

STUDY NUMBER FOUR

"Here's What You're Going to Face" - 2:1-9

Key Verse: 2:1 "But there arose also false prophets among the people, just as there will be also false teachers among you, who will bring in destructive opinions, even denying the Master who purchased them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction."

TEXT:

v. 1 But there arose also false prophets among the people, just as there will be also false teachers among you, who will bring in destructive opinions, even denying the Master who purchased them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.

v. 2 And many will follow their inclination to sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned;

v. 3 And in their greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not sleeping.

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

v. 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;

v. 6 And if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing them to ashes, having made them an example to the ungodly of things about to come.

v. 7 And if He rescued righteous Lot, being completely worn down by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men.

v. 8 For by what he saw and heard that righteous man, while living among them, they were tormenting his righteous soul day after day with their lawless deeds.

v. 9 The Lord is knowing how to be delivering the godly out of testing (temptation), and to be keeping the unrighteous for the day of judgment to be punished.

How to win The Game OF life : written by one who did...

- 2- Everything Qualities Peter, Phenomenon Prophecy
- ① Here's what we have.
 - ② " " You do.
 - ③ " How I'll help.

INTRODUCTION:

Whereas in chapter 1, we have been dealing with the positive, now in chapter 2 we are going to be dealing with the negative.

In chapter 1 we have learned that by His divine power we are having everything pertaining to life and godliness, and we have also learned what we are to do to develop the virtues and qualities of a spirit-filled life, knowing that the words of the true prophets are utterly reliable and spoken from God the Father.

Whereas we have the true prophets at the end of chapter 1, at the beginning of chapter 2 we have the false prophets.

In study #4 we are going to learn about our OPPOSITION.

Here's what You Are Going to Face 2:1-9

One is reminded of Ephesians 6: beginning with 10 -

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil, for our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness; and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."

Satan can be recognized firing his darts of discouragement, desire, depression, drinking, drugs, divorce, dropping out, and ultimate defeat and death.

To get You To Fold + Quit Trying

You Got to Know when to hold them +

" " " " " " Fold them
You " " " " " " Turn + walk away...

Any Time is too early to Fold. Hang in There!!

Working on
The OFFENSE
in Chap. 1

Working on
The DEFENSE
in Chap. 2

Here's who
You Are playing
Against.

Guy H. King in his book Brought In says, "Napoleon used to say that you should never underrate the strength of your enemy; and never was that piece of advice more called for than in our dealings with the enemy of our souls:

* "for we wrestle not again flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places"

Ephesians 6:12

All the host of evil forces arrayed against us and we against them, as they are under the command and control of their great generalissimo, Marshal Satan himself.

We think of him in his open warfare:

* "Your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking whom he may devour"

I Peter 5:8

We hear his ugly utterance in the foul-mouthed people that, perhaps, we meet in life; or in the tongue of blasphemy that is not silent in these days; or in the all-too-frequent blatherings of unbelievers. We see his powerful paw laying its deadly clutch upon the Lord's day, the Lord's book, the Lord's house, the Lord's name, the Lord's law, the Lord's work, and the Lord's people. We detect his unwelcome presence in the place where we work, in the street where we walk, in the home where we live, even in the church where we worship. Everywhere he is at his warfare--not always in person, for, not having the omnipresence that belongs alone to Deity, he can be in only one place at a time; but in the movements of his troops."

C. S. Lovett in his book Dealing With The Devil says, "When I was in India, it was common to see the snake charmers displaying their craft in the street. They'd spread out blankets and line up the baskets of deadly cobras. When a crowd would gather, they'd uncover their treacherous pets and sound their flutes. The serpents rose from their wicker closet, swaying to the chant of their handlers. Did those snake charmers take their eyes from the cobras? Never! They focused on them, ready to move out of range the instant a snake decided to strike. A Christian can no more afford to take his eyes from Satan than a snake charmer can from his cobra."

Playing
Against Some
Tough
Customers

Lovett goes on to say, "In my opinion, Satan would rather ruin one Christian life than rule a million unsaved souls. Lost people he has by the billions, but what is that? His kingdom ends. Blows against Jesus mean more now. Jesus is the target of his hatred, the object of his fury. In the years remaining to him, he is devoting himself to striking back at the One who ruined his kingly ambitions. Public acclamation doesn't mean half as much as hurting Jesus. Since the Lord is beyond his reach, he must hurt Him through His children. Thus Satan lives as the special enemy of the Christian."

"Satan's contact with the believer is through the old nature only. He has no access to the new nature received at salvation. The Christian is always free to choose between his two natures. Thus Satan cannot touch the will of the believer. Consequently, any control over the Christian is by permission or individual surrender to him. His influence is limited to the intellectual and emotional pressure he can exert by way of the old nature." *He sows His Seeds in the Mind.*

Eve, Achin, Judas, Ananias & Sapphira

"Satan's greatness is now perverted. His wisdom is turned to guile and deceit. His tremendous intelligence produces craftiness and treachery. His fantastic genius has turned from bringing glory to God, to gratifying himself. His former dwelling in holiness gives him a knowledge of both 'good and evil.' Thoroughly schooled in righteousness, he now plumbs the depths of wickedness. Once a peer of holiness, he is now personification of evil. He is able to make evil look good and good look evil, since he has lived on 'both sides of the tracks.'

