

II PETER 2:4-9
JUDGMENT OF FALSE TEACHERS!

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to II Peter chapter 2 as we continue our in-depth letter that Peter wrote to Christians who were dispersed for their faith in Christ and in this letter Peter is dealing with false teachers and warning these believers to stay alert, pay attention, not to be taken in by them!

But how can we be set free from these false teachers?

Peter tells us that, **“And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”** II Peter 1:19-21.

In other words, we have the Word of God and when you have the truth and place it alongside these deceptions by these false teachers, their lies will be exposed.

But why?

Because, as we are told in the Gospel of John, **“Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, ‘If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.’”** John 8:31-32.

The truths of God's Word, the Bible will set us free and that is why Peter, before he speaks about these false teachers, tells his readers and us the importance of knowing God's Word and how God's Word is not for our "**private interpretation**", or we can't make God's Word say what we want it to say. God has spoken and we are not to twist what He is saying or make it fit our theology, but let the Word speak for itself and through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, we will hear what God is saying very clearly!

The problem with false teachers, and there are many issues with them, is that they do twist the Scriptures to make them say what they want them to say.

If you remember after Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River that the Holy Spirit lead Him into the wilderness where he fasted for forty days.

After that time of fasting, we are told that Satan tempted Jesus and it is interesting to me because Satan used the Scriptures but just twisted them to make them say what he wanted them to say.

And Jesus combated these attacks by Satan by telling him, "***IT IS WRITTEN!***"

Now some may wonder what the big deal is!

Why do we even need to talk about this?

Peter tells us the reason that this is so important. He says in II Peter chapter 2, verses we dealt with last time, that what they are bringing people are "**destructive heresies**" or "***damning heresies***" even denying the Lord!

And the point that Peter is making is that they are denying who the Biblical Jesus is, and they have come up with a Jesus in their own minds, that meets what they want. And these damning heresies are leading people to hell instead of heaven and yet, they are deceived and they are comfortable with what they are being told!

Thus, they deny His deity, they deny His virgin birth, they deny the blood atonement, they deny that He was sinless, and much, much more but the problem is that they are not believers, and they are damning the souls of others who listen to them!

Let me share this with you which will lead us into our study this morning. We are told, When concerned Christians who have found false teaching and even outright apostasy within their churches meet with me, call me, or write to me for advice, I always point these dear people in the same direction: What does God's Word tell you to do? And in particular, I ask them this: How are you going to respond when other people twist Scripture to try to prevent you from doing what the Word of God commands you to do?

Will you be ready to respond in a Biblical way? Will you be ready to say, ***“Wait a minute. Let's make sure that we understand what the Bible really says about these matters. Let's make sure our motive is the right motive. Let's make sure our standard is the right standard. Let's make sure we are not twisting Scripture to say what we want it to say, instead of what it really says.”***

God wants you to be equipped to respond in that way. God's Word reminds us, over and over again, that truth is the issue - not people, not personalities, not traditions, not man-made mission statements, not anything else. Truth is the issue. We must speak the truth in love.

. . . I told you what is likely to happen if you make the effort to expose and confront apostasy within the church. Before very long, you will probably hear people quoting Scripture to you - or rather, ***“Scripture sound bites”*** taken out of context.

People may quote Scripture to accuse you of being judgmental.

They will quote, for example, from Matthew 7, “***Judge not, that you be not judged***” - or from Romans 14, “***Why do you judge your brother?***” - or, perhaps from First Corinthians 4, “***Judge nothing before the time.***”

Or, they may quote Scripture to accuse you of being unloving.

And so they’ll quote from First Corinthians 13, “***Love bears all things . . . [love] endures all things***” - or from First Peter 4, “***Love covers a multitude of sins.***”

Or, they may quote Scripture to accuse you of being unreasonable, not being willing to listen.

And so they will quote a passage like this from Isaiah chapter 1, “***Come now and let us reason together.***”

I have heard these and similar verses quoted many, many times, in these kinds of situations . . . Just because someone quotes snippets of Scripture, or even long passages, it does not make him right. Just because someone quotes Scripture, it does not mean he is telling the truth.

False teachers, apostates, and even Satan quote Scripture.

