



But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not. For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly; And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly; And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;) The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished: But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities. (2 Peter 2:1-10)

The text before us contains very serious counsel regarding the rising up of false prophets to the deception of not a few, but **MANY!** The Judgment of God is sure and examples of it are given in the destruction of the antediluvian world, the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrha, and the vanquishment of the rebellious angels. The power of God to destroy does not outweigh His power to save. For the righteous may be sure of salvation from the destruction that the wicked will surely face. We will see the righteous Lot given as an example to us of the effects of sin on our peace of mind and good disposition. There are serious warnings and ramifications here for every Christian. Read and heed!

“But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.” These are very ministers in the church who are false prophets. We are told that they shall be among us as well. It does not take a great mind to observe these critters in the corners of our mainline denominations and in a great many pulpits across the land today. They come in as meek and humble mice, but given lodging in the branches of the church, they grow in size and become large rats that gnaw away at the very pillars of the church. Having ingratiated themselves to the people and to their fellows, they gain political acceptance and spiritual influence. Those doctrines that they first pretended to accept without question, they now begin to not only question but flatly refute. The approach is not unlike that of their father the Serpent eastward in Eden. Please note the approach of that old Serpent to Eve in the Garden: *“Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die.”* (Gen 3:1-4) Let us examine carefully this exchange:

“Yea, hath God said?” See? This is just an innocent question, isn't it? Those who would overthrow biblical faith will never start out as the atheist in flat out denial of the word. They begin with a seemingly innocent question. But the question is not finished. It gets more sinister: *“Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?”* Notice the manner in which the Serpent misquotes scripture in his attempt to undermine the Word of God – just a seemingly small change, but one of tremendous impact. This is the same approach modern bible versions take in altering meaning. The woman's response is quite correct: *“We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.”* Yes, it was ALMOST correct, but missed a very important detail. What was that detail? There were **TWO Trees** in the midst of the Garden. *“And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.”* (Gen 2:9) Had Eve remembered this First Tree of Life, she may never have fallen for the devil's ruse! This was the Tree which would have saved her. Christ is our Tree of Life. Satan begins with an innocent question which moves on to a misquoting of God's Word. He then proceeds to flatly deny that Word. *“Ye shall not surely die!”* *“Has God said that Christ is divine, being His only Begotten Son? Has God said that we are all like Christ being the sons of God?”* Next step, *“Christ is NOT the divine Son of God else we are ALL divine.”* See the insidious direction of these Bible versions that attempt to demean the divinity of Christ at every point? Simply view John 3:16 in the Received Text Bibles and compare with the NIV rendition.

“And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.” Not a FEW, but MANY shall follow their pernicious and lascivious ways. They will follow them to damnation. They will refute the truth and power of God to their own demise. *“And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.”* These are leaders of covetousness. They want what you have – your home, your money, your car, and, disgustingly, often your wife or husband. (see vv 14 below) They will enrich their pocketbooks with your labors and sacrifice. This is the meaning of making merchandise of you. *“For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men,*

turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Jude 1:4) Their judgment is not long in coming and it is sure and unfailing.

“For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;” There was war in Heaven, remember? *“And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”* (Rev 12:7-9) And where are those fallen angels of darkness? They are fallen down to earth as demons.

And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly.” Remember the number most often ascribed in the Bible for a new beginning? It is the number eight! The Book of Ruth is a prefiguring of the Gospel of Christ typified in Ruth and Boaz. It is a garden between judgment (Judges) and prophets (Samuel). It tells us that God will make a new beginning in Christ. It is the eighth book of the Bible! There were eight souls saved in the flood to repopulate the earth and begin anew. Christ rose on the eighth day (Sunday) according to the Scriptures. *“But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept”* (1 Cor.15:20) The sheaf offering was waved on that eighth day. That sheaf clearly pointed to the resurrection of Christ. True to the shadow, Christ rose on the first day of the week. So the eighth day on which the wave offering was made, was a part of the shadow as much as the offering. As certain as the sheaf pointed to the resurrection of Christ, so certain did the eighth day on which it took place point to the day on which he arose—the Lord's Day.

“And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly.” Here is a stark and stunning reference to the very wickedness we see growing upon the earth today. Sodom and Gomorrha were examples to us of what shall occur in the latter judgment. Though God promised Noah that He would not destroy the world with water again, He has told us that He will destroy the last world with **FIRE**. How were the cities of the plain destroyed? With **FIRE**! The sins of Sodom is the origin for the word ‘sodomite’ which means homosexual. Is this any kind of clue to you, Friend?

“And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds.) Yes, Lot was considered a righteous man by the Lord, but he suffered in his conscience as well as his lifestyle for living among such egregious sinners. Psalms 1 tell us that sin is a **DIRECTION**: *“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.”* (Psalms 1:1) As you will recall, Lot chose from father Abraham that fertile plain over against Sodom and, we are told, Lot pitched his tent TOWARD Sodom. If we begin by walking with the ungodly, we will soon stop and converse seriously with them and the next step is to make ourselves at home with the wicked. Lot wound up sitting in the gate of Sodom!

“The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the

unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished." Do you believe the Lord does not quite know how to go about delivering us from all this evil about us? Think again! He knows, not only how to deliver the godly out of every evil and temptation, but He knows exactly what He is doing in reserving the wicked to be punished in the judgment.

"But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government." Please note this warning! Those sins of the flesh and lust of uncleanness will be especially judged and punished. Fornication, adultery, homosexuality, abuse of little children – these will receive the priority in punishment and, might I add, the nation and people who allow such evils. These despise the authority and government of God, the Church, the secular power (if they cannot control it) etc.

"Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities." Proud and stubborn knowing all to their hearts imagination, and are disrespectful to all who hold authority or honor – flag burners!

We live in a period of great sin and lasciviousness. A government which once claimed Christ as her sovereign is now debating the legitimacy of homosexual marriages and adoption. Filth is being taught in our schools where the Psalms were once read to begin every school day. Our faith is under attack from government and society, but the greatest enemy is within the gates of the church – effeminate clergy, and unfaithful congregants. They hold the vote and power in denominational churches, and they need only to rot the head in those churches whose rule is through the episcopate. Balshazar may never have heard the Army of Cyrus burning the bulrushes to enter into his city at which time the iron-leaved gates were left open. But one thing Balshazar did, indeed, see. He saw the **Writing on the Wall!** (Daniel 5:25) But by that point, it was too late – his city had fallen. Have we seen the Writing on the Wall, Friend?