"All Satan has to do is deceive the Christian into living for himself and he frustrates God's ambitions. Satan's name is not mentioned. There's no hint of serving Satan in all this. Just self. This is what hurts God. He is painfully wounded when one of His children is led off like this. If the devil can keep Christians out of the Book, from prayer, from taking note of their own growth in Christlikeness, faithfulness in investing their time and money, he accomplishes his purpose. He rubs his hands with glee. When a Christian lives for himself, Satan jumps with ecstatic joy. He has hit God where it hurts the most. For Satan, that is living. For

"the Christian, it is living for Satan. It is easy for him to do this as long as he can work under the disguise of SELF. What Christian is about to equate self with Satan? That's like calling a fire inspector a firebug! Oh, does it work? He can plant all sorts of things in the Christian's mind and they appear as one's own ideas. He can get Christians to covet, boast, gossip, judge and condemn others; lust, waste their time, and all the while they feel it is their own doing."

J. Dwight Pentecost in his book *Your Adversary the Devil* says, "On the authority of the Word of God, this is what Satan wants from you more than anything else. When Jesus Christ stood in the Upper Room a week after His resurrection, He showed the disciples His hands and His side, and Thomas burst forth with the words, 'My Lord and my God.' Satan wants to hear those words from the lips addressed to himself more than anything in this world. He is willing to surrender any claim that he makes to this universe if he can get you to worship him and to submit to him, to obey him and to do his will. If you acknowledge Satan's right to be worshiped, you have conceded his right to be obeyed. Satan works upon your mind and upon your heart and upon your will to bring you to the place that you will listen to him and say, 'Yes, my lord.' When he has brought you to that place, he then looks up toward the face of God and says, 'Here is one more who says that I am god, that I have the right to be obeyed, who recognizes my authority instead of yours.'"

Erich Sauer in his book *The King of the Earth* says, "The fact is that the devil is a spiritual being gifted with the highest intelligence, and though fallen, exceedingly powerful, whose existence cannot be in any way assailed by philosophy nor natural science, since it is just in our world and in the universe immediately surrounding it that we observe disharmony, death and destruction; even a purely speculative contemplation of nature forces on us the conclusion that this world, and presumably the solar system connected with it, are the domain of this world ruler and potentate."

Wants
Worship
More
than
Any Thing

A

We need to be aware of a general misunderstanding. Looking at a gutter-bum, a derelict on skid row, we say, "Look at what Satan has done. There is Satan's masterpiece." I beg to differ with you. Satan is as nauseated and disgusted by that product as you are. Satan wants to wash his hands of that bum and have nothing to do with him, even though he belongs to him. Satan's masterpiece is the good, upright, honest, honorable, respected individual in the community who feels that he does not need Jesus Christ, he does not need God, that he can work out his own salvation without God's help. The man concerning whose character there is no question, against whose reputation there is no flaw, but who leaves God out of his life is Satan's delight. That is Satan's masterpiece. Satan is trying to make his children as much like God as it is possible for them to be without their ever putting faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as a personal Savior.

Satan is striving for perfection. He is seeking to produce a perfect man apart from Christ. Then he can say, 'You are like God: by following me you can become like God.' What is the goal of evolution? By natural processes and by control of environment and heredity, to produce a perfect specimen of humanity. Man is viewed as moving toward perfection by his own effort apart from the help of divine grace. Evolution is the theory that Satan propogates in order to accomplish his designed end of making men think they are as much like God without any actual knowledge of God or relationship to Him whatsoever.

We read recently of a Satanic wedding in California, complete with a bride dressed in scarlet. On the altar was the body of a nude woman, symbolizing devotion to indulgence rather than to abstinence. The two individuals came together to be married by Satan. The distinguishing feature of this new Satanic religion is that it has no concept of sin; hence, it evokes no guilt. The founder of this religion is writing a new bible that will be a Satanic bible. Who is not shocked by this report? Do you think that Satan is proud of this? No. He is ashamed. He is as ashamed of it as any right thinking man of God would be ashamed of it, for that reveals Satan for what he is. That is not what Satan wants revealed. He wants to disguise what he is. Satan would seek to hide that sort of devotion because it exposes him.

Jesus Christ, when He came into the world, challenged Satan. He challenged Satan's right to be worshiped; He challenged Satan's right to be believed; He challenged Satan's control. When Jesus Christ went to the cross, He entered into combat with Satan and by defeating Satan through the resurrection, He authenticated His authority. And God, by receiving Him up into glory, demonstrated that He was enthroning Jesus Christ in the place of authority and that men were obligated to obey Him, to believe Him, to trust Him, and no other.

That which David was contemplating was forbidden, not only by the law but by the added specific instructions of the Word of God. But David looked and what he saw he coveted, because he was basically selfish. Then that which David saw and lusted after, he sent for. The lust of the eyes promoted lust of the flesh, and he put a plan into operation to gain that which the flesh coveted. That which he saw and desired, he took. The mind saw, then the heart lusted, and then the will disobeyed the Word of God. The steps of temptation that carried David to disgrace are the steps that Satan uses in the experience of every man to bring that individual out of the will of God and to obedience to himself.

John 10: beginning with v. 1

- v. 1 Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbs up some other way, he is a thief and a robber.
- v. 2 But he who enters by the door is a shepherd of the sheep.
- v. 3 To him the door keeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name, and leads them out.
- v. 4 When he puts forth all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.
- v. 5 And a stranger they simply will not follow but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers.
- v.10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly.
- v.11 I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

v. 1

But there arose also false prophets among the people, just as there will be also false teachers among you, who will bring in destructive opinions, even denying the Master who purchased them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.

The word 'but' forms the contrast to the positive things he has been speaking about in chapter 1 about authentic prophecy.

"But there arose (that is, in the past) also false prophets among the people"

Through the process of time, there arose Satan's men. These are men borne along by the unholy spirit.

