

Remembering Truth When it Really Counts

*“... a primer to
guard against false
teaching by...”*

Understanding Our Adversaries (2:3b–10) False Teachers Will be Judged



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2 Peter Outline – To date...

2 Peter										
True and False Prophecy										
Chapter 1							Chapter 2			
Understanding our Faith				Understanding our Scriptures			Understanding our Adversaries			
Greeting to the Saints	Our Quest: To Know Our God	Our Journey: To Become More Like Him	Our Results: To be Effective	Our Reminder: To Remember	Our Eyewitnesses: The Apostles	Our Inspiration: The Holy Spirit	Their Infiltration: False Teachers are Deceptive	Their Iniquity: False Teachers will be Judged	Their Impurity: False Teachers are Perverted	Their Impact: False Teachers are Devastating
2 Pet. 1:1-2	2 Pet. 1:2-3	2 Pet. 1:4-7	2 Pet. 1:8-11	2 Pet. 1:12-15	2 Pet. 2:16-18	2 Pet. 1:19-21	2 Pet. 2:1-3a	2 Pet. 2:3b-10a	2 Pet. 1:10b-16	3 Pet. 1:18-22
Development of Faith							Denunciation of False Teachers			
Holiness							Heresy			
True Knowledge							False Knowledge			
Cultivating Christlike Character							Condemning False Teachers			




What I “know” about God is that...

From 2 Pet. 2:3a-10...

He is Truth! (Isa. 65:16; Ps. 89:14; Ps. 146:6; Tit. 1:2; Prov. 6:19)

GOD'S
TRUTH
WILL
UNCOVER
SATAN'S
LIES.

He Knows! ...He knows how to rescue the
righteous and judge the wicked! (2 Pet. 2:9-10)



False Teachers will be Judged (2 Pet. 2:3b-10)

Our Objectives: What does God want us to learn?

God knows how to deliver the godly, and how to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment.

Our Adversaries (2:1)



As Peter begins Chap. 2, he explains that false teachers will have a marked degree of success, humanly speaking, and they will have many followers. One can become disheartened by the apparent success of these false teachers in contrast to true believers who seem to be constantly struggling. Why? (See Ps. 73)

“...in their greed they will exploit you...” But remember, that they are *“bringing swift destruction upon themselves.”* (v.1) And at the end of verse 3, *“...their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.”* What does Peter mean by this statement? (2 Pet. 3:5-6; Gal.6:7)

1. Do not be deceived, judgment is coming. (Isa. 9:14-15; 28:15-22)
2. It will happen on God's timetable. (Ps. 73:19; 2 Pet. 2:3; 2 Thess. 1:7-10; Prov. 29:1)
3. False teachers will feel the full wrath of almighty God. (Prov. 19:5)



Our Adversaries (2:3b-10)

The structure of the text is indicated by the words “if” (vs. 4,6,7) and “then” (v.9). He uses three examples from past history:

The Angels who sinned in verse 4

The flood in the time of Noah in verse 5 and,

The situation with Sodom and Gomorrah in verses 6-7.

Understanding Our Adversaries

2 Peter 2:3b-10

3b...their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

(The angels who sinned)

4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment;

5 and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;

(The flood – God judges and preserves)

6 and if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing them to ashes, having made them an example to those who would live ungodly lives thereafter; *(The principle of judgment and deliverance demonstrated)*

7 and if He rescued righteous Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men

8 (for by what he saw and heard that righteous man, while living among them, felt his righteous soul tormented day after day by their lawless deeds),

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

10 and especially those who indulge the flesh in its corrupt desires and despise authority.



Our Adversaries (2 Pet. 2:3b-10)

Peter will make two points from the first part of verse 4 through the first part of verse 10:

- i. God does not spare the wicked, no matter who they are and no matter how many are involved.
- ii. God does rescue the righteous, no matter who they are and no matter how many are involved.

Verses 4-8 are written to document the statement that the destruction of false teachers has, from long ago, been a certainty, and at the same time reaffirms that those who diligently pursue godly character, God will not allow to fall, but will rescue them from worldly temptations (2 Pet. 1:8-11)

Certainty of God's Judgment (2:3b-10)

Peter's 1st Example: 4"*For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment.*" I understand Peter to be referring to the judgment of fallen angels of Gen. 6:1-8 (1 Pet. 3:18-20; Jude 6-7) and their confinement into hell and awaiting their final day of judgment. Others may view it as the reference to the original fall of Satan and his angels. (Isa. 14:12-15; Ezek. 28:11-19)

place of suffering and punishment

1. Hell – (Greek) tartaros – for the wicked.
2. "committed to pits of darkness". Ultimate sentence - Hell
(Matt. 8:12)
3. Reserved for judgment (Rev. 20:10; Matt. 8:29; Luke 8:31)

Point: Even Angels cannot escape the judgment of God
when they sin.



Certainty of God's Judgment (2:3b-10)

Peter's 2nd Example: 5“and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;” Peter is referring to the God's destruction of sinful men by means of the flood during the time of Noah (Gen. 6: 5-13).

“...but preserved Noah” – Peter adds another dimension that was not mentioned in the example of the angels.

God preserved the righteous when He judged the wicked

Noah is called “a preacher of Righteousness”. For 120 years, Noah was proclaiming the necessity of Righteousness before a Holy God – only 7 believed!

God is merciful and patient. (1 Pet. 3:20; 2 Pet. 3:9)

Point: God judges all the wicked but He preserves the righteous, no matter how few are involved.

Certainty of God's Judgment (2:3b-10)

Peter's 3rd Example: 6 *“and if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing them to ashes, having made them an example to those who would live ungodly lives thereafter; 7 and if He rescued righteous Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men 8 (for by what he saw and heard that righteous man, while living among them, felt his righteous soul tormented day after day by their lawless deeds)”* Peter is referring to the God's destruction of sinful men again by means of the fire and brimstone during the time of Lot (Gen. 18: 17-25; 19).

How can Peter call Lot a righteous man? (Gen. 19:9; 2 Pet. 2:7; Mark 3:5; Rom. 8:18-25)

Point: The principle of Judgment and deliverance, demonstrated in the flood and in the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, is not one which Peter came up with. (Deut. 29:23; Isa 1:9-10; Luke 17:26-30; Rom 9:29; Jude 7 Rev. 11:8)

Certainty of God's Judgment (2:3b-10)

If ancient history teaches us anything, let it be this:

God knows how to deliver....

Peter is saying that God is able to keep the righteous *righteous*, even when they are living in an *unrighteous environment*.

How does this passage encourage us as believers living in a corrupt and violent society?

His Promises

In keeping with God's unmistakable promise: **Divine judgment will come upon all His enemies** (1 Cor. 15:25-26)

25 For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be abolished is death.

At the same time, **He will rescue believers!** (2 Thess. 1:3-10)

3 We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren, as is only fitting, because your faith is greatly enlarged, and the love of each one of you toward one another grows ever greater; 4 therefore, we ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God for your perseverance and faith in the midst of all your persecutions and afflictions which you endure. 5 This is a plain indication of God's righteous judgment so that you will be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which indeed you are suffering. 6 For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, 7 and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, 8 dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, 10 when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed—for our testimony to you was believed.

Peter:

Thank God that those whom He makes righteous are not perfect. It is Christ's righteousness which will save, sanctify, and keep us from temptation and judgment.

(1 Thess. 4:13-18; 5:9-10)

