



2 Peter 2:1-10a.

- Peter starts off by warning us of false teachers
- In **V. 3** he declares that God has not forgotten about their coming judgement
- In **V. 4-10a**. Peter gives us 2 examples in the past to prove that God knows how to judge the wicked and preserve the righteous
 1. The judgment of the angels and humanity at the flood while preserving Noah and his family
 2. The judgement of Sodom and Gomorrah and the preserving of Lot and his family

2 Peter 2:6-8

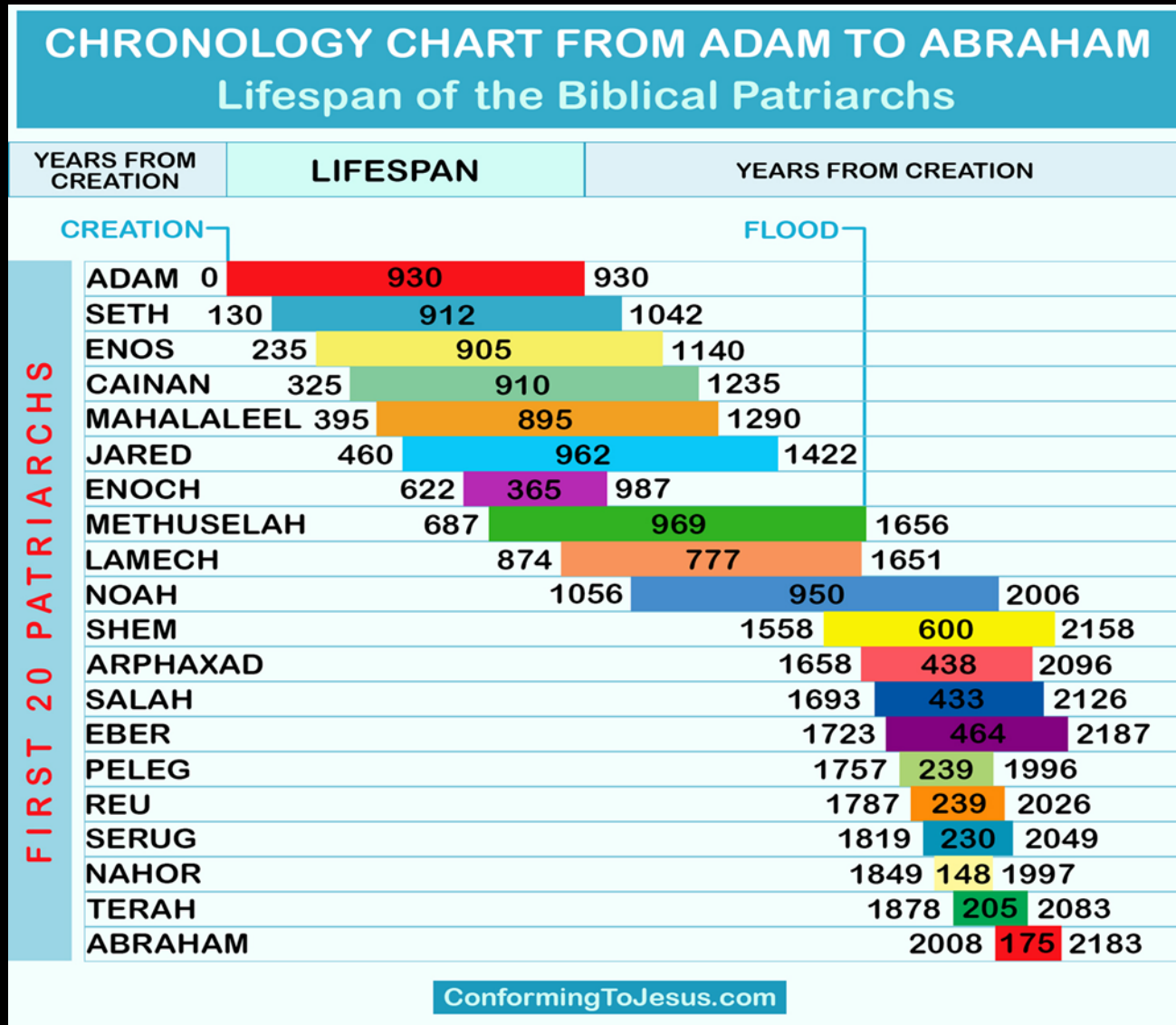
- Although it's likely that the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah knew the story and implications of the flood, they continued in their sin anyway

Noah dies 2006

Abraham born 2008

Destruction of
Sodom and Gomorrah
2107

Terah's sons
Abraham
Nahor II
Haran (Lot)



2 Peter 2:6-8

- God uses Sodom and Gomorrah as an 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 father of his daughter's children
- So how can he be called righteous?

