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**2 Peter 2** This study has not been posted on facebook yet



By Dan Maines

## **2 Peter 2**

### **2 Peter 2:1**

But false prophets also appeared among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.

† Just as Israel had false prophets, the church faced false teachers who denied Christ and spread destructive heresies.

† Their judgment was swift, reflecting the urgency of Peter's

warning.

† Josephus (Wars 6.5.2) records how false prophets misled Jerusalem before its fall, showing the reality of Peter's prophecy.

## **2 Peter 2:2**

Many will follow their indecent behavior, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned.

† The immorality of false teachers caused outsiders to blaspheme the way of truth.

† Tacitus (Annals 15.44) mocked Christians because of rumors and slander, worsened by the conduct of corrupt teachers.

## **2 Peter 2:3**

And in their greed they will exploit you with false words, their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

† Greed marks false teachers, who manipulate with lies.

† Philo (On the Special Laws 2.9) condemned greedy teachers of the law, showing the same danger Peter addressed.

† Judgment was already prepared for them and would not delay.

## **2 Peter 2:4**

For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, held for judgment.

† Even angels were not spared when they sinned, proving God's justice is impartial.

† Jude 6 records the same truth, showing apostolic agreement.

† The Dead Sea Scrolls (1QH 6.12-13) reflect traditions of fallen angels held in judgment.

## **2 Peter 2:5**

And did not spare the ancient world, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly.

† God spared Noah and his family while judging the ungodly with the flood.

† Josephus (Antiquities 1.3.1) affirms the flood and Noah's role as a righteous man preserved.

## **2 Peter 2:6**

And if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing them to ashes, having made them an example of what is coming for the ungodly.

† Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed as examples of divine judgment.

† Philo (On Abraham 27) described their sins as arrogance and corruption, aligning with Peter's lesson.

## **2 Peter 2:7-8**

And if He rescued righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the perverted conduct of unscrupulous people (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).

† Lot is presented as an example of God's ability to rescue the righteous from corrupt societies.

† Josephus (Antiquities 1.11.1) recounts Lot's story and the destruction of Sodom, confirming the historical memory.

## **2 Peter 2:9**

Then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from a trial, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment.

- † God rescues the godly but reserves the wicked for judgment.
- † This principle assures believers that God's justice is sure.

## **2 Peter 2:10**

And especially those who indulge the flesh in its corrupt passion, and despise authority. Reckless, self-centered, they speak abusively of angelic majesties without trembling.

† False teachers were marked by indulgence, rebellion, and arrogance.

† Jude 8 records the same traits, confirming this was a widespread issue.

## **2 Peter 2:11**

Whereas angels who are greater in might and power do not bring a demeaning judgment against them before the Lord.

† Even angels, though greater in power, do not speak arrogantly against others, unlike false teachers.

† The humility of angels contrasts with the arrogance of men.

## **2 Peter 2:12-13**

But these, like unreasoning animals, born as creatures of instinct to be captured and killed, using abusive speech where they have no knowledge, will in the destruction of those creatures also be destroyed, suffering wrong as the wages of doing wrong. They count it a pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are stains and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions as they feast with you.

† False teachers are compared to irrational beasts, driven by instinct and destined for destruction.

† Their corruption polluted the fellowship of believers, turning even communal meals into occasions of deceit.

† Tacitus (Histories 5.9) described feasts of the corrupt that ended in chaos, much like Peter's picture.

## **2 Peter 2:14**

Having eyes full of adultery that never cease from sin, enticing unstable souls, having hearts trained in greed, accursed children.

† Their lustful eyes and greedy hearts reveal their curse.

† Such teachers prey on the weak, exploiting unstable believers.

## **2 Peter 2:15-16**

Abandoning the right way, they have gone astray, having followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved the reward of unrighteousness, but he received a rebuke for his own offense, for a mute donkey, speaking with a human voice, restrained the insanity of the prophet.

† Balaam is the archetype of greedy prophets, rebuked even by his own donkey (Numbers 22:28).

† Peter compares false teachers to Balaam, driven by love of gain rather than truth.

† Philo (On Rewards 43) condemned Balaam's greed, echoing Peter's view.

## **2 Peter 2:17**

These are springs without water, and mists driven by a storm, for whom the black darkness has been reserved.

† False teachers promise life but are empty, like dry springs.

† Their end is eternal darkness, judgment without escape.

## **2 Peter 2:18-19**

For, while speaking out arrogant words of no value they entice by fleshly desires, by indecent behavior, those who barely escape from the ones who live in error, promising them freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption, for by what anyone is overcome, by this he is enslaved.

† Their words are arrogant and empty, luring the weak into corruption.

† They promise freedom but are themselves enslaved to sin.

† Josephus (Wars 4.6.1) described leaders in Jerusalem who promised liberty but enslaved their followers to destruction.

## **2 Peter 2:20-21**

For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment handed on to them.

† Apostasy is worse than ignorance. Turning back after knowing Christ brings greater judgment.

† Jesus taught in **Luke 12:47-48** that greater knowledge brings greater responsibility.

## **2 Peter 2:22**

It has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to its own vomit," and, "A sow, after washing, returns to wallowing in the mire."

† Apostates are like dogs returning to vomit or pigs to the mire, showing the futility of their condition.

† Proverbs 26:11 provides this vivid picture of folly.

† Clement of Rome (1 Clement 53) warned against returning to sin after cleansing, echoing Peter's proverb.

## **How it applies to us today**

† 2 Peter 2 warns of false teachers driven by greed, lust, and arrogance, who exploit and corrupt.

† God's past judgments, angels, the flood, Sodom, and Balaam, prove He will judge the ungodly while rescuing the righteous.

† The church today must remain alert, discerning true teaching

from false, and living in holiness.

## † This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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- † Josephus, Antiquities 1.3.1 - Noah and the flood
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- † Philo, On Abraham 27 - sins of Sodom
- † Philo, On Rewards 43 - Balaam's greed condemned
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- † Dead Sea Scrolls, 1QH 6.12-13 - fallen angels under judgment
- † Clement of Rome, 1 Clement 53 - warning against returning to sin
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- † Luke 12:47-48 - greater judgment with greater knowledge
- † Jude 6, 8 - fallen angels and arrogant men

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