

BOOK OF 2 PETER
ABOUT FALSE TEACHERS
2 PETER 2:1-22

Introduction

God promises false prophets will infiltrate the church (2:1-3)

Vs 1a "But there were false prophets also among the people..."

He is talking about among the Jews in the Old Testament (cf. 1:21).

Vs 1b "...even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them."

The fact that they are bought does not mean they are saved. It simply means **they are bought and paid for and therefore the property of the Lord.**

In other words, they deny that God has any sovereign rule over them even though He is their rightful owner, ruler, etc. *"NOT MY LORD!"*

Vs 1d "...and bring upon themselves swift destruction. 2And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. 3a And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you:..."

They lie to you to make money off of you.

3b "...whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not"

The Greek word translated as *"now of a long time"* only appears here and in 3:5.

Think about this along with *Genesis 1:1*.

In other words, their judgment is as old as the heavens!

"It lingereth not," means **their judgment is not inactive...It is currently pending.**

Vs 3c "and their damnation (i.e. Their destruction) slumbereth not."

They may think things will never change, but judgment is not sleeping or negligent. It may seem to be the opposite. It may feel like God lets the guilty go unpunished and like maybe He'll never return and take care of things.

God reminds us that He delivers the righteous out of temptations and reserves the wicked for judgment (2:4-9)

BOOK OF 2 PETER
ABOUT FALSE TEACHERS
2 PETER 2:1-22

Then Peter gives three examples:

Example 1

Vs 4 "For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;"

We see here the contrast between the wicked and the righteous.

Here we see angels that sinned were cast down to hell. They will stay there, guarded carefully, in chains of darkness because they have an appointment with judgment!

Now skip ahead and read verse 9.

Were the angels out of God's control? Did He lose His authority as their Lord? Did He fail to deliver them out of temptation?

God is no liar, and neither is He a failure. Everything happened exactly as He willed it to happen.

Example 2

Vs 5 "And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;"

This word for *"saved"* here means *"to guard"* something. The sinning angels are *guarded* carefully unto judgment, just as Noah and his family were *guarded* carefully unto salvation.

In Genesis we find that there was a stark contrast between Noah and the old world. **Noah was righteous because he was a partaker of the divine nature; the rest of the world was ungodly and suffered judgment!**

Example 3

Vs 6 "And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;"

The ungodly have had plenty of warning, so they have no excuse.

BOOK OF 2 PETER
ABOUT FALSE TEACHERS
2 PETER 2:1-22

*Vs 7 And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked:
8(For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed
his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)*

Lot and Noah are examples for us that God will deliver us! All of these examples are evidence to us of the truth found in verse 9 that,

Vs 9a "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations..."

The word translated "**knoweth**" here means "**to see and to know.**"

God sees and knows how to deliver the godly!

Go back to **1:3** and we see that we have grace and peace "*According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness.*"

God has given us faith and knowledge so that we are called godly.
The work He started He will finish, so He delivers us out of temptation.

Vs 9b "...and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:"
The word for "**to reserve**" means "**to attend to something carefully.**"

We're told to "**keep**" God's commandments. The centurion was "**watching**" Jesus while He was on the cross. We're instructed to "**keep**" unity. It has an idea of someone "paying very close attention without being distracted."

In 2 Peter we find the verse used as a present infinitive, active, verb.
God (active, subject) reserves (verb) continuously (present infinitive).

And He reveals the nature of the false prophets (2:10-22)

*Vs 10a "But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness,
and despise government..."*

i.e. They will not be ruled.

Vs 10b "...presumptuous are they..."

The word "**presumptuous**" here means "**someone who is daring.**"

Vs 10c "...selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities."

BOOK OF 2 PETER
ABOUT FALSE TEACHERS
2 PETER 2:1-22

The word for "**dignities**" comes from the word that we get "**doxology**"— it means **glory or magnificence.**

i.e. These people are so daring that they speak blasphemies against beings above themselves.

Vs 11 "Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord."

Not even the angels, who are greater than man, speak evil against dignities.

Vs 12a "But these, as natural brute beasts..."

Natural means "**produced by nature.**"

Brute means "**destitute of reason.**"

Beasts means "**a living being.**"

These are beings which are destitute of reason by their very nature!

Now tie that in with **1:2-3** and **2:22**. We know God because we are **partakers of the divine nature**. The ungodly might pretend to know God, but they return to their wallowing in sin because of their nature of corruption.

