Lesson 14 – 2 Peter 2:1-10a Part 1 – False Prophets and Teachers: Judgment Coming
English Standard Version (ESV) Bethel Bible Resources

(1) But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.

(2) And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the Way of Truth will be blasphemed. And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

(4) For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment; ---

If He did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with 7 others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; ---

If by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes He condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; ---

And if He rescued Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard); ---

(9) THEN the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment, and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority.

<u>Think on these things:</u>

1) How likely is it that Christian churches will have (false) prophets who introduce destructive (and divisive) teachings (v. 1)? How can an individual Christian not be deceived (2 Timothy 2:14-16)? Explain "heresy" in your own words.

Peter says false prophets existed in his day, and they will continue to exist across the years in Christian churches. They manipulate and change church teachings from the Bible to convey unacceptable ideas, often "majoring" on the "minors". 2 Timothy 2 says we should all present ourselves to God as "approved" workers who rightly handle God's Word. 2 Timothy 3 says God's Word teaches us through reproof, correction, and training. Heresy is a twisting of God's Word. For example, the husband is the head of the home. Therefore, a wife can only go to heaven with the husband's approval. Sentence 1 is a truth, but sentence 2 is a heresy.

2) V. 1 states that these individuals will even "deny" Jesus, their Redeemer ("who bought them"). Is there a consequence to this action? See also Matthew 10:33 and 2 Timothy 2:12. Interesting that this action comes from a preacher/teacher…!

Mostly motivated by their own sensualities (v. 1), Peter says these false teachers bring upon themselves swift destruction. As they "deny" the Lord Jesus by their teachings, they, too, will be denied by Jesus before the Father on Judgment Day. Yes, our preachers and teachers…!

3) How will destruction come upon them?

Destruction will be swift and sudden, something they bring upon themselves by manipulating God's Word for their own reasons and gain. They draw people to themselves, not God.

4) A. (vs. 2-3) Many will follow their **sensuality (abandonment to immorality and things that make me feel good, as well as feeding my "ego" desires and needs)**. (most often, sexual sins)

B. Because of them, the Way of Truth will be **blasphemed (ridiculed and mocked)**.

C. In their greed, they will **exploit us (take advantage of us)** with false words.

5) Who was condemned in verse 4? **Angels who sinned (Noah's time)** (See Genesis 6:1-4 and Jude 6)

6) Who was condemned in verse 5? **The ancient world of Noah's time** (See Genesis 6:5-8 and 7:1-5)

7) Who was condemned in verse 6? **Sodom** and **Gomorrah**. (See Genesis 18:20-21 and 19:23-29)

8) Genesis 19:1-22 is the story of Lot's rescue from Sodom. How is Lot described in 2 Peter 2 (v. 7)? What was the impact of "citizen lifestyles" on Lot personally (vs. 7b-8)?

Lot is described as a "righteous" man greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked, a righteous man living in an ungodly, wicked place. His soul was tormented by the lawless (immoral) deeds going on around him.

9) What is the "conclusion" of Peter's citing the 4 examples above (v. 9)? Please state both the positive and the negative.

Positively – God knows how to rescue the godly from trials and temptations.

Negatively – God also knows how to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the Day of Judgment arrives.

10) Are you comforted by the positive conclusion in Q9? Besides Noah and Lot, can you think of any other Bible people who lived out much of their lives among ungodly people, and did it well?!

Yes, it is comforting to know that God --- aware of the ungodliness that we sometimes live through in our communities and countries --- will help us not to succumb or comply with the pressures to "fit in" with the ungodly behaviors that others deem normal and acceptable. Others who did well to overcome the ungodly social pressures where they lived were Joseph, Daniel, Jeremiah, Jesus and Paul.

11) Holding the 'unrighteous under punishment' is "especially" for people who indulge in their "lust for **defiling (immoral) passions**" and who "**despise (God's) authority**."

That is, "I will not let God be the boss of me, and I will NOT comply with life standards as He defines them!! I want to live my life MY way…".

People and situations I want to pray for this week: