

**New Series: Last Days – 2 Peter
“Deliverance for Believers”
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, who preached about being right with God, and seven other people with him.

6 And God also destroyed the evil cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them until they were ashes. He made those cities an example of what will happen to those who are against God.

7 But God also rescued 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 keeping the wicked under punishment until the day of final judgment.

Noah (v. 5).

This man of faith experienced a twofold deliverance.

1. God delivered him from the pollutions of the world around him.

Genesis 6:5 The LORD observed the extent of human wickedness on the earth, and he saw that everything they thought or imagined was consistently and totally evil.

6:11 Now God saw that the earth had become corrupt and was filled with violence.

12 God observed all this corruption in the world, for everyone on earth was corrupt.

For 120 years, Noah faithfully proclaimed the Word of God to people who would not believe it. He and his family were surrounded by moral and spiritual darkness, yet they kept their lights shining. God did not protect Noah and his family by isolating them from the world, but by enabling them to remain pure in the midst of corruption.

Through Jesus Christ, we too have "escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust" (2 Peter 1:4).

Jesus prayed "Do not take them out of the world but keep them from the evil" (John 17:15).

Imagine Noah and his wife raising a family in a world so wicked that they could have no believing friends! Yet God found believing wives for their three sons, and God guarded this home from the pollutions of the world.

2. God also delivered Noah and his family from the judgment of the world.

Genesis 6:7 And the LORD said, "I will wipe this human race I have created from the face of the earth. Yes, and I will destroy every living thing—all the people, the large animals, the small animals that scurry along the ground, and even the birds of the sky. I am sorry I ever made them."

8 But Noah found favor with the LORD.

9 This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, the only blameless person living on earth at the time, and he walked in close fellowship with God.

Genesis 6:13 So God said to Noah, "I have decided to destroy all living creatures, for they have filled the earth with violence. Yes, I will wipe them all out along with the earth!

17 "Look! I am about to cover the earth with a flood that will destroy every living thing that breathes. Everything on earth will die.

18 But I will confirm my covenant with you. So enter the boat—you and your wife and your sons and their wives.

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

In his first epistle, Peter had seen in the ark a type of our salvation in Jesus Christ (1 Peter 3:20-22). The world, as it were, was "buried" in the baptism of the Flood, but Noah was lifted up, a picture of resurrection and salvation.

Certainly Peter was assuring his readers that, when the great day of judgment does come, they will be kept safe.

Jesus Christ is our "ark of safety."

"...Jesus Who delivers us from the wrath to come" 1 Thessalonians 1:10).

God has promised that the earth will never again be judged by water, but there is coming a judgment of fire (2 Peter 3:10ff).

(We who have trusted Christ will never face judgment...

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."

because He bore our judgment on the cross).

"Who His own self bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we being dead to sin should live unto righteousness" 1 Peter 2:24

Lot (vv. 6-9a).

Abraham took his nephew, Lot, 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). As Lot became richer, he had to separate from Abraham, and this removed him from his uncle's godly influence. What a privilege Lot had to walk with Abraham who walked with God! And yet, how Lot wasted his privileges.

When Lot had to choose a new area for his home, he measured it 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 difficult 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. Perhaps 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 17:26-37). 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. 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. Likewise, it is my belief that God will not send wrath on this world until He takes His own people out and home to heaven.

In other words, the Rapture will be 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!