

2 Peter 2:4-11

⁴ For if God did not spare the angels when they sinned, but cast them deep into hell, placing them in chains of darkness to be held for judgment; ⁵ if He did not spare the ancient world when He brought the flood on its ungodly people, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, among the eight; ⁶ if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction, reducing them to ashes as an example of what is coming on the ungodly; ⁷ and if He rescued Lot, a righteous man distressed by the depraved conduct of the lawless 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) — ⁹ if all this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment.

¹⁰ Such punishment is specially reserved for those who indulge the corrupt desires of the flesh and despise authority. Bold and self-willed, they are unafraid to slander glorious beings. ¹¹ Yet not even angels, though greater in strength and power, dare to bring such slanderous charges against them before the Lord.

Berean Study Bible

⁴ Since God did not spare the angels when they sinned,
but delivered them, in chains of gloomy darkness, to Tartarus,
being imprisoned as judgement.
⁵ And, did not spare the ancient world,
except for eight, with Noah, a proclaimer of righteousness,
when the Flood was imposed upon the ungodly world.
⁶ And the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were reduced to ashes.
He condemned them to destruction
as an obvious example of what is coming on the disrespectful.
⁷ And He rescued righteous Lot,
who was distressed by the unrestrained conduct of the Lawless,
⁸ The righteous soul of this righteous man who resided among them
was tormented by their Lawless deeds.
⁹ Then the Lord understands how to rescue the devout from trials
and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the Day of Judgment,
¹⁰ especially those whose journey is
a desire to defile the flesh and scorn authority
Arrogant; self-willed; they do not tremble when blaspheming Glory.
¹¹ Whereas angels, although greater in strength and power,
do not bring before the Lord a derogatory judgement.

My own translation, Preachers Literal Translation

1

Father knows best. 2 Peter 2:4-11

The Lord understands rescue.

He rescued Noah. 5

He rescued Lot. 7-8

The Lord understands retribution.

He judged the spirit world. 4

He judged the natural world. 6

The Lord understands reason.

He rebukes inward sin. 10

He rebukes outward sin. 10

2

2 Peter 2:4-11

The trials from which we are rescued. 2:4-8

Trials of our own making.

Trials of the world's making.

Trials of the Lord's making.

The rescue we may receive. 2:4-9

Rescue is needed because of failure.

Rescue always includes loss (Noah, Lot)

Rescue is always to a new place.

The rescue that may be rejected. 2:9-11

Rescue that is from the flesh. 9

Rescue that is under authority. 10

Rescue that is in humility. 11

3

2 Peter 2:4-11

Examples of God's righteousness. 2:4-8

Righteousness brings judgement on the angels. 4 "not spare the angels"

Righteousness brings judgement on the ancients. 5 "not spare the ancient world"

Righteousness brings judgement on the abhorrent. 6-8 "condemned the cities"

Reasons for God's righteousness. 2:9

The Lord is all-knowing. 9a "The Lord knows"

The Lord is all-merciful. 9a "rescue the Godly"

The Lord is all-justice. 9b "punishment for judgement"

Warning of God's righteousness. 2:10-11

Righteousness will not tolerate carnality. 10a "corrupt desires of the flesh"

Righteousness will not tolerate controlling. 10b "despise authority"

Righteousness will not tolerate condemning. 10b "slander glorious beings"

4

God of Love, but... 2 Peter 2:4-11

Past punishments. 2:4-8

Punishment in the spiritual realm. 4 "did not spare the angels when they sinned"

Punishment in the physical realm. 5-8 "did not spare... condemned the cities"

Present protection. 2:9

The Lord is able to raise up. 9a "knows how to rescue the godly from trials"

The Lord is able to cast down. 9b "hold the unrighteous for punishment"

Prepared punishment. 2:10-11

There comes punishment for sin. 10 "punishment is specially reserved for those"

There comes punishment for Satan. Revelation 20:10 "Lake of fire and brimstone"

5

God only knows. 2 Peter 2:4-11, esp v9

God only knows how to rescue the righteous. 2:9a

A. Avoid. 2 Timothy 2:22 "Flee from lusts that trap the immature"

B. Boundaries. Psalm 119:106 "I have taken an oath and confirmed it"

C. Choices. Joshua 24:15 "Choose whom you will serve. As for me..."

God only knows how to reserve the unrighteous. 2:9b

D. Delay. 2 Peter 3:9 "patient... come to repentance"

E. Exactness. 2 Corinthians 5:10 "receive what is due"

F. Fulness. Revelation 20:15 "Anyone whose name was not found..."

6

Be aware, or beware. 2 Peter 2:4-11

Beware of God's justice. 2:4-9

God's justice begins in Heaven. 4 "did not spare the angels"

God's justice is seen in history. 5-8 "did not spare the ancient world"

God's justice is still coming. 9b "punishment on the day of judgment"

Be aware of God's mercy. 2:4-9a

God's mercy is found by obedient people. 4-8 "Noah, preacher of righteousness"

God's mercy is for people, not things. 5-9a "Noah... Lot"

God's mercy is the path for Godly people. 9a "rescue the Godly"

