

**New Series: Last Days – 2 Peter
“Deliverance for Believers” Pt.2
2 Peter 2:5 - 9**

Big Idea – God is able to deliver His people who serve Him when troubles come.

2 Peter 2:5 God punished the world long ago when he brought a flood to the world that was full of people who were against him. But God saved Noah

6 And God also destroyed the evil cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them until they were ashes.

7 But God saved Lot out of Sodom because he was a righteous man who was sick of the shameful immorality of the wicked people around him.

8 Yes, Lot was a righteous man who was tormented in his soul by the wickedness he saw and heard day after day.

9 So you see, the Lord knows how to rescue godly people from their trials, even while holding the wicked accountable until the final day of judgment.

Two weeks ago spoke of Noah from Genesis 6 – 9 and how God destroyed the world with a universal flood but saved Noah and his family because they were living right – I believe it happened because Jesus believed it!

The flood waters that brought judgment to the world only lifted Noah and his household up above the judgment. They were secure in the ark of safety.

Jesus Christ is our "ark of safety."

John 5:24 "... he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life."

The rainbow was a token of the Noahic covenant (Genesis 9:13 – 15) a promise between God and the earth it would never be destroyed by water again. However, there is coming a judgment of fire (2 Peter 3:10ff).

In today's message we come to the man Lot. Who was he?

Lot (vv. 6-9a).

Lot was Abraham's nephew who Abraham took with him when he left Ur and went to the land of Canaan, but Lot proved to be more of a problem than a blessing.

Abraham, in a lapse of faith, went down to Egypt, Lot went with him and got a taste of "the world" (Gen. 12:10-13:1).

When they left Egypt, they both were richer and had increased in size so they had strife, animosity between herdsmen, and had to separate

When Lot had to choose a new area for his home, he went by what he had seen in Egypt (Gen. 13:10).

Abraham took Lot out of Egypt, but he could not take Egypt out of Lot.

Notice the 3 steps down Lot took:

1. He looked at well watered plains – chose a place good to raise cattle but not children
2. Lot "pitched his tent toward Sodom" (Gen. 13:12),
3. finally moved into Sodom (Gen. 14:12). God even used a local war to try to get Lot out of Sodom, but he went right back. That is where his heart was.

It is hard for us to understand Lot. Peter made it clear that Lot was saved ("just Lot... that righteous man"), and yet we wonder what he was doing in such a wicked place as Sodom. From Genesis 19 it seems, Lot had at least four daughters, two of whom had married men of Sodom. While Lot lived in Sodom, his soul was "tortured" and "greatly troubled" by the filthy conduct of the people.

Maybe he thought he could change them - If so, he failed miserably.

God enabled Lot and his family to remain unpolluted, even though they were living in the midst of a cesspool of iniquity. God also rescued Lot and two of his daughters before the judgment fell on Sodom and the other cities of the plain (Gen. 19).

Lot was not rescued because of any merit on his part.

He was rescued because he was a believer and because his uncle Abraham had prayed for him.

Gen. 19:29 says "God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst..."

Abraham outside of Sodom had more influence than Lot inside the city.

Lot even lost his testimony to his own family, for his married daughters and their husbands laughed at his warning, and his wife disobeyed God and was killed.

Lot chose to live in Sodom and could have avoided the filthy influence of the place, but many people today really have no choice and must live surrounded by the pollutions of the world. Think of the Christian slaves who had to serve godless masters, or Christian wives married to unsaved husbands, or believing children with unsaved parents. Christian employees working in offices or factories are forced to see and hear things that can easily stain the mind and heart.

Peter assured his readers and us that God knows how to "be delivering the godly out of testing and temptation" 2 Peter 2:9 so that we may live victoriously.

He also is able to rescue us from judgment. In Noah's case, it was a judgment of water, but in Lot's case it was a judgment of fire.

The cities of the plain were caught in a violent overthrow as the area became a vast furnace of fire and brimstone. This certainly would parallel Peter's warning about the coming judgment of fire (2 Peter 3:10ff).

Peter was not pointing to Lot as an example of separated living, but rather as an example of one whom God rescued from pollution and condemnation.

In a sense, Lot was even rescued against his will, because the angels had to grasp him by the hand and pull him out of the city (Gen. 19:16). Lot had entered Sodom, and then Sodom had entered Lot, and he found it difficult to leave.

The Lord used Noah and Lot to warn us to be prepared for His return (Luke 17:26-26). The people in Sodom were enjoying their regular pleasures, careless of the fact that judgment was coming; when it came, they were unprepared. "Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of Him in peace, without spot, and blameless" (1 Peter 3:14).

But the same God who delivers the godly also reserves the ungodly for judgment. if God spares today's cities from judgment, He will have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah. Why is God's judgment lingering? Because God "is longsuffering ... not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

Society in Noah's day had 120 years in which to repent and believe, yet they rejected the truth. Though Lot's example and testimony were weak, he at least represented the truth; yet his immoral neighbors wanted nothing to do with God.

Our present age is not only like "the days of Noah," but it is also like "the days of Lot." Many believers have abandoned the godly lifestyle of Christ and are compromising with the world.

C.S. Lewis years ago made this remarkable statement about the church: "If the Holy Spirit was withdrawn from the church today, 95% of what we do would go on and no one would know the difference. If the Holy Spirit had been withdrawn from the N.T. church, 95% of what they did would stop and everyone would know the difference."

The professing church has but a weak testimony to the world and sinners do not really believe that judgment is coming. Society is full of immorality, especially the kind of sin for which Sodom was famous, and they're even Proud about it! "Gay Pride"

It appears as though God is slumbering, unconcerned about the way rebellious sinners have polluted His world. But one day the fire will fall; then it will be too late.

God's people, as weak as they are, will be delivered from judgment by the grace and mercy of God. God could not judge Sodom until Lot and his family were out of the city.

I believe that God will not send wrath on this world until He takes His own people out and home to heaven in the Rapture before the Tribulation!

"For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ..." (1 Thess. 5:9-10).

Will God spare America? Proverbs 14:24 says, "Doing what is right makes a nation great, but sin will bring disgrace to any people."

Be one of the 10 righteous people/doing right in America!

Be like Abraham and become an intercessor. Isaiah 59:16 says that God is looking for intercessors, for prayer warriors!