2 Cor. 11:13-15

"For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ; and no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore, it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end shall be according to their deeds."

"In the past there arose also false prophets among the people" referring to the nation Israel.

"Just as there will be (as Peter prophesies) in the future also false teachers among you, who will bring in destructive opinions"

The false prophets were foretelling the future, and the false teachers because the divine revelation is complete, will be telling forth the message in a false way.

Satan's Plan Get the Seed + then Sow the Tares !!

These false teachers will bring in destructive opinions.

10th or 12th lesson!!

When you bring in falsehood to the body of Christ, you also bring upon yourself destruction.

James 3:1 "Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we shall incur a stricter judgment."

Matt. 13
Wheat + Tares
Grow together
until the end
of the Age!!

One of the big things that error does to the body of Christ is to destroy its unity and its oneness and its love for one another.

Now Peter is going to give a dramatic illustration of what he means, 'even denying the Master who purchased them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.'

They deny the Master who purchased them, in other words, they don't accept his provision through the blood of Christ upon the cross.

It's interesting that Peter would make reference to this fact that we have been purchased by the work of Christ upon the cross, and that purchasing involved the blood of Christ.

1 Peter 1:18,19

"Knowing that you were not purchased with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ."

→ Peter, Pride, Foot washing, Denial, Surrender

It is interesting to note here that he uses the title 'Master' when he speaks of the Lord. Perhaps we are the slaves to sin he purchased with his own blood, and this is the picture we have here in this verse.

→ Is He Yours? Maybe You Need to Surrender AFresh to His lordship!

The hymnwriter says it so well:

"Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine
O what a foretaste of glory divine.
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood."

How interesting it is to note that much of liberalism today is represented by a bloodless religion. The writer of the book of Hebrews makes it so clear that without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin.

Repulsed by the Cross!

Paul tells us in the little epistle of Colossians 1:20

"that Christ has made peace through the blood of His cross."

Jowett points out, "All these conspicuous absences, the instinct of reverence, the feeling of sin, the sense of a noble freedom, and the recognition of historical witness are accounted for by perverse thinking, by destructive heresies, by the degradation of the godhead by the eclipse of the great white throne. Having no sense of holiness, they deny the Lord that bought them. The lack of lofty summit explains the corrupt and stagnant plain."

EVEN Denying...

Cramer says, "As the culmination of their unbelief, they deny the Master that bought them. Peter knew what it was to deny Christ in a moment of weakness (Matt. 26:70). He also knew the exercise of a repentant heart, the relief of forgiveness and the joy of restored fellowship. But with the false teachers, there was no sensitivity. Denial was an established mode of life, evidenced by word and practice."

Some may find irreconcilable the fact of their denial, and that Christ had bought them. These two lines of thought become clear when cast in the light of the analogy of master and slave. He who purchases a slave has complete ownership because the price has been paid. But the slave may rebel and disavow the transaction, even to desertion. The master paid the full price of their redemption, but these heretics are insensitive to everything but carnal appetites, which they determine to satisfy at any cost.

Who purchased Not Redeemed!!

Gaebelein points out, "We must also notice that it does not say that they deny the Lord who redeemed them but the master who bought or purchased them. The difference between purchase and redemption is that purchase is general, while redemption is limited to those who believe on Him and are thus redeemed by His precious blood. These false teachers never believed on Him as Lord and therefore they are not redeemed by Him. Though He paid the purchase price on their behalf, by denying Him, they disown the purchase, and for such there is in

store swift destruction. This pronounces the sentence of eternal doom upon all false teachers, upon destructive criticism as well as upon the cults which teach damnable heresies, and by doing it, deny the Master who bought them."

Joseph Parker says, "There were false prophets also among the people, always among the people, promising them impossibilities, selling them painted heavens, offering them paradises and guilt. Why do not the people dismiss such prophets? You can know when a man is a false prophet by the size of his scheme. False prophets always have little schemes, petty ends and selfish policies."

William Barclay points out, "There are four characteristics of the false prophet:

1. One of the first characteristics of the false prophet is that he tells men what they want to hear and will not tell them the truth they need to hear. His aim is popularity and his touchstone is applause.
2. The false prophets were interested in personal gain.
3. The false prophets are dissolute in their own personal lives.
4. The false prophet is, above all, a man who leads other men further away from God instead of closer to God.

These were the characteristics of the false prophet in the ancient days. These were the characteristics of the false teachers who were troubling Peter's people, and to this day, these characteristics still recur."

Meyer in his thesis on the Doctrine of the Atonement in 2 Peter 2:1 says, "This passage is best interpreted according to the temporal deliverance view which suggests that the purchased mentioned is the purchase of Israel out of Egypt. This view is supported by:

1. The identification of the author and the recipients of 2 Peter.

2. A proper understanding of the key terms.
3. The purpose of 2 Peter
4. The confirmatory parallel in Jude
5. The Jewish atmosphere of the early church

There can be no dogmatism for any view because God did not intend the Bible to teach us everything we want to know about the atonement, only everything we need to know. Christ died for mankind. He chose to die so that men might have eternal life."

Barbieri points out, "Peter has written in detail about these false teachers who are beginning to threaten the flock of God. He was concerned with them, and as they were infiltrating the church and beginning to lead astray new converts, his bold, direct approach should be an admonition to us today as we encounter those who seek to destroy the church. False teaching must be faced head-on and steps must be taken to stop it while there is still opportunity."

