

**King James Bible Study Correspondence Course**

*An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries*  
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

**2 Peter 2: 1-9****Lesson 4**

return pages 6 & 7 only

Undercover cops, Moles, Disguises, Infiltration, Saving the day. These are the ingredients of a good spy thriller. We enjoy a good mystery adventure, but only if the good guys win in the end! Unfortunately, in real life, drug dealers, "underworld" figures, terrorists, child molesters, and traitors do business successful business-every day. In real life, each of us needs to be alert to the potential danger around us.

The words with which Peter opened the second chapter of 2 Peter could be summarized with "Be alert!" Israel had been privileged with true prophets of God, but she also had to contend with false prophets. The influence of those false prophets resulted in the collapse of the Israelite kingdoms (Israel in the north and Judah in the south).

The church today is blessed with teachers who faithfully teach God's Word. Peter warned us that the church will also face the serious problem of false teachers. These teachers will arise from within the fellowship of God's people and will experience a measure of success. Therefore, Peter's warning and explanation present a sobering challenge to Christians today. We must "Be alert!"

**Warning**

False teachers will arise from within the church (2 Peter 2:1). Peter's warning is clear and startling. False teachers will not appear with a name-tag that states clearly that their views are erroneous. They will mislead some of God's people by their lies, while claiming to be God's spokesperson. They can be identified, however, by what they teach. False teachers know the language of Biblical doctrine, but they reinterpret it with their own meanings. These men and women are smugglers of false doctrine by secretly perpetrating their erroneous ideas. Paul, too, warned the church about the inroads that false teachers would make into Christian fellowships (2 Corinthians 11:13-15).

**Denying Christ**

Peter clearly denounced the doctrines of false teachers as "destructive," which is the meaning of "damnable" (2 Peter 2:1). Their false teachings lead the adherents only to eternal condemnation (Hebrews 10:39). Their teachings are heretical doctrines because they diametrically oppose the teachings of God's Word. Peter was not writing about opinions over which believers may differ, but about views that are destructive to the Christian faith (see Jude 3).

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### Scripture Memorization

#### 2 Pet 2:1

*1 But 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.  
(KJV)*

GOD warns us to be on guard, not to become heresy hunters. The Impact of false teaching is disastrous to those impacted by it.

The denial of the false teachers, according to Peter, amounts to a repudiation of the fundamental doctrine that Christ died for their sins. In so doing, false teachers deliberately refuse to accept Biblical truth. Christ died to deliver us from the eternal ruin of our sin (Mark 10:45). Through His death Christ bought us so that we would become His property and He our Master (1 Peter 1:18, 19).

#### Ultimate End

The word "destruction" in 2:1 means "eternal ruin," not annihilation." False teachers flout the redemptive work of Christ, which indicates that they are not Christ's disciples. They have never been born again.

#### Many Will Follow

False teachers are successful and have many followers (2 Peter 2:2), because their doctrinal errors are infectious. Their followers adopt their shameful lifestyle, which Peter described as "pernicious." The word means "unbridled lust." Both teacher and student engage in a morally unrestrained conduct of behavior in the name of Christianity.

They bring their unbridled sexual immorality into the church and call it appropriate conduct for Christians (2 Peter 2:2). Such behavior will disgrace GOD's truth and will cause many people who observe them to blaspheme God's truth. For others will blame the heretics' behavior on the 'way of truth,' but it is the error of their pagan thinking that is to blame.

The "way of truth" is the way of sound doctrine with its corresponding godly lifestyle. Sound doctrine issues only in holy living (1:3,4), which never dishonors God and never causes people to speak evil of the truth.

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### Merchandising People

Peter revealed the inner drive of false teachers as greed (2 Peter 2:3). For them, the Christian ministry is a lucrative profession. Only men and women of corrupt minds consider promoting a form of godliness as a means for financial gain (1 Timothy 6:5).

False teachers exploit their disciples with their "feigned words," or phony arguments (2 Peter 2:3). Their purpose is to build up a following for their own personal gain. Peter, as God's spokesman, denounced them for this goal. The apostle's censure of these people is God's censure of them and God has the last word. For false teachers are doomed; their judgment was announced long ago (Isaiah 13:9-13; Psalm 1:5,6). Although God pronounced the judgment in the distant past, that judgment has not been overlooked, nor is it sleeping.

### Fallen Angels

Peter used three Old Testament illustrations to underline the certainty of God's judgment on false teachers (2 Peter 2:4-9). He demonstrated that God has judged in the past and that, therefore, we can expect Him to judge in the future. Ultimate judgment is certain for wicked men and women.

The first example is the judgment of the angels who sinned (2 Peter 2:4). Peter referred to a specific event about which his first readers were familiar. There is reason to believe he was referring to the incident recorded in Genesis 6:1-4. The "sons of God" in the passage are angels. These angels left their assigned positions in Heaven to come to earth for the purpose of cohabiting with women. Their wicked desires were fulfilled through inhabiting human bodies capable of sexual activity. Jude referred to the same incident, indicating that the sin of those angels was fornication (vv. 6, 7).

Those angels have been confined to "HELL" (2 Peter 2:4). This level of HELL is the lowest part of Hell, where the wicked dead suffer. The angels are incarcerated there in "gloomy dungeons," which is the translation of Peter's "chains of darkness." They are being held in impenetrable darkness waiting the final judgment to come (Revelation 20:10). They are imprisoned in the furthest extreme from the dazzling light they once enjoyed in the presence of God. Those who would dare stand against God even the angels cannot escape His judgment.

### The Old World

Peter's second example is the universal flood of Noah's day (2 Peter 2:5). The Flood illustrates God's direct activity in punishing sin. Because of

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human wickedness, God did not spare the world. Every thought and imagination of humankind was evil continually (Genesis 6:5), and men and women were wicked to the very core of their being. Consequently, God destroyed the whole race with the exception of Noah, his wife, his three sons, and his three daughters-in-law (v. 18).

Peter described Noah as a "preacher of righteousness," a reference to his preaching activity and lifestyle (2 Peter 2:5). As an evidence of his belief in the promise of God's judgment upon the world and of HIS mercy to him, Noah built the ark (Genesis 6:13, 14). Because he was a righteous, mature believer in God, Noah was mocked by men. This is often the case with Christians who live their faith in testimony to the unsaved around them. Noah may have been tempted to give up, more than once, but he did not. He received God's commendation for his persistence.

### **Sodom and Gomorrah**

Peter's third example of God's ultimate judgment is the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (2 Peter 2:6-8). These two cities were located on the southern shore of the Dead Sea in an area rich in sulfur, salt, and bitumen. God rained fire and brimstone on these cities, reducing them to ashes (Genesis 19:24). Peter explained that God's actions were an example to future generations of ungodly people (2 Peter 2:6).

Just as He destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah with an "overthrow" (v. 6), God will "overthrow" the wicked today. Our word "catastrophe" is derived from the Greek word translated "overthrow." God's future judgment will be catastrophic for the unsaved, false teachers included.

Peter referred to the ungodly lifestyle of the people of Sodom and Gomorrah (v. 6), for these cities were cesspools of sexual perversion (Genesis 18:20). "Sodomy" is another name for "homosexuality." Paul dearly described and condemned this abnormality in Romans 1:26-28. From the last generation of Sodom and Gomorrah to today's generation, each generation knows that ungodliness, whatever its format, will end only in the ruin of divine judgment. People cannot plead ignorance.

### **Righteous Lot**

God delivered Lot in the midst of His destruction of the cities of the plain (2 Peter 2:7, 8). That Lot was a righteous man may seem a bit puzzling to us after reading the Genesis account. He was a man who had drifted a long way from God. While he was a hospitable man (Genesis 19:1, 2), he was weak (vv. 8, 9), was a drunkard, and was morally depraved (vv. 33-38). Lot was embedded so deeply in Sodom that he had to be dragged out of the city (v. 16). He was rescued from judgment solely by God's grace.

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Peter informed us that Lot was a righteous man who was distressed terribly over the wicked behavior of the men of Sodom (2 Peter 2:8). Lot was wearied with the shameless behavior of his acquaintances. The word "vexed" means "to torture." The word "filthy" refers to debauchery of all kinds. The word "conversation" means "manner of life." Lot's soul was tortured every day with the degenerate conduct of his pagan neighbors. His tortured soul evidences that he was a righteous man. Nevertheless, he continued to live in Sodom until the Lord forcibly removed him.

Lot is both a good and a bad example for believers to follow. Like Lot we should be distressed by the immorality that we see in society today. Lot's world was like our own. He faced constant pressure to conform to the world's values and to compromise his own. We face the same pressures. We must always guard our moral sensibilities so that they do not become dulled through toleration of ungodly values and lifestyles on our part, or we will end up being just like Lot.

It is only natural that Peter referred to the subject of immorality while he was addressing the subject of false doctrine. Our conduct arises out of our doctrine. What we think about God, sin, salvation, man, morality, and so on will be expressed by how we live. False doctrine leads to a lifestyle that only dishonors God and merits His judgment.

Peter had reassuring words in verse 9: God knows how to deliver the godly out of their trials. He also knows how to reserve the ungodly for the final judgment. What God knows to do is what He does. God delivered Lot in His own time, after the man had endured years of internal distress over his decision to live in Sodom. God will also judge the ungodly in His own time, even though judgment may seem to be delayed. In the meantime the ungodly are being reserved for the ultimate judgment.

**Notes**

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**2 Peter 2**  
**Lesson 4****Name** \_\_\_\_\_

1. According to 2 Peter 2:1, what denial lies at the heart of the heresies of false teachers ?
2. Also according to 2 Peter 2:1, what is the only outcome of the refusal to accept the truth ?
3. How do false teachers, or errorists, view people, according to 2 Peter 2:3 ?
4. Why has God delayed divine judgment ?
5. What lesson does the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah teach to the ungodly ?
6. What do false teachers deny ?
7. Why does Peter call the lifestyle of false teachers "pernicious" ?
8. What was the sin of the angels who fell ?
9. What example did GOD make of Sodom & Gomorrah ?
10. What evidence is there that Lot was a righteous ?
11. What blessing do we get by recognizing that Lot was a righteous man ?

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12. Why should Christians today be concerned with Peter's warnings about false teachers ?

### Time for Action

- Are you certain that you are saved?
- Have you placed your trust only and completely in Christ's death as the payment for your sin?
- If not, will you trust Him today?
- Explain to us that if you died tonight why GOD should let you into heaven, (be very convincing) This is important for our spiritual maturity, and it prepares us to identify and to stand against false doctrine when it appears.
- Do you know another believer who is being influenced by false doctrine? If so, pray for that person and then seek to encourage him or her in thinking about sound doctrine. (did you do that yet ?)
- Thank God for delivering you out of temptation.
- Take a sensibility test. Would you check "tolerant" or "tortured inwardly" in response to the question, "How are you affected by the immorality of the society in which you live?"



Write out completely of the back page the following verses:

2 Peter 2: 1

Romans 1: 26-28

1 Timothy 6:5

John 10: 28-29

2 Corinthians 11: 13-15