



2 Peter 2:1-10a.

**2 Peter 2:1-2a.** - But false prophets arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. These false teachers will infiltrate your midst with destructive heresies, even to the point of denying the Master who bought them. As a result, they will bring swift destruction on themselves. 2 And many will follow their debauched lifestyles...(NET)

- False teachers were around in the Garden, in Jesus' day, in Peters' day, and they are here with us now
- You have entered a battle that has been going on since creation
- The battle is between truth and false teaching
- Sensuality here refers to habitual sexual immorality, unrestrained debauched conduct
- Who of us will follow their debauched lifestyles (licentiousness, sensualities)?
- In the life of a Christian, as we mature in Christ, which of us are easiest for the enemy to pick off?

**2 Peter 1:5-7-** For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith excellence, to excellence, knowledge; 6 to knowledge, self-control; to self-control, perseverance; to perseverance, godliness; 7 to godliness, brotherly affection; to brotherly affection, unselfish love. (NET)

- Which stages in our walk are the easiest for the enemy to pick us off? When are we the most vulnerable?

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- Which stages in our walk are the easiest for the enemy to pick us off? When are we the most vulnerable?
- Probably the stages where we can still be seduced to follow their lifestyle (“And many will follow their debauched lifestyles.”) The time when we still don’t have enough foundations to stand firm on
- How can we protect them? How can they protect themselves?

**2 Peter 1:8** - For if these things are **really yours and** are **continually increasing**, they will keep you from becoming ineffective and unproductive in your pursuit of knowing our Lord Jesus Christ more intimately.

- But I thought that Christians can't lose their salvation?
- That's true, but at what stage do you know (confident) you're saved
- Some Christians think that if they just barely make it into heaven, they're good
- But how do you know?

**2 Peter 1:10-12** - Therefore, brothers and sisters, **make every effort to be sure** of your calling and election. For by doing this you will never stumble into sin. 11 For thus **an entrance into the eternal kingdom** of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, **will be richly provided for you.**

- **2 Peter 1:12-15** – Peter is a good shepherd protecting the flock. That's why he's continually reminding us even though we're well established in the Word.
- **2 Peter 1:16-21** – We can trust the Word we read because the Holy Spirit guides us

**2 Peter 2:2a-3** - Because of these false teachers, the way of truth will be slandered. 3 And in their greed they will exploit you with deceptive words. Their condemnation pronounced long ago is not sitting idly by; their destruction is not asleep. (NET)

- The same truth that Peter just said you can trust, is the truth that false teachers will try to convince you is wrong
- If you are not firm in what you know, you can be swayed into believing what they are teaching
- The condemnation and destruction of these false teachers is certain
- That's what **V. 4-10** try to show us

## 2 Peter 2:4-10a.

- The structure of the passage is an “if-then” statement
- “If” v. 4-7 “then” v. 9
- Peter is saying, “if”
  - God can doom the disobedient angels
  - Destroy the world with a flood
  - Reduce the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes with fire

“Then”

- God is able, and will deliver the wicked to judgment

And “If”

- God spared Noah and his family
- God spared Lot and his family

“Then”

- God knows how to deliver the righteous from testing



2 Peter 2:4 - For if God did not spare the **angels** who **sinned**, but threw them into hell and **locked them up in chains in utter darkness**, to be **kept until the judgment**,

- Jude 1-7

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**Jude 6** - You also know that the angels **who did not keep within their proper domain but abandoned their own place of residence**, he has kept in eternal chains in utter darkness, locked up for the judgment of the great Day.

- When did sinning angels not keep within God's boundaries and leave their normal residence?

**Genesis 6:1-4**

**Genesis 6:1-4** - When humankind began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, 2 **the sons of God** saw that the daughters of humankind were beautiful. Thus they took wives for themselves from any they chose. 3 So the Lord said, “My Spirit will not remain in humankind indefinitely, since they are mortal. They will remain for 120 more years.” 4 The Nephilim were on the earth in those days (and also after this) when the **sons of God** would sleep with the daughters of humankind, who gave birth to their children. They were the mighty heroes of old, the famous men.

- **“sons of God”** – **Job 1:6-7; 2:1-2** – means angels. Specifically here, fallen angels

**Job 1:6-7** - Now there was a day when the **sons of God** came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. 7 The Lord said to Satan, From where have you come? Satan answered the Lord and said, From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.

