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December 6, 2020

2 Peter 2

### False Prophets

**1But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.**

There are certain books of the Bible that put a lot of focus on “false teachers”; Galatians, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, and Jude. God knew what man would do with His Word and so HE had some of His profits put pen to paper to warn us of that eventuality.

False teachers are not necessarily those who profess Christ, they can teach falsehoods about anything. We see it daily; the term “fake news” is a form of false teaching. So is Social Justice, it sounds so good so right to so many, but it is filled with deceit. Be careful about what we claim to be truth; the only Truth that is 100% TRUE is God’s Word. That we can proclaim without hesitation. But there are those who are false teachers in the pulpit and Bible Studies as well. You will be held responsible for what you believe so you need to study yourselves. God holds those

people to a higher standard and will hold them accountable for what they teach; including me.

God through Peter points out that these false prophets did not have to be teachers they could be any person that would declare themselves as prophets of God; spread lies about Jesus and the Good News. They were heretics perhaps like today's social justice warriors. They speak of things they have no knowledge of. They create rumors and falsehoods about the basic doctrines of Jesus Christ. They are in the public square, music industry, Hollywood and of course politics and churches.

God speaks about the false teachers as believers or pseudo believers; these are within the larger body of churches. Even those who are of the Body of Christ the Church can hear these false teachers. Christians who study their Bibles can spot these false teachers eventually. Those who intentionally teach falsehoods about the Lord will eventually deny a critical truth; Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus is the Only Son of God, Jesus died on the cross for our Sins, we are saved through the Blood of Christ and not by any work, there is only One God, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The whole world heard Pastor Jeremiah Wright in several sermons calling on God to Damn America. In another sermon he declared that Jesus was a Palestinian. The first sermon cited falls in the social justice category the second in the false teacher category. But Jeremiah Wright doesn't hold a candle to many mainline denominations that promote homosexuality, social justice preaching within their religions as well as implementing things that God has called abominations.

**2And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.**

Pernicious means to be maligned, slurred and is malignant or evil. God declares that; many shall follow evil ways.

**3And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.**

What is it that evil covets? We know from the father of lies Satan, that He coveted God's throne, God's power. Through Satan's evil desires to covet power he has spread that through time and through the first sin so that all of mankind is tainted with that desire for power. We can see it in children, where one child wants to be dominate the same is seen in nature within the animal kingdom where it is called the Alpha male or Alpha female. This

quest for power comes from the pit of hell its author is the father of lies; Satan. It is rampant in politics and world governance.

God goes on at the end of vs 3 to declare;

***Vs. 3.....: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.***

Judgement is coming and as we look around the world or around the US, we see upheavals of war on the horizon. Would you have ever thought in America that we would have government agencies so corrupt and desperate for power that they would try to unseat a duly elected President. In my wildest dreams I never thought I would ever hear that a US Military team attacked a CIA site in Europe to confiscate its computers that were used to manipulate a Presidential election.

The time for judgement has come to America; God will no longer allow this nation to flaunt its meager power in His face. The chickens have come home to roost and destruction is eminent.

In the next couple of verses God is going to spell out a process that He has used in judgement; starting in Heaven with Satan and those angels that fell from Grace and followed Satan. He will then progress to the world at large then focus on specific cities. I think He will follow that same pattern of judgement; He says He will start with the Church and then move on as He did in Heaven.

***1 Peter 4:17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?***

**4For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast *them* down to hell, and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; 5And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth *person*, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly; 6And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned *them* with an overthrow, making *them* an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;**

### **The Godly will Be Delivered**

God has shown in His process of judgement what we have come to cling to as Believers and that is His Love, Mercy and Grace. For those who choose to walk in obedience; being in this world but not of it, for those who Believe in the Blood of Jesus Christ and the Salvation that He delivered on the Cross, to those God will extend His Love, His Mercy and His Grace. God is able by the power of His Hand to deliver those who love Him.

**7And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: 8(For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed *his* righteous soul from day to day with *their* unlawful deeds;) 9The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:**

Verse 9 simply means God knows how to sort out the believer from the un-believer. There was an old saying in the military and law enforcement that went like this;

“kill them all and let God sort them out”. The saying was flippant and crass, but it had a hint of truth. God does sort out the Believer from the un-believer. The saying was meant as humor but there is really no humor about this culling that will take place. People we know and love will be lost forever if they continue to love this world over loving God. There will be a sorting out and it will be the worst day on earth for humanity.

### **Profane and Blasphemous Seducers**

**10But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are *they*, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.**

This verse is a great example of digging deeper for the meaning of a term that on its face would mislead us to believe it is speaking of one thing when in fact it is speaking of “other worldly” thing.

