

Propheting for Profit, Part 3

1 **Propheting for Profit, Part 3**

2 PETER 2:4-9

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For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but held them captive in Tartarus with chains of darkness and handed them over to be kept for judgment, and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a proclaimer of righteousness, and seven others when he brought a flood on the world of the ungodly, and condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction, reducing them to ashes, having appointed them as an example for those who are going to be ungodly, and rescued righteous Lot, worn down by the way of life of lawless persons in licentiousness (for that righteous man, as he lived among them day after day, was tormenting his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he was seeing and hearing), then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to reserve the unrighteous to be punished at the day of judgment, and especially those who go after the flesh in defiling lust and who despise authority.

3 **3 Types of Faith**4 **James 2:17-26**

Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also. (James 2:17–26, KJV 1900)

5 **Dead faith**

▶ *Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. (James 2:17, KJV 1900)*

▶ James is not saying that you have to add works to your faith in order to be saved.

▶ Instead, he is saying that true faith in someone's life can be seen by others because it manifests itself in outward behavior.

▶ A person who says the words of faith but is not manifesting a life characterized by trust in Jesus Christ is not truly born again.

▶ If you made a profession of faith in Christ, but it did not change your way of living, then you are not truly redeemed.

6 **Demonic faith**

▶ *Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. (James 2:19, KJV 1900)*

▶ Some people not only believe the Gospel, but they are also emotionally stirred by it. In other words they give intellectual assent to the gospel while also feeling moved by the gospel message.

▶ James says that even the demons feel emotions at the message of the gospel.

7 **Dynamic faith**

▶ *Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and*

Propheting for Profit, Part 3

he was called the Friend of God. (James 2:21–23, KJV 1900)

- ▶ Abraham intellectually received the truths of God. He was emotionally stirred. But then, by an act of his will, he obeyed what God told him to do.
- ▶ He was reckoned to be righteous by God at the moment he believed. However, you and I only know that Abraham was a believer because the Scripture records that he acted upon his belief and followed God in obedience.

8 **True belief**

- ▶ True belief requires:
 - ▶ intellectual agreement with the gospel,
 - ▶ a stirring of your heart,
 - ▶ an act of your will to receive Christ and follow him as your Lord.
- ▶ A true believer has their life permanently and indelibly changed by Jesus Christ so that that person's faith is obvious and evident to others.
- ▶ While man cannot see our hearts, they can see the results of Jesus Christ in our lives. But many people walk around saying religious words but still living like the world and not having Jesus make a difference in their day-to-day lives.

9 **Are you the real deal?**

- ▶ *Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates? (2 Corinthians 13:5, KJV 1900)*
 - ▶ Paul is speaking to a carnal church. There were three groups of people in the church at *Corinth*. There were genuinely spiritual people. There were carnal people – those who did not possess a genuine faith in Jesus Christ. And there were babes in Christ – people who had received Jesus Christ but lacked spiritual maturity and wisdom.
 - ▶ Each of these three groups of people is represented in almost every church. For that reason, I encourage you to examine yourself to see whether you have a real dynamic and saving faith. Does your life give evidence that Jesus Christ has changed you forever?

10 **Examples of God's Judgment**

ANGELS

THE PRE-FLOOD WORLD

SODOM & GOMORRAH

11 12 **1. Fallen angels – Ezekiel 28:11-19**

Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.

13 **Ezekiel 28:11-19 (continued)**

Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast

Propheting for Profit, Part 3

corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffic; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more. (Ezekiel 28:11–19, KJV 1900)

14 **What Ezekiel tells us**

- ▶ A prophecy about the arrogant king of Tyre – Ethbaal III
 - ▶ While the prophecy starts out talking about this king, Ezekiel shifts the language to talk about the evil devil behind the king of Tyre who is actually reigning over the nation. He uses language that can only refer to Lucifer before his fall from heaven (“expelled” from the mount of God)
 - ▶ *And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. (Luke 10:18, KJV 1900)*
- ▶ A third of heaven’s angels fell with Satan -- *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. (Revelation 12:4, KJV 1900)*
- ▶

15 **The judgment of God on Satan (Lucifer)**

1. Satan’s initial judgment was his expulsion from the position of God’s anointed cherub before His throne. God expelled him from the mount of God (heaven, v. 16; cf. v. 14). Satan was cast from God’s government in heaven (cf. Luke 10:18) but was still allowed access to God (cf. Job 1:6–12; Zech. 3:1–2)
2. In the Tribulation Satan will be cast from heaven and restricted to the earth (Rev. 12:7–13)
3. In the Millennium he will be in the bottomless pit (Rev. 20:1–3); and after his brief release at the end of the Millennium (Rev. 20:7–9) he will be cast into the lake of fire forever (Rev. 20:10)

16 **God’s judgment on the angels in Genesis 6**

- ▶ Angels cannot mate with mankind
- ▶ “Sons of God” was often an Old Testament return that referred to angelic beings.
 - ▶ Since angels cannot mate with mankind, it most likely means that Satan and his demons began possessing mankind and leading the world into unparalleled evil that caused God to have to judge the world with the Flood.
- ▶ See Jude 6-8

17 **Some angels received special judgment**

- ▶ Quite possibly we have a reference to the Angels of Genesis chapter 6 who possessed men and created a race of giants who did evil in the earth in a way so great that God felt it necessary to judge the entire earth with the exception of Noah’s family
- ▶ *And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose. And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years. There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown. (Genesis 6:1–4, KJV 1900)*

18 **Jude 6-8**

- ▶ *And the angels who did not keep to their own domain but deserted their proper dwelling place, he has kept in eternal bonds under deep gloom for the judgment of the great day, as Sodom and*

Propheting for Profit, Part 3

Gomorrah and the towns around them indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire in the same way as these, are exhibited as an example by undergoing the punishment of eternal fire. Despite that, in the same way also these men, because of their dreams, defile the flesh and reject authority and blaspheme majestic beings. (Jude 6–8, LEB)

19 **Reserved in chains**

- ▶ *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. (Jude 6, KJV 1900)*
 - ▶ Their judgment is already secure.
 - ▶ These angels are already in Tartarus – a prison of custody which is exceptionally gloomy.
 - ▶ Their judgment is certain, and they will ultimately be consigned to the eternal lake of fire. There will be no future trial for their doom is already sealed.
- ▶ Peter is saying that the same judgment received by rebellious angels is also the fate of false prophets and teachers.

20 **Angels in chains**21 **Angels in chains**22 **2. God judged the antediluvian world**

- ▶ *Ante* = before; *diluvian* = Flood
 - ▶ Out of an entire world of people, God saved only 8 individuals while condemning the rest of the world to destruction.
 - ▶ “Noah, the 8th person” is better translated “Noah and 7 others”
- ▶ There is no *majority rule* with God. When it comes to being judged, there is no safety in numbers.
- ▶ *Bringing in the flood* = *epago* – God’s judgment came swiftly and suddenly; the same judgment awaits false prophets and false teachers

23 **Peter was impressed by the Flood**

- ▶ *...who were formerly disobedient, when the patience of God waited in the days of Noah, while an ark was being constructed, in which a few—that is, eight souls—were rescued through water. (1 Peter 3:20, LEB)*
- ▶ *and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a proclaimer of righteousness, and seven others when he brought a flood on the world of the ungodly, (2 Peter 2:5, LEB)*
- ▶ *by means of which things the world that existed at that time was destroyed by being inundated with water. (2 Peter 3:6, LEB)*

24 25 **What do we know about Noah?**

- ▶ He was a righteous man
 - ▶ *These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, without defect in his generations. Noah walked with God. (Genesis 6:9, LEB)*
- ▶ He was an obedient servant of God
- ▶ He was a shipbuilder (Genesis 6:13-22)
- ▶ He was a preacher of righteousness who spoke out against the corruption all around him (2 Peter 2:5) -- *and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a proclaimer of righteousness, and seven others when he brought a flood on the world of the ungodly, (2 Peter 2:5, LEB)*

26 **3. God judged Sodom and Gomorrah**

- ▶ Another example of the universal destruction of the ungodly

Propheting for Profit, Part 3

- ▶ *Tephrosas* = burning them to ashes
- ▶ Peter declares that God “made them an example” (model, pattern) of what is going to happen to the ungodly.
 - ▶ *as Sodom and Gomorrah and the towns around them indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire in the same way as these, are exhibited as an example by undergoing the punishment of eternal fire. (Jude 7, LEB)*

27 28 **Eternal judgment is in view here**

- ▶ In this passage, Peter gives 3 examples of beings condemned to eternal judgment and 2 examples (Noah’s family and Lot) that are delivered to safety.
- ▶ Peter clearly indicates that false teachers will receive the same judgment.
 - ▶ *...then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to reserve the unrighteous to be punished at the day of judgment, and especially those who go after the flesh in defiling lust and who despise authority. Bold and arrogant, they do not tremble in awe as they blaspheme majestic beings, (2 Peter 2:9–10, LEB)*

29 **An Explanation of Divine Deliverance**

2 PETER 2:7-9

30 **2 Peter 2:7-9**

- ▶ *and rescued righteous Lot, worn down by the way of life of lawless persons in licentiousness (for that righteous man, as he lived among them day after day, was tormenting his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he was seeing and hearing), then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to reserve the unrighteous to be punished at the day of judgment, (2 Peter 2:7–9, LEB)*

31 **God delivers His people even in times of judgment**

- ▶ God rescued Noah and his family in the Flood
- ▶ God rescued Lot and his family from Sodom and Gomorrah
 - ▶ Lot hardly comes across as a righteous man
 - ▶ He started out righteous and justified
 - ▶ Peter says that he was worn down by the way of life in his culture so that he became discouraged and compromised his faith. This should be a warning to all of us.

32 **Was Lot truly righteous?**

- ▶ Three times in 2 Peter 2:7-8, lot is referred to as righteous or justified. He was distressed by the iniquity all around him.
- ▶ The people in the twin cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were filthy – a reference to their sexual debauchery – and lawless (meaning that they operated without any standard or law).
- ▶ Lot was tormented in his soul by seeing the vile ways of his culture day after day.

33 **Did Lot’s behavior show his righteousness?**

- ▶ He doubted God’s angels when they told him to go into the mountain.
- ▶ He instead asks if he can go to the city of Zoar which was the smallest of the five cities of the plains that were to be destroyed by God’s judgment
- ▶ When people in Zoar look at him funny, he decides he must run to the mountains
- ▶ His daughters inherited his doubt – leading to the births of Ammon and Moab

34 **The lesson for us**

Propheting for Profit, Part 3

- ▶ We can be positionally justified in Christ but at the same time be practically corrupted by the world around us
- ▶ Our security in Christ is sure, but we will lose the blessings that come from abiding in Christ both now and in our eternal rewards

35 **1 Corinthians 3:11-15**

- ▶ *For no one is able to lay another foundation than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds upon the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, grass, straw, the work of each one will become evident. For the day will reveal it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the work of each one, of what sort it is. If anyone's work that he has built upon it remains, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, but he himself will be saved, but so as through fire.* (1 Corinthians 3:11–15, LEB)

36 **Peter's summary**

- ▶ The Lord knows how to rescue the righteous and to punish the unrighteous.
- ▶ That God can deliver the godly ... from trials is a source of comfort to believers, exemplified by Noah and his seven family members and Lot and his wife and daughters.
- ▶ On the other hand God holds (*tērein*, "keeps under guard") the unrighteous for the coming day of judgment (cf. 3:7), the Great White Throne judgment and the lake of fire (Rev. 20:11–15). Meanwhile, God continues their punishment in this life (cf. Rom. 1:27b) and in Hades after death (Luke 16:23).
 - ▶ The participle *kolazomenous* ("punishing, injuring") is another of Peter's words that occurs only once in the New Testament.

37 **Next time...**

- ▶ A detailed description of false teachers

38 **What do we need to do?**

- ▶ We need to be immersed in the Word of God.
 - ▶ Every day we need to listen to and read the Word of God so that our Spirit can discern between the counterfeit and the truth.
- ▶ We need to ask God to give us discernment.
- ▶ We need to ask God to help us remain "open to reason" (a marker of heavenly wisdom) to be open to truths that contradict our preconceived notions.
- ▶ We need to use the Bible to interpret the Bible.

39 **What do we need to do?**

- ▶ We need to determine whether we have a dead faith, a demonic faith, or a dynamic faith.
- ▶ We need to examine ourselves to see whether our faith is real. Perhaps we need to seek the counsel of others to determine if there is enough evidence in our life for people to know that we have a genuine relationship with Jesus Christ. We will never be justified before God by our works. But our works will prove whether we are justified to our fellow man.

40 **If you made a profession of faith in Christ, why did you do it?**

- ▶ Was it because a best friend walked the aisle to invite Christ into their hearts?
- ▶ Is it because you thought your parents expected you to do so?
- ▶ Or did you genuinely realize that you were a sinner in need of God's forgiveness?
- ▶ And did you by an act of your will receive Christ both as your Lord and Savior?