

Flag Branch Missionary Baptist Church
Baptist Training Union

“1st and 2nd Peter and Jude”
Called To Resist False Teaching

Study Ten: Addressing False Teaching – 2 Peter 2:1-22

1. But false prophets also appeared among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly (cleverly, subtly, stealthily) introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.
2. Many will follow their indecent (sensual) behavior, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned;
3. And in their greed they will exploit (make merchandise of) you with false (feigned) words; their judgment 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 **[a]**hell and committed them to **[b]**pits of darkness, held for judgment;
5. And did not spare the ancient world, but protected Noah, a **[c]**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 **[d]**of what is coming for the ungodly;
7. And if He rescued righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the perverted conduct of **[e]**unscrupulous people
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 **[f]**a trial, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment,
10. And especially those who **[g]**indulge the flesh in its corrupt passion, and despise **[h]**authority. **[i]**Reckless, self-centered, they speak abusively of angelic **[j]**majesties without trembling,
11. Whereas angels who are greater in might and power do not bring a demeaning judgment against them before the Lord.
12. But these, like unreasoning (irrational) animals, born as creatures of instinct to be captured and killed, using abusive speech where they have no knowledge, will in **[k]**the destruction of those creatures also be destroyed,
13. Suffering wrong as the wages of doing wrong. They count it a pleasure to revel (carouse, indulgence) in the daytime. They are stains and blemishes, reveling in their **[l]**deceptions as they feast with you,
14. Having eyes full of adultery **[m]**that never cease from sin, enticing unstable souls, having hearts trained in greed, accursed children;
15. Abandoning the right way, they have gone astray, having followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved the **[n]**reward of unrighteousness;
16. But he received a rebuke for his own offense, for a mute donkey, speaking with a human voice, restrained the insanity of the prophet.
17. These are springs without water and mists driven by a storm, for whom the **[o]**black darkness has been reserved.
18. For, while speaking out arrogant (swollen, pompous) words of no value they entice (entrap, seduce) by fleshly desires, by indecent (licentious, unrestrained) behavior, those who barely escape from the ones who live in error,
19. Promising them freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by what anyone is overcome, by this he is enslaved.
20. 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.
21. 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.
22. **[p]**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.”

[a] 4 Gr Tartarus, a name used as a reference to the netherworld (hell), [b] 4 One early ms chains of darkness, [c] 5 Or herald, [d] 6 One early ms to those who were going to live ungodly lives, [e] 7 Or disgraceful [f] 9 Or temptation; one early ms trials (temptations), [g] 10 Lit go after, [h] 10 Lit lordship, [i] 10 Or Audacious [j] 10 Lit glories, [k] 12 Lit their destruction also, [l] 13 One early ms love feasts, [m] 14 Lit and unceasing from sin [n] 15 Or wages, [o] 17 Lit blackness of darkness, [p] 22 Lit The thing of the true proverb has happened to them

Discussion

- A. What is a “false teacher”? Any reason why Peter says “teacher” instead of “prophet”. What is a secret “destructive heresy”? How can a person “deny the Master”? ver. 1
- B. Who are the “many” and what are they following? How can they “malign” the way of truth? ver. 2
- C. What does “exploit” mean? What is the motivation and method for this exploitation? ver. 3
- D. What is the end for false teachers? What examples does Peter give of God’s judgement? What examples of His grace and mercy? ver. 4-9.
- E. In Matthew 22, Mark 12 and Luke 20, Jesus said God’s children will be “like the angels”. If angels sinned, will the resurrected and redeemed children of God be capable of doing the same? ver. 4.
- F. What are five things Peter said God will judge the unrighteous for? ver. 10
- G. What does Peter compare the unrighteous to? What does he say they are doing? ver. 12-16.
- H. Peter says “they never cease from sin”. What does this statement imply about sin? ver. 14.
- I. What does it mean to “entice”? How do false teachers use this method? What is their own spiritual state? ver. 18-19.
- J. What type of person is Peter describing here? Who is at risk of becoming like this? ver. 20
- K. In what way is it better never to have known than to have known and turned away? What is the message in the proverbs Peter quotes? ver. 21-22.
- L. In conclusion, what are some “red flags” or signs that a person may be a “false teacher” either knowingly or unknowingly? What can or should we do? What’s the risk of doing nothing?