

4. Learning Why God Will Judge False Teachers

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children learn why they can depend on the Word of God. We saw that that God used the different gifts and personalities of the writers to write exactly what He wanted written because God is the real author of the entire Word of God and men wrote as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. The fact that God is the author is why the Word is always in agreement with itself even though God used at least forty different writers over a period of 1500 years or more. In this topic, and the next, we want to help our children understand that false teachers speak their own words instead of speaking the Word of God.

In 2 Peter 2:1-3 we read, “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.” In the time of the Old Testament, there were many false prophets who worked to lead the people of Israel astray. In the same way, Peter warns us that there will also be false teachers who will try to deceive people in our day and age.

We see several characteristics of false teachers given in this chapter. Peter warned that these false teachers will introduce and bring in secretly destructive heresies. The word translated “destructive” means *teachings that bring destruction and eternal judgment*. Peter uses the word translated destructive six times in this chapter. The word translated “heresies” here *means the lies or teachings which lead to division*. 1 Corinthians 11:19 says, “For there must also be factions among you, that those who are approved may be recognized among you.” Here, the word is translated factions because these teachers were bringing division. Peter warned that there will be more false teachers who do this.

The teachings of these false teachers will even deny the Lord who bought them. Here, we see that many false teachers deny Christ. 1 Corinthians 6:20 says, “For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.” The price that Christ paid to purchase our salvation was His precious blood. 1 Peter 1:18-19 says, “Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, *like* silver or gold, from your aimless conduct *received* by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.” Today, many false teachers do not want to talk about the fact that Christ shed His blood to redeem us and buy us back from our sin. God says that such false teachers bring swift destruction upon themselves. That swift destruction is eternal judgment.

We also see that many people will follow the destructive ways of these false teachers. Since these false teachers often claim to be Christians, their followers also claim to be Christians. Matthew 7:21-23 warns, “Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in

Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'" The fact that these people claim to be Christians, even though they continue to follow their sinful ways, is what causes the world to speak evil of Christians because the world thinks that such people are actually Christians.

We see that such false teachers are motivated by covetousness. The word translated "covetousness" means *a greedy desire to have more*. Later in this chapter, 2 Peter 2:14 speaks about such false teachers by saying, "Having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. *They have* a heart trained in covetous practices, *and are* accursed children." Such false teachers will speak their words in such a way that they can use those words for personal gain. God is not surprised by such false teachers. We see that He has planned their eternal judgment and is showing His patience by not bringing that judgment immediately.

God will bring judgment to these false teachers. Peter gave three examples of how God brought judgment in the past. 2 Peter 3:4-10a says, "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; 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."

This list begins by reminding us that God judged the angels who chose to rebel and follow Satan. Jude 1:6 says, "And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day." Here, we see that some of the fallen angels have already been sent to the place where they are waiting for the final judgment.

Peter mentioned a second judgment when he mentioned the judgment that came in the time of Noah. Genesis 6:5-7 says, "Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in 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. So the LORD said, 'I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.'" God both judged the unrighteous and saved the righteous. Noah and his family, a total of eight persons, were saved when God brought the flood. All of the rest of the people were ungodly and were destroyed in that flood.

The third judgment that is mentioned is the judgment of Sodom and Gomorrah. Those cities were turned into ashes. The people in those cities were condemned to destruction on that day and will face eternal judgment in the future. God brought the destruction of those cities as a warning to all

who would live ungodly in the future. Jude 1:15 says Christ is coming, “To execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.” The ungodly will not escape future judgment and that includes all of those who have been false teachers throughout history.

God also made a distinction and delivered righteous Lot just as He had delivered Noah and his family. Lot was tired and worn down as he observed the sinful conduct of the people living in the city of Sodom. Lot was living among the people of the city even though he was righteous. In fact, we see that the soul of Lot was tormented day by day as he heard and saw the evil of the people that lived in Sodom and Gomorrah. Even though Lot was troubled by the sinful living of the people of the city of Sodom, he really did not want to leave that city because his own children had become a part of the sinfulness of the city. In His mercy, God did deliver Lot. Genesis 19:16-17 says, “And while he lingered, the men took hold of his hand, his wife's hand, and the hands of his two daughters, the LORD being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city. So it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, that he said, ‘Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed.’” Lot was delivered but he lost his family. God will judge all those who continue to walk in sin when they come to the Day of Judgment.

2 Peter 2:10b-11 further describes false teachers by saying, “*They are* presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries, whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord.” “Presumptuous” means that *false teachers are daring and rebellious*. “Self-willed” means that *false teachers are proud and are determined to get their own way*. Peter warns that false teachers are so proud that they are quick to speak evil of angels including both the good and the evil angels. They forget that they face the same judgment as the evil angels that followed Satan.

Godly angels will not even speak evil of the fallen angels even though they have greater power. Jude 1:8-10 describes these false teachers who have such pride when those verses say, “Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries. Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, ‘The Lord rebuke you!’ But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves.” This reminds us that false teachers are filled with sinful pride. We want to help our physical and spiritual children understand that the judgment of such false teachers will be as great as the judgment of the fallen angels. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children understand why God will judge false teachers.