Nisbet says, "Because the prevailing of error ordinarily brings with it a great decay of grace and holiness, therefore the apostle, having in the first part of this epistle in chapter 1, pressed the study of growth and grace and diligence in holy duties, does in this chapter, which is the second part, guard against the infection of error."

They deny the Lord that bought them when they say He has redeemed them, and in the meantime, in doctrine and deeds, do deny and betray Him.

Harry Ironside says, "False doctrines had begun already to make serious inroads into the churches scattered throughout the world, as Paul's later letters give evidence and as that of Jude also bears witness. Peter had this in mind when he gave his final message to the saints. But he foresaw even greater apostasy in the days to come, and so gave an inspired word of warning in order that the believers might not be carried away by the personality and persuasiveness of false teachers masquerading as servants of Christ."

Glasgow says, "Have a concern that you do not make Christianity any broader than Christ makes it. Its breadth is universal in its invitation and appeal and power, but its course is narrow. There is but one entrance, that is, the Lamb of God, Jesus the sacrifice for sin."

It is interesting when you take the list of seven virtues that we considered in study #2 that we are to concentrate upon and contrast them with the false teachers. We see them fail in every area:

1. MORAL EXCELLENCE

- 2:13 the false teachers suffering wrong as the wages of doing wrong
- 2:14 eyes full of adultery
- 2:15 forsaking the right way they have gone astray
- *3:3 following after their own lusts

2. KNOWLEDGE

- false teachers
- 2:3 false words
- *2:12 reviling where they have no knowledge

3. SELF CONTROL

- false teachers
- *2:2 they follow after their sensuality
- 2:10 they despise authority
- 2:10 they are self-willed

4. PERSEVERANCE

- false teachers
- *2:14 they never cease from sin
- 2:19 promising them freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption, for by what a man has overcome, by this he is enslaved

5. GODLINESS

- false teachers
- *2:6 live ungodly
- 2:10 daring
- 2:15 having followed the way of Balaam
- 3:7 ungodly men

6. BROTHERLY KINDNESS

false teachers
x2:1 introduce destructive heresies

7. CHRISTIAN LOVE

x2:3 in their greed they will exploit you
with false words
2:14 enticing unstable souls, having a
heart trained in greed

Intelligence in IRAQ — Corruption

v. 2 And many will follow their inclination to
sensuality, and because of them the way of
the truth will be maligned

'And' makes a connection with verse 1, 'many will follow
their inclination to sensuality'

if it Feels Good do it !!

Matt. 7:13,14

"Enter by the narrow gate, for the gate is wide
and the way is broad that leads to destruction;
and many are those who enter by it; for the gate
is small and the way is narrow that leads to life;
and few are those who find it."

'Many will follow their' (that is, the false teachers)
'inclination to sensuality'

Eat, drink And be merry... Partytime U.S.A.

chap. 1:4

"Through which (things) he has generously given
to us His precious and exceeding great promises,
in order that through these you might become par-
takers of the divine nature, having escaped from
the destruction in the world caused by desire."

"and because of them (that is, the false teachers)

"the way (that is, the narrow way)

"the way of the truth" -

→ Singular - "You Are either in it or
out of it"...

John 14:6

"Jesus saith unto him, 'I am the way, the truth and the life. No man comes to the Father but by me.'"

"will be maligned"

What does it mean to be maligned? It means to be slandered, to be spoken evil of, to be injured.

Psalms 1:1

"How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers."

Destructive opinions will end up in swift destruction for the teachers.

The few stay with the truth; many follow the false teachers.

v. 3 And in their greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not sleeping.

In verse 2 we learned that their inclination is to sensuality. And in verse 3 we learn that another characteristic is that they are GREEDY.

2:14 "A heart trained in Greed". . .

In their greed, they will exploit you with false words.

They will make illegal use of you and your means.

2 Cor. 2:17

"For we are not like many, peddling the word of God, but as from sincerity, but as from God, we speak in Christ in the sight of God."

1 Tim. 6:5

"And constant friction between men of depraved mind and depraved of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain."

1 Tim. 6:9,10

"But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires, which plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil; and some, by longing for it, have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pang."

In verse 3 we learn that their greed causes them to exploit you with false words, and then the apostle Peter goes on to say, "Their judgment from long ago is (negatively) not idle, and their destruction is not sleeping."

The judgment is not idle. It is getting closer and closer for them and the destruction is not asleep. It is wide awake and ready to overtake them when the Father designs that it shall be so.

Peter in the next verses will now use three illustrations of the fact that judgment is not idle and destruction is not sleeping.

2 Timothy 4:14

"Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm. The Lord will repay him according to his deeds."

Now in the next verses Peter is going to give us the reason their judgment is not idle nor their destruction sleeping.

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

1. The first of three illustrations that the writer is using of swift and certain judgment is God's handling the angels when they sinned. He did not spare them, but cast them down into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, being reserved for judgment.

He cast and committed the angels. The words are reserved and preserved.

Reserved for judgment and
Preserved from judgment.

hell is A place And Not A state or condition.!!

DeHaan points out, "When Peter spoke of the angels that sinned, he may have been referring to Satan's cohorts in his initial rebellion or to a later effort by wicked angelic beings to pervert the human race and spoil redemption's plan. Whichever you accept, the point is that these wicked beings were swiftly judged by the Lord. No one who rebels against the Almighty will escape His wrath forever. Just as surely as these creatures were judged by God, so all who promote heresy within Christendom will not escape His ultimate condemnation."

Jude 6

"And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, he has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day."

v. 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.

He reserved for judgment the angels and preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, from judgment.

2. The second illustration of Peter of the certainty and suddenness of God's judgment is the flood which took place during Noah's time.