The fact is that in today’s church, many people are twisting Scripture to avoid obeying God’s clear commands, and to try to discourage or even prevent other people from taking a firm stand for the truth.

- <https://bit.ly/4fRwrum>

How true that is. They use, or I should say, twist the Scriptures to justify their sins!

They use or I should say, twist the Scriptures to take advantage of you.

That is what Peter said in II Peter 2:3, “**By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.**”

The Amplified Bible puts this verse like this, “**And in their covetousness (lust, greed) they will exploit you with false (cunning) arguments. From of old the sentence [of condemnation] for them has not been idle; their destruction (eternal misery) has not been asleep.**”

In other words, as Peter has shown us, we see that holy men of God were moved by the Holy Spirit to bring us God’s Word!

But the Devil is a counterfeit, and he uses unholy men who are moved by unholy spirits like pride, lust, greed, fame, Satan - to distort God’s Word.

Thus, beware of false teachers and destructive heresies. They twist the truth to the point of denying the Lord!

Remember that Jesus warned us in Matthew 7:15 when He said, “**Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.**”

Interestingly enough, the Greek word translated “**beware**” means “*to keep on the lookout for, to be alert for, to be on one’s guard against.*”

That is so important for us today as deception in the church continues to grow and grow.

Now, as we have seen, Peter exposed the danger of these false teachers and this morning, as we continue on here in II Peter chapter 2, Peter is going to deal with the – ***JUDGMENT OF FALSE TEACHERS!***

I have broken down the verses we will be looking at this morning into the following main points. They are,

EXAMPLES OF GOD'S JUDGMENT – II PETER 2:4-6

DELIVERANCE OF THE RIGHTEOUS – II PETER 2:7-9

So with that as our introduction, let's begin reading in II Peter chapter 2, beginning in verse 4 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study His Word and look at this topic –

JUDGMENT OF FALSE TEACHERS!

II PETER 2

VERSES 4-6

Here we see three groups of people that God brought judgment upon because of the false teaching, the immorality, the wickedness that they brought upon the people of this world. And the point being is that God is going to judge false teachers, not might!

God does give us a warning before judgment comes and that is exactly what He is doing here.

He wants us to understand that judgment has come in the past and you can see the evidence for it, so don't think He won't judge this world again – ***HE WILL!***

First of all, Peter deals with these fallen angels!

This judgment dealing with these fallen angels is controversial!

Who are these angels that sinned?

Obviously they are the ones who rebelled with Lucifer or Satan, but I believe it goes even farther than that. And I will show you why!

First of all, why do I believe it is not just all the angels that sinned?

The answer is simple. Not all those fallen angels are chained, for Satan has his demons or fallen angels at work now. We can see that and we even see that in the Scriptures, that not all angels are chained!

Then who are these angels that are chained in *TARTARUS* or the lowest Hell awaiting judgment?

This is not something that we want to think about, but I believe that the Scriptures are very clear on this.

In Genesis 6:1-2 we are told, **“Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.”**

The Living Bible puts these verses like this, **“Now a population explosion took place upon the earth. It was at this time that beings from the spirit world looked upon the beautiful earth women and took any they desired to be their wives.”**

That phrase, **“sons of God”** is used in the Scriptures to refer to angels and in this case, fallen angels.

Where do we see that?

We see this in Job 1:6, where we are told, **“Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them.”**

The Living Bible puts this verse like this, **“One day as the angels came to present themselves before the Lord, Satan, the Accuser, came with them.”**

The phrase “**sons of God**” is speaking of angels, and I believe that is what is being spoken of in Genesis chapter 6.

Now let me also say this, because not everyone agrees with what is spoken of in Genesis chapter 6, that it is speaking of angels.

And yes, this other view is probably the least controversial, but when you look at the Scriptures, they don't support this view. It may sound nice, make us more comfortable, but when you truly examine it, it just doesn't make any sense.

What is this view?

In this view they believe that the sons of God are the godly line of Seth, and the daughters of men are the ungodly line of Cain.

That sounds good and is the least controversial as I have said, but there are some problems with that, big problems.

First of all, when you look at the lineage of Seth, were they all godly?

Absolutely not! And for the most part they were not godly.

You see, at this point in time, from the lineage of Seth there was only one family that was godly, so that can't be it.

