

2 Peter 2:1-9

2 But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. ² And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. ³ And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

⁴ For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains² of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment; ⁵ if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; ⁶ if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; ⁷ and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked ⁸ (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard); ⁹ then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment,

2 Peter Outline

- I. Remember the Greatness of Salvation (1:1-11)
- II. Trust the Certainty of Scripture (1:12-21)

III. Beware of Deceptive False Teachers (2:1-22)

- A. High Alert for False Teachers (vs 1-3)
 - 1. A Breach Has Been Made (vs 1a) - OT False Prophets
 - 2. This Isn't Over Yet (vs 1b) - NT False Teachers
 - 3. Casualties are High (vs 2-3a) - Many follow sensuality & the truth blasphemed
 - 4. Retribution is Near (vs 3b) - condemnation is not idle, destruction is not asleep
- B. Divine Precedent for False Teachers (vs 4-8)

IV. Hope in the Promised Future (3:1-16)

1 Peter 5:8

⁸ Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Peter's Plan

Know your Salvation
Know your Sanctification
Know your Scriptures
Know False Teachers



Fight the Battles
& Win the War

2 Corinthians 10:3-4

³ For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.

But false teachers were & are flourishing! Is God really going to judge them?

B. Divine Precedent for False Teachers (vs 4-8)

1. Supernatural Judgment (vs 4)

2. World-Wide Judgment (vs 5)
3. Hellfire Judgment (vs 6)
4. Righteous Rescue (vs 7-8)

4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment;

“For if” - transition from vs 3 “Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.”

- Not “if” as if there’s a question to its result but more of “since”

“Angels” - Gr. ἄγγελος (angelos) - messengers of God, envoy, ambassador

- Created beings during Creation week
- Spiritual beings that can take human form
- In the service of God in various ways in scripture
- In the OT over 200 times, in the NT over 175 times
- Referred to in different forms, functions & responsibilities as:
 - Archangels, Cherubim, Holy Ones, Hosts, Living Creatures, Ministering Spirit, Seraphim, Princes, Stars, Sons of God & Watchers
- Have names - *Michael & Gabriel* are named in Scripture
- Responsible to obey and honor God, just like humans

Demons - fallen angels, spiritual beings who have sinned

- Since angels are on a conditional standing before God, they are not offered a means of forgiveness or redemption
- Therefore Satan and his fallen angels have only judgment and the wrath of God in their future

Isaiah 14:12-14 (*in the section referring to the King of Babylon (directly) but describing Satan*)

- 12 “How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star (*Latin “Lucifer”*), son of Dawn!
How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low!
- 13 You said in your heart, ‘**I will** ascend to heaven;
above the stars of God **I will** set my throne on high;
I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north;
- 14 **I will** ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’

Luke 10:18 (*When the seventy-two returned from their ministry training mission and rejoiced that even the demons were subject to them*)

- 18 And he said to them, “**I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.**”

Revelation 12:4, 7-9

4 His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it. ...⁷ Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, ⁸ but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. ⁹ And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

From the time of his fall, Satan and his demons secretly move around the world to permeate the church, corrupt the plan of God, and entice the people of God into wickedness - all for their intense hatred of Yahweh.

Luke 8:28, 30-31 (*Story of demon-possessed man of the Gadarenes*)

²⁸ When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him and said with a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not **torment me.**" ...

³⁰ Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "**Legion,**" for many demons had entered him. ³¹ And they begged him not to command them to depart into the **abyss.**

Matthew 8:29 (*Matthew's account*) And behold, they cried out, "What have you to do with us, O Son of God? **Have you come here to torment us before the time?**"

Revelation 9:1, 11 (*Fifth Trumpet Judgment*)

9 And the fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a star fallen from heaven to earth, and he was given the key to the shaft of the **bottomless pit.**

¹¹ They have as king over them the angel of the **bottomless pit.** His name in Hebrew is Abaddon (*destruction*), and in Greek he is called Apollyon (*destroyer*).

**Some demons are unbound and roam across the planet doing Satan's bidding
Some demons are bound in a place called the Abyss where they are being tormented**

Genesis 6:1-4

6 When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, ² the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. ³ Then the Lord said, "My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years." ⁴ The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when **the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them.** These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown.

Jude 6

⁶ And the angels who **did not stay within their own position** of authority, but left their proper dwelling, **he has kept in eternal chains** under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day—

1 Peter 3:18-20

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ **in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison,** ²⁰ **because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah,** while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water.