"And he did not spare the ancient world"

Genesis 6:5-7

"Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. And the Lord said, I will blot out man, whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky; for I am sorry that I have made them."

"and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness"

Genesis 6:8

"But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord"

"But preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others when He brought a flood on the world of the ungodly."

Genesis 6:17ff

"And behold, I even I, am bringing the flood of water upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life from under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall perish. But I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall enter the ark; you and your sons and your wife, and your sons' wives with you."

There were four couples that survived this universal flood:

Noah and his wife
Shem and his wife
Ham and his wife
Japheth and his wife

4 men + 4 women on the
Passenger List!

Noah's title is a "preacher of righteousness."

He God brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly.

We have talked about the godly in chap. 1
and now we are introduced to the ungodly in chap. 2

v. 6 And if He condemned the cities of Sodom and
Gomorrah to destruction by reducing them to
ashes, having made them an example to the
ungodly of things about to come.

3. The third illustration that Peter is using here is the
experience of the cities of the plain, Sodom and Gomorrah
being destroyed as an act of divine judgment.

He has spoken first of the angels
and then of the ancient world
and now, these two wicked cities are reduced to ashes.

Genesis 18:20

"And the Lord said, The outcry of Sodom and
Gomorrah is indeed great, and their sin is ex-
ceedingly grave. I will go down now and see if
they have done entirely according to its outcry,
which has come to me. And if not, I will know.
Then the men turned away from there, and went
towards Sodom while Abraham was still standing
before the Lord. And Abraham came near and said,
Wilt thou indeed sweep away the righteous with
the wicked? Suppose there are 50 righteous within
the city. Wilt thou indeed sweep it away and
not spare the place for the sake of the 50 righteous
who are in it? Far be it from thee to do such

a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous and the wicked are treated alike; far be it from thee. Shall not the judge of all the earth deal justly. So the Lord said, If I find in Sodom 50 righteous within the city, then I will spare the whole place on their account."

As Abraham continues to intercede, he reduces the figure to 45 and then to 40, to 30, 20, and then to 10. And the Lord says I will not destroy it on account of the 10.

In Genesis 19 we have the ugly picture of immorality of all sorts.

Romans 1: beg. at v. 24

v.24 Therefore God gave them over in the lust of their hearts to impurity, that their bodies might be dishonored among them;

v.25 For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

v.26 For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural;

v.27 And in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman, and burned in their desire towards one another, men with men committing indecent acts, and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.
v.28 And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind to do those things which are not proper,

v.29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, malice; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips,

v.30 Slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,
v.31 without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful

v.32 And although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hardy approval to those who practice them.

Genesis 19:24

"Then the Lord rained on Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven. And he overthrew those cities and all the valley and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. But his wife from behind him looked back; she became a pillar salt. Now Abraham arose early in the morning and went to the place where he had stood before the Lord. And he looked down towards Sodom and Gomorrah and toward all the land of the valley, and he saw and behold, the smoke of the land descended like the smoke of a furnace. Thus it came about, when God destroyed the cities of the valley, that God remembered Abraham and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow when he overthrew the cities in which Lot lived."

Peter is saying that the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah are an example or a message to the ones who know not God. It is a message to the ungodly of the things about to come, or the certainty of future judgment, as he had spoken back in verse 3:

"their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not sleeping"

Francis Schaeffer in his book Death in the City says, "The Bible emphasizes this in various places. In Matt. 12:36 Jesus says,

'But I say unto you that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment; for by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.'

There is a theory that all the sounds that have ever been made are still present in the universe; that the wave energy has only gotten so low that no one can hear them. Most people no longer hold this concept and of course it may not be true. But for some reason suddenly we might hear our own words, speaking out as the basis upon which God will judge us. The fact that in hypnosis we may recall a great deal more than we ordinarily can suggests that perhaps deep inside ourselves we never forget anything. God may suddenly use this so that from within ourselves we hear ourselves speak the very words we spoke in our lifetime. Then God will ask,

Are you condemned or are you not condemned? And every man in all the world will say, It is just, it is just, I am condemned. Luke 12:2,3 reads:

'For there is nothing covered that shall not be revealed; neither hid that shall not be known. Therefore, whatsoever you have spoken in darkness shall be heard in the light. And that which you have spoken in the ear in closets shall be proclaimed upon the housetops.'

This is not just a figure of speech. I believe that men will actually hear their own moral judgments, their own harsh words being poured out against men, other men. And they will have to say, You are just, and I am condemned. Rev. 20:12 speaks of the last great judgment:

'And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God, and the books were opened; and another book was opened which is the book of life; and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books according to their works.'

I have known evangelicals who have been somewhat embarrassed by this, and say that this passage really means that people will be judged on whether they have accepted Christ as Savior or not. That is not what God says. He says, I am going to judge you by your works, and your works will fail. They will fail on the basis of your own moral judgments against others. No matter who you are or where. There is no injustice in God's dealings with lost men because they are judged on the standard by which they have bound others."

J. I. Packer in his book Knowing God says, "The doctrine of final judgment stresses man's accountability and the certainty that justice will finally triumph over all the wrongs which are part and parcel of life here and now. The former gives a dignity to the humblest action, the latter brings calmness and assurance to those in the thick of the battle. This doctrine gives meaning to life. The Christian view of judgment means that history moves to a goal. Judgment protects the idea of the triumph of God and of good. It is unthinkable that the present conflict between good and evil should last throughout eternity. Judgment means that evil will be disposed of authoritatively, decisively, finally. Judgment means that in the end God's will will be perfectly done."

