

The Righteous Judgment of God

II Peter 2:4-10a

INTRODUCTION:

If you would open your Bibles this morning, we will soon be reading from II Peter Chapter 2 starting in verse 4.

Peter said that the apostles did not make up "**cleverly devised tales**" concerning Jesus. In fact they were eyewitnesses of Christ. They lived with and were taught by a real person who lived and breathed and performed many miracles to prove that what he was teaching them was from God.

- He healed the sick.
- He made the lame to walk.
- He raised people from the dead.
- He identified and removed evil spirits from people.
- He walked on water.
- He was transfigured into a radiant glory before Peter, James, and John.
- He claimed to be our Creator, the promised Messiah, and God.
- and He was crucified, buried, and rose from the dead as prophesied in scripture.

All by the will of His Father.

Peter told us in the beginning of the first chapter that through the knowledge of the scriptures we can be freed from the corruption of this world and be reconciled back to God.

2 Peter 1:2-4 (NASB)

² Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; ³ seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. ⁴ For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, **so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.**

The purpose of our worship service is to worship and praise God for all that He has done for us. I fear that too often the Church service is just another "Ho Hum" song service and message that must be tolerated before you can go home. Maybe the reason for that is because we are not good at getting you involved and preparing your heart for worship and praise.

Why do I say that? Because our salvation is not based upon just coming to church and going through the motions. As Peter is going to point out to us in the scripture this

morning, we are living in a world of sin and we MUST have a TRUE knowledge of Christ. These services are intended not only to teach the Word and praise and worship our God and Savior on Sunday, but encourage us to be faithful through the week in prayer, reading and studying God's Word, and living for God. Because as Peter has told us, Satan has placed false prophets and false teachers among us who will try to lead us from the truth.

I have asked Roberta to remain at the piano this morning during the introduction because I would like to do something a little different this morning. I would like for YOU to help preach part of the sermon this morning in song and give God GLORY for all that He has done for you.

All Stand. (Page 66 in the hymnal.) You are now the preacher. **PREACH IT!**

To God Be the Glory

1. To God be the glory, great things he hath done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the lifegate that all may go in.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory, great things he hath done!

3. Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,
and great our rejoicing thru Jesus the Son;
but purer, and higher, and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory, great things he hath done!

THANK YOU! How GREAT IS OUR GOD!

As we prepare our hearts for the message this morning lets remain standing as we read from God's Word.

All Stand and Read Scripture

2 Peter 2:4-10 (NASB)

⁴ For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment; ⁵ and did not spare the ancient world,

but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; ⁶ and *if* He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing *them* to ashes, having made them an example to those who would live ungodly *lives* thereafter; ⁷ and *if* He rescued righteous Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men ⁸ (for by what he saw and heard *that* righteous man, while living among them, felt *his* righteous soul tormented day after day by *their* lawless deeds), ⁹ *then* the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment, ¹⁰ and especially those who indulge the flesh in *its* corrupt desires and despise authority.

As we prepare to look more closely at Peter's passage this morning, let's bow in a word of prayer.

Prayer

Peter warned us in the first verses of Chapter 2 that there will be "false prophets" and "false teachers" among us who will lead many to follow their destructive ways. Peter also spoke of their coming judgment. He said in verse 1 that they will bring swift destruction upon themselves".

To illustrate that the "false teachers" face certain condemnation, Peter gives three examples of the righteous judgment of God in the past.

In this message we will briefly review what is known about these three examples of divine judgment and offer hope by noticing Peter's observations concerning the righteous who found themselves in the midst of these judgments.

BODY:

I. THE ANGELS WHO SINNED.

There is not a lot that is actually said about the angels who sinned.

Jude makes reference to it in his epistle.

Jude 6 (NASB)

⁶ And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day,

The most common interpretation is found in...

Genesis 6:1-4 (NASB)

⁶ Now it came about, when men began to multiply on the face of the land, and daughters were born to them, ² that the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose. ³ Then the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; nevertheless his days shall be one hundred and twenty years." ⁴ The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men, and they bore *children* to them. Those were the mighty men who *were* of old, men of renown.

The "sons of God" referred to here is believed to be the fallen angels who are mentioned in Jude.

These angels "that did not keep their domain" generated Nephilim or giants that were evil and of the seed of Satan. By the time of the flood, they had very successfully corrupted the seed of man and God knew He was going to have to destroy them in order to preserve the seed for Christ.

Satan was trying to do whatever he could to destroy God's seed. He tried to corrupt our human DNA so that instead of being in God's image we would become the seed of Satan. This was in hopes of destroying the prophecy that the woman's seed would cause Satan to lose the battle and thus prevent Christ from coming to earth to save mankind.

Even after the flood there were Nephilim as we can see from the occurrences in the Bible when they speak of giants in the land. For instance, when the spies were sent into the land to find out about it most of them returned with stories of giants and how impossible it would be for them to defeat them.

