

Review: Man is the keeper of the creation story to pass down to future generations.

We also discussed that man was created in the image of God and that if we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we have the fruit of the Spirit. In Ch. 4 we discussed “Natural Evil” in the world and our reaction to it as we know the world was not originally created with this evil. Adam ushered in death and corruption while Jesus ushered in justification and life.

Doctrine of Judgment

2 Peter 3:1-7 – Peter wrote: “This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder,” What does this mean? What is “sincere mind”?

“that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires.”

What sinful desires is Peter talking about?

“They will say, “Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.” For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished.” What is Peter explaining here?

“But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.” What is being stored up and where is it being stored? Why is it being stored?

Rom. 2:2 – Paul wrote: “the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things.” What does this mean? God’s judgment is His just action in history to punish disobedience and sin. Can you think of examples in the bible?

God judged the entire world in the past with the global flood of Noah’s day.

Gen. 7:11-22 – “...And God said to Noah, “I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth...”

What was the human violence on earth during this time?

Archeological evidence shows the world during this time was ruled by violent reptiles on land, in the air, and in the sea.

What was the animal violence on earth during this time?

Why was a global judgment necessary?

In order to kill all life on earth without harming the earth, water had to be used. Water wipes out life without destroying the material of the earth. Fire, on the other hand, destroys everything. Have you ever thought of this?

God will judge the entire world in the future with a global conflagration on the last day.

Luke 17:26-30 – Luke wrote: “Just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man. They were eating and drinking and marrying and being given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. Likewise, just as it was in the days of Lot – they were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building, but on the day when Lot went out from Sodom, fire and sulfur rained from heaven and destroyed them all – so will it be on the day when the Son of Man is revealed.” What does this tell us about the future? The flood judgement preserved the earth. The fire judgement will destroy the earth. What can we expect to see as followers of Christ and the coming kingdom?

The only salvation from the coming global judgment is through the grace of Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 2:4-10 – “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 judgement;” Who is Peter referring to here?

“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;” What is Noah’s character?

“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; and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked (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);” What is Lot’s character?

“then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment, and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority.” What is the character of those who are destroyed during Noah’s and Lot’s time? Do you see them today?

Do you see yourself as a Noah or a Lot? Would you be spared by God if either of these disasters occurred today?

If you see yourself as “of this world” rather than “not of this world”, you most likely would have been destroyed in either of these judgments. People of God are not of this world but merely visitors on an eternal journey.