Eg. 16:49: "Sodom's sins were pride, laziness and gluttony, while the poor and needy suffered outside her door"

16:50: "She was proud and did loathsome things, so I wiped her out, as you have seen."

-23-
Pride - Pleasure - Perversion

v. 7 And if He rescued righteous Lot, being completely worn down by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men.

Whereas Noah was a preacher of righteousness, here Lot is characterized by the word 'righteous.'

He preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness and He rescued righteous Lot from the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Lot was Abraham's nephew who, in Genesis 13, chose the well-watered plains of Jordan; and it was on these plains that the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were located.

In Genesis 19: we have a description of the horrible conditions in that city just prior to the destruction of both of them.

- ① Sacrifice his daughters to sexual whims of Sodom.
- ② Chose the best land.
- ③ drank himself & got his daughters pregnant.

Lot, living in this particular environment, is being completely worn down. God knew something about Lot's heart revealed to Peter. Lot endured a daily struggle

The word 'completely' speaks of exhaustion, and the word 'worn down' refers to the process of continuous stress until the will is weakened.

"Tormented" "Tortured" Imperfect Tense - continual nature

The words 'worn down' describe one of Satan's programs for defeat. That program is continuous stress of temptation. It is described as the fiery darts of the wicked one in Ephesians 6:.

Exhausted by the fight! No Armour For the back!! Trout hooked by the Fly! Weakened in the struggle

We see this program with Eve as he comes back again with another suggestion.

We see it in the life of Joseph as Potiphar's wife is coming to him day after day.

We see it in the life of Samson as Delilah continues time and again to find the secret of Samson's strength.

What we learned by this is that Satan is not content with just one shot. He will, through the process, wear down the resistance till he has accomplished his purpose.

- ① Alcohol
- ② Drugs
- ③ Pornography

David
Hitchin
↑
Spur of
Moment
Triggers desire
Struggle
Process -
① conversations
② calls
③ communication
④ commitment
to change

He is worn down by the (instrument used) the sensual conduct of unprincipled men.

In Genesis 19 you have the conduct that Peter is describing here, beginning with v. 5 -

v. 5 And they called to Lot, and said to him, Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us, that we may have relations with them.

v. 6 But Lot went out to them at the doorway and shut the door behind him,

v. 7 And said, Please, my brothers, do not act wickedly.

v. 8 Now, behold, I have two daughters who have not had relations with man. Please let me bring them out to you, and do to them whatever you like, only do nothing to these men, inasmuch as they have come under the shelter of my roof.

Romans 1: beg. at v. 24

v.24 Therefore, God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, that their bodies might be dishonored among them,

v.25 For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

v.26 For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions: for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural;

v.27 And in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman, and burned in their desire towards one another, men with men committing indecent acts, and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.

v.28 And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind to do those things which are not proper

It is amazing to me how little of Biblical principle filters down in the determination process of rights, rules and regulations in the society in which we live.

Men will fight to win the right to justify their sin . . .

① So much about the Constitution!

② What about the Bible!

Westwood points out, "Lot was a righteous man but he fell victim to that which many Christians today succumb, namely, to have his interests, his ambitions, his hopes and expectations circumscribed by the affairs of this world. He chose the well-watered plains of Sodom in the first place because they appeared to contribute most to his own advantage. He was ensnared by the temptation of self-gratification, and so he hid the light of his testimony under a bushel and went in for the things of the world. Nevertheless, God did not allow him to perish, for when judgment came, God took him out of the whole scene."

Gal. 6:9 ; ISA. 40:31 ; MATT. 11:28, 29

The reason Lot was being worn down by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men is now stated here in verse 8.
"For by (the instrument) what he saw and heard"

Angels The Mind Thinks ! The eye Sees !
 World The ear Hears ! The desire is
 Cities Triggered ! The Course is Altered !
 Individual → The will Takes Action !
 → Heb. 10:31

The eye and the ear are the vulnerable members at this point.

It is what Peter saw with his eyes and heard with his ears on the Mount of Transfiguration that he bore witness to in study #3.

It is what Peter sees and hears that verifies his message, and it is what Lot sees and hears that vexes his soul.

~~***~~ Romans 6:12-14

"Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey its lusts; and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God, as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law, but under grace."

The principle in this passage, simply stated, is: The Lord can handle the opposition and deliver you from the temptation. It is our responsibility to lean upon Him and allow Him to provide the victory, for 'greater is He that is in us, than he that is in the world.'

In chap. 1 we learned that He has taken care of everything and made every provision for the journey. And now we learn that He is also capable of handling any opposition or difficulties that we might encounter along the way.

2 Cor. 6:17-7:1

"Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate, says the Lord, and do not touch what is unclean. And I will welcome you; and I will be a Father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty. Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."

While living among them, they were tormenting his righteous soul day after day with their lawless deeds.

Genesis 39:10

"And it came about as she spoke to Joseph day after day, that he did not listen to her to lie beside her or to be with her."

Whereas he was worn down by their sensual conduct in verse 7, he is tormented with their lawless deeds in verse 8.

The instrument for tormenting him in verse 8 is their lawless deeds.

It is interesting that the Spirit of God here through Peter describes the people in Sodom and Gomorrah as people who are characterized by 'sensual conduct of unprincipled men' and 'lawless deeds.'