The term in the first sentence I am referring to is; “government”. If you were reading this and did not take the time to investigate what is meant one would think that government in general is

elevated to a high level; one in equates uncleanness with despising the government.

According to Strong's Concordance this term "government or in some translations "authority" means;

Phonetic Spelling: (koo-ree-ot'-ace)

Definition: lordship

Usage: (a) abstr: lordship, (b) concr: divine or angelic lordship, domination, dignity, usually with reference to a celestial hierarchy.

We find this verse is not speaking of earthly government but heavenly or divine lordship in the sense of God's government.

**11Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord.**

The idea presented here is that men rail against heavenly things which they have no real knowledge of. For example, we have heard and may have said strong words accusing the fallen angels of horrible deeds in defying God. These Godly angels that God speaks of in verse 11, knew these fallen angels and know of the depth to which they have fallen and remember them solemnly, not with joy but with heavy hearts knowing their fate. We are cautioned by God here to consider that which we do not know with great respect; not for the idea that they rebelled against God but that they were deceived like men and women whom we love

are deceived. Judgement will come but we do not need to take great pleasure in the judgement of any created thing, it is a sad and solemn event.

***Jude 1: [8](#)Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities. [9](#)Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee. [10](#)But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves.***

Michael the Archangel did not show disgust for a fellow angel even Satan, Michael had known Satan his entire existence and did not feel able to rebuke Satan but left that to God and Him Alone. To Michael, it was up to God as to how He would address Satan it was not up to Michael. There is a lesson for us as well here; we look to God for judgement it is not within our job description to judge anyone or anything. We can of course surmise by observation that which is good and evil, but we dare not take judgement to ourselves that is God's Providence Alone.

**December 13, 2020**

***[12](#)But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption;***

Remember God is speaking specifically of “false teachers” even though the panorama of these verses is quite wide. These false teachers do not know of what they rail against or criticize. God is comparing their actions to that of wild beasts that leap on prey because it is their nature. Liars lie, cheaters cheat, false prophets tell falsehoods.

President Trump has used the song “The Snake” effectively in describing the evil that has tried to destroy him.

[https://duckduckgo.com/?q=song+the+snake+and+the+woman&t=ffsb&atb=v143-1&iax=videos&ia=videos&iai=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3D2Vjfw7UHI\\_E](https://duckduckgo.com/?q=song+the+snake+and+the+woman&t=ffsb&atb=v143-1&iax=videos&ia=videos&iai=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3D2Vjfw7UHI_E)

On her way to work one morning  
Down the path along side the lake  
A tender hearted woman saw a poor half frozen snake  
His pretty colored skin had been all frosted with the dew  
"Oh well," she cried, "I'll take you in and I'll take care of you"  
"Take me in oh tender woman  
Take me in, for heaven's sake  
Take me in oh tender woman," sighed the snake

She wrapped him up all cozy in a curvature of silk  
And then laid him by the fireside with some honey and some milk  
Now she hurried home from work that night as soon as she arrived  
She found that pretty snake she'd taking in had been revived  
"Take me in, oh tender woman  
Take me in, for heaven's sake  
Take me in oh tender woman," sighed the snake

Now she clutched him to her bosom, "You're so beautiful," she cried  
"But if I hadn't brought you in by now you might have died"

Now she stroked his pretty skin and then she kissed and held him tight  
But instead of saying thanks, that snake gave her a vicious bite  
"Take me in, oh tender woman  
Take me in, for heaven's sake  
Take me in oh tender woman," sighed the snake

"I saved you," cried that woman  
"And you've bit me even, why?  
You know your bite is poisonous and now I'm going to die"  
"Oh shut up, silly woman," said the reptile with a grin  
"You knew damn well I was a snake before you took me in  
"Take me in, oh tender woman  
Take me in, for heaven's sake  
Take me in oh tender woman," sighed the snake

These false teachers would and do rail against God and Christianity and Christians. We see it all throughout the world today of those who are blind in a spiritual sense railing against Christianity and more specifically against Jesus. Like the wild beast that will simple be destroyed destined for the lake of fire, these false teachers and those who abide with them will be destroyed in a like manner; they will “perish in their own corruption” to an eternity without God.

**13And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots *they are* and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you;**

There were events in the days that Peter wrote this that accounted for this idea of rioting. However, it is prophetic in the sense that little has changed in 2000 years; I am pretty sure God

was not speaking specifically of those we have seen within the past few months “riot” and destroying entire business communities. But as I think about it, that may be part of what He is speaking of here prophetically. Everything in verse 13 fits to a tee those who have carried out these riots.

When Peter wrote this there was a significant problem in the local gatherings that were called “churches”.

From Strong’s Concordance the Greek word for “church” is;

Phonetic Spelling: (ek-klay-see'-ah)

Definition: an assembly, a (religious) congregation

Usage: an assembly, congregation, church; the Church, the whole body of Christian believers.