4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment;

"Sinned" - Gr. ἁμαρτάνω (hamartanō) - do wrong, act contrary to the will and law of God
Systematic Theology - Hamartiology - the Study of the origin, nature & consequences of Sin

“Cast them into hell” (ESV, NAS) “down into Tartarus” (HCB), “down to the pit” (LSB)
Gr. ταρταρώ (tartarō) - name for the abode of the damned

- only time used in NT
- Term from Greek culture that was the deepest place of hell for the most wicked of prisoners or, in Greek mythology, for the Titans
- In Homer’s work, the *Iliad* (c. 8th century BC), Zeus asserts that Tartarus is "as far beneath Hades as heaven is above earth."

“Committed” - Gr. παραδίδωμι (paradidōmi) - hand over to authority

Matthew 5:25

²⁵ Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser **hand** (paradidōmi) you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison.

“Chains” (ESV), “Pits” (NAS) - Gr. σείρα (seira)

“Gloomy darkness” - Gr. ζόφος (zophos) - blackness
Hebrews 12:18, 2 Peter 2:17, Jude 6,13

“Judgment” - Gr. κρίσις (krisis) - legal decision, authority to judge, court of justice

Peter’s example of Divine Precedent is that God has already judged and has a future judgment planned for the highest of created beings, angels who have fallen from their place of glory. If Yahweh has kept them for judgment, He is certainly holding these false teachers who pervert the Word of God for similar judgment.

B. Divine Precedent for False Teachers (vs 4-8)

1. Supernatural Judgment (vs 4)
- 2. World-Wide Judgment (vs 5)**
3. Hellfire Judgment (vs 6)
4. Righteous Rescue (vs 7-8)

⁵ if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;

Genesis 6:5-8

⁵ The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. ⁶ And the Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. ⁷ So the Lord said, “I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them.” ⁸ But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.

“Herald” - Gr. κήρυξ (kēryx) - preacher, proclaimer

- In Greek mythology, Hermes was the herald (kēryx) for Zeus

2 Timothy 1:11

¹¹ for which I was appointed a **preacher** and apostle and teacher,

“Flood” - Gr. κατακλυσμός (*kataklysmos*) - deluge, inundation

- where we get “cataclysm”
- Only used four times in the NT time (other three by Jesus - Matthew 24:38-39, Luke 17:27)
- Key note here is that Peter and Jesus in the gospels confirm the flood as real, not a myth

“World” - Gr. κόσμος (*kosmos*) - universe, earth, world system, people, adornment

- Variety of meanings

Mark 16:15

¹⁵ And he said to them, “Go into all the **world** and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.

This Divine Precedent is complete World-Wide Judgment on all but eight people and their entire system of wickedness. The Lord will certainly judge the debauchery and sensuality of the false teachers and the hordes of people who follow them.

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

Genesis 13:12-13

¹² Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled among the cities of the valley and moved his tent as far as Sodom. ¹³ **Now the men of Sodom were wicked, great sinners against the Lord.**

Genesis 19:1-28 (Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah)

Vs 1 The two angels come to Sodom in the evening

Vs 2-3 Lot met them at the city gate and convinced them to come home with him

Vs 4-5 “the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both young and old, all the people to the last man, surrounded the house...bring them out to us that we may know them”

Vs 6-9 Lot tried to reason with them (horribly) but was verbally accosted

Vs 10-11 Angels pulled Lot to safety and blinded the men of Sodom so “they wore themselves out groping for the door”

Vs 12-22 Angels told, then repeated, then forced Lot to leave with his wife and daughters

Genesis 19:23-26

²³ The sun had risen on the earth when Lot came to Zoar. ²⁴ Then **the Lord rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire from the Lord out of heaven.** ²⁵ And he overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. ²⁶ But Lot's wife, behind him, looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.

Jude 7

⁷ just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.

Sodom and Gomorrah used more than 20 times in the Bible as an example of the punishment the wicked (Isaiah 1:9-10, Jeremiah 23:14, Lamentations 4:6, Amos 4:11, Zephaniah 2:9, Matthew 10:15, Luke 10:12, Romans 9:29)

Matthew 11:23-24

²³ And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You will be brought down to Hades. For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. ²⁴ But I tell you that **it will be more tolerable on the day of judgment** for the land of Sodom than for you.”

Think of the false teachers of Peter’s day who could have been alive when Jesus walked and taught. Think of the false teachers today who have a fuller revelation, the complete inspired Word of God and thousands of years of church history substantiating it. The Divine Precedent for a fierce, fiery judgment on these God-hating reprobates is very clear.

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*⁷ and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked
⁸ (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard);*

Lot called “Righteous” three times

- He didn’t act righteous in the biblical accounts we have, moving to Sodom, offering up his daughters to the perverts, hesitating to leave the city, drunkenness, incest
- He was counted righteous because of the Righteousness of God forgiving his sins and redeeming this dead sinner for the Glory of God
- Imagine our worst thoughts and deeds being displaying in the pages of Holy Writ

“Rescued” - Gr. ρύομαι (rhuomai) - delivered, from a danger that is severe and acute

Matthew 6:13

¹³ And lead us not into temptation,
but **deliver** (rhuomai) us from evil.