Harry Ironside points out, "We might never have thought of Lot as deserving to be called a righteous man, but the Holy Spirit so speaks of him here. He was a righteous man living in a wrong place. As a result, he was in a constant state of vexation. His righteous soul was disturbed continually by what he heard and saw among the people with whom he dwelt. It is noticeable that though he is here designated as just and righteous, we do not find his name in the 11th chapter of the epistle to the Hebrews. It never could have been said that by faith Lot dwelt in Sodom. It was rather lack of faith that took him there. He hoped thereby to better his worldly circumstances. Finally, when the judgment fell, he was saved out of it. 'All but so as by fire.' The conflagration destroyed everything for which he had labored during all those years that he had lived in Sodom."

v. 9

The Lord is knowing how to be delivering the godly out of testing (temptation), and to be keeping the unrighteous for the day of judgment to be punished.

Now the apostle Peter gives us the two summary statements at the conclusion of this study:

1. The Lord is knowing how, first of all, to be delivering the godly out of testing, or temptation. This has been manifested to us by His deliverance of Noah, the preacher of righteousness, and righteous Lot.

2. To be keeping the unrighteous for the day of judgment to be punished, seen in the angels, the flood, and the destruction of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.

1 Cor. 10:13

Weisiger says, "The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations. Noah and seven others, a small handful, stood against the almost overwhelming current of their time. Assailed day after day by taunts, insults and cruel indifference, Noah and his family found God able to save. Lot, making a bad mistake by choosing to dwell in the cities of the plain, nevertheless had enough steadfastness to live in the perpetual moral tension. He could not be at ease in the midst of moral pollution. He vexed his righteous soul. He did not go under because the Lord was merciful to him. How marvelous is the knowledge of the Lord. He understands the weaknesses of our physical, mental, nervous and moral inheritance. He realizes that some are predisposed to sins of pride and self-will; some to sins of compromise with prevailing fads; some to gross sins of the flesh. Yet, He has the ingenuity and power to keep us from falling. When we even half-try to be faithful to Him, and when we are weary from a thousand temptations, He lets us know that 'He that is in us is greater than he that is in the world.' Although we work out our salvation with fear and trembling, we also rejoice that God gives us the victory through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Nisbet points out, "The Lord knows how to deliver the godly, is fitted for such a case and so does suppose it to be ordinary. The Lord's taking notice of the

straits of the godly, and His knowledge of the way of their deliverance should be to them a sufficient ground of comfort both against their straits and their ignorance of a way to a better position, His love having engaged His power and faithfulness to make forthcoming for them everything His infinite wisdom sees to be most for their good. For for this very end is this consolation given to the godly, that they may be comforted both against their straits and the ignorance of a way of delivery.

Elizabeth Elliott in her book Discipline: the Glad Surrender says, "Do not be afraid, man greatly beloved. All will be well with you. Be strong, be strong, was the angel's word to him. Is there a more vivid and powerful picture in all of Scripture of a man thoroughly human, wracked with passions and fears, a man of deep and disturbing emotions, who yet held faithfully to his God, and acted for Him in spite of natural inclination? Only the picture of Christ himself, the perfect servant, surpasses that of Daniel. It is clear in Daniel's story that understanding is not cheap, and that answers to prayer must be processed often over a long period of time, requiring steadfast endurance. It is worth pausing a moment to ponder what the angels said. It was not, I know how you feel, or, You've really had it tough, old boy, but Do not be afraid, be strong. The angel reminded him of two things that are true of the rest of us. He was greatly loved and all would be well. Next time our feelings seem about to drown us, we may think on these things and be strong."

Our verse begins with the phrase "The Lord is knowing how." It is so precious to know that He knows how to handle all of the circumstances in our lives. Whatever is needed He knows how to take care of those needs in His own unique and beautiful way.

Kaaren Witte in her book Great Leaps in a Single Bound describes some of the struggles that she faced in coping with her single lifestyle. Her first thoughts of a godly woman who met all the requirements were:

"I guessed her to be a born-again Farrah Fawcett, Bo Derrick combination with the entire New Testament memorized and for whom Proverbs 31 was personally written 5,000 years ago, nothing less. But the Lord continued to speak to me: Kaaren, my dear child, I love you too much to allow you to marry anyone less than the perfect

match I have for you. And I want you to know something: I love you. I think you're beautiful. I know He said that, I heard Him. My sheep hear my voice and they know it, Jesus. Jesus, you have a right to my life. I have given my life to you, and you have taken my commitment seriously. You want me to make a statement through my life. You're not going to make mistakes. You won't waste time and you understand what is best for me. Forgive me for fearing you'll do me wrong or thinking your wisdom will fail or you won't understand what I need or you'll give me second best, or you'll make me miserable because I sin and disappoint you."

Yes, the Lord is really knowing how to be delivering the godly out of testing or temptation, and to be keeping the unrighteous for the day of judgment to be punished.

Col. Broughton in his book Thud Ridge describes some of his experiences of being delivered: "There is no mistaking the sound and sensation of being hit. I have been tapped a total of 11 times in my 216 fighter combat missions, and the sensation does not become any less thrilling with repetition. The sound is not as loud as you might imagine. Yet it is very precise and definite. I have searched for a good description. The best I can come up with is to take a quarter between your thumb and forefinger and hold it about four inches above a metal surface like a radiator or even above a hardwood surface like a desktop. Now firmly but not violently rap the surface with the quarter. That's the sound and there's nothing quite like it."

