

### COMING DESTRUCTION?

What comes to mind? Perhaps the aftermath of a terrible weather event, or the outcome of a military action or sporting event. 2Peter 2 promises believers that destruction is the end result of false prophets and teachers, as v3 "*their condemnation from long ago is not idle and their destruction is not asleep.*" Peter employs a rabbi's device, that if premise A is true that God judges evil, then the greater premise B is certainly true - v9, "*the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment.*" And he points to several Old Testament examples.

**1- Are you spiritually oppressed?** Peter says the Holy Spirit spoke through God's apostles to write the New Testament. But false spirits are the demonic influencers behind false teachers and false prophets which afflict the church. Verse 4 notes, "*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 judgment.*" Angels are spiritual beings of the heavenly realms created for God's glory and purpose. Demons are angels who rebelled with Satan against God. Peter may be referring to Genesis 6, which many scholars understand to describe demonic angels who may have interbred with humans, bringing greater corruption and judgment to the world. Jude 6 also mentions judgment of rebellious angels. Revelation 12:4 notes the great dragon whose tail swept a third of the stars from heaven. Revelation 20:4 speaks of "*the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan.*" In Matthew 12 Jesus was accused of casting out demons by the devil's power. Jesus speaks in Matthew 25:41 of eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. Theologians note that demons can oppress people today, but their abilities are limited, their chains are real, and their ultimate destruction is assured. Believers are protected by God's Word and God's armor (Ephesians 6).

**2- Are you living amidst violence?** Evil never sleeps. But Peter reminds, God "*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.*" 2Peter 3:6 and 1Peter 3:30 point to a preeminent example of judgment in the Old Testament. In Genesis 6, God said to Noah, "*I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for all the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth.*" God told Noah to build an ark, a giant floating warehouse 510 feet long, plenty big for His purpose. "*I will establish My covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, and two of every living kind of all flesh.*" Eight people were saved from the global flood recorded in Genesis 7-8. Perhaps the best resource to understand how God arranged His rescue, is the ArkEncounter.com museum in Kentucky, a life-size experience of Noah's ark as described in the Bible. See also AnswersInGenesis.com and ICR.org and Creation.com and IsGenesisHistory.com for more answers to your questions. Peter's point: as God rescued Noah and his family from judgment against the corruption in the world, He can save you too. Trust and obey Him.

**3- Are you surrounded by sensuality?** The ancient world was very much like our own today, an orgy of sensual conduct and lawless deeds. Peter refers to this in 2Peter 3:6, "*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.*" The world, the flesh, and the devil are intent on suppressing the Bible because it records what actually happened in history, and what is going to happen to the agents of evil. Genesis 18-19 explains. Don't let children be deceived about homosexual behavior. It is not some innocent kiss on television or "love relationship" between two people of the same sex, but rather is described as a vile violation and fecal attraction of reprehensible rebellion against God's divine design of marriage as one man and one woman for one life together. The Creator provides spiritual power to escape every sexual sin or dysphoria, and to follow His pure pattern for human sexuality. The marriage covenant established by God in Genesis 1:26 and 2:24 was affirmed by Jesus in Matthew 19, "*have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said 'therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife and they shall become one flesh.'* What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." And let not man join what God has not joined. That's why every form of sexual perversion will be judged by God. Romans 1 explains how homosexual behavior, not the temptations but the actions, are the willful disobedience of God's clear Word. And His commands extend from His holy character, which is His standard for human sexuality, as empowered by the Holy Spirit.

In these examples of judgment and destruction, **God provides the way out** of sin and the way to walk with Him. Next time, we'll explore how Peter holds out the real hope of rescue and redemption! ☐