2 Peter 2:7-8

- Because God declares him righteous, just like Abraham believed God and was declared righteous (**Romans 4:3**), Lot was a true believer
- Lot is righteous in the same way you and I are righteous, by trusting and believing in the God of Abraham
- He had faults for sure, but Lot was tormented to his soul when he witnessed the lawless deeds going on around him (the result of his salvation)
- Lot was simultaneously righteous and sinful, just like you and me
- Lot stood against the sin of his day and refused to follow the false teachings
- In fact, it grieved him day after day

2 Peter 2:7-8

- Does our society look much different than it did in Lot's day?
- Can you name cities in America that are given over to sexual immorality like Sodom?
- Do we see the battle going on over gender identity trying to twist the truth about what a man and a woman is?
- 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 this history teaches us anything, it's that God knows how to rescue the godly from their trials
- 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 **2 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
- At the end of days 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."

2 Peter 2:10b.-11 - Daring, **self-willed**, they do not tremble when they **revile angelic majesties**, 11 whereas angels who are greater in might and power do not bring a reviling judgment against them before the Lord.

- Here Peter resumes speaking about false teachers that was started in **V. 1-3**
- Peter doesn't identify any specific errors, but seems to be describing false teachers in general and his dislike of them
- He describes them as **"self-willed"**
- Meaning that the root of their problem is pride
- To illustrate just how arrogant and prideful they are, Peter describes how they act when angels are around
- **"revile angelic majesties"** means blaspheme or slander fallen angels (demons)

Ephesians 6:12 - For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the **rulers**, against the **authorities**, against the cosmic **powers** over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

- Humans, including false teachers, need to understand our place in this world
- **Psalms 8:5** says we were made a little lower than the angels
- Even fallen angels still have some majesty and authority
- In fact, there's at least 3 levels in the demonic realm
- Although they must submit to God, they are still a more powerful enemy than us
- In their pride, the false teachers of Peter's day, didn't even tremble when they slandered and mocked fallen angels, as if they were somehow greater than an angel
- It's no surprise many present day false teachers do the same thing
- People like Benny Hinn make fortunes "binding" peoples demons as if they had any real power over them

2 Peter 2:10b.-11 - Daring, self-willed, they do not tremble when they revile angelic majesties, 11 whereas **angels who are greater** in might and power do not bring a reviling judgment against them before the Lord.

- **“angels who are greater”** is referring to righteous angels and how the Archangel Michael handled speaking to fallen angels

Jude 8-9 - Yet in the same way these men, also by dreaming, defile the flesh, and reject authority, and revile angelic majesties. 9 But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"

- God's most powerful angel and protector of Israel, Michael, understood that he was not to act beyond God's designed limits. So he said "The Lord rebuke you!"
- In their arrogance, false teachers pretend to have personal power over Satan and angelic beings

2 Peter 2:12-13a. - But these men, like irrational animals—creatures of instinct, born to be caught and destroyed—do not understand whom they are insulting, and consequently in their destruction they will be destroyed, 13 suffering harm as the wages for their harmful ways. (NET)

- False teachers do not understand heavenly authority
- What they say is not true and they don't understand the truth, so they don't understand whom they are insulting
- They are like animals who have no rational capabilities or conscience
- They try to survive through instinct to continue as long as possible to spread their deceit
- They make no contribution to society
- But their fate is sealed, like a wild animal who in the end is to be killed
- The false teachers final destruction is to be thrown into the lake of fire as they eternally suffer “harm as the wages for their harmful ways.”

2 Peter 2:13b. - By considering it a pleasure to carouse in broad daylight, they are stains and blemishes, indulging in their deceitful pleasures when they feast together with you.

- Typically more sinful behavior is engaged in at night (**1 Thessalonians 5:7**)
- The false teachers of Peter's day were so consumed with lust and greed, that they found pleasure sinning in broad daylight, in front of everyone
- They enjoyed openly sinning at the same time they were deceiving those following them
- Especially when the church came together for a feast
- The early church would meet much like we do for communion called a love feast

Jude 12a. - **These are hidden reefs at your love feasts**, as they feast with you without fear, shepherds feeding themselves;

- A hidden reef is an unseen coral formation located close to the shore
- They can be potentially disastrous for boats that unsuspectingly run into them not knowing they were there, causing them to sink
- Like hidden reefs, false teachers embedded themselves into these love feasts where they could spread their deceit and lies
- Originally the love feast was meant to be a regular church gathering where believers would worship, hear scripture taught, have Communion, and then share a meal
- Unfortunately the love feast became so corrupted due to the false teachers influence that they stopped doing it (**1 Corinthians 11:17-22**)

1 Corinthians 11:27-29 - Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. **28 Let a person examine himself**, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. **29** For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.

Jude 12a. - These are hidden reefs at your love feasts, **as they feast with you without fear, shepherds feeding themselves;**

- Lacking a conscience, they deceived people without fear of judgment
- Their greed shows up in how they had no intention of feeding the flock like a good shepherd, but only sought their personal gain

2 Peter 2:14 - They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin. They entice unsteady souls. They have hearts trained in greed. Accursed children!