“Greatly distressed” - Gr. καταπονέω (kataponeō)- mistreated, worn out by an experience, exhausting

Acts 7:24 - Illustration of Moses coming to the aid of his fellow Jew who was being oppressed (kataponeō)

“Sensual” - Gr. ἀσέλγεια (aselgeia)

- Same as verse 2

“Wicked” (ESV), “Unprincipled Men” (NAS), “Immoral” HCB - Gr. ἄθεσμος (athesmos) - lawless one, vile people or society, illegal, impious

- Only found in 2 Peter 2:7, 3:17

2 Peter 2:4-8

“*Tormenting*” - Gr. βασανίζω (*basanizō*) - torture, experience anguish, suffer, be in pain

“*Lawless*” (ESV), - Gr. ἄνομος (*anomos*) - transgressing the law by not regarding it, wicked

Peter here is comparing False Teachers to the wicked, immoral, and lawless inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah. God’s people who suffer under their teaching, their lives, are being tormented in their righteous souls (whether they know it or not). Unfortunately, there are MANY false converts willingly following these charlatans to feed their own lusts.

Pray for people, pray for your family and friends who are in the chains of darkness because of these False Teachers. If God rescued Lot and destroyed the entire plain of cities by fire from heaven, He will be faithful to rescue You, God’s remnant, God’s church from the battle you’re now in against False Teachers.

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2 Peter 2:9

⁹ then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment

Additional Resources:

2 Peter 2:4

Ezekiel 28:12-16 (*Description of Satan within the **Lament over the King of Tyre***)

- ¹² “Son of man, raise a lamentation over the king of Tyre, and say to him, Thus says the Lord God:
“You were the signet of perfection,
full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.
- ¹³ You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering,
sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, emerald, and carbuncle;
and crafted in gold were your settings and your engravings.
On the day that you were created they were prepared.
- ¹⁴ You were an anointed guardian cherub. I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God;
in the midst of the stones of fire you walked.
- ¹⁵ You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created,
till unrighteousness was found in you.
- ¹⁶ In the abundance of your trade you were filled with violence in your midst, and you sinned;
so I cast you as a profane thing from the mountain of God, and I destroyed you, O guardian
cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.

Revelation 20:1-3, 10

20 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. ²And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, ³and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while.

¹⁰ and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Cast them into hell is actually the translation of a single word, *tartarōsas*. The verb, used only here in the New Testament, is derived from Tartarus, which in Greek mythology identified a subterranean abyss that was even lower than Hades (hell). Tartarus came to refer to the abode of the most wicked spirits, where the worst rebels and criminals received the severest divine punishment. Much like Jesus used the term *gehenna* (the name for Jerusalem’s garbage dump, where fires burned continuously) to illustrate the inextinguishable torments of eternal anguish (Matt. 5:22, 29–30; 10:28; 18:9; 23:15, 33; Mark 9:43, 45, 47; Luke 12:5), Peter used a familiar word from popular Greek thought to designate hell. The pseudepigraphal book of *1 Enoch*, a well-known work to most New Testament Jews (cf. Jude 14), also mentions Tartarus (1:9). Peter must have been confident that his readers understood exactly what he meant, since he offered them no additional explanation of the term.

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2005). [2 Peter and Jude](#) (p. 85). Chicago: Moody Publishers.

5020. τάρταρῶν **tartarōō**, *tar-tar-ō’-o*; from Τάρταρος **Tartarōs** (the deepest *abyss* of Hades); to *incarcerate* in eternal torment: — cast down to hell.

Strong, J. (2009). [A Concise Dictionary of the Words in the Greek Testament and The Hebrew Bible](#) (Vol. 1, p. 71). Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software.

τάρταρῶν, *I send to Tartarus* (Tartarus being in the Greek view a place of punishment under the earth, to which, for example, the Titans were sent).

Souter, A. (1917). [A Pocket Lexicon to the Greek New Testament](#) (p. 257). Oxford: Clarendon Press.

“Lucifer”

- In scripture, angels and demons are referred to as “stars” (Revelation 8:10-11, 9:1).
- Peter refers to Jesus as the “Morning Star” in 2 Peter 1:19 and then John refers to it in Revelation 2:28, 22:16.
- In the Old Testament, the only place “Day Star” or “Star of the Morning” is mentioned is in Isaiah 14:12 “*How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low!*” This whole section of scripture is referring to the arrogance of the King of Babylon but directly to the fall of Satan as described in Isaiah 14:9-15.
- This section of scripture describes Satan as a glorious created being that tried to ascend to the heights of God’s glory and was cast out of heaven because of his pride.
- In the 4th Century A.D., the Bible was translated into Latin by Jerome and became known as “The Vulgate” or the Latin Vulgate.
- The original Hebrew for “Morning Star” is הַיְלֵל (*hê-lēl*).
- The Latin translated word for “Morning Star” is “lucifer”.
- Even though “lucifer” is just the word for the morning star (Venus) that precedes the Sun in the early morning sky, it became a name for Satan because of its association with him in Isaiah 14.