Not only that, but why were only the sons of Seth believers and only the daughters of Cain unbelievers? What about the daughters of Seth and the sons of Cain?

Here is another one we need to think about. Why would believers marrying unbelievers make God angry enough to wipe out almost all the earth's population except for eight people?

That does not make sense to me.

Now some would like to say that in the New Testament that term “**sons of God**” is used for believers, so why not here? (Matthew 5:9, Luke 20:36, Romans 8:14, Romans 8:19, Galatians 3:26)

Because that term, “**sons of God**” is never used in the Old Testament for believers.

We do see it spoken of three times in the Old Testament, but again, this is not referring to believers! (Job 1:6, Job 2:1, Job 38:7)

I do want to deal with some of the arguments that speak of this being people, just human beings regarding this phrase and they will go to Luke 3:38, which says, “**the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.**”

And the point here is that Adam was called “**the son of God**” and thus, this must be speaking of people, right?

No, that is not right!

Let me ask you this. Why is Adam and for that matter angels, called “**sons of God**”?

Because they were created by God!

That is what Luke is speaking about here.

If that is true, and it is, then why are we called “**sons of God**”?

Because, as believers, we are a direct creation of God through the new birth, being born again by the Spirit!

That is what Paul said in II Corinthians 5:17, “**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creatin; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.**”

One more point showing that this could not be speaking of the godly line of Seth and the ungodly line of Cain.

Just think about this one for a minute. Just because a believer and an unbeliever have children, it does not mean that they will produce some kind of ungodly offspring or Nephilim in the Hebrew.

Yes, God says we are not to unite with unbelievers, but just because they come together it surely doesn't mean they will produce some kind of unnatural offspring, that just does not make sense!

Not only that but as you look at the Old Testament you see godly Kings have some very wicked children and you see some very wicked Kings have some very godly children.

So to say that this is speaking of the godly line of Seth, these sons of God; and the ungodly line of Cain, the daughters of men, just is not supported by the Scriptures.

In fact, the translators of the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Old Testament Scriptures, which took place in around 250 B. C., translated the phrase "**sons of God**" here in Genesis 6:2 as - *ANGELS!*

They understood what was being said and we just don't want to even think about it because it is like some kind of bad horror movie.

We may not like it but that is what this is saying.

But isn't there problems with believing that these fallen angels cohabitated with women and had offspring?

Not really.

I do realize that some point to what Jesus said in Matthew 22:30 and say that angels can't have sex, but that is not what the text says.

Jesus said, "**For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven.**"

Henry M. Morris gives us this insight to what Jesus was saying. He wrote, *“When Jesus said that the angels in heaven do not marry, this does not necessarily mean that those who have been cast out of heaven were incapable of doing so.”*

Keep in mind that when angels are spoken of in the Scriptures, it is always with a masculine pronoun, **“he”** and they are always, always described as men. That is why they are called **“the sons of God.”**

And keep in mind that the angels we are talking about here in Genesis chapter 6 are fallen angels.

Let me show you how this all plays out and I think you will clearly see this has to be speaking about angels!

In Jude 6-7 we are told, **“And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.”**

First of all, we are also told by Jude, like what Peter is saying, that these fallen angels are chained!

Again, are all fallen angels chained?

Obviously not!

And we need to keep that in mind that not all of these fallen angels are chained, but some are. And I believe it is these angels who committed this sexual sin with the daughters of men that God has chained and one day will release during the Tribulation Period to bring about one of His judgments, the fifth trumpet judgment spoken of in Revelation chapter 9.

Thus, I believe these fallen angels cohabitated with women and produced “**giants**” or the fallen ones.

You see, it had to be sexual sin, they left their proper domain, the boundaries that God has set.

And in Jude 7, as he speaks of the sexual sin of Sodom and Gomorrah, he says that their sin was similar to these angels!

Why is that?

Because they too left their proper domain or the boundaries that God had set, they went after strange flesh, men having sex with men and women with women, these cities were filled with this sin.

And when Jude tells us that they went after “**strange flesh**” the Greek word for “**strange**” is *HETEROS* and it means that they went after something that was not natural to fulfill their lustful desires, to satisfy the flesh!

