

# Doom of False Teachers

2 Peter 2:1-11

By Scott Huckaby

3/16/2025



## 2 Peter 2:1-11 (NIV)

*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. <sup>2</sup> Many will follow their depraved conduct and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. <sup>3</sup> In their greed these teachers will exploit you with fabricated stories. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping. <sup>4</sup> For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them in chains of darkness to be held for judgment; <sup>5</sup> 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; <sup>6</sup> 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; <sup>7</sup> and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the depraved conduct of the lawless <sup>8</sup> (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)— <sup>9</sup> if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment. <sup>10</sup> This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the flesh and despise authority. Bold and arrogant, they are not afraid to heap abuse on celestial beings; <sup>11</sup> yet even angels, although they are stronger and more powerful, do not heap abuse on such beings when bringing judgment on them from the Lord.*

### v1 – Where are the false prophets warned about here?

Even as there were *holy men of God who spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit* (2 Peter 1:21), so also there were false prophets and false teachers then and now.

- Peter stated this as a fact and not as a possibility; and he said they were among you, not only on the outside of the church.

### What would these false prophets and teachers do?

*secretly bring in destructive heresies*: False teachers work **secretly**. It isn't that their teaching is secret, but the

deceptive nature of their teaching is hidden. No false teacher ever announces himself as a false teacher.

### What are destructive heresies?

False teachers bring in **destructive heresies** that destroy by telling lies about who Jesus Christ is and what He did.

- By these **heresies** people are hurt and destroyed. Heresy isn't harmless.

### What does it tell us that these false teachers deny the Lord?

They may *appear* to be saved but are not. Otherwise, Peter would never say that the Lord **bought them**.

### How can a person who appears to have a godly relationship with Jesus still bring in heresies?

Often times good men who teach lies do the worst damage. Their lies are accepted far more easily because of the good character of these men.

### What becomes of false teachers?

False teachers are promised **swift destruction**, even though they aren't judged fast enough in the opinion of many.

### v2 – Why do people follow false teachers?

False teachers may be popular.

- Telling people what they want to hear is popular.
- Worldly ways are always popular.
- Just because something succeeds in attracting a crowd of followers, it doesn't mean that it is of God.

### What does it mean that false teachers *bring the way of truth into disrepute*?

NKJV: *the way of truth will be blasphemed*: God's holy name and honor are disgraced.

### v3 – How do false teachers exploit people?

False teachers use *covetousness* (*greed*, NIV) — both their own and in their followers.

- They present a gospel of self-gratification.
- All this is presented **with deceptive words** because false teaching never announces itself.

### What does it mean the false teachers use fabricated stories?

They make stuff up; they make Bible interpretations out of context and spiritualize what should be taken literally.

- Exegesis – objective; letting its meaning come from the text itself.
- Eisegesis – subjective; reading into the text what the interpreter wants it to say

### Why are false teachers in more danger than they believe?

*Their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber:* False teachers *will be* judged. Even though it seems they prosper, their judgment is not **idle**.

- God’s wrath pours out on them even in allowing them to continue, thus heaping up more and more condemnation and hardness of heart in themselves.

### v4 – How do we know false teachers will be punished?

*God did not spare the angels who sinned:* God judged these wicked angels, setting them in **chains of darkness**.

- The most egregious fallen angels are in bondage while others are unbound and active on earth.

### How had certain angels sinned?

The sin of angels can be thought of in two main ways: in the original rebellion of some angels against God, and in the sin of the “sons of God” described in Genesis 6:1-2.

- Those angels who attempted to corrupt the human DNA to prevent the Messiah from being born were the ones who were put in bondage in the Abyss.

### When did the angels who fell become fallen?

It is clear that at some time, angelic beings had a period of choosing and testing when their future destiny would be determined.

- We don’t know the details of their fidelity test.
- Jude says *they kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation*; which indicates they became *discontented* and aspired to higher honor

There are indications that the testing of angels happened prior to the Age of Humans...

Ezekiel 28:16 – *By the **abundance** of your trading you became filled with violence within, and you sinned; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing out of the mountain of God*

The fall of Satan wasn’t the result of a once-and-done event, it had to happen over a period of time which God allowed in His mercy. And certainly the angels were around at the creation of the earth...

Job 38:4-7 – *Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? ...When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?*

Why would the angels shout for joy if God created the earth to be *without form and void* when we know the result of God’s creation is *very good* per Genesis 1:31?

- The phrase translated *without form and void* is used in other places in Scripture to represent the results of the judgment of God.
- Could it be that the earth served as a place of testing for angels prior to the Age of Humans? (Gap Theory)

### Why do fallen angels seek to thwart God’s plans for mankind?

God’s plan for mankind no-doubt stirred up jealousy among the angels...

