

## **2 Peter**

### **4) There Will Be False Teachers**

***'But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber'***

**(2 Pet.2:1-3)**

✓ **Even as there were true prophets of God who spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21), so also there were false teachers then, and there will be today. This is a fact, not a possibility**

✓ **Peter said they will even be, 'among you'**

✓ **Paul said a similar thing, 'For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves' (Acts 20:29-30)**

***'For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works'***

**(2 Cor.11:13-15)**

✓ **They will secretly bring in destructive heresies. 'Bring in' is from the Greek *pareisago* - to bring alongside, i.e. they also teach truth, and this is the problem because they appear to be genuine**

✓ **False teachers work secretly. It isn't that their teaching is secret, but the deceptive nature of their teaching is hidden. 'And this occurred because of false brethren secretly brought in (who came in by stealth to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage)' (Gal.2:4)**

✓ **Heresy isn't harmless. It is 'destructive'**

## Jesus can be denied...

- ✓ **In His Person. His humanity:** *'...every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God' (1 John 4:3).*  
**His deity:** *'Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God' (Jn.5:18)*
- ✓ **In His finished work.** *'...if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins' (Jn.8:24)*
- ✓ **By their lives.** *'They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work' (Titus 1:16)*

- ✓ **Many will follow their destructive ways**
- ✓ **False teachers will be popular. But with whom? 'They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them' (1 Jn.4:5)**
- ✓ **When false teachers are at work and when crowds are following them, the way of truth is blasphemed**
- ✓ **God's work will always bear fruit, but the devil will always have many followers**
- ✓ **Does this mean that only a few will be saved?**

**✓ 'Then one said to Him, "Lord, are there few who are saved?" And He said to them, "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able" (Luke 13:23-24)**

**✓ Notice, Jesus didn't answer the question directly. He just said the gate into salvation is narrow and many will not enter through it**

**✓ This is because 'all roads and religions' do not lead to God. Jesus is the only way. He is the narrow gate**

**✓ He went on to say that many who trust in their Jewish religion, or any religion or works, would not be able to enter the kingdom**

✓ **But He also said that there will be many who enter through Jesus, the narrow gate, 'They will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit down in the kingdom of God' (Luke 13:30). Who are these?**

✓ **These are from the Gentile nations, 'After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"' (Rev.7:9-10)**

**There are two extremes to avoid:**

**1) Tolerance of false teaching. Any teaching which strays from the Scriptures is to be rejected**

**2) Heresy hunting. *'I hear that there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it. For there must also be factions among you, that those who are approved may be recognized among you'* (1 Cor.11:18-19)**

- ✓ ***'By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words'. False teachers, both today and in previous times, present a message that has self-gratification at its core***
- ✓ ***Paul warned against, '...useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself' (1 Tim.6:5)***
- ✓ ***They use covetousness, i.e. the greedy desire, to have more (money, followers or fame) as a bait. This appeals to those who are being led astray***

- ✓ **'Exploit', from *emporion*, meaning a place where trade is carried on**
- ✓ **They use deceptive words, i.e. fabricated or made up stories**
- ✓ **Even though it seems they prosper, their judgment is certain**
- ✓ **Peter gives 3 examples of this - the judgment of angels, the Flood and Sodom and Gomorrah**

***'For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly'***

**(2 Pet.2:4-6)**

# The Fallen Angels

- ✓ **Referring to the original fall of angels. Led by Lucifer**
- ✓ **By not keeping their proper place, they are now kept in chains of darkness. Their sinful pursuit of freedom actually landed them in bondage**
- ✓ **The false teachers who insisted on freedom to do whatever they wanted are like these angels: their 'freedom' is actually bondage**

# Noah and the Flood

- ✓ **God judged the ancient world with a flood**
- ✓ **Noah was a herald of God's message for 120 years**
- ✓ **The majority of the world were judged, so being among the majority will not protect a person from judgment**

## Lot and Sodom and Gomorrah

- ✓ **God judged the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, making them an example of His judgment**
- ✓ **Therefore the ungodly have no reason to think they can escape God's judgment. *'But whatever city you enter, and they do not receive you, go out into its streets and say, "The very dust of your city which clings to us we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near you."* But I say to you that it will be more tolerable in that Day for Sodom than for that city' (Luke 10:10-12)**

***'And delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)—then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment, and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority'***  
**(2 Pet.2:7-10a)**

- ✓ **God not only judged the wicked, He also delivered the righteous**
- ✓ **God preserved the good angels and delivered Noah and his family. Now, he shows us that the He also delivered righteous Lot**
- ✓ **Lot's soul was tormented by the ungodliness of Sodom and Gomorrah**
- ✓ **The Lord delivered Lot because he was righteous (mentioned 3 times)**
- ✓ **Yet Lot lost everything else because of his carnal choices. He was saved, but so as by fire**

- ✓ **The unjust are reserved for the day of judgment**
- ✓ **But not the believers. God knows how to save His people whilst judging the rebellious**
- ✓ **God wonderfully delivered Peter from prison; at the same time He delivered Herod to judgment. He knows how to do both**
- ✓ **God will deliver us at the very time that He pours out His wrath on the earth**