2 Peter 2:5

Flood translates *kataklysmos*, from which the English *cataclysm* derives. The Genesis account, along with current geological evidence, indicates that the Flood truly was *cataclysmic* in every sense (cf. Gen. 7:10–24). Because of man’s sinfulness, God destroyed every person and every land animal (except those in the ark), covering the entire planet with water—even the peaks of the highest mountains (Gen. 7:19–20). (For a detailed biblical and scientific examination of the Flood, see John C. Whitcomb, Jr., and Henry M. Morris, *The Genesis Flood* [Grand Rapids: Baker, 1961]; for a concise defense of the biblical doctrine of a worldwide flood, see Morris, *Science and the Bible*, rev. ed. [Chicago: Moody, 1986], chap. 3, “Science and the Flood.”)

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2005). [2 Peter and Jude](#) (p. 88). Chicago: Moody Publishers.

2 Peter 2:6

Luke 17:28-29

²⁸ Likewise, just as it was in the days of Lot—they were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building, ²⁹ but on the day when Lot went out from Sodom, fire and sulfur rained from heaven and destroyed them all— ³⁰ so will it be on the day when the Son of Man is revealed.

2 Peter 3:7, 10 - Peter declares coming judgment

God’s coming judgment - Matthew 25:41, Romans 1:18, 2:5, Ephesians 5:6, 1 Thessalonians 2:16, 2 Thessalonians 1:8, Hebrews 10:26-27, Revelation 6:17

Matthew 25:41

⁴¹ “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’”

2 Peter 2:4-8

2:6 The third example of God's judgment focuses on the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. Unlike Jude (v. 7), Peter did not identify the sin of the cities but directed attention to their judgment. Probably there was no need to highlight the sin since it was well known both from the Scriptures and postbiblical tradition. In any case, Peter emphasized the result of God's judgment in that the cities were reduced "to ashes" (*teprōsas*). The Old Testament itself does not say the cities were burned to ashes, though it is a fair deduction from the fire that leveled the cities (Gen 19:23–29). It was likely a common idea that the cities turned to ashes, for Philo attests this very idea (*Drunkenness* 223; *On the Life of Moses* 2.56). Perhaps Peter brought attention to this phenomenon since it functioned as hard evidence in his day that the cities were indeed destroyed, for this theme emerged in postbiblical writings. "Evidence of their wickedness still remains: a continually smoking wasteland, plants bearing fruit that does not ripen" (*Wis* 10:7). Josephus said: "In fact, vestiges of the divine fire and faint traces of five cities are still visible. Still, too, may one see ashes reproduced in the fruits, which from their outward appearance would be thought edible, but on being plucked with the hand dissolve into smoke and ashes. So far are the legends about the land of Sodom borne out by ocular evidence" (*J.W.* 4.484–85). Philo made similar remarks (*Abraham* 141): "Even to this day there are seen in Syria monuments of the unprecedented destruction that fell upon them, in the ruins, and ashes, and sulphur, and smoke, and the dusky flame which still is sent up from the ground as of a fire smouldering beneath" (*Moses* 2.56).

Schreiner, T. R. (2003). [1, 2 Peter, Jude](#) (Vol. 37, pp. 339–340). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

2 Peter 2:7-8

8. *In seeing and hearing.* The common explanation is, that Lot was just in his eyes and ears, because all his senses abhorred the crimes of Sodom. However, another view may be taken of his seeing and hearing, so as to make this the meaning, that when the just man lived among the Sodomites, he tormented his soul by seeing and hearing; for we know that he was constrained to see and hear many things which greatly vexed his mind. The purport of what is said then is, that though the holy man was surrounded with every kind of monstrous wickedness, he yet never turned aside from his upright course.

But Peter expresses more than before, that is, that just Lot underwent voluntary sorrows; as it is right that all the godly should feel no small grief when they see the world rushing into every kind of evil, so the more necessary it is that they should groan for their own sins. And Peter expressly mentioned this, lest when impiety everywhere prevails, we should be captivated and inebriated by the allurements of vices, and perish together with others, but that we might prefer this grief, blessed by the Lord, to all the pleasures of the world.

Calvin, J., & Owen, J. (2010). [Commentaries on the Catholic Epistles](#) (pp. 398–399). Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software.

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Clouds Without Water message exposing false teachers
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