Be aware of ungodly systems. 2:10-11

Beware of self-indulgence. 10 "...corrupt desires of the flesh"

Beware of self-importance. 10 "despise authority"

Beware of self-will. 10b "Bold and self-willed, they are unafraid"

7

"The Lord understands how to rescue the devout from trials" 2 Peter 2:9a

Trials from which to be rescued

Trials of my own making (I make poor choice, or I sin)

Trials of other's making (I am collateral damage)

Trials of no one's making (we live in a broken world)

Trials of God's making (He puts me in a growth position)

Rescue from trials

Rescue from trials (answers to intervening prayer)

Rescue through trials (trials develop character, patience)

Rescue within trials (change me, not circs. Rescue me from myself)

Rescue by the rescuer

God may rescue me miraculously

God may rescue me through people (medical intervention)

God may rescue me in partnership (I apply Godly principles)

Rescue tools

Grief is a rescue tool

Prayer is a rescue tool

Thanks is a rescue tool

Logic is a rescue tool

Seeing God's hand in history. 2 Peter 2:4-11

If you look, you will see God's hand in cosmic history. 2:4

God created the angels for His glory.

God punished the demons for their sin.

If you look, you will see God's hand in human history. 2:5-8

God created humans for His glory.

God punished humans for their sin.

If you look, you will see God's hand in future history. 2:9-11

God does not want to punish you. 9a, 2 Peter 3:9

God will punish you, if that's your choice.

We have good news, and we have bad news. 2 Peter 2:4-11

God is consistent from ancient times. 2:4-5

Bad news. Sin brings judgment. 4-5a "God did not spare"

Good news. God rescues the righteous. 5 "Noah... righteousness"

God is consistent in historic times. 2:6-8

Bad news. Sin brings destruction. 6 "reduced to ashes... destruction"

Good news. God rescues the righteous. 7-8 "rescued righteous Lot"

God is consistent in our times. 2:9-11

Bad news. Sin brings punishment. 9 "hold the unrighteous for punishment"

Good news. God rescues the righteous. 9 "rescue the devout"

God helps those who... 2 Peter 2:4-11

The people whom God will punish.

God will punish the angels. 4 "angels when they sinned"

God will punish the disrespectful. 6 "what is coming on the disrespectful"

God will punish the arrogant. 10 "...Arrogant; self-willed..."

The people whom God will rescue.

God will rescue those who speak for right. 5 "proclaimer of righteousness"

God will rescue those who hate sin. 8 "soul was... tormented"

God will rescue those who are devoted to Him. 9 “rescue the devout”

Other possible titles

When enough is enough.
Will God send ‘good’ people to Hell?
How to avoid maturity.
Will the real fake please stand up.
Growing older, without growing up.
Finding fabulous among the fake.
Truth, or consequences.
Do you want the Fake News, or the Good News?
You have a free, one-way, ticket to Hell.
When the devil whispers in your ear.
When angels fall.
Which one is the rotten apple?
Why doesn’t God do something about it?
Fools rush in where angels fear to tread. v10-11
Do you want God’s protection, or God’s punishment?
Rescue and retribution.
Why bad things happen to good people

Commentary

Imprisoned angels who sinned

And the angels who did not stay within their own domain but abandoned their proper dwelling—these He has kept in eternal chains under darkness, bound for judgment on that great day. Jude 1:6 BSB

Music and songs

Songs about standing firm

Stand and bless the Lord (Fettke), Ot 91

Stand up and bless the Lord, Ot 71

Stand up and bless the Lord, ye people of His choice. H 39

Standing on the promises of Christ my King (Kelso Carter) H 690

Stand up, stand up for Jesus. H 522 / 752
We stand and lift up... Holy is the Lord. Ot 9

Songs about holding to the Truth

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet (Grant, Smith) Ot 63

Songs about turning to God

I'll trust in Him though darkness hide His face (Jimmy Owens), JOS 7
The God that made the world... You can trust Him (Ralph Carmichael), Ot 92
When I can't see You... I will trust in You (Danny Daniels) Ot 112
You have been a shelter Lord to every generation (Maranatha)

Songs about God's rescue

You rescued me and picked me up (Geoff Bullock) Ot 45

Thought starters for personal reflection or group discussion

1. Why are the terms 'Be aware' and 'Beware' so similar?
2. With Noah and Lot, why did God save only the people but allow the possessions of godly people to be destroyed?
3. How did Lot feel about his surroundings (v7-8)? Why do you think people stay in toxic situations?
4. The Lord knows how to rescue the devout (v9). What do the devout need to know in order to be rescued?
5. There is a coming Day of Judgment (v9). Why doesn't God punish every sin immediately? Why is God waiting for a future date?
6. What lessons do we learn from the judgment against angels occurring before the judgment against people?

Prayer

O Lord God, please help me to 'be aware' of You; aware of Your indwelling presence; aware of Your justice and Your mercy; aware of Your grace and Your strength.

At the same time please help me to 'beware' of myself; my propensity to sin; my self-centredness; my willingness to conform to the world.

O Lord, please make me more aware that I can, and must, be more like Jesus.