Numbers 13:32-33 (NASB)

³² So they gave out to the sons of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, "The land through which we have gone, in spying it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants; and all the people whom we saw in it are men of *great size*. ³³ There also we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak are part of the Nephilim); and we became like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight."

God ordered the Israelites to destroy all the people in the land. This was not cruelty on God's part, it was to destroy the remnants of the Nephilim before they could corrupt the Israelites bloodline.

II. NOAH AND THE FLOOD.

So what was it like in Noah's day, before he entered into the ark?

Genesis 6:5,11-12 (NASB)

⁵ Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

¹¹ Now the earth was corrupt in the sight of God, and the earth was filled with violence.

¹² God looked on the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way upon the earth.

So the earth in the days of Noah was full of people who rejected God and walked after their own flesh and served their own interests. And the earth was full of violence.

Let's just stop and pause for a moment and think about the number of people who were saved in Noah's day. Man lived for a long time before the flood, like Methuselah, who lived for 969 years! So the population of the earth would have been quite large, into many millions, and yet **only 8 were saved!**

Just think about that, only 8 people truly trusted in God and followed His will. There must have been many others who believed in God and 'in their own eyes' served God, but just as Jesus said:

Matthew 7:21-23 (NASB)

²¹ "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*. ²² Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' ²³ And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'

The same would have been true for many people in Noah's day. They would profess to be God's people, but in fact they were still walking in the flesh, living a life of sin, and not obeying God's commands.

Noah would have preached to many people during these years, while the ark was being built. But even though many may have been professing to follow God, they would not open their ears and hearts to the TRUTH and the warning that Noah gave, and therefore perished in the flood.

Here is a tidbit of information for free.

Methuselah was the grandfather of Noah. According to Genesis, it appears that Methuselah actually died in the flood. Genesis 5:25 says that Methuselah was 187 years old when Lemech was born. Genesis 5:28 says that Lemech was 182 years old when Noah was born, Genesis 7:6 says Noah was 600 when the flood came. When you add it up, $187 + 182 + 600 = 969$. Had there not been a flood, he would have lived even longer!

III. THE CITIES OF SODOM AND GOMORRAH.

Why the terrible judgment?

Jude 7 (NASB)

⁷ just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.

God's Word says that the people of Sodom had given themselves over to sexual fornication and "strange flesh" and that their destruction should serve as a warning to those in the future who indulge themselves in gross immorality.

Just as the people of Noah's time would not listen to his message of repentance, the people of Lot's time would not respond to his preaching.

Luke 17:26-30 (NASB)

²⁶ And just as it happened in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: ²⁷ they were eating, they were drinking, they were marrying, they were being given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. ²⁸ It was the same as happened in the days of Lot: they were eating, they were drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, they were building;

²⁹ but on the day that Lot went out from Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. ³⁰ It will be just the same on the day that the Son of Man is revealed.

So Jesus is saying that the world in the end times would 'mirror' what it was like in the days of Noah and Lot.

CONCLUSION:

We live in a world full of violence and sexual immorality. These things have become the 'norm' with violence and sexual immorality being turned into ENTERTAINMENT!! The world is now ENTERTAINED by the very things that God DESTROYED the world and Sodom for in Noah's and Lot's day!

Everywhere we turn we are told that there is no God, that we evolved from monkeys, that the universe was created by one big bang, that there are no consequences for immorality, and that there is no heaven or hell.

It is on the TV's, on the internet, at the movies, in advertising, in the schools, in the political arena, and even in today's self proclaiming denominations.

Today, we find the majority of people in the world choosing the 'broad way' that leads to destruction, because the way to eternal life is too narrow for them. They say that you don't need to keep God's commandments. They say that we can worship God any way we like. They say that it is ok to like the things of this world. They say that we need to include people from different faiths. They say that any type of sex conduct is ok and God accepts them as they are. They say many things that are clearly contrary to the Word of God. Why? Because they walk after the flesh rather than the Spirit. And the scriptures say they are heading for destruction.

Notice one thing about what Jesus said "**they were eating, they were drinking, they were marrying, they were being given in marriage**".

This verse tells us that the people during the time of Noah and Lot just lived their normal worldly lives as if nothing was going to happen. This is the state we find the world today. God's people are warning the rest of this world that the day of judgment is coming, and that we should be obeying God and keeping His commandments and following in Jesus' footsteps but the majority of people are ignoring the warning signs, just like in the days of Noah and Lot. Mankind is too blinded by the pleasures of this world to be able to read the signs and heed the warning.

Peter finishes this section with the following words concerning His **righteous judgment**...

2 Peter 2:9-10a (NASB)

⁹ ...the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment, ¹⁰ and especially those who indulge the flesh in *its* corrupt desires and despise authority.

He is Lord!