In the broadest sense it is small “c” an assembly of people like a group that comes together for similar reasons. There were men who were false teachers not just specifically about the Good News but about many things. There were those who were trying to get the people to come against Rome, overthrow the powers of the day.

We see the same thing happening today; last night I went to a local meeting; we were told many things but it was all hearsay, none of it was sourced. It is like what you can find on the internet, people making broad and grand claims but no real actionable

intelligence. It is meant to stir up the people as it did in Peter's day. For many reasons, people being told what they want to hear all the time ginning up their inner feelings of being lost, not knowing what to do. I do not doubt the sincerity of those I saw and heard last night but they are boxing the wind, fighting in the dark, with no target just wild accusations and no first-hand knowledge of anything they claim is happening. My sense is that if you want to have an organization that seeks to help people in times of stress like we see coming, only the Truth can accomplish that. To allow wild accusation, unfounded news is no better than the fake news we can get from CNN. To be effective it needs to be so monitored that only valid first-hand information can be shared. No more insinuations or suggestions of what is really happening in the world. It's okay to organize for determining a defense but if it is not based on truth then what value is there?

What we should be considering is in the Spiritual sense; these false teachers as they rail against God and Jesus and Christians they act like wild animals; hiding their actions under the cloak of darkness, carrying out evil deeds without immediate repercussions. Satan is the master of deceit, claiming all kinds of knowledge and power but really possessing no power beyond what God has allowed.

As in the day of Peter the apparent lack of response to them from God and to a world that is sinning daily makes them think that there is no God, there is no judgement. They cannot conceive of the idea that judgement awaits, and the books are being written as they carry out their acts of defiance.

**14Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children: 15Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam *the son of Bosor*, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; 16But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet.**

If we all had our way, we would judge them in that instant. We are not given the power or authority to judge; we were just like them at one point, and God's Mercy, Grace and Love was longsuffering; loved ones praying for us to come to Jesus. So perhaps that is the approach we should take, knowing full well that judgement will come to those who reject Jesus, we can do nothing to stop that judgement from coming; what we can do is pray for those who are lost that they would be found.

I see many good Christians believing and praying for a revival. I see no such revival in God's Word for this time other than the one that will take place in Israel but that is during the Tribulation.

Perhaps instead of praying for a revival, we should be praying for God's Will to be carried out, even as uncomfortable as that will make us feel. Our feelings don't matter all that matter is God's Will being done.

The next few verses gives a bleak picture for those people's futures.

**17These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever. 18For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, *through much* wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.**

God here refers to their sin as "error". Strong's Concordance Word Helps says this about the word "error".

**Cognate:** **4106** *plánē* (a feminine noun derived from [4105](#) /*planáō*) – deviant behavior; a *departure* from what God says is true; an error (deception) which results in *wandering* (roaming into sin). [See 4105](#) (*planaō*).

We ourselves at one point in time were "wandering-roaming in sin" when we saw the light. God spoke to our hearts and we received Salvation through the Blood of the Lamb Jesus Christ. Should we not hope and pray that the same light that came to us would come to them. Again, judgement is sure, but so is Salvation for those who seek it.

**19While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.**

Jesus told His disciples that they could not serve two master;

*Matthew 6:24 24No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.*

There is a choice, but the choice has to be made; a “no to Jesus” choice is a clear choice for Satan as you master.

**20For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.**

This is a description of a person that in their mind wants to be saved and calls on the name of Jesus in their mind but perhaps not in their heart. They are like Jesus described the seeds that fell on rocky ground and immediately sprung up but there was no depth to the soil they were in. That is like accepting Jesus in our minds but not in our hearts. They say the distance from heaven to hell is about 18 inches; the distance from you head to your heart.

This may also be speaking of a backsliding Christian. One who really got to know Jesus but has fallen into such sin that it has drawn them back into the world and they are in worse condition

than before. That is a crowing jewel in Satan's economy; seeing a confessing believer whether in mental assent or heart felt assent to backslide cause grave damage to their testimony and Salvation.

**21For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known *it*, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.**

There are only a couple of things that God says are worse than just being an unbeliever; one is to harm a child the other is this case of believing and then rejecting that belief. He does not specify the level of belief or unbelief He simply says that to go from belief ostensibly at any level to unbelief has a horrific outcome for the person who does so.

**22But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog *is* turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.**

We fight daily against the animal nature within us. We can so easily be drawn into the world through lust; lust for power, money, sex it matters not; it is all from the enemy. The only thing that matters is that we do as God has commanded us to do;

***James 4:7 7Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. 9Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning,***

*and your joy to heaviness. [10](#)Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.*

*[11](#)Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge. [12](#)There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another?*

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