Thus, these angels are bound until Judgment Day, and like I said, I believe they are going to be released from the bottomless Pit, part of the fifth trumpet judgment spoken of in Revelation chapter 9, those demon locusts!

So why did this happen?

Satan was trying to contaminate the human race so that the Messiah could not be born from the seed of a woman.

And that is interesting to me because in Genesis 6:9 we are told, “**This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God.**”

I believe this is not only speaking of Noah living a life that was pleasing to God, but also his family was not corrupted with the fallen angels infecting his gene pool you might say.

In other words, we are told that he was “**perfect in his generations**” or that he was pure in his genetic profile!

And look at this judgment that came, first upon these fallen angels that co-habituated with women. These angels are now chained in Tartarus awaiting their final judgment.

I think that is what Peter is speaking of when he says that they are reserved for judgement, a judgment against a Christ rejecting world and God will use them accordingly.

Then, in II Peter 2:5 we see the next judgment come, related to what we just read here in this judgment about these fallen angels, and that is the judgment of the ancient world!

Now, why did God judge the ancient world?

Genesis 6:5 tells us, “**Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.**”

You see, the human race was contaminated with sin and these fallen angels who co-habituated with women, except for Noah and his family who found grace before God and were saved through the flood.

Now before the flood waters came, Noah was a preacher of righteousness, and for 120 years he spoke of the coming judgment to the people and they ignored him, went about their daily lives, refusing to listen until the judgment came and the floods destroyed them!

And there is a judgment of God coming soon, and the world is blind to what is coming, they too have shut their ears to what the Lord has warned them!

Now let me speak about this flood for just a minute because there are many today who believe this flood was just a local flood; it did not cover the face of the earth.

The Greek word for “**flood**” that Peter uses is *KATAKLUSMOS*, (kat-ak-looce-mos’) and from it we get our English word “*cataclysm*.”

Now what evidence do we have for a global flood?

There are billions of dead things, buried in rock layers, laid down by water, all over the earth! I thank Ken Ham for that one. Simple and yet it says it all!

The evidence for a global flood is everywhere and if it was not global but just a local flood, then God lied, for He said He would not destroy the earth by a flood again and He put a rainbow in the sky to remind us of His covenant with us.

If it was just a local flood, we see local floods all the time, but God is not a liar, He can't lie, it is not part of His nature and thus, this was a global flood!

And think about it. If this was just a local flood, why did God tell Noah to build an ark, which took him 120 years to build, when he could have told him just to move to another location!

Not only that, but when you read of what these flood waters covered, there is no way that this could be a local flood!

The warning is that you need to pay attention because just as God has judged mankind in the past, He is going to judge mankind once again!

And the only way to escape that judgment is by coming to Jesus and asking Him to forgive you of your sins and be Lord and Savior of your life. As soon as you do you are adopted into the family of God and before God's judgment comes upon a Christ rejecting world, you and all believers will be taken to be with the Lord – ***THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH!***

We will deal with this more as we read on in our study here this morning.

Tragically, as Peter tells us in II Peter 3:3-7, **“knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, ‘Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.’ For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.”**

In the last days there will be those who claim that the Lord is not coming back, that everything just continues on as it has been and will be!

And Peter wants them to remember what happened in the past, the judgement of God with a flood upon this world. And yes, Jesus is coming back, not as the Lamb of God to take away the sins of the world, but as the Lion from the tribe of Judah to pour out His wrath upon a Christ rejecting world.

Learn from the past, don't ignore it!

And then, in II Peter 2:6 we see the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Keep in mind that these cities along with Sodom and Gomorrah, located near the Salt Sea or the southeast corner of the Dead Sea were fertile and ideal for raising crops and animals. It must have been a beautiful area.

But, because of their sin, God condemned these cities to destruction and they were obliterated! Now, this area by the Dead Sea is a barren wasteland. It looks like the moon!

Why?

Because we can now see the evidence of what God has said about His judgment, and it is not to be ignored or believe it did not happen. The evidence is overwhelming, and I have seen it in person, and you can just look on the Internet and you will see pictures of what this area looks like today. The evidence is still there! (There are also pictures at the end of this study where you can see what this area looks like.)

And Peter tells us that this is an example of what will happen if you live like they did, ungodly!

I think we are there in this nation and I believe judgment is at the door!

Let me show you what I mean.

Today the sanctity of marriage in our nation is being weighed in the balances. The push for gay rights, for homosexual and lesbian marriages is being pushed upon us so that it may be accepted, we are allowing children to change the sex from boy to girl or girl to boy, even given kids hormone blockers to help with this process! And there is so much more.

And this world is rotting away.

And Peter is telling us not to forget Sodom and Gomorrah, how homosexuality flourished in that society and God brought judgment upon them, completely wiping those cities off the face of the earth. Learn the lesson, if you want to live that lifestyle, judgment will come!

These three examples of judgment show us the important principle that Peter wants to highlight. Notice the scope of God's judgment in these three examples.

He judged fallen angles – none are too lofty to be judged!

He judged the ancient world where there could have been some 5-8 billion people living at that time – none are too numerous to be judged!

And He judged Sodom and Gomorrah and their sexual sins – none are too base to be judged!

Thus, Peter’s point is just as judgment came upon these people, God will judge false teachers, they will not escape!

I do my best in teaching you the Word of God and I pray that God guides me as I do. I am not perfect, only God is.

But that is not an excuse to teach God’s Word without studying, just anyway you want.

James gives this warning to teachers of God’s Word. He wrote in James 3:1, **“My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.”**

And please understand that as you teach God’s Word there is a huge responsibility to present it accurately. We see today how much this is lacking.

With all this social justice garbage that is going on and being white is evil, listen to what one pastor, a big-name pastor, had to say.

We are told,

Tim Keller has become completely useless to the Church and does not represent the Scriptures or minister the gospel in any meaningful way.

Keller, who is completely given over to the social justice gospel - which the Apostle Paul describes as ***“another gospel”*** which is ***“no gospel at all”*** - now makes an outrageous claim that the Scriptures say that if you have white skin, you’re involved in injustice, ***“even if you didn’t do it.”***

“If you have white skin, it’s worth \$1m over a lifetime,” he says, “you have to say, I don’t deserve this . . . I am the product of and standing on the shoulders of other people who got that through injustice . . . the Bible says you are involved in injustice, and even if you didn’t actually do it.”

Let’s just be clear that the Bible does not say this, nor anything even remotely to suggest that this could be derived theologically from the Scriptures. In fact, it is antithetical [hostile] to the gospel. It is heresy.

- <https://bit.ly/34yvwMP>

It is absolute heresy and praise God that there are Christians who are calling him out on this heresy!

The trouble comes when people listen to this, and they believe this man instead of what the Word of God has to say!

Listen to what we are told in Ezekiel 3:17-19, **“Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from My mouth, and give them warning from Me: When I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. Yet, if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul.”**

You see, pastor/teachers and teachers Paul has made it very clear what they are to do. They are to, **“... watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.”** Hebrews 13:17.

Don't take this lightly, in fact, young believers should never be put in as a teacher until they mature in the faith as Paul said in I Timothy 3:6, **“not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil.”**

The great Scottish Reformer John Knox was so awed and burdened by the responsibility to declare God's Word faithfully that before his first sermon, he wept uncontrollably and had to be escorted from the pulpit until he could compose himself.

One pastor reportedly said of preaching what could also be said of teaching, ***“There is no special honor in preaching. There is only special pain. The pulpit calls those anointed to it as the sea calls its sailors; and like the sea, it batters and bruises and does not rest . . . To preach, to really preach, is to die naked a little at a time and to know each time you do it that you must do it again.”***

I wonder how many would want to teach if they truly thought of it like that?

And I don't think many people take this seriously enough today. They don't hold teachers accountable for what they are teaching and sometimes, when they do, the pastor gets mad and removes them from the church because they don't want to be accountable to anyone.

If you think I am going overboard with this, I am not and I will share this with you because I want to drive home this point of how dangerous false teaching, heresy is to a person's life, it can be deadly.

What I am going to share with you is what was born out of this person reading of Henrietta Mears's, who built up her Sunday School to unheard of proportions from the 1940's and 1950's to 4,000 people!

