

DELIVER THE GODLY OUT OF TEMPTATIONS

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II Peter 1 & 2

“The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished.” II Peter 2:9

In the second chapter of II Peter, the apostle warns that false prophets will arise teaching destructive heresies and exploiting their followers with deceptive words. He cites three examples of God dealing with such wickedness. First, sinning angels were cast from heaven and are now awaiting judgment (4). Second, the wicked were judged when Noah’s world was overthrown by the flood (5). Third, Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed, making them a perpetual example to those who will live in such an ungodly manner (7).

But God preserved Noah and delivered Lot from Sodom, although his soul was tormented by seeing and hearing the wickedness of that community. Peter makes this point: God knows how to deliver the godly from temptation, and how to reserve the wicked for punishment. Noah was delivered from the flood by the ark, and Lot was delivered from Sodom by angels. And God will deliver His children who are confronted by false prophets’ deception and exploitation.

Although Lot was delivered from Sodom’s destruction, he became disgraced by the ways of Sodom that clung to him and his family (Gen. 19:29-38). He is called righteous, yet the stain of Sodom and Gomorrah permanently marks his life and soils his reputation. How can God’s people, living in a land as wicked as Sodom, escape the stains and torments of soul that marked Lot’s life?

The answer is found in the first chapter of II Peter. God must be the deliverer. Only He could deliver Noah from the flood and Lot from the fire. Only God can deliver a soul from judgment. Only He can deliver from the corruptions that abound in this world-system. Thus,

I. God gives His people (1:3-4):

- A. “all things that pertain unto life and godliness”
- B. “the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue”
- C. “exceeding great and precious promises”

By these, God’s people are made “partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through the lusts.”

II. With this as a foundation, God’s people must “giving all diligence, add to your faith” (1:5-7):

- A. To faith, add virtue
- B. To virtue add knowledge
- C. To knowledge add self-control
- D. To self-control add perseverance
- E. To perseverance add godliness
- F. To godliness add brotherly kindness
- G. To brotherly kindness add love.