- The description of the false teachers public behavior changes to the their private thoughts
- Their lust is so overwhelming that they can't look at a woman without desiring them and seeing them as a potential object of adultery
- They have no self-control

2 Peter 2:14 - They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin. **They entice unsteady souls.** They have hearts trained in greed. Accursed children!

- Even though they are so evil, they are still able to sway unstable people
- They target the spiritually immature knowing that it takes time to build strong foundations through studying the Word

2 Peter 2:14 - They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin. They entice unsteady souls. **They have hearts trained in greed. Accursed children!**

- 2 hallmarks of false teachers is sexual immorality and love of money (greed)
- Finally, Peter in full disgust, just blurts out “Accursed children!”
- An expression meaning they are children of whatever influences them most
- “You are of your father the devil...” – **John 8:44**

2 Peter 2:15-16 - Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray. They have followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, **who loved gain from wrongdoing**, 16 but was rebuked for his own transgression; a speechless donkey spoke with human voice and restrained the prophet's madness.

- Peter compares them to the OT, pagan diviner, Balaam from **Numbers 22-24**
- Like all false teachers, Balaam was driven by money (greed)
- He is the perfect example of a profit-for-hire
- Balak, King of the Moabites, sees Israel's army and hires Balaam to curse Israel
- Balaam stalls for awhile, implying that he wanted to get a higher price
- In the end, Balak does not curse Israel, but blesses her
- If God had not intervened on Israel's behalf, Balaam would have willfully sinned for his own financial profit
- Because his greed was unrestrained, Balaam had to be rebuked through the acts of a talking donkey to set him straight

- Balaam was also motivated by sexual immorality
- Since cursing them failed, he tried to corrupt them through sensuality

Numbers 31:16 - Look, these people **through the counsel of Balaam** caused the Israelites to act treacherously against the Lord in the matter of Peor—which resulted in the plague among the community of the Lord!

Numbers 25:1-3 - When Israel lived in Shittim, the people began to **commit sexual immorality** with the daughters of Moab. 2 These women invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods; then the people ate and bowed down to their gods. 3 When Israel joined themselves to Baal Peor, the anger of the Lord flared up against Israel.

- False teachers start by seducing believers to pursue their fleshly desires
- Once men have become enslaved to their passions, they will quickly rearrange their doctrine to square with their conduct.

- The false teachers of our day are no different
- Their preaching never talks about suffering or pain, only pleasure and prosperity
- Kenneth Copeland – “Financial prosperity is God’s will for you.”
- Paula White – “Anyone who tells you to deny yourself is Satan”
- Joel Osteen speaking against churches telling people to that they are guilty before God and do not measure up to His standard of perfection said “You’ve gotta get away from that. God is smiling down on you right now. God is for you. He breathed life into you. I’ve learned that when you know God is for you, then you can go higher. You can go further in life.”
- 3 out of 4 mega churches in the US are said to be prosperity gospel

2 Peter 2:17-18 - These are springs without water and mists driven by a storm, for whom the black darkness has been reserved. 18 For speaking out arrogant **words of vanity** they entice by fleshly desires, by sensuality, those who barely escape from the ones who live in error,

- Peter describes false teachers by using 2 metaphors that represent water, the most essential resource in the Middle East
- They have the appearance of relief but offer nothing
- **“words of vanity”** – **1 Timothy 1:5-7** - But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. 6 For some men, straying from these things, have turned aside to fruitless discussion, 7 wanting to be teachers of the Law, even though they do not understand either what they are saying or the matters about which they make confident assertions.

2 Peter 2:18-19 - For speaking out arrogant words of vanity they entice by fleshly desires, by sensuality, those who barely escape from the ones who live in error, 19 promising them freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved.

- They use their words to entice their listeners by fleshly desires
- They do not care about bringing truth, they only target people's lusts that activate the sensual instincts of the hearer, keeping people from the truth
- They target people who are just beginning an attempt to get away from the normal, mass of worldly unbelievers
- It doesn't mean these people are saved, they're just seeking a better way to live
- False teachers promise a way of relief from this world, but they themselves don't know the way
- Their own sin overwhelms them and it prevents them from teaching divine truth

2 Peter 2:20-21 - For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. 21 For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them.

- After their perceived escape from the ungodly world, by “tasting” what God offers but never coming to a saving knowledge, they eventually reject God and the pull from the old corrupt lifestyle is too strong

Hebrews 6:4-6 - For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, 5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, 6 and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame.

- “enlightened” – an intellectual perception
- “tasted” – not feasted on, but simply sampled or examined
- “partakers of the Holy Spirit” – not possessed by, but meaning to be around when the Holy Spirit is around. They’ve been where the Holy Spirit has been ministering
- There’s nothing else for them to be shown about God
- **V. 6** – They’ve heard the preaching, saw signs and wonders, intellectually understood, but rejected it all
- Which leads them left with no hope of eternal salvation

2 Peter 2:20-22 - For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. 21 For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them. 22 What the true proverb says has happened to them: The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire.

- Peter ends his rant with a graphic illustration of how false teachers compare to animals
- False teachers are the ultimate example of uncleanness and filth

