

2 Peter 2:4-9 The Condemnation of False Teachers

False Teachers – Their Condemnation

For if... then...

Verse 4 through verse 9 forms one long, complex conditional sentence in the Greek text.

The “ifs” in verses 4, 6, and 7 are all first class conditionals and could be translated as “since”.

“If God has historically established a pattern of reserving judgment of the wicked for the proper time while rescuing His righteous people, *then* we can be confident that He will do the same in the future – rescue us from the coming wrath and leave the wicked false teachers behind for judgment.”¹ Chuck Swindoll

2:4-9 False Teachers – Their Condemnation

Three examples of God’s judgment:

1 – The angels who sinned – verse 4

2 – The ancient world – verse 5

3 – Sodom and Gomorrah – verse 6

Two examples of God’s provision:

1 – Noah and his family – verse 5

2 – Lot – verses 7-8

Verse 4

The angels when they sinned – If we compare Genesis 6 with Jude 6-7 and 1 Peter 3:19-20 it appears that these were fallen angels who committed the gross immorality of cohabiting with women. Satan’s purpose was to corrupt the seed of the woman so the Messiah could not come.

But cast them into hell – The word for *hell* is *Tartarus* and is only used here in the New Testament. It was considered a place of bondage and darkness. One commentator described it as “*the hellhole of hell*”.

Pits of darkness reserved for judgment – Perhaps the “*abyss*” of Luke 8:31 and Revelation 20:3.

Verse 5

And did not spare the ancient world – The account of the flood in Genesis 6-8 is a picture of God’s certain judgment. Even though judgment was certain the Lord gave mankind 120 years to repent. Only Noah and his family escaped when the judgment finally began.

Verse 6

And if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction – Genesis 18-19 describes this event. Lot bargained with the Lord to save Sodom and Gomorrah and the Lord was willing but there were none righteous to be found.

Made them an example to those who would live ungodly thereafter – The word *example* means “model or pattern”. Those who live an ungodly lifestyle similar to those in the days of Sodom and Gomorrah should heed this verse. God has given His warning.

Verse 7

Rescued righteous Lot – There is no doubt that Peter is thinking in terms of end-time judgment and is using Lot as a type of the church being delivered in the rapture. Note that Jesus used these same two events in Luke 17:26-30 in describing the coming of sudden judgment during the end times.

¹ Swindoll, Charles R. *Insights on James, 1 & 2 Peter*. Zondervan, 2010, page 293.

Peter and Paul use the phrase “*like a thief in the night*” (2 Peter 3:10, 1 Thess. 5:2) in the context of the Lord’s sudden coming. Just as Lot was rescued from Sodom and Gomorrah we shall be rescued from the wrath of God that will be poured out during the tribulation (1 Thess. 5:9).

“God could not judge Sodom until Lot and his family were out of the city. Likewise, it is my belief that God will not send wrath on this world until He takes His own people out and home to heaven.”²
Warren Wiersbe

Verse 9

Verse 9 is the conclusion. Follow the train of thought...

If God sent judgment on angels...

If God judged the ancient world...

If God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah...

Then it follows that...

Two conclusions:

1 – The Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation.

2 – The Lord knows how to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment.

There is a coming day of judgment for all creatures. Why does God delay? Peter gives one reason in 3:9 –

The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

² Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *The Bible exposition commentary* (Vol. 2, p. 451). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.