And it is out of that he wrote this,

Thumbing through her biography, I mentally contrasted it with the chilling experience I had in 1978 when my issue of *Time* magazine fell open to a series of pictures recording the life and death of another teacher, Jim Jones. The photographer similarly chronicled Jones's life, his coterie [camp] of disciples, his triumphs, and his end – the rotting bodies of hundreds of people in the infamous Jonestown massacre – an unforgettable testimony of the influence of a teacher for evil.

Teachers wield incredible power! Young or untaught minds in the hands of a skilled teacher are like clay in a potter's hands. Such a teacher is closely watched by his or her students, and often the teacher's attitudes and personal morals have as much influence as the information conveyed – perhaps more.

Casual advice from a teacher can direct the course of one's whole life. Phrases such as *"Have you considered the theatre?"* or *"I think you would make an excellent doctor"* often propel young lives into one career or another. We must realize what power teachers have at crucial times in tender lives – to crush the bloom or make it eternally flower!

- R. Kent Hughes, James – Father That Works, p. 126

That is why when opinions outweigh the Word of God, there is tremendous danger. Stick to the Word of God, it is not open for your interpretation or what you think it says, God says what He means, and it doesn't matter if we like it or not, it is to be taught and obeyed!

Thus - ***EXAMPLES OF GOD'S JUDGMENT!***

May we learn from them!

But what about the righteous, what happens to them?

Peter spoke of how God delivered Noah and his family at the time of the flood but now he is going to expound on how God knows how to deliver the godly from His judgment and punish those that deserve it!

As we will see, the - ***DELIVERANCE OF THE RIGHTEOUS!***

VERSES 7-9

Now when you read of the story of Lot in Genesis you would never come to the conclusion that he was a righteous man.

But Peter, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, gives to us some insight into this man named Lot and Peter tells us that Lot was "**righteous.**"

Again, just reading the story of Lot from Genesis, there is no way you would come to that conclusion and yet, I do think there is a big hint that Lot was different than the people who were living in Sodom. But that he was righteous, that is a tough one!

You may remember the story.

Abraham's nephew was Lot and Abraham was watching over him as they traveled. But their herds were getting too big, and they needed to separate, and Abraham told Lot to pick the area he wanted to live in, and he would go to another area.

Which shows the heart of Abraham here since he was older and thus, he could have just told Lot what area of land he wanted and then Lot could take what was left. But he didn't do that, he let Lot decide!

So Lot saw Sodom, it was beautiful, *the lust of the eyes*.

He coveted the land of Sodom, *the lust of the flesh*.

And Lot took Sodom for his home, *the pride of life*.

That is what John spoke of in I John 2:15-17. He wrote, **“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world - the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life - is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”**

For Lot, the lure of the world drew him in, and it tormented his righteous soul!

What was the problem with this city of Sodom, as well as the others?

The problem with this city was its wickedness and it was rampant! The norm was sexual immorality, homosexuality and again, that seemed to be practiced by most of the people of the city.

And, like I have said, Peter tells us that these conditions tormented or oppressed his soul. But that did not change his behavior.

The problem for Lot is that he failed to separate himself and his family from this ungodly living. And in the end, he lost everything because he was so closely associated with these things and his family couldn't let go!

Lot gives to us a picture of a Christian who refuses to separate himself from the influences of the world. And this world system is trying to conform Lot and the people of this world into what it wants them to be!

And what happened to Lot?

Like I have said, he was "**tormented**", and he was oppressed by these things!

Because of these things, Lot had enough of the Lord that he could not be happy in the world, and he had enough of the world in his life that he could not be happy in the Lord!

And now the judgment of God is going to be poured out upon Sodom and these other cities and as the angels warned Lot of this coming judgment, he tried to tell his sons-in-law, but they thought he was joking, "***The judgment of God, get real!***" and they died in the judgment!

His wife, as they left the city she looked back and turned into a pillar of salt.

And his two daughters who came out with him, they got him drunk and had sex with him, bearing children, who became the Moabites and Ammonites, enemies of the children of Israel.

And for Lot, I don't get it, but I guess he loved the world so much that the angles had to pull him out of the city, he didn't want to let go.

In other words, don't let the world or the things of this world have a grip on your life like that!

Now, in saying all that, what is Peter's point here?

His point is simple. God knows how to deliver the righteous from His judgment and He will punish the wicked!

Here's the thing, and I don't know why people go there, but they do. You see, there are some people who believe that we as Christians will go through part or all of the 7-year Tribulation Period.

