

Appendix 2. Parallels between 2 Peter and Jude

Scholars have made much of the parallels between 2 Peter and Jude. You'll see below in this parallel version based on the NIV, that there are indeed some parallels – though some passages have no parallel. It is notable that the parallels that do exist come pretty much in the same order (with the exception of comments on Balaam). Probably there is some tradition or document that both Peter and Jude are referring to, some kind of stock renunciation of false teachers that was circulating in the early church. It is not necessary or even appropriate to claim a “literary dependence” of 2 Peter on Jude, as some do.

2 Peter 2:1-22

¹ But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will **secretly** introduce destructive heresies, even **denying the sovereign Lord** who bought them – bringing swift destruction on themselves.

² Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. ³ In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.

⁴ For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment;

⁵ if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others;

Jude 3-19

³ Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints.

⁴ For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have **secretly** slipped in among you. They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and **deny Jesus Christ** our only Sovereign and Lord.

⁵ Though you already know all this, I want to remind you that the Lord delivered his people out of Egypt, but later destroyed those who did not believe.

⁶ And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home – these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.

2 Peter 2

⁶ if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly;

⁷ and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the filthy lives of lawless men ⁸ (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard) – ⁹ if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment.

¹⁰ This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the sinful nature and despise authority.

Bold and arrogant, these men are not afraid to slander celestial beings; ¹¹ yet even angels, although they are stronger and more powerful, do not bring slanderous accusations against such beings in the presence of the Lord. ¹² But these men blaspheme in matters they do not understand.

They are like brute beasts, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like beasts they too will perish.

see vss. 15-16

¹³ They will be paid back with harm for the harm they have done. Their idea of pleasure is to carouse in broad daylight.

Jude

⁷ In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire.

⁸ In the very same way, these dreamers pollute their own bodies, reject authority and slander celestial beings.

⁹ But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring a slanderous accusation against him, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"

¹⁰ Yet these men speak abusively against whatever they do not understand; and what things they do understand by instinct,

like unreasoning animals – these are the very things that destroy them.

¹¹ Woe to them! They have taken the way of Cain; they have rushed for profit into Balaam's error; they have been destroyed in Korah's rebellion.

2 Peter 2

They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their pleasures while they feast with you.

¹⁴ With eyes full of adultery, they never stop sinning; they seduce the unstable; they are experts in greed – an accursed brood! ¹⁵ They have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Beor, who loved the wages of wickedness. ¹⁶ But he was rebuked for his wrongdoing by a donkey – a beast without speech—who spoke with a man’s voice and restrained the prophet’s madness.

¹⁷ These men are springs without water and mists driven by a storm. Blackest darkness is reserved for them.

¹⁸ For they mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of sinful human nature, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error.

Jude

¹² These men are blemishes at your love feasts, eating with you without the slightest qualm—shepherds who feed only themselves.

see vss. 11

They are clouds without rain, blown along by the wind; autumn trees, without fruit and uprooted – twice dead. ¹³ They are wild waves of the sea, foaming up their shame; wandering stars, for whom blackest darkness has been reserved forever.

¹⁴ Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: “See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones ¹⁵ to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”

¹⁶ These men are grumblers and faultfinders; they follow their own evil desires; they boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage.

2 Peter 2

¹⁹ They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity – for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him. ²⁰ If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning. ²¹ It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them. ²² Of them the proverbs are true: “A dog returns to its vomit,” and, “A sow that is washed goes back to her wallowing in the mud.”

³³ First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires....

Jude

¹⁷ But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. ¹⁸ They said to you, “In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires.” ¹⁹ These are the men who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit.