"Reserved for Judgment"

2 Peter 2:3b-9
3/1/09

Introduction: Our Lord is zealous for the truth. He punishes liars and false teachers (v.1-3a)

- **God spares the righteous, but not the wicked!**

3 examples of God's faithfulness to judge evil doers:

I. ***The example of the*** **<u>Fallen Angels</u>** (v.4)
(The Angels that sinned were judged by their <u>FALL</u> into chains of darkness)



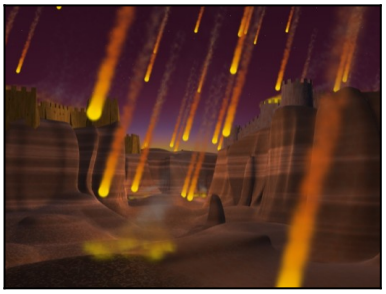
II. ***The example of the*** **<u>Flooded World</u>** (v.5)
(The ancient world was judged by the <u>FLOOD</u> which covered the earth)

Noah was delivered by God's grace



III. ***The example of the*** **<u>Filthy Sodomites</u>** (v.6-8)
(The twin cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were judged by the <u>FIRE</u> which fell from God)

Lot was delivered by God's grace



Conclusion: v.9 - (Are you reserved for judgment or preserved from it?)

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Introduction: Our Lord is zealous for the truth. He punishes liars and false teachers (v.1-3a)

v. 4
"For" – Peter ties verses 4 – 9 to his previous statements regarding the judgment that is coming upon the heretical false teachers (v. 1-3).

He had promised that they would "bring upon themselves swift destruction" (v. 1), and that "their damnation slumbereth not" (v. 3).

The point is: The wicked will not get away with their wickedness. Peter now gives three examples of the just judgment of God.

Verses 4 – 9 give evidence or proof that the Lord will carry out His sentence against the false teachers . . . (Hiebert, p. 95). He will act against them as He has always done.

One aspect of God's faithfulness is that He always acts consistently with who He is and with how He has acted in the past. He never changes and neither does His response and attitude towards sin.

God's past judgments are grounds for His future action" (Neyrey, cited by Rogers, p. 586).

God will be consistent with His past actions. He judged then, He will judge in the future. He condemned sin in ages past, He will condemn sin in eternity future.

"As the apostle gives an overview of three Old Testament examples, he highlights the <u>height</u> of God's wrath (in the case of fallen angels), the <u>breadth</u> of God's wrath (in the case of the ancient world at the time of the flood), and the <u>depth</u> of God's wrath (in the case of Sodom and Gomorrah). In other words, there are no creatures too <u>lofty</u>, too <u>numerous</u>, or too <u>base</u> to escape divine judgment" (MacArthur, p. 84).

"Peter's three examples, cited in chronological order, establish that neither rank, strength, nor numbers shield rebellious evil from God's vengeance." (Hiebert, p. 96).

The point: The wicked will not go unpunished; no one gets away with sin. Payday – Someday!

- **God spares the righteous, but not the wicked!**

3 examples of God's faithfulness to judge evil doers:

I. ***The example of the*** **Fallen Angels** (v.4)
(The Angels that sinned were judged by their FALL into chains of darkness)

The fall of Satan and his angels is described in Isaiah 14:12-21; Ezekiel 28:12-19; Luke 10:18; and Revelation 12:3-9).

Isaiah 14:12-15
How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *how* art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

Luke 10:18
And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.

Revelation 12:3-9
And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and *to* his throne. And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred *and* threescore days. And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

The angels sinned just one time and they were not spared God's judgment.

"Hell" = *tartarus* (not *hades*). *Tartarus* was a subterranean abyss. Here it is pictured as a dark pit, a place of confinement, an inescapable trap or jail cell.

"The word *tartarus* was used in Hellenistic Judaism and used in the book of Enoch (1 Enoch 20:2) in connection with fallen angels; it is the angel Uriel who rules (over) Tartarus" (Rogers, p. 585).

Here, Tartarus is not a noun but an Aorist participle showing not a place of confinement but a state of confinement. Fallen angels are right now pictured as trapped and jailed: shackled in darkness awaiting the impending eternal wrath of God.

"To be reserved unto judgment" – fallen angels are presently not experiencing "everlasting fire" (Mt. 26:4) (which has been prepared for them) or "the lake of fire" (Rev. 20:10) – but they will be sent there at the end of this age.

They are being kept or guarded for judgment; they have reservations with Gehenna. And they know with certainty that their day of torment is approaching. They "tremble" at their coming doom (James 2:19). Their utter terror and fear of the Judge, Jesus Christ, is evident in Matthew 8:28-29 –

And when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met him two possessed with devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way. And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?

Jude also described the judgment of fallen angels in connection with Sodom and Gomorrah when he wrote:

Jude 1:6-7
And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day. Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

Many believe that Peter and Jude are describing demons which "moved out of their proper sphere of existence and behavior – 'their proper abode.' Jude 6 is a reference to the events of Genesis 6:1-4 in which certain fallen angels possessed mortal men and then cohabited with women. . . a clear violation of the boundaries God had set for them" (MacArthur, p. 86).

II. ***The example of the*** **Flooded World** (v.5)
(The ancient world was judged by the FLOOD which covered the earth)

God **"spared not the old world" -** the ancient antediluvian world – a world characterized by continual evil.

Genesis 6:5-8
And GOD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

Evil minds & hearts (6:5)

- "Imagination" - sinful motives; intent or inclination
- "Only evil" - God or good was never in the people's thoughts
- "Continually" - lit. all the day long
- "Every imagination" – Every conception formed in the minds of men had a sinful, selfish, motive. Something devious was always at work in their brains.

Perversion & Corruption (6:11)

- "Corrupt"- to pervert; to take something that is good and make it good for nothing; life was in ruins; God's intention for man was destroyed.
- "Corrupt before God" - as man looked at society, it might have looked okay. But as God viewed it, it was rotten.
- Note the corruption was universal - "All flesh" (v. 12)
- Note: The corruption of TV. Actions we would never dream of doing of watching in real life, we gleefully watch on TV.

  Via TV, our children are introduced to every form of evil and perversion:
  --Murder
  --Rape
  --Adultery
  --Homosexuality & lesbianism
  --Cannibalism
  --Every form of violence

Violence (v.11b, 13)

- "Violence" - to act vehemently out of rage
- The word depicts the personal abuse, bloodshed, and disrespect for others prevalent in Noah's day (v. 11, 13)

- **"The earth was filled with violence" –** A statement repeated in v. 13 for emphasis.
- Along with moral corruption came violence toward others. Wherever there is sin there will be violence; you can't have one without the other. Many in our day assume that they can sin privately just as long as they don't hurt anyone, it will be okay. However, no one sins without hurting others. Eventually what is in the heart will work its way out in public.
- Just as violence filled the earth prior to God's past judgment by the flood, so violence will fill the earth prior to God's future judgment by fire.

"The eighth person" - i.e. one of eight people who were spared. These included Noah's wife and his three sons and their wives.

A. Noah was just (righteous)
He did what was right. He was moral; honest; truthful; (the abundant wickedness of Noah's day did not alter his convictions and lifestyle).

B. Noah was perfect (blameless)
No one could discredit him as a man of God. His testimony was impeccable.

C. Noah walked with God
He, like Enoch his great-grandfather (Gen. 5:22, 24), knew the meaning of fellowshipping with God.
His life was "in sync" with God. He abode with his Creator; he communed with his God.

D. Noah obeyed God
--"And God said (6:13) . . . Thus did Noah (6:22)
--"And the LORD said (7:1) . . . And Noah did according unto all" (7:5)

Heb.11:7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

The work was preparing an ark. A 450 foot long, 75 feet broad, and 45 feet high barge (SEE Ryrie's note on Gen. 6:15).

A. Noah's labor was motivated by faith
(Although Noah had never seen rain nor heard of a flood, he believed God)
We "walk by faith not by sight"

B. Noah's labor was propelled by fear
(Noah feared God's word and respected God's power)
EX: of O.T. Passover in Egypt. The people who feared God applied the blood.

C. Noah's labor saved his family (the animal world, and succeeding generations; you and I would not be here today if it were not for Noah!)

"Noah. . . a preacher of righteousness" - We all know Noah to be a builder of the ark, but he was also a herald of God's standards of righteousness.

"Preacher" - a herald; someone who announces a message for a superior without addition or subtraction.

"Of righteousness" - Noah preached not what the populace wanted to hear, but what was truth!

His message described a righteous God, who was about to destroy an unrighteous world by divine righteous indignation.

*NOTE: Noah's message went out in the power of the Holy Spirit during a time when the Spirit was striving with men (Gen. 6:3).

Peter said: the same Holy Spirit that quickened Christ (I Pet. 3:18), preached (heralded) to those living in Noah's day (who from Peter's day and perspective are "spirits in prison). They were, however, alive and disobedient in Noah's day when the Spirit (via Noah) preached (v. 19-20)

"Flood" = *kataklusmos* (cataclysmic) a deluge; a universal flood.

"Flood" - "The Genesis account, along with current geological evidence, indicates that the Flood truly was cataclysmic in every sense" (MacArthur, p. 88).

Genesis 7:11
The flood waters would come from two directions: underneath and above.

"The fountains (springs) **of the great deep" –** All of the subterranean waters would be brought up by global quakes.

The sequence of this verse indicates that the earth's crust breaks up first, then the heavens drop their water. This is interesting because the volcanic explosions due to the fractured earth would have sent magma and dust into the atmosphere, along with gigantic sprays of water, gas, and air – all penetrating the canopy and triggering its downpour (MacArthur note).

"The windows of heaven" – God here paints a picture of the sky being, as it were, closed up in a vast store of moisture and now (for the first time in history), the canopy unleashes its H20 as the windows open up and the rain comes pouring through.

Dr. Joseph Dillow has calculated how much water vapor it would be physically possible to suspend above the atmosphere as a blanket around the earth. He has suggested that it would be the water vapor equivalent of about 12 meters (40 feet) thickness of liquid water. He calculated that such a quantity of water would be sufficient to generate 40 days and 40 nights of torrential rainfall; whereas if these waters above had been clouds, then the moisture in the current atmosphere, if precipitated to earth as rainfall, would be only the equivalent of less than five centimeters (two inches) thickness of liquid water hardly enough to sustain 40 days and 40 nights of rainfall at the time of the Flood.

Therefore, it seems clear that the reference in Genesis 7:11 to the "windows of heaven being opened" is a reference to the collapse of this water vapor canopy, which somehow became unstable and fell as rain, the eyewitnesses describing the event as the "windows of heaven being opened". Some have suggested that when the fountains of the great deep broke open, presumably as volcanic eruptions, the dust generated by these eruptions would have spread up into the water vapor canopy, causing the water vapor to nucleate with dust particles and form water droplets that then fell as rain.

Excerpt from The Answers Book, Revised Edition, by Ken Ham, Andrew Snelling and Carl Wieland, published by Master Books, 1992. Supplied by Answers in Genesis

7:13
"Three wives" – No polygamy in this family!

7:16
"And the Lord shut him in" – God Himself closed the door and sealed it water tight.

The Bible speaks of another door, which God will shut in the future.

Mt. 25:10-13 - And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.
11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.
12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.
13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

7:19
"All the high hills. . . were covered" – a universal flood

Note: Since several mountains today rise over 20 thousand feet above seal level, it is evident that these mountains did not emerge until during and/or after the flood came. Perhaps those mountains were formed when God shook the earth and broke up the depths (7:11).

7:20
The water emerged 22 ½ feet above the tops of the highest mountains.

7:21-23
Note **<u>one</u>** single air-breathing living organism survived the flood.

7:23
The flood washed the earth clean, so that not a trace of the wicked or their wickedness would be found (A. Ross, p. 190).

Have you ever seen the catastrophic effects of merely a small local flood? (ILLUS: the washed-out road in the desert of Israel in 1996).

III. ***The example of the*** **Filthy Sodomites** (v.6-8)
(The twin cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were judged by the FIRE which fell from God)

v. 6
The twin cities of Sodom & Gomorrah, known for their homosexuality (Gen. 19), were turned into burnt ashes and covered with mountains of salt, preserved as it were as a memorial to remind future generations of God's judgment of sin.

Genesis 19:24
"The LORD . . . from the LORD" – two different references to *Yahweh*. Two distinct persons are in view. The Lord Jesus is the first reference; God the Father is the second.

"Brimstone and fire" – Fire and brimstone (sulfur) is God's most severe form of judgment (cp. Rev. 20:10; 21:8).

Ryrie suggests: "Possibly an earthquake occurred and lightning ignited the gases that were released, causing a rain of fire and smoke."

The details of how God accomplished the destruction of Sodom are not given. But we know this for sure:

1) The judgment fell from above. (Today, the Sodom Mountains bear evidence of a catastrophic sudden raining of sulfur and salt from above. The eerie Sodom Mountains look like something from the sky was dropped onto the earth in a moment).

2) The judgment involved sulfur, asphalt, and salt. All of which abound in that area to this day. The Dead Sea is dead due to the judgment of God. There is no place in the entire world like the Sodom Mountains of salt.

v. 25
All of the property, people, and produce of Sodom and its surrounding cities were reduced to sudden ruin, buried under millions of tons of salt.

"More than twenty times in Scripture these cities are used as an example to those who would live ungodly lives thereafter. . . God used them and their holocaust to send an unmistakable warning to future generations of rebellious sinners – namely, that depraved people cannot pursue ungodliness and also escape God's vengeance and everlasting judgment (cf. 3:7, 10; Matt. 25:41; Rom. 1:18, 2:5, 8; Eph. 5:6; 1 Thess. 2:16; 2 Thess. 1:8; Heb. 10:26-27; Rev. 6:17)." (MacArthur, p. 89).

v. 7
If it were not for this verse, one might wonder if Lot was truly a righteous man.

Just as God delivered righteous Noah (v. 5), He delivered righteous Lot (v. 7). And just as He (the same day of their rescue) delivered them, He will deliver His saints via Rapture when Jesus Christ returns.

Luke 17:26-30
And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed *them* all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.

"Vexed" - oppressed; worn out or troubled greatly. It means to be distressed or to experience fatigue of soul.

Lot's righteous soul was wearied to the point where he was sick and tired of seeing and hearing Sodom's unbridled wickedness. He was worn out by it.

If we are righteous, we will become tired of sin as well. It will weary us to see and hear that which is anti-God, anti-moral and anti-natural.

"Filthy conversation" - indecent conduct or debauchery of lifestyle.

The Sodomites of today want their lifestyle to be viewed as decent, even "normal" behavior, but it has been and will always be viewed by the righteous as "filthy"!

While we love the Sodomite, we loath the sodomy. We pray for the homosexual but will never accept his sexuality or view it as acceptable or an alternative lifestyle.

What are the moral characteristics of the Sodomites as revealed in Genesis 19?

The Sodomites had…

1. *A nocturnal love for the night time (v.1-4a)*
(When the sun goes down, the wicked rise up to do wickedness)

The Sodomites had…

2. *A orgiastic coalition of numerous people coming together for a joint venture* **in wickedness (v.4)**

The Sodomites had…

3. *A disrespect for people's right to privacy (v.4-5a)*

The Sodomites had…

4. **A lustful, self-centeredness which seeks to fulfill one's distorted passions at** all cost (v.5)

The Sodomites had…

5. *A disregard for rebuke (v.6-9a)*
(They don't want to hear the truth about their wickedness)

The Sodomites had…

6. *A forceful, violent reaction against those who get in the way of their agenda (v.9b)*

The Sodomites had…

7. *A relentless pursuit to indulge in perversion despite physical ailments (that* **came as a result of sexual wickedness) (v.9b-11)**

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT…
HOMOSEXUALITY

The Christian's attitude toward homosexuals ought to be love and pity.

1. Homosexuality is contrary to GOD'S DESIGN for SEX and MARRIAGE (Gen. 2:18-25; 4:1)

2. Homosexuality led to the DESTRUCTION of an ENTIRE SOCIETY (Gen. 19:1-29)

3. Homosexuality was a CAPITAL OFFENCE in ancient Israel and was considered an *"ABOMINATION"* by God (Lev. 18:22, 20:13; Deut. 23:17; cp. I Kings 14:24, 15:12, 22:46; II Kings 23:7; I Tim. 1:10)

4. Homosexuality is an OBSESSIVE behavior often directly associated with VICIOUSNESS and VIOLENCE toward others (Judges 19:22-30)

5. Homosexuality is the result of willfully REJECTING a Biblical KNOWLEDGE of GOD (Romans 1:18-25, 28)

6. Homosexuality is an UNNATURAL PERVERSION of sexual PASSION (Romans 1:26-27)
7. Homosexuality requites (rewards) its deviant participants with LETHAL CONSEQUENCES (guilt, bodily injury, communicable diseases and viruses, eternal condemnation) (Romans 1:27b; I Cor. 6:9-10)

8. Homosexuality is a sin that can be FORGIVEN and FORSAKEN (I Corinthians 6:9-11)

v. 8

"In seeing and hearing" – The Sodomites always shove their sin in your face so that you "see" it and they squeal so loud so that you "hear" them. But don't let all the noise fool you; they are still a small minority of our present world population.

"Vexed" - a different Greek word than in verse 7. The world means "tormented" or "tortured." When Lot saw so much as a quick glimpse of their lifestyle or heard even a snippet of their godless propaganda, his righteous soul was literally tortured by their lawless ("*anomos*") behavior.

Conclusion: v.9 - (Are you reserved for judgment or preserved from it?)

Verses 4 – 8 forma conditional statement, and verse 9 gives the conclusion.

Here's the point: If God judge3d the fallen angels and if God judged the world of Noah's day with a flood, and if God judged Sodom and Gomorrah in Lot's day, then He will certainly judge the wicked who are alive today at His determined time in the future.

The Lord knows full well what techniques to use to keep His godly ones from giving themselves to solicitations to evil, and He knows full well how to keep under punishment the unjust as they head toward God's day of judgment.

"To be punished" = lit. while being punished (present, passive participle). The point is this: Judgment is coming and punishment is already underway. God's wrath is already upon the unbeliever (Jn. 3:36).

He restrains His children from evil, and He retains the devil's kids for His wrath.

Are you reserved for judgment or preserved from judgment?

Are you spared or spared not?

God's desire is to spare you from His wrath –

2 Peter 3:9
The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.