I don't believe that is what the Scriptures are teaching us.

You see, we do have tribulation in this world but that is not from God, that is from Satan.

But when God pours out His wrath on a Christ rejecting world, like with Sodom, God knows how to deliver the godly out, like Lot, and judge the ungodly!

Before the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed, the pre-requisite to this destruction was that Lot had to be out.

Let me show you what I mean, and this is so clear.

In Genesis 19:22 we are told that the angel said to Lot for him to **“Hurry, escape there. For I cannot do anything until you arrive there . . .”**

And in Revelation 3:10 Jesus said to the faithful church, His Bride, **“Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from [out of] the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.”**

You see, the judgment is upon the earth dwellers, and we are citizens of heaven, this is not our home.

Remember what Paul wrote in I Thessalonians 5:9, as He is speaking of the Day of the Lord or the judgment of God and as he concludes he tells us, **“For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.”**

The Amplified Bible puts this verse like this, **“For God has not appointed us to [incur His] wrath [He did not select us to condemn us], but [that we might] obtain [His] salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah).”**

Thus, we will be kept out of this trial that is coming upon those who have rejected Christ and before that takes place, we will be caught up to be with the Lord, the Rapture will occur because, **“the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment.”** II Peter 2:9.

Let me make one more point before we move on.

Remember that at the time of the flood, spoken of in Genesis, there were three groups of people mentioned.

I know, *“What do you mean three?”*

Let me explain.

First of all, there were the unbelievers who perished in the Flood!

Then there was Noah and his family who were preserved through the Flood!

And we need to also remember that Enoch was there at this period of time, and Enoch was taken to heaven before the Flood!

What is my point?

My point is this.

The Tribulation Period is another judgment that is coming upon the whole world, and I believe we once again see that the Scriptures talk about three groups of people in relation to this event.

Again, let me explain.

First of all, there are the unbelievers who will perish in this Judgment!

Then, there are Jews that get saved during the Tribulation Period who will be preserved through this Judgment, the 144,000 sealed by God! (Also, within this group are Jew and Gentile believers who many are going to be martyred for their faith!)

But the last group is the Church who will be raptured before the Judgment!

Keep in mind that Enoch was not taken up by God at the midpoint of the flood, or post flood, but prior to the flood, just as the church is taken up before the Tribulation Period begins!

Why is that?

Because **“the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment.”** II Peter 2:9.

As I begin to close our study this morning, let me share with you what the Psalmist said in Psalm 1.

We are told, **“Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper. The ungodly are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind drives away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish.”**

For Lot, he was stuck between a rock and a hard place. Wickedness surrounded him and he did sit down with these men at the gate of the city.

But the Lord is warning us not to walk with the ungodly, do not stand in the path of sinners and don't sit down with them.

Then what are we to do?

We are to delight ourselves in God's Word!

We are to study and meditate upon God's Word!

As we do our faith will grow!

As we do we will bear fruit!

And like Peter said, the righteous will escape the wrath of God!

But the unrighteous, the ungodly will perish in the judgment of God.

And yes, Peter is speaking of these false teachers with their false doctrine, but that is not the whole point. This is for every person who has rejected Jesus, judgment is coming.

And yes, we are not Lot but like Lot, God will deliver us, and we can rest in that!

We have seen this morning – ***EXAMPLES OF JUDGMENT!***

If you don't think it is going to happen, then look at the past and see that what God had spoken did come to pass and thus, what God is speaking forth today, His judgment is coming upon a Christ rejecting world!

The wonderful thing for believers is that there is – ***DELIVERANCE OF THE RIGHTEOUS!***

And I will close with this for you to think about.

After church, where she had been taught about the Second Coming, a little girl was quizzing her mother.

“Mommy, do you believe Jesus will come back?”

“Yes.”

“Today?”

“Yes.”

“In a few minutes?”

“Yes, dear.”

“Mommy, would you comb my hair?”

- Don Hussong

May we live with that kind of faith and have our hair combed, in a sense, because our Bridegroom is coming for His Bride before He pours out His wrath upon a Christ rejecting world!

As John said, **“Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”** I John 3:2-3.

DEAD SEA AREA





