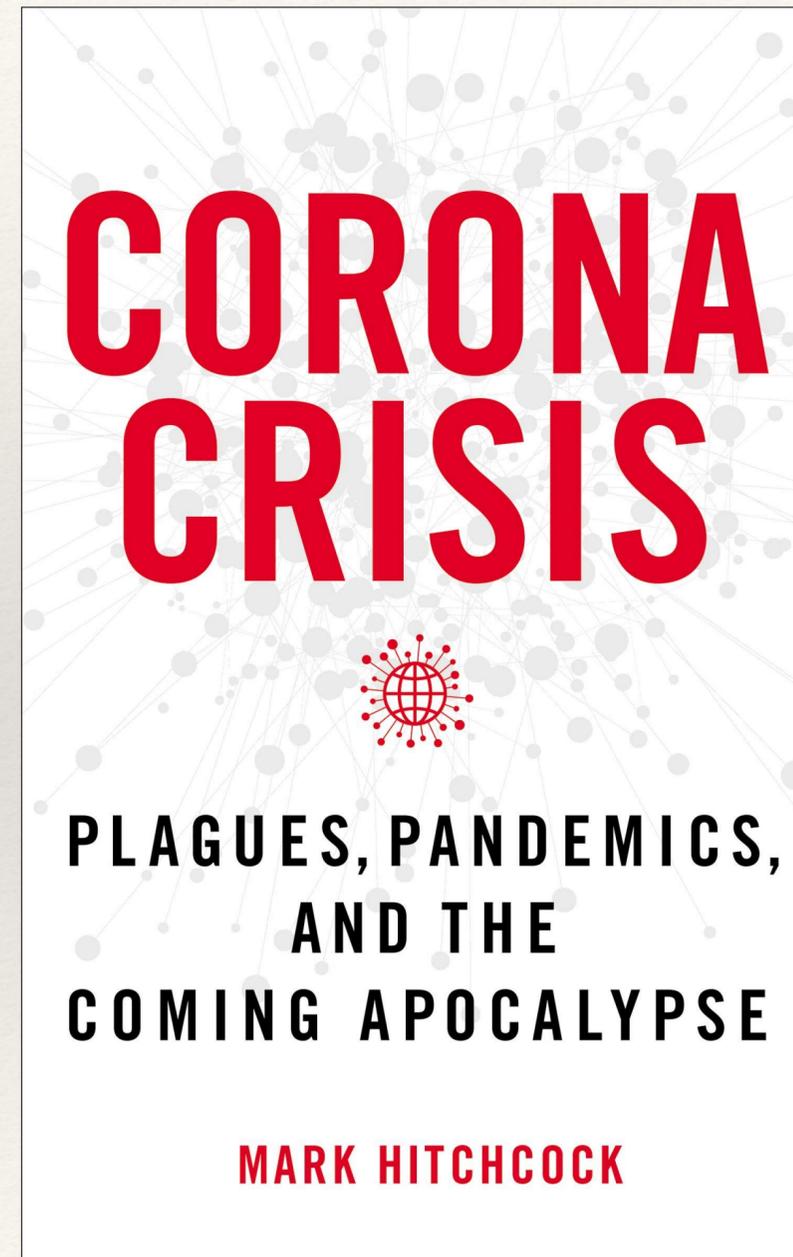
Apostasy

- Jesus taught in the parable of the night watches that those who knew the master's will but chose not to obey it would be punished more severely than those who didn't know His will (Luke 12:41–48).
- Paul and Peter both encouraged their readers to examine themselves (2 Corinthians 13:5), to be diligent to confirm their calling (2 Peter 1:10).
- We should not to worry about losing our salvation, but we should examine our hearts to be sure our faith is real and push ourselves to grow stronger and deeper in our faith.

Ask Kerby



ASK KERBY



Discerning the Times

- Seriousness, not sensationalism
- Scripture first, not headlines
- Second coming, not the rapture
 - The signs in the New Testament are for the Tribulation
- Stage setting, not fulfillment
 - Birth pains are in the Tribulation, premature (Braxton Hicks)

THE NEW BESTSELLER BY
BILLY GRAHAM



**APPROACHING
HOOFBEATS**

**THE FOUR HORSEMEN
OF THE APOCALYPSE**

THE SEVEN SEALS OF REVELATION

FIRST SEAL	SECOND SEAL	THIRD SEAL	FOURTH SEAL	FIFTH SEAL	SIXTH SEAL	SEVENTH SEAL
WHITE HORSE	RED HORSE	BLACK HORSE	PALE HORSE	MARTYRS CRY OUT	CELESTIAL SIGNS	RAPTURE
						
<p>Rev 6:2 Had a Bow Given a Crown Went out Conquering</p>	<p>Rev 6:4 Peace Removed Violence breaks out Has Sword</p>	<p>Rev 6:5-6 Balance Scales Huge Inflation Oil & Wine Spared</p>	<p>Rev 6:8 Death has Hades with him 1/4th earth Killed with sword, famine, death & beasts</p>	<p>Rev 6:9-11 Martyrs cry out How long? Not until number of brethren to be killed is complete</p>	<p>Rev 6:12-17 Earth quakes Sun darkens moon turns red Stars fall Sky Recedes like a scroll</p>	<p>Rev 8:1 Heaven silent about half hour Rev 11:12 Come up Here!</p>

Jesus - Olivet Discourse	Revelation 6-7
False christ Matthew 24:4-5	Rider on the White Horse Revelation 6:1-2
Wars and rumors of wars Matthew 24:6-7	Rider on the Red Horse Revelation 6:3-4
Famines and earthquakes Matthew 24:7	Rider on the Black Horse Revelation 6:5-6
Famines and plagues Matthew 24:7 and Luke 21:11	Rider on the Pale Horse Revelation 6:7-8

Pale Rider - Image	Pale Rider - Description
Sword	Slays his victims with a sword. Continued warfare from red horse.
Famine	Famine launched by black horse will intensify.
Pestilence	Plague, pestilence, and pandemic destroy humanity.
Wild beasts of the earth	Could be animals, but may actually be animal diseases.

Wild Beasts of the Earth

- Bubonic plague - rodents, fleas
- Rabies - dogs, bats
- Malaria - mosquitos
- Dengue fever - mosquitos
- AIDS/HIV - chimpanzee
- Spanish flu - birds
- Lyme disease - ticks
- Ebola - bats
- SARS - bats
- MERS - bats, camels
- Avian flu - birds
- Swine flu - pigs

Surviving a Stampede

- Perspective - Psalm 11 - when the foundations are being destroyed, we need a fresh view of God and a long view of history.
- Practicality - the deadly bubonic plague hit the town of Martin Luther. He wrote "Whether One May Flee from a Deadly Plague."
- Prayer - pray for protection, for containment of the virus, for the economy, for our neighbors, and for our political leaders.
- Proclamation - Charles Spurgeon teaching during the cholera outbreak, tell them about Jesus and that He is able to save at the eleventh hour.

CORONA CRISIS



**PLAGUES, PANDEMICS,
AND THE
COMING APOCALYPSE**

MARK HITCHCOCK