

Everything We Need – 2 Peter – Week 5 – 2 Peter 2:4-22

2 Peter 2:4-9: *For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them in chains of darkness 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; 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 depraved conduct of the lawless 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 the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment.*

INTRO to Series – “Everything We Need: 2 Peter”:

-As we approach the midpoint of this year, the challenges around us are too many to count. It's sometimes hard to know who to trust, how to think, and how to keep our hearts from growing cold. In the Apostle Peter's second letter to the Church, God assures us that through His divine power, we have EVERYTHING WE NEED to live a faithful life in godliness and goodness. As we study this letter together, we will be encouraged further that when our lives are built upon God's firm foundation, we can stand firm no matter our circumstances and no matter what others do around us.

INTRO to **2 Peter 2:4-22:** In Chapter 2, Peter begins dealing with one of the main issues that prompted the writing of this letter—the false teachers who had infiltrated the church. Most of the verses in this chapter parallel the Book of Jude. (see **Jude 1:3-4** below) Both 2 Peter 2 and Jude describe in clear terms how God deals with those who influence people to reject His ways by promoting sin and falsehood.

•God punishes evil and rescues the righteous. (vs. 4-9)

-In these verses, Peter refers to (3) stories from the Book of Genesis, providing examples of judgment and examples of rescue.

Examples of Judgment:

- 1.) The angels who rebelled against God
- 2.) The people in the days of Noah
- 3.) The cities of Sodom and Gomorrah

Examples of Rescue:

- 1.) Noah, a preacher of righteousness and his family
- 2.) Lot, a righteous man who was distressed by the depraved conduct of the lawless and living among the day after day was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard.

-Just as God did not spare the angels who rebelled against him, or sinful humanity in the days of Noah, or the wicked and oppressive people of Sodom and Gomorrah, so he will not spare the false teachers if they do not repent. At the same time, just as God rescued and protected faithful people like Noah and Lot, so also *the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment.* (vs. 9)

•**Those who sow evil and falsehood will reap destruction. (vs. 10-16)**

-The false teachers about whom Peter is warning “heap abuse” or “blaspheme” angels who, according to Scripture, are a part of the economy with which God rules the world. It should not be surprising that those who reject God’s authority have utter disregard and disrespect towards his supernatural agents of authority.

-Peter compares the false teachers and those leading God’s people astray to “*unreasoning animals, creatures of instinct,*” not because of the color of their skin, their country of origin, or their social status. He describes them this way because of their evil and sinful behavior motivated only their base level and selfish desires.

-Like Balaam in the OT: *They will be paid back with harm for the harm they have done.*

•**Sin and falsehood enslave, but the Good News of Jesus Christ sets free. (17-22)**

-The false teachers and those leading God’s people astray are also:

- Springs that run dry: they have nothing life-giving to offer – instead they speak empty and boastful words.
- Mists – like vapors that have no substance and pass away quickly, but they are driven by a storm – in other words they blow through quickly and provide no actual nourishment to the land.

-The darkest of darkness is where they are headed and where they will take you – they only appeal to the lustful desires of the flesh and entice people who have almost escaped error pulling back onto the destructive path.

-They promise freedom, but they cannot give it because they are not actually free. They are enslaved by their own sin “*people are slaves to whatever has mastered them.*” (19b)

-They had taken steps down the path that leads to life by following Jesus, but instead turned around and chose the path that leads to destruction again.

-If Peter seems angry – it’s a righteous anger. That of a shepherd fiercely trying to protect his sheep. His aim is not that people hate the false prophets, but to know how to recognize them by their words and in the fruit they produce, to flee from them if under their influence, and to remove them if inside the Church.

Other Scriptures Referenced:

Jude 1:3-4: *Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people. ⁴ For certain individuals whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.*

-Biblical teaching about the common content and lifestyles of false prophets and false teachers (this week and next):

- *“Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of my pasture!” declares the Lord...
The prophets follow an evil course
and use their power unjustly...
“Both prophet and priest are godless;
even in my temple I find their wickedness,”
declares the Lord...
They strengthen the hands of evildoers,
so that not one of them turns from their wickedness...
they fill you with false hopes...
They speak visions from their own minds,
not from the mouth of the Lord.
They keep saying to those who despise me,
‘The Lord says: You will have peace.’
And to all who follow the stubbornness of their hearts
they say, ‘No harm will come to you.’...
I did not send these prophets,
yet they have run with their message;
I did not speak to them,
yet they have prophesied. (Jeremiah 23)*
- *people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴ They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. (2 Timothy 4)*
- *they are conceited and understand nothing. They have an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions ⁵ and constant friction between people of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and think godliness is a means to financial gain. (1 Tim 6)*

Other Quotes/Resources:

-“If God does not someday judge America, he will have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah.” –Ruth Graham