

2ND PETER

After assuring his readers that what he and the other apostles shared about Jesus was true, he warns them against false teachers.



CHAPTER 2: 1-3

¹ But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them--bringing swift destruction on themselves. ² Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. ³ In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.

How certain does Peter seem that we will have to contend with false teachers?

What are “heresies” - and how could someone secretly introduce them in the church?

What does Peter say motivates these false teachers?

Peter assures us in verse three that these false teachers will answer to God for what they do. He will now appeal to God’s past judgement of others as evidence of that fact. Yet, in the process, he also offers the faithful some meaningful words of encouragement.

CHAPTER 2:4-10

⁴ For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment; ⁵ if He did not spare the ancient world when He brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; ⁶ if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; ⁷ and if He rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the filthy lives of lawless men ⁸ (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)—⁹ if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment. ¹⁰ This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the sinful nature and despise authority.

Notice that though Peter uses the word “if” many times, he is presenting these Bible stories as historical fact. How important is that for us to keep in mind?

What does Peter tell us about Lot? Can you relate, at all?

Points to Ponder

Why should it matter to us that God will punish false teachers?

Do you really believe that God will rescue the godly from trials? If so, how and when?

