

1. Dangers from within

- a) 2 Peter 2:1–3
- b) “There were also false prophets.” Who were some false prophets/ teachers among the children of Israel?
 - i) Balaam, bribed to curse Israel
 - ii) Adversaries of Jeremiah: Pashhur, Hananiah, Shemaiah, Ahab son of Kolaiah
- c) “There will be false teachers.” What evidence do we see of false teachers in the early Christian church? Matthew 7:15; Acts 20:30; 1 Timothy 4:1
- d) 2 Peter 2:12–17. What is your reaction to Peter’s description of these false teachers?
- e) Why are many people susceptible to the deceptive messages of false teachers?

2. Deceptions of false teachers

- a) 2 Peter 2:18–22. What deceptions did these false teachers promote in the early Christian church?
- b) What are some other false teachings that were promoted in subsequent generations?
- c) False teachers lure people with the promise of freedom. What freedom are they proposing?
- d) What is the true freedom we experience in Christ? (John 8:31–36)
- e) How can we avoid the deceptions of false teachers in these last days of earth’s history? 1 Thessalonians 5:19–21

3. The attraction of past unbiblical ideas and sinful habits

- a) 2 Peter 2:20–21. Why are people drawn back into unbiblical ideas and sinful habits?
- b) Is the situation hopeless for those who have fallen into apostasy? (see Hebrews 6:4–6; Romans 10:13; 1 John 1:9)
- c) Share a time when you fell back into old habits. How did God catch your attention and rescue you?
- d) How can we support those who are tempted to return to their past unbiblical way of thinking and living?

4. The certain judgment awaiting false teachers

- a) 2 Peter 2:4–9
 - i) Fallen angels, Revelation 12:7–9
 - ii) Noah’s day, Genesis 7:23
 - iii) Sodom and Gomorrah, Genesis 19:24–25
- b) How is God’s judgment against the wicked an act of mercy?

5. Discussion questions

- a) What encouragement do you find in the promise “the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptation”?
- b) How have you seen the Lord deliver you?

