

2 Peter Chapter 2:4-10

Examples of Past Judgements

Hymns: # 98 Hark The Herald Angels Sing #458 Rock of Ages

The French poet Friedrich Von Logau, said, "Though the mills of God grind slowly, yet they grind exceedingly small"; and the American poet William Wadsworth Longfellow elaborated and said, "Though the mills of God grind slowly, yet they grind exceedingly small. Though with patience He stands waiting, with exactness He grinds all."

This "grinding" wrath of God in the face of His spurned patience is misunderstood by so many. Chuck Swindoll has observed that "Many think, invariably of some sort of peeved deity, a kind of cosmic, terrible tempered Mr. Bang, who indulges in violent, uncontrolled displays of temper when human beings do not do what they ought to do. But such a concept only reveals the limitations of our understanding. The Bible never deals with the wrath of God that way. According to the Scriptures, the wrath of God is God's moral integrity. When man refuses to yield himself to God, He creates certain conditions, not only for himself but for other as well, which God has ordained for harm. It is God who makes evil result in sorrow, heartache, injustice and despair. It is God's way of saying to man, "Now look, you must face the truth. You were made for Me. If you decide that you don't want Me, then you will have to bear the consequences." The absence of God is destructive to human life. The absence of God is wrath. And God cannot withhold it. In His moral integrity, He insists that these things should occur as a result of our disobedience. He sets man's sin and His wrath in the same frame."¹

We saw last time how Peter warned us to expect false teachers and to expect many to follow them in their insolent disregard for moral decency. Peter also told us that we could expect one more thing; namely the judgement and destruction of those teaching and leading the many into apostasy. In this next section Peter is going to provide three examples of past judgements as a case study of the devastating certainty of their coming judgement. Peter is also going to provide us two examples of the deliverance God's people can expect in the midst of and out from the day of judgement.

Examples of Past Judgements:

1. **Angels** V. 4 "For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment.

So just who are these angels? Obviously, this must refer to a specific cohort of angels because Satan, as an angel, and the apparent one third of the fallen angelic host he currently leads are not in gloomy dungeons being held for judgement. Rather they are roaming about quite free; deceiving and manipulating a Christ rejecting world. 1 Pet 5:8 reminds us that "Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour."

I think Jude 6 can give us an initial insight into just who these angels are: "And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home--these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day."

The first thing we notice about these angels is they did not keep, that is they did not lit. τηρέω- meaning to guard and watch over their position of authority. This can be translated as their domain or first estate. But they abandoned their own home; lit. their οικήτήριον. This has been variously translated as their proper dwelling or proper abode. Importantly,

¹ Charles R. Swindoll, "Living Above the Level of Mediocrity"

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this word οἰκητήριον is only used here and in one other place in the Bible in 2 Cor. 5:2 where Paul used this word saying “Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. 2 Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed with **our heavenly dwelling** (there’s our word - **our οἰκητήριον**), 3 because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked.” The “heavenly dwelling”, Paul taught about here is the heavenly body we will receive when we leave this “tent” of our mortal flesh; it will be a body properly suited to our new heavenly environment during the intermediate state.

Can you think of any examples of any angels who didn’t keep their posts as guards or watchers and who also left behind the bodies they had been given; bodies that were properly suited to a heavenly realm?

Genesis 6:1-4 gives us another very clear indication as to who these angels are: “When men began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, 2 the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose. 3 Then the LORD said, “My Spirit will not contend with man forever, for he is mortal; his days will be a hundred and twenty years.” 4 The Nephilim were on the earth in those days-and also afterward-when the sons of God went to the daughters of men and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown.”

So let’s try and pull these two passages together. The angels Peter refers to as the first example of past judgements are the ones who, prior to the flood, didn’t guard what they were supposed to. I believe this may be referring to Gen. 3:24: “After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden **cherubim** (plural) and a flaming sword flashing back and forth **to guard** the way to the tree of life. Or possibly they are the 200 “Watchers” who abandoned heaven and took women for themselves as recorded in the Book of Enoch 6:1-6. This is an apocryphal book that both Peter and particularly Jude quote from. We’ll look at this in detail when we come to the Book of Jude and the end of this series. Though the Bible doesn’t give us exhaustive or explicit details about them, we do know that these angels left behind their heavenly bodies, taking a form that allowed them to take to themselves the daughters of Adam and who lit. “came in unto the daughters of Adam” and produced genetically corrupted offspring called the Nephilim. Nephilim in Hebrew means “fallen ones” and is translated as “Giants” in the KJV. This comes from the 3rd century BC Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible, where they translated “Nephilim” as “gigantes” in Greek, thus the English word “giants”. These genetically corrupted offspring are the Giants the twelve spies saw when they turned away to spend 40 years in the Wilderness (Num. 13:32-33). Goliath was once such giant as were four of his relatives, one of which we know named (Lahmi) to be his brother (2 Sam 21:15-22; 1 Chron. 20:4-8). These five giants; mutated six fingered six toed semi-humans were prophetically targeted by David when he chose five smooth stones from the river, one of which he used to fell Goliath. Og, King of Bashan, whose bed was made of steel and was more than 13 feet long and 6 feet wide was a Nephilim descendant (Deut. 3:11). God commanded Joshua and the Israelites to completely destroy the Nephilim and their descendants (the Rephaites, Anakites, Zamzummites, Emmites) when they came into Canaan, but they remained in strongholds at Gaza, Gath and Ashdod (Josh. 11:22). Incidentally, do you remember where Goliath was from? Gath! We’ll talk more about the importance of recognizing the Nephilim shortly. But for now, we are clear who these angels are and why they were so judged. These are angels who in their lust left their heavenly bodies and had sexual relations with human women producing genetically altered and corrupt hybrid offspring called Nephilim.

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Note too that these angels are literally “in chains of gloomy darkness” in a specifically designated place called *ταρταρώσας* – Tartarus, not just “hell” in general. The Bible is very clear about the distinctions within the “underworld”. There is this place called Tartarus, which is exclusively the holding place of these chained fallen angels. There is the place designated as Hades. Prior to the ascension of Jesus, Hades was a two compartment place consisting of Paradise or “Abrahams Bosom” which was a place of comfort and rest. The other compartment was a place of conscious torment and fire, what we think of today as hell. After His death, Jesus descended to hades and emptied Paradise, taking all that were there with Him into heaven. There is also the Bottomless Pit or “the Abyss”; the place from which demonic insectoids will pour forth from in the Great Tribulation (Rev. 9) and where Satan will be kept sealed up for the one thousand years of the Millennial Kingdom (Rev. 20:1-3). There is also the eternal Lake of Fire (Rev. 20) into which Satan, fallen angels, demons, the anti-Christ, the false prophet and all unbelievers of all ages will ultimately be cast. So just as there are distinctions in the unseen realm of angels, there are distinctions in the places of judgement.

The past judgement on these angels is an example of God’s sovereign power and plan and that if such powerful angels didn’t get away with anything, do you think false teachers will fare any better? Clearly not.

2. **World in Noahs Day** v. 5 “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;

The second example of judgment from the past is the Nohaic Flood. Just as we have identified the angles, we also need to identify the cause of the Flood. And I believe we shall see a connection between the two and why Peter mentions them together.

Looking back at Genesis 6:5-9 and picking up where we left off a minute ago, we read: “The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. 6 The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain. 7 So the LORD said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth-men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air-for I am grieved that I have made them." 8 But Noah found favour in the eyes of the LORD. 9 This is the account of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God. 10 Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth.”

V.9 is key for it says literally this is the “generations” (*תולדות*- *tō-wl-dōt*; plural), of Noah; in other words we are focused on the genealogical blood line and Noah’s family history. Noah was a righteous man, “blameless”, (lit.- *תמים*- *tā-mîm*- meaning complete; sound; whole; healthful; unimpaired; unblemished and without defect) among “the people of his time” (lit. *בְּדֹרֹתָיו*- *bə-dō-rō-tāw*- in his generations; a word used here only one time in the entire Bible; note the different Hebrew word used here from the previous word translated as generations. The plural here may be suggesting “in his genetics among the men living at that particular time). In other words, Noah, and his blood line, was complete; sound; whole and healthful in his genetics even as he lived among men who were not.

The meaning of the Hebrew words used here, coupled with the immediate prior context of fallen angels, their genetically corrupted off spring called Nephilim or Giants who were the lit. *הגִּבּוֹרִים*- *hag-gib-bō-rîm*- the heroes of old; the mighty men of renown coupled with the numerous reference throughout the rest of the OT to both the Nephilim and to Nimrod who

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literally “began to be a ‘gibbor’ against/ in opposition to Lord” (Gen. 10:8-12) allows us to understand why God went on to say:

Gen. 6:11-13 “Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. 12 God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. 13 So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth.”

So let's try and pull all this together. The reason for the Flood judgement would appear to be because of the near universal genetic corruption of humanity by the illicit relationship between fallen angels and the daughters of men. This genetic corruption was endangering the very first prophetic promise God made after the fall when he promised “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring (lit. Seed) and hers; He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.” This Seed was none other than Jesus Christ. Satan understood this and set out to destroy the possibility of the “Seed of the women” to come forth. If he could corrupt the human genome by infecting all humanity with his own fallen angelic seed, then no truly “human beings” would exist, only genetically corrupted Nephilim “seed”. Thus, he could thwart God's judgement on him...or so he thought.

But God sovereignly protected the genetic makeup of Noah. He was complete; sound; whole; healthful; unimpaired; unblemished and without defect in his genetics, as were presumably his family that were preserved with him. With these few truly “human beings” God repopulated the earth. Though “The Nephilim were on the earth in those days-**and also afterward**” (Gen. 6:4), God has Sovereignly protected the “truly human” Seed of the Woman all the way down to Jesus Christ, who became “truly human” as we confess in the Nicene Creed at every Eucharist.

Demory Green, author of the book *Crippled Christianity*, wrapped this up quite succinctly when he wrote: “Without an intact blood trail back to Adam, there would be no ‘promised seed of the woman’, no path for God to reclaim original title to the Earth, and no image for regeneration...this has been a cosmic war between Jehovah and Lucifer, and we've been the collateral damage caught in the crossfire. In that temporary 4,000-year trail of animal blood, we now recognize the biological and genetic purpose and vehicle for the virgin birth- God was restoring the creation, beginning with us. We can conjecture that He could have just destroyed it all and done another six day creation; but let Lucifer win? No. He made man in His image; that was the design. To have the original design, he had to regenerate (not replace) from an original uncorrupted seed- that original image guarded for 4,000 years in the mitochondrial DNA from Eve, transmitted through a family tree to Mary; and that image only accessible by the Holy Spirit.”² Demory also reminds us of some basic biology: At conception each parent contributes half of the recombinant or nuclear DNA (46 chromosomes; 23 from father and 23 from the mother) for the body, but the mitochondrial DNA (1 self-replicating chromosome only) is passed intact directly and only from the **mother** to the child. How wise is our God!

So we see here how God wiped out the entire human race except for eight individuals. He did this because of their sinful genetic corruption and to ensure His prophetic word and original design would come to pass. If God was willing to bring that level of judgement in the past, do you think God is going to “wink” at the doctrinal corruption false teachers are infecting people with? Of course not. And this is Peter's point.

² Demory Green; *The Highway of Heaven- Part Three*; page 34-35 in *The Prophecy Watcher*; August 2017

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I think it is also worth mentioning at this point what Jesus warned in the Matthew 24:37-39 “As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; 39 and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away.”

This is clearly a reference to men and women blindly going along and rejecting the message of the gospel. But I believe it is also a warning regarding the resurgence of demonically inspired corruption of the human genome. Today one can purchase on the internet a genome editing technology known as CRISPR/Cas9 that allows you to make permanent gene modifications within organisms. People are already messing around with this to modify their own genes for what they think are biological improvements or longevity of life. In addition scientists have already created a human-pig hybrid in a milestone study that raises the prospect of being able to grow human organs inside animals for use in transplants. At least that’s what they say they are currently using the research for. Furthermore, people are already implanting “chips” within their bodies for both technological and biological reasons. When coupled with the lightning fast expansion of AI, the stage is being set for a shockingly evil, corrupt and violent return to the “Days of Noah”. Stay awake folks!

3. **Sodom and Gomorrah** v.6 “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;”

The third example of judgement Peter reminds us of is that of Sodom and Gomorrah. We recall that Lot settled in Sodom, where “the men of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the LORD (Gen. 13:13). This is seen in how, after the angels came to rescue Lot from the coming destruction, “all the men from every part of the city of Sodom-both young and old-surrounded the house. 5 They called to Lot, “Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us so that we can have sex with them” (Gen.19:4). Peter tells us in v. 7 that the men of Sodom lived filthy (insolent disregard for moral decency) and lawless lives. Since the Jewish Law had not yet been given, their “unlawful” deeds must refer to that which is contrary to the law of nature and conscience. “The flagrant sin of Sodom and Gomorrah...was unnatural sex, sodomy, or homosexual behaviour, a sin that is clearly condemned in Scripture (Rom. 1:24-27; 1 Cor. 6:9; Lev. 18:22)”³

But to fully understand this judgement we have to ask a question about it, just we like have of the previous two judgments. The question is, why were the men, all the men from every part of the city of Sodom-both young and old” so into homosexuality and why did they turn out in such numbers and with such insistence to have sex with Lot’s angelic visitors?

It’s beyond the scope of our study here to fully explore this now. We will dive a bit deeper into this when we come to the Book of Jude and his several references to the extra biblical Book of Enoch. But as an initial insight, I want to mention Nimrod in Gen. 10:8-10 where we read “Cush was the father of Nimrod, who grew to be a mighty warrior on the earth. 9 He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; that is why it is said, “Like Nimrod, a mighty hunter before the LORD.” 10 The first centers of his kingdom were Babylon, Erech, Akkad and Calneh, in Shinar.” Three things to notice. First, the Hebrew text says literally “he began to be” a mighty warrior. The word is *chala*- which means to become profaned, defiled, polluted, or desecrated ritually, sexually or genetically. Second, the text tells us that Nimrod

³ Warren Wiersbe; *Be Alert; Victor Books; 1987 (p. 44)*

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began to be literally “a gibborw, gibborim”, that is one of the offspring of the Nephilim”⁴ It appears as though Nimrod, through sexually occult and demonic interaction, received into himself both physical corruption as well as immense knowledge beyond that of normal human means.

Dr Michael Lake summarizes “...with the appearing of the Watchers (that is the fallen angels of v. 4) and their children the Nephilim, sex was transformed into a perversion. With the wives of the Watchers, sex with fallen angels was introduced. While some ministers have a hard time wrapping their heads around such a concept, this practice is still highly valued among the occult to increase their occultic powers. Dr William Schnoebelen has shared in his testimony, when he was moving up into the levels of the occult (in Freemasonry)...how he was required to wed a fallen angel and consummate the marriage. The act of sexual congress with this immortal nearly killed him. However this union did supercharge his occult powers. This also explains one of the reasons that God judged Sodom and Gomorrah: It was not just homosexuality. There is more to the storey. The men of Sodom were very likely practitioners of the occult and knew that the men visiting Lot were angels. This might have been the very reason they were insisting on having sex with them: It would have supercharged their occult powers. This would also explain why Jesus connected the “days of Noah” with the “days of Lot”.⁵ (Luke 17:26; 28)

So here we see three examples of past judgements of fallen angels, the Flood and Sodom and Gomorrah and a common thread running all the way through them. The thread is satanic opposition to God’s prophetic promise in Gen 3:15 expressed in angelic sexual interference, corruption of humanity made in God’s image and demonically inspired sexual perversion and occult practices. And where does this thread end? Right at the door of false teachers today who Peter says will experience the same judgement as did angels, the world in Noah’s day and Sodom and Gomorrah because they are participating in the same satanic thread of opposition to God.

