

Springs Without Water

Lesson 21: 2 Peter 2

May 24, 2020

Letter outline

- 1:1-11
Introductory appeal to growth
- 1:12-2:22
The importance of knowledge of God
 - 1:12-18
Remember the truth of the Gospel
 - 1:19-2:22
Because there will be false teachers among the church
 - 1:19-2:9
Relating to God's word and the consequences
 - 1:19-21
Prophecy and its interpretation are from God
 - 2:1-3
Destruction will come to false interpreters
 - 2:4-9
God will not spare the wicked, but He will rescue the godly
 - 2:10-22
Characteristics of false teachers
- 3:1-10
The importance of godly conduct
 - 3:1-3
Remember the word of the prophets and apostles
 - 3:4-10
Because there will be mockers in the last days
- 3:11-18
Concluding appeal to growth

Theme – 2 Peter 3:17-18

You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness, but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

Comparison with Jude

2 Peter

- 2:4 angels when they sinned
- 2:6 Sodom and Gomorrah
- 2:10 despise authority, angels
- 2:12 unreasoning animals, revile
- 2:13 **carouse (feast) with you**
- 2:15 **Balaam**
- 2:17 without water...darkness
- 2:18 arrogant
- 3:2 words spoken beforehand
- 3:3 mockers

Jude

- 6 angels abandoned their abode
- 7 Sodom and Gomorrah
- 8 reject authority, angels
- 10 unreasoning animals, reviling
- 11 **Balaam**
- 12 **feast with you**
- 12 without water...darkness
- 16 arrogantly
- 17 words spoken beforehand
- 18 mockers

Chapter outline

- 1:12-2:22 The importance of knowledge of God
 - 1:12-18 **Remember** the truth of the Gospel
 - 1:19-2:22 **Because there will be** false teachers among the church
 - 1:19-2:9 Relating to God's word and the consequences
 - 1:19-21 Prophecy and its interpretation are from God
 - 2:1-3 Destruction will come to false interpreters
 - 2:4-9 The wicked not spared, the godly rescued
 - 2:10-22 Characteristics of false teachers
 - 2:10-11 Despising authority
 - 2:12-16 Indulging the flesh
 - 2:17-19 Emptiness of the false teacher
 - 2:20-22 The end of those who escape, yet are overcome

Destruction will come to false interpreters 2 Peter 2:1-3

¹But false prophets also arose 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. ²Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; ³and in *their* greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their **destruction** is not asleep.

- Present
 - False teachers
 - Sensuality
- Past
 - Preacher of righteousness (adjective implies the opposite was also there)
 - Sodom and Gomorrah
- Satan always opposes God's work
- Disciples must follow Christ only

The wicked not
spared, the godly
rescued

2 Peter 2:4-6

⁴For if God did not **spare** angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment; ⁵and 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**; ⁶and *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;

- If angels were not spared, will man be spared when he sins?
- Structure
 - Negative example: judgment
 - Righteous example: salvation
 - Negative example: judgment
 - Righteous example: salvation
 - Conclusion: God rescues the godly

The wicked not
spared, the godly
rescued

2 Peter 2:7-9

⁷and *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,

- Lot's righteousness is emphasized
- God knows how to accomplish
 - The rescue of the godly
 - The punishment of the unrighteous

Despising authority 2 Peter 2:10-12

¹⁰and especially those who indulge the flesh in *its* corrupt desires and despise authority.

Daring, self-willed, they do not tremble when they revile angelic majesties, ¹¹whereas angels who are greater in might and power do not bring a reviling judgment against them before the Lord. ¹²But these, like unreasoning animals, born as creatures of instinct to be captured and **killed**, reviling where they have no knowledge, will in the **destruction** of those creatures also be destroyed,

- Switches back to talking about the false teachers of 2:1-3
- This section is similar to Jude
- Characteristics
 - Indulge the flesh
 - Despise authorities, angels

Indulging the flesh 2 Peter 2:13-16

¹³suffering 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 carouse with you, ¹⁴having eyes full of adultery that never cease from sin, enticing unstable souls, having a heart trained in greed, accursed children; ¹⁵forsaking the right **way**, they have gone astray, having followed the **way** of Balaam, the *son* of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; ¹⁶but he received a rebuke for his own transgression, *for* a mute donkey, speaking with a voice of a man, restrained the madness of the prophet.

- They throw off all restraint in their self-indulgent lifestyle
- They are completely focused on sin
- Balaam is their example, not Christ
- They despise angels, but could be rebuked by animals

Emptiness of the false teacher

2 Peter 2:17-19

¹⁷These are springs without water and mists driven by a storm, for whom the black darkness has been reserved. ¹⁸For speaking out arrogant *words* of vanity they entice by fleshly desires, by sensuality, those who barely escape from the ones who live in error, ¹⁹promising them freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved.

- They promise, but they are empty
- They claim power, but are weak
- They offer freedom while in chains

The end of those who
escape, yet are
overcome
2 Peter 2:20-22

²⁰For 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. ²¹For 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. ²²It 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."

- To have escaped and then be overcome is worse than the first
- Not having known would be better than being overcome

Summary

- The Lord knows how to rescue the godly and punish the unrighteous
- False teachers despise authority
- False teachers indulge the flesh
- One who is a slave cannot offer freedom
- One is enslaved by what overcomes him
- It is better not to have known the way of righteousness than to turn from it