Vs 12b They are "...made to be taken and destroyed..."

This word for "made" means **begotten**. They are begotten to be taken (captured) and to be destroyed.

Vs 12c And so they, "speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption; 13a And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness..."

God is a just God, and therefore He reserves these ungodly people for judgment...they utterly perish in their own corruption.

Vs 13b "...as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time."

i.e. They have no shame or guilt. It's like the way of the adulterous woman mentioned in *Proverbs 30:20* who eats and wipes her mouth and says, "*I have done no wickedness.*"

BOOK OF 2 PETER
ABOUT FALSE TEACHERS
2 PETER 2:1-22

Vs 13c “Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you;”

They are entertained at their own lies. They enjoy feasting with the saints while fooling them. They are called spots and blemishes because they defile the body, and they do not belong.

Vs 14a “Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin;”
They lust for what they see, and they are unable to control themselves. Remember that the fruit of the Spirit includes self-control and that the Son has set us free indeed! These men are slaves to sin and unable to keep themselves from it, and they love it!

Vs 14b “...beguiling unstable souls:”
Anyone who doesn’t know the truth is sucked into their lies.

Vs 14c “...an heart they have exercised with covetous practices;”
Now, I know this sounds crazy, but the word for “exercised” is comes from the word we get our English word *gymnasium* from. It literally means “to train naked.” Athletes work hard to get their bodies ready for a competition—these ungodly people train like that with their covetous practices to trick people and to make merchandise of them!

Vs 14d They are “*cursed children.*” Galatians 3:3 tells us that Christ has redeemed us from the “*curse*” (same word), but the ungodly are *cursed children*. They are exposed to a curse and doomed to God’s wrath.

Vs 15 “Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; 16But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man’s voice forbad the madness of the prophet.”
This is a reference to **Numbers 22-24**. Read that with **Revelation 2:14**.

Vs 17 “These are wells without water,”
It looks like a well, but it cannot satisfy...just like the fig tree Jesus cursed.

BOOK OF 2 PETER
ABOUT FALSE TEACHERS
2 PETER 2:1-22

Vs 17b “...clouds that are carried with a tempest;”
They’re blown about wherever their own natures take them. They aren’t controlled by the Spirit.

Think about 2 Timothy 3:5 as you read this.
2 Timothy 3:5 “Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”

Vs 17c “...to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever.”
Now, here’s a question: is this saying they’ll be forever kept in a dark cell where they can’t see?

The word translated “*mist*” means “*the darkness of the netherworld*” and the word translated “*darkness*” means “*night darkness or blindness.*”

These folks will never see; they will never know God.

18a “For when they speak great swelling words of vanity,”
The word translated “**great swelling**” means “**arrogant.**”

“**Vanity**” means “**something that’s devoid of truth or something that’s depraved**”

So, they speak arrogant lies and...

Vs 18b “...they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.”
i.e. They try to trick true believers into believing them.

Vs 19 “While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.”

Now think back to the beginning of the chapter. They deny the true Lord, but they’re actually still slaves—they are owned by corruption. They are natural brute beasts made to be taken and destroyed. They are cursed children.

BOOK OF 2 PETER
ABOUT FALSE TEACHERS
2 PETER 2:1-22

Vs 20 For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.
21 For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.

Now this is one of those verses that are taken out of context to prove we can lose salvation, but that's just a distraction. Keep it in context. What are we talking about?

Fake teachers. Men who claim to have and be something, but in reality they are nothing. They clean up and pretend to love Christ, but in their hearts they are far from Him (Mt. 15:8).

They are held to a higher standard because they have heard the command of the Lord, but they have rejected it. It will be more tolerable for the man who never heard a single word than it will be for these people. He will still be punished for his sins, but they will be charged for their denial of what they knew to be true.

They tasted of His goodness and spit it out (Heb. 6:4):

Vs 22a "But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb..."
It turns out God is right—what He said would happen has happened:

Vs 22b "The dog is turned to his own vomit again."
The dog's belly knew to vomit up something that made him sick, but the dog is so ignorant of truth that he returns to eat it again.

Vs 22c "...and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire."
You can drag a pig out of the mud and wash her up, but it's her nature to return to her filth.

These false teachers are partakers of corruption, and they are cursed. We however are partakers of Christ's divine nature, and we are blessed in Him. There is a big, big difference between God's church and the world.