If you feel like I do right about now, you’re ready for some good news, and that is just what Peter offers us. He wants us to remember that even in the midst of His imminent judgment of false teachers and an apostatising Christendom, we might rest secure in the certainty of His promised rescue of us. Peter gives us two such examples:

Examples of Past Deliverances: Look back at v. 5 “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; and now v.7-10 “and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the filthy lives of lawless men 8(for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard) -- 9if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment. 10This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the sinful nature and despise authority.”

1. Noah

The first example of God’s deliverance from this mess is Noah. God protected Noah and his small family for more than 120 years while they lived in an absolutely corrupted and filthy society around them. Not only did God protect Noah IN that wicked society, “But God also delivered Noah and his family (out of and) from the judgement of the world. The flood waters that brought condemnation to the world only lifted Noah and his household up

⁴ Dr. Michael Lake; *The Shinar Directive*; Defender Publishing; 2014; (p.90)

⁵ Dr. Michael Lake; *The Sheeriyth Imperative*; Defender Publishing; 2016; (p.143)

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above judgement. They were secure in the ark of safety. In his first epistle, Peter had seen in the ark a type of our salvation in Jesus Christ (1 Pet. 3:20-22). The world, as it were, was “buried” in the baptism of the flood, but Noah was lifted up, a picture of resurrection and salvation. Certainly Peter was assuring his readers that, when the great day of judgement does come, they will be kept safe. Jesus Christ is our “ark of safety”. He delivers us from the wrath to come (1 Thes. 1:10)⁶

2. Lot

God also protected Lot and some of his family while they too lived in a cesspool of indecency around them. I don't know about you, but I find it challenging to hear the Scriptures describe Lot as a righteous man with a tormented righteous soul. To me, everything about his life smacks of worldliness, compromise and foot dragging. Even when God was trying to rescue him Lot was bartering to hold onto his old lifestyle. Nevertheless, God saw him as “a believer” and snatched him out of Sodom in what is a type of the Rapture. Lot is also a type of the believer who comes away from the Bema Seat judgement as a man escaping a house on fire. He will suffer loss. Lot suffered loss. He lost his peace and joy in life; he lost his integrity and testimony to his own family, for his married daughters and their husbands laughed at his warnings. He lost two of his daughters to judgement because they would not flee Sodom. Lot even lost his wife when she disobeyed God and looking back and became a pillar of salt. You can take the Lot out of Sodom, but you can't always the Sodom out of the Lot.

I'll close with Warren Wiersbe's observation: “Our present age is not only like the “days of Noah” but it is also like the “days of Lot”. Many believers have abandoned the place of separation and are compromising with the world. The professing church has but a weak testimony to the world and sinners do not really believe that judgement is coming. Society is full of immorality, especially the kind of sin for which Sodom was famous. It appears as though God is slumbering, unconcerned about the way rebellious sinners have polluted His world. But one day the fire will fall; then it will be too late”⁷

I believe if our physical eyes could see the swarming mass of angelic and demonic enemies all around us as well as those angels which Hebrews 1:14 says are “ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation”, I think we would be both shocked and sobered. I think we would be more alert and especially dependant and grateful for God's protection of us in this dark world.

Let us give thanks to our Rescuing God and re-consecrate our lives to Him; Let us build the ark in our day and repent of the Lot that resides within us all.

Let us pray...

⁶ Warren Wiersbe; *Be Alert*; Victor Books; 1987 (p. 45)

⁷ Warren Wiersbe; *Be Alert*; Victor Books; 1987 (p. 48)