

FALSE TEACHERS - 2 PETER 2

Vs. 1-3

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. ³ 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.

- Setting the stage. False teachers are coming.
- Such individuals:
 - Do so secretly.
 - Destructive heresies - this is serious stuff.
 - Denying Jesus who bought them.
 - Sensual.
 - Greedy.
 - Condemned and destruction awaits them.

Vs. 4-10a

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; ⁵ if He did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; ⁶ 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; ⁷ and if He rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked ⁸ (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, ¹⁰ and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority.

- Jude mentions Jesus saving the Israelites out of Egypt, he mentions a prophecy of Enoch, and how Michael disputed with Satan over Moses body (don't know what that's about).
- Order may not matter (it's scrambled in Jude), but here it's:
 - When angels sinned - points to a past time/event. Kept in gloomy darkness until the judgment.
 - Noah and the flood - **Genesis 6-9**. Flooded the world.
 - Sodom & Gomorrah - **Genesis 19**. Made into an ash heap.
- Point? He knows how to preserve the righteous and punish the wicked.

Vs. 10b-16

Bold and **willful**, they do not tremble as they **blaspheme** the glorious ones, ¹¹ whereas angels, though greater in might and power, do not pronounce a blasphemous judgment against them before the Lord. ¹² But these, like **irrational animals**, creatures of instinct, born to be caught and destroyed, blaspheming about matters of which they are ignorant, will also be destroyed in their destruction, ¹³ suffering wrong as the wage for their wrongdoing. They count it pleasure to **revel** in the daytime. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their **deceptions**, while they feast with you.

¹⁴ They have eyes full of **adultery**, insatiable for sin. They **entice** unsteady souls. They have hearts trained in **greed**. Accursed children! ¹⁵ Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray. They have followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved gain from wrongdoing, ¹⁶ but was rebuked for his own transgression; a speechless donkey spoke with human voice and restrained the prophet's madness.

- Context and comparison of **Jude 8-9** help determine **vs. 10**. Lack of humility. No concerns about their speech and condemnation (even against evil spiritual beings).
- Balaam - see **Numbers 22-24**. Also see **Numbers 25:1-3; 31:16; Revelation 2:14**.
- Take note of their character. This seems to be the main focus.

Vs. 17-22

¹⁷ These are **waterless springs** and mists driven by a storm. For them the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved. ¹⁸ For, **speaking loud boasts of folly**, they **entice by sensual passions** of the flesh those who are barely escaping from those who live in error. ¹⁹ They promise them freedom, but they themselves are **slaves of corruption**. For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved. ²⁰ For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. ²¹ For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them. ²² What the true proverb says has happened to them: "The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire."

- Like finding an empty well or the excitement of a good rain cloud . . . but it passes by.
- Prey on the weak. Another motivator for not being an amateur of God's word
- Key characteristic of false teachers: they'll make you feel free. But wait, didn't Jesus do that?
- Actually, we're all slaves in a sense. **Romans 6:15-16** *What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?*

Something to take home:

- Careful how you apply these passages. Would Apollos fit in **2 Peter 2**? See **Acts 18:24-28**.
- Careful how we treat one another. Be patient and loving, but also, pay attention.