**2 Peter 2:4** - For if God did not spare the **angels** who **sinned**, but threw them into hell and **locked them up in chains in utter darkness**, to be **kept until the judgment**,

- Has God ever sent any other fallen angels to this type of judgment?
- **Luke 8:26-33**

**Matthew 8:28-29** - When he came to the other side, to the region of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men coming from the tombs met him. They were extremely violent, so that no one was able to pass by that way. 29 They cried out, "Son of God, leave us alone! **Have you come here to torment us before the time?"**

- The abyss is a term for the place where the dead await the judgment
- It's a real place
- **1 Peter 3:18-20**

**Luke 8:26-33** - So they sailed over to the region of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. 27 As Jesus stepped ashore, a certain man from the town met him who was possessed by demons. For a long time this man had worn no clothes and had not lived in a house, but among the tombs. 28 When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before him, and shouted with a loud voice, "Leave me alone, Jesus, Son of the Most High God! I beg you, do not torment me!" 29 For Jesus had started commanding the evil spirit to come out of the man. (For it had seized him many times, so he would be bound with chains and shackles and kept under guard. But he would break the restraints and be driven by the demon into deserted places.) 30 Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion," because many demons had entered him. 31 And they began to beg him not to order them to depart into the abyss. 32 Now a large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and the demonic spirits begged Jesus to let them go into them. He gave them permission. 33 So the demons came out of the man and went into the pigs, and the herd of pigs rushed down the steep slope into the lake and drowned.

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## 1 Peter 3:18-20

- While Jesus' physical body was dead lying in the tomb, Jesus' Spirit went to another place
- The way the Greek word for spirits is used in **V. 19** never refers to humans
- Christ purposefully went to an actual prison that holds angels that were disobedient in the days of Noah when the Ark was being built
- The battle between truth and false teachers had been raging for thousands of years
- Satan thought he had won in the Garden of Eden, but God promised He would one day crush Satan, even though God Himself would be bruised
- After Satan fails in the Garden, he tries throughout history to prevent Messiah from being born
- He fails in the OT, he fails at Christ's birth, he fails in the temptation of Christ, and here, he fails again when he crucifies Jesus
- So Jesus goes to the prison that holds the fallen angels that He put there in Noah's day and proclaims to them His triumph

## 1 Peter 3:18-20

- This prison is described in **Revelation 9** as a bottomless pit
- When **2 Peter 2:4** says “they were cast into hell,” the Greek word is Tartarus
- Tartarus is from Greek mythology and had a meaning of a holding place for the worst sinners
- So after Jesus is crucified, His Spirit goes to an actual prison to appear before those fallen angels that He bound in eternal chains
- The fallen angels may have been rejoicing when The Son of God was crucified
- They may have thought they had finally won and were going to be set free

**Colossians 2:14b.-15** - ...This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. 15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

- Jesus shows once and for all, He's won
- He's able to deliver the wicked to judgment and deliver the righteous



## 2 Peter 2:4-5

- These fallen angels sinned in the days of Noah
- The result is explained in **Genesis**

**Genesis 6:5-8** - 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 was sorry 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.

- That the people were open to this demonic display shows just how evil the world was at that time
- So God destroys the Earth with the flood and even though Noah preached in that environment for 120 years, only Noah and his family were saved
- He judges the wicked and delivers the righteous



## 2 Peter 2:6-8

- The second example that Peter uses to prove God can protect the righteous and judge the ungodly is Sodom and Gomorrah
- Although it's likely that the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah knew the story and implications of the flood, they rejected it anyway
- God used them as another example (over 20 times in the Bible) to those that live ungodly lives
- It's a warning to them that they will not escape God's wrath
- Listen to this exchange as God reveals His purpose to Abraham
- **Genesis 18:20-33**
- **Genesis 19:1-29**

## 2 Peter 2:7-8

- What is surprising is that Lot is identified as righteous
- 3 times in **V. 7-8** Peter refers to Lot as righteous
- From the outside looking at Lot, he might not appear as righteous
- He took the better land from Abraham when they divide it up, he offered up his virgin daughters to the wicked men of Sodom and Gomorrah to do with them as they pleased, and later he allows himself to get so drunk he becomes the fathers of his daughter's children
- So how can he be called righteous?
- Because God declares him righteous, just like Abraham, he was a true believer
- He had faults for sure, but Lot was tormented to his soul when he witnessed the lawless deeds going on around him
- Lot stood against the sin of his day refused to follow the false teachings
- In fact, it grieved him day after day
- I wish I could say that I am as deeply grieved over the sin in my day as Lot was in his

## 2 Peter 2:9-10a.

- If history teaches us anything, it's that God knows how to rescue the godly from trials (testing, temptation)
- If God knows how to separate the godly and ungodly in these situations, He can save you in yours
- It doesn't matter what stage of the Christian walk you're in, continue truly following **1 Peter 1:5-7** no matter what the world looks like around you
- God knows you're in this battle and He knows how to rescue you and deliver the wicked to destruction
- He can reach down even into a little church like ours and separate the righteous from the unrighteous
- And one day you can stand before God and cry out "Lord, Lord" and He will respond:

**Matthew 25:23** - "Well done, good and faithful slave! You have been faithful with a few things. I will put you in charge of many things. Enter into the joy of your master."