Having been hit and trying to make it back to base, Broughton says, "Hurrying was not the answer for me, for the following hour or so. My wingmen had pulled up alongside of me to take a good look at the condition of my tail feathers, and he advised that the hole was huge and was, in effect, a jagged cut directly through the vertical fin, and out the other side. The forward edge of the fin was held on only by the angled leading edge of the fin itself, and wires and loose skin flapped in the hole where supporting members and their covering aluminum skin used to be. His advice was simple: Slow down before you tear the fin off. I would have gone no place but down if I had torn it off, so slow down I did. I would have liked to go home at a comfortable

low altitude and a low speed but we had been working well to the north for some time and I had to have a shot of fuel to make it back. That meant up to altitude for the tanker, and I was a bit concerned about how my charge would handle up there. But we struggled up to 27,000 feet for our tanker. She didn't handle too well but I figured she was good enough so that a cooperative tanker crew and a good boomer could handle me. I explained my problem to the boomer on the radio, and as I sat behind him, looking like an unhappy worm suspended by a string tied around his middle, he took careful aim and stabbed me the first try. I scarfed up a full load of fuel just to be sure I had enough in case of any problems in the landing phase, and limped homeward, thinking again how lucky we were to have such a good bunch of tanker troops on our side.

The landing was uneventful. I just backed away off from the runway and came driving in on a flat approach, using minimum control pressures. There were many oh's and ah's as I taxied in and parked my wounded bird. We found on looking at her on the ground that I had taken several small hits along with the big one."

* On another such occasion Broughton points out, "All the crash rescue troops were there and we got her chalked quickly, and I shut down that particular engine for the last time. It grated to a stop. I crawled down the fireman's ladder and took a look at her and she looked bad. She was bleeding hydraulic fluid and fuel, and the rear end was burned to a sickly color that failed to hide the more than 50 holes that covered the aft section. One of the functions of this particular strip was the recovery of wounded birds. And the boss man of the facility was there to meet me, as he had many other times. He gazed at my thud in disbelief, and allowed that it was the worst one that he had ever seen come back. He didn't have to convince me, but I had gotten her back, and I had gotten myself back. And we would both fly again. I was most thankful. I filled out the usual debriefing forms and bummed a seat on an administrative courier that left for Takili ten minutes after I landed. The debriefing and the ride back to Takili were anticlimactic. I guess the episode of the past two days might have been good for an award, but I was not overly concerned with that at the moment. The three star commander of our operational headquarters must have thought so as he affixed his signature to

an endorsement on a recommendation for my second Air Force cross that concluded, 'Col. Broughton's actions during almost eight hours of combat fighter flying in North Vietnam during this 24 hour period represent the ultimate in skill, professionalism and dedication to the detriment of his personal well-being and safety. Through his exemplary leadership and ability, he and his forces destroyed a vital rail link; outmaneuvered a Sam attack; drove off a Mig attack; spotted, identified and diagnosed a significant target complex; planned, coordinated, and executed a significant strike; survived perhaps the wildest aerial refueling episode in the history of fighter aviation; regrouped his forces under almost impossible conditions; thoroughly pummeled a major hidden link in the North Vietnamese supply and transportation scheme; and recovered two severely damaged irreplaceable F-105 aircraft to fly again. He capped his efforts by attacking the last remnant of his target when his aircraft was on fire and practically out of control. The only thing that he did not do to accomplish his mission was to kill himself in the effort. And but for his superior airmanship and guts, he would have done that. I recommend that Col. Broughton be awarded the Air Force cross.'

It didn't work out that way. Two of my majors were accused of strafing a Russian ship near Haiphong as they fought for their lives. I fought for them with all my might, and instead of my getting my second Air Force cross, all three of us received a general court martial. That is quite a story in itself, and one of these days, I may tell that story too. I haven't decided if I will call it 'The Turkstan Incident' or 'Hanoi and Back \$6 A Round Trip.'"

The Lord knows how to deliver +
He Also Knows how to recognize Achiev-
ment when we Arrive home !!

CONCLUSION:

What are some of the lessons that we can learn from this particular study?

5 Lessons

LESSON #1: False teachers will deny the shedding of blood for the remission of sins.

LESSON #2: The false teachers are inclined toward living by desires.

LESSON #3: The false teachers are greedy.

LESSON #4: God's judgment is swift and certain.

LESSON #5: The Lord is knowing how to be delivering the godly out of testing or temptation.

Grady Nutt in his book So Good, So Far says, "When the pioneers reached Oregon after months on the Oregon Trail, their first thoughts and words upon seeing the grandeur of the new land must have been, It was worth the trip. That's my feeling when I consider the ups and downs of my life. I stand to look back at all the confusion and doubt, all the love and support, and affirm that what I have learned has been worth the pain.

I have a minister friend who reminded me recently of an unusual statue. The statue is that of a boll weevil. It is located in the center of town in Enterprise, Alabama. The story behind the statue is a marvelous parable:

Years ago the farmers around Enterprise suffered two successive years of total wipeout from the boll weevil. The cotton crop was devastated, the financial picture, the mere option for survival was bleak indeed. The boll weevil is to cotton what the tornado is to a mobile home park. It utterly lays waste. Farmers looked the possibility of a third year of weevil evil in the face and did some hard thinking. Someone came up with the idea of planting peanuts instead. It was tried with astounding success. The town of Enterprise has become one of the world's leading peanut producing centers and has enjoyed prosperity beyond the wildest dreams of the farmers who fought the weevil. So they built a statue of the boll weevil right in the center of Enterprise, Alabama. The general feeling is that if it had not been for that demonic bug, they might still be blight-fighting. No one in Enterprise loves the boll weevil. They do not breed them for export. They do not enjoy

hearing of the severe licks to the crops of other farmers in other places. However, they do realize that the weevil made them rethink their lives and their habits and their practices. Had it not been for the boll weevil, they probably would not be so well off today. And had it not been for my struggles, I would not be who I am today."