- Man is made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26) and angels are not. Satan and his angels might have resented this plan to create a being that would be more closely connected to God than they were.
- Though mankind is beneath the angels in dignity (Hebrews 2:6-7a, 2 Peter 2:11), it is the job of angels to serve mankind (Hebrews 1:14, 2:7-8, Psalm 91:11-12). Satan and his angels resented a plan that would command them to serve lesser beings.
- Redeemed mankind will be lifted in honor and status above all angelic beings (1 Corinthians 6:3; 1 John 3:2). Satan and his angels resented a plan that would glorify these lower beings to places above them.

It sprang from the admiration of their own gifts, confirmed by pride and ambition, and perfected by envy stirred up by the decree of exalting man’s nature above angels in and by Christ Himself.

### What happened to the fallen angels who were incarcerated?

The ones who did not keep their proper place are now kept in **chains of darkness**.

- They are in bondage in the Abyss.

### What does it mean the fallen angels were sent to hell?

The Greek word translated **hell** is literally *Tartarus*. In Greek mythology, Tartarus was the lowest hell, a place of punishment for rebellious gods.

### What is the warning here to humans? How might the sin of people be more egregious than angels?

The devil never...

- rejected free grace and dying love
- struggled against the Holy Spirit in his conscience
- never refused the mercy of God.

### v5 – How did God not spare the ancient world?

God judged *the ancient world*, the world before Noah’s Flood, because *the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually* (Genesis 6:5).

### v6 – Why did God condemn Sodom and Gomorrah?

God judged the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, turning them to ashes thus making them an example of His judgment, *because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grave* (Genesis 18:20).

### What is the message in these 3 examples of judgment?

These examples of judgment reveal important principles:

- God judged **the angels who sinned**, so *no one is too high to be judged*.
- God judged **the ancient world** before the flood, so *God doesn't grade on a curve*, only comparing man among other men.
- God judged **Sodom and Gomorrah**, so *even the prosperous can be judged*.

### What is the message to the ungodly in these three judgments?

The **ungodly** have no reason to think they can escape God's judgment. Their coming judgment is certain. As Jesus said in Luke 10:10-12, for those who reject the truth *"it will be more tolerable in that Day for Sodom."*

### v7-8 – Why did God rescue Lot?

The Lord delivered Lot because he was righteous and his uncle, the righteous Abraham asked Him to.

- God knew as well to *save* as to *destroy*; and that his *goodness* led him as forcibly to save righteous Lot

### How was Lot righteous?

Lot was **righteous** in God's eyes, though perhaps it was hard for others to see his righteousness.

- Yet the wickedness of Sodom and Gomorrah **tormented his righteous soul from day to day**.

### If Lot was righteous, why didn't he leave Sodom on his own?

Lot's **soul** was **tormented**, but he failed to follow through with godly actions and separate himself and his family from the ungodliness of Sodom.

- The Lord **delivered** Lot because of his **righteous** soul; yet Lot lost everything else because of his too-close association with that wicked city.

### v9 – What is the principle for God rescuing the godly?

*Then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations*: Even as the Lord delivered Lot, He knows how to deliver us from the **temptations** we face, and He knows how to **reserve the unjust** for the day of judgment.

- We can trust in God's deliverance of the godly because it is just as certain as His judgment of the ungodly.

### What is significant about the Lord knowing how to rescue us and hold the unrighteous for judgment?

Often, *we* do not know how we can be rescued, but **the Lord knows how**. The Lord often orchestrates situations for us to recognize our utter dependence on Him.

- The unrighteous will get they are due in due time... the Lord knows how to see to that as well.

### v10 – Who are especially deserving of judgment?

*those who walk according to the flesh*: They live according to the flesh, not the spirit, and are marked by **uncleanness**.

### What characterizes those who are especially deserving of judgment?

*They are presumptuous, self-willed*: These ungodly ones are proud, despising authority. In their presumption they will even speak ill of spiritual powers (Satan and his demons) that the angels themselves do not speak evil of...

Jude 1:9 – *Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"*

Much of what goes on under the name of spiritual warfare shows this kind of pride and presumption.

- While we recognize our authority in Jesus, we see that it is only in Jesus that we have it — and we leave the **reviling accusations** to Him alone.

### v11 – How are those faithful angels contrasted with those who follow the corrupt desire of the flesh?

The faithful angels did not slander or exaggerate in what they say or how they represent the sins of others; but those who walk according to the flesh do.

### What applications come to mind from this passage?

- Examples of God's judgment include angels, the ancient world and Sodom & Gomorrah; the judgment of modern man will be worse... don't be among those.
- False prophets and teachers face severe judgment; don't get caught-up in their lies.
- The deliverance of God is just as certain as the judgment of God.