

2 Peter Part 5 – Study Notes

Introduction

When people study the OT and the NT in the Bible they sometimes cannot make a connection between the two sides of God's character. On the one side we have the justice, judgement and wrath and on the other side grace, mercy and salvation. We all want the loving Heavenly Father who forgives our sin and blesses us but there is also the reality that God refuses to ignore sin.

Romans 11:22 clearly says *Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God: sternness to those who fell, but kindness to you, provided that you continue in his kindness. Otherwise, you also will be cut off.*

The truth is that the connection all depends on our relationship with God as to whether He is our loving Heavenly Father or a wrathful judge, whether we are saved or whether we are not.

Today we are looking at God's compassion and His judgement. For false teachers, Peter tells us, His wrath is coming, for the believers He promises to rescue us from judgment. Peter exhorts his readers to continue living by the sound teaching they already know.

2 Peter 2:4-8 *For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting 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 protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; ⁶ if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; ⁷ and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was 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).*

Peter talked about historical judgements; the wicked angels, the wicked men and women in the flood and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Peter used a unique word for Hell here. It is not *hades* or *gehenna* but *Tartarus* which means a place of torture and punishment. Peter links this with the sins of the angels who cohabited with human women. For this terrible crime they were thrown down into a place of deep darkness until the day of judgement. All humanity had become wicked. Because of this depth of evil God destroyed the wicked men and women in a flood that covered the earth. All except, eight people, Noah *a preacher of righteousness*, his wife, three sons and their wives. God provided salvation in the midst of judgement for the righteous.

This place that Peter called *Tartarus* is the same as the **abyss** that is mentioned in the NT. In Luke 8:31 we read the demons *begged Jesus repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss*. The Apostle John taught that Satan himself will be thrown down to the abyss for a 1000 years after Christ's return, Revelation 20:3 *He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.*

The Bible clearly teaches that when Jesus returns again there will be a judgement of wicked angels and wicked men and women **but** God will save the righteous.

2 Peter 2:9 *if 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.*

When God looked at Sodom and Gomorrah He condemned them to destruction but first He sent two angels to the city to rescue Lot and his family before destroying it.

2 Peter 2:7 *he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the depraved conduct of the lawless.* Peter used this illustration to encourage believers to live righteous lives amongst such evil practices and that God will save the righteous.

2 Peter Part 5 – Study Notes

Peter said that the righteous would not be destroyed with the unrighteous. Because God always does what is right and is just He will spare the righteous. But the wicked will face His anger.

The Apostle Paul reminded fellow Christians in 1 Thessalonians 1:10 *to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead-Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.* 1 Thessalonians 5:9 says *For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

1 Thessalonians 4:17 *After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.* This is called the **rapture**. The rapture will be the way God will use to rescue believers before He comes back to judge the earth. This is where He will come back for His people and take them away to be with Him before His terrible judgement.

2 Peter 2:10-11 *This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the flesh and despise authority. Bold and arrogant, they are not afraid to heap abuse on celestial beings; ¹¹ yet even angels, although they are stronger and more powerful, do not heap abuse on such beings when bringing judgment on them from the Lord.* False teachers live an immoral lifestyle and despise authority. They will say and do anything to get what they want, no matter whom they abuse or attack.

The truth is that God does not change. He is not different in the OT and the NT. Because He is Holy, He stands against sin and because He is just, He will judge sinners. Yet God is also merciful and gracious, forgiving and blessing those who have put their faith in Jesus, whose death and resurrection brings new life.

For those that believe, God's grace covers us. He has saved us from our sins, past, present and future. We won't be judged with the wicked. We can thank God for His great mercy towards us. Though we deserve punishment for our sins God has placed our sins on Jesus, who has bore the punishment for us. And He has placed Christ's Righteousness in us so we can know Him and experience His blessings. We can never earn it, it is only because of His amazing grace. This is an amazing divine exchange.

For those that don't believe and reject Jesus there is a time set for God's judgment, which will result in punishment. Friends we need to pray for those who have not accepted Jesus, that their hearts will be softened towards the gospel and that their eyes and ears will be opened. We need to ask the Holy Spirit to show us how we can bring them to an understanding of God's love and judgement and the amazing gift of salvation that is available to them.