

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **2Peter 2:1-11**.
- B. Whenever we are wronged by someone our natural reaction is usually one of revenge.
- C. Edgar Allen Poe wrote an entire short story on how on how one man secured his revenge. "A thousand injuries a bore Fortunato, but when he ventured on insult, I vowed revenge."
- D. This lesson is about how God will have vengeance on His enemies, and we need not be revengeful ourselves (Rom. 14:19).

I. FALSE DOCTRINE HAS ALWAYS BEEN A PROBLEM.

- A. 2Peter 2:1 opens with a continuation of the thought in chapter 1, in that even though the true prophecy came by the power of the Holy Spirit there were false teachers during OT times.
- B. The latter part of 2:1 says that there will be false teachers in the church (age) as well.
- C. Examples of false doctrine during the time of the prophets are:
 - 1. "Peace, peace, when there is no peace" (Jer. 6:14).
 - 2. Priests teach for hire, prophets divine for money (Micah 3:11).
 - 3. The priest and the prophet are drunk with wine (Isa. 28:7).
 - 4. Prophets committed adultery and strengthened the hands of evil-doers while walking in lies (Jer. 23:14).
 - 5. Prophets gave lies by their own recklessness (Jer. 23:32).
 - 6. The prophets invited the people to go after other gods (Deut. 13:1-5, 18:20).
- D. Examples of false doctrine in the church may be found in Ac. 20:28; Mt. 24:24; 1Jn. 4:1.
- E. We may think that false teachers will continue to spread their heresies and "get away with it" but this is not true.
- F. Peter will use an "if, then" argument to show that false teachers have and will receive, from God, punishment for their error.
- G. If we then, know what God will do with the righteous and the unrighteous, we will know how to act accordingly (what to do, and what not to do).
- H. Because of false teaching three things will happen:
 - 1. Swift destruction on those practicing error (no chance of escape).
 - 2. The way (or the church) will suffer because of it.
 - 3. Judgment has already been made on this type of behavior, therefore it can happen again (2Pet. 2:1b-3).

II. EXAMPLES OF JUDGMENT (THE ARGUMENT).

- A. Verses 4 through 10 are one, complete sentence. It is here that Peter will use his, "if, then" argument.
- B. First, we have the example of sinning angels:
 - 1. See 2:4.
 - 2. They are cast into 'tartarus' under punishment, awaiting judgment.
 - 3. The lesson is, since God is holding angels for their error He will not forget those currently practicing error.
- C. Second, we have the example or Noah and the ancient world:
 - 1. See 2:5.
 - 2. God was patient for 120 years before bringing destruction.
 - 3. We need only wait, as Noah did, the present day false teachers will receive judgment and punishment.
- D. Third, we have the example of Sodom and Gomorrah:
 - 1. See 2:6.

2. The scripture says this is an example for us about those who would live ungodly lives.
 3. God again was patient, looking for 10 righteous souls, but not finding any destroyed the city.
 4. An interesting fact is the order of 2:5 and 2:6, showing a destruction by water and then by fire, which is true of the flood and the end of the world (2Pet. 2:10).
- E. Fourth, we have the example of Lot:
1. See 2:7-8.
 2. This shows that God always rescues or preserves the righteous and destroys the wicked.
- F. Now is 2:9, when Peter makes the conclusion to the forgoing "ifs" (this is the "then"):
1. God knows how to rescue the godly.
 2. God knows how to keep the ungodly under punishment for the day of judgment.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. We need not take revenge, because God has on past ungodly sinners.
- B. We need not take revenge, because God will on present day ungodly sinners.
- C. We should, however, live godly lives to that we shall be rescued from the punishment and judgment to come on others.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.