

IF GOD BE FOR US, WHO CAN BE AGAINST US?

2 Peter 2:4-9

INTRO: Turn your Bibles, or turn them on, to 2 Peter chapter 2. I love the books of 1st and 2nd Peter. Both books were written by Simon Peter, the disciple of Jesus Christ. Peter is quiet the character. If you've been around church for a while, or if you've watched any episode of THE CHOSEN, then you may have a pretty good idea of Peter's personality. He often acted without thinking. He was constantly putting his foot in his mouth. On more than one occasion, Jesus rebuked Peter for talking about things he knew nothing about. Even once, on the mount of transfiguration, God the Father somewhat scolded Peter for saying something ignorant. Peter was indeed quiet the character. But Jesus loved him greatly! He was part of Jesus' inner circle of disciples made up of only Peter, James, and John. Peter was a man of passion, and he had a great love for his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. And over the years, Peter matured and became the man and leader that Jesus knew he would. And in these two short letters of 1st and 2nd Peter, we have some of the greatest truths ever recorded.

I want us to read together from 2 Peter chapter 2, beginning in verse 4. Outside of maybe a book study on 2 Peter, you won't hear these verses preached on that often. But I felt led to share them with you this week, so let's read together...

2 Peter 2: 4-9 *"For if God did not spare the angels when they sinned, but cast them deep into hell, placing them in chains of darkness to be held for judgment; 5 if He did not spare the ancient world when He brought the flood on its ungodly people, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, among the eight; 6 if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction, reducing them to ashes as an example of what is coming on the ungodly; 7 and if He rescued Lot, a righteous man distressed by the depraved conduct of the lawless 8 (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)— 9 if all this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment."*

V 9 *"if all this is so (and we know it is), then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from (all their) trials..."*

Today I want to preach on the subject, "IF GOD BE FOR ME, WHO CAN BE AGAINST ME?" It's really important that you personalize this sermon today, so, I want you to say that with me and apply to yourself. Say it, IF GOD BE FOR ME, WHO CAN BE AGAINST ME? One more time, IF GOD BE FOR ME, WHO CAN BE AGAINST ME?

Of course, many of you know that Paul used that same phrase writing to the believers in Rome, when he wrote in **Romans 8:31** *"What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?"* That's the question we want to look at today. Notice...

I) THE CONDITION: **vv 4-7, 9** "If..." (Greek "ei" pronounced, ā) The "if" (ei) in this sentence does not imply doubt, but is known as a "first class condition". In plain English, this means that the three examples of God's past judgment that follow are assumed true. One can usually translate first class conditional statements with the word "since". But I like that we have it translated "if". It just seems to add to the suspense of the passage.

I) THE CONDITION: vv 4-7, 9 CONTINUED To my Exegetes in attendance, those taking our Exegesis 101 class, you will remember that we spoke about looking for terms of condition when studying the Bible, “if this, then that” type statements. For those of you who like coming across conditional statements, this passage is as good as it gets.

Here, Peter compares three past judgements that God righteously declared upon ungodly people, with two past times in which God delivered His people from harm, and one promise as to His ability to always do the same. Let's look at it again...

vv 4-9 “For if God did not spare the angels when they sinned, but cast them deep into hell, placing them in chains of darkness to be held for judgment; 5 if He did not spare the ancient world when He brought the flood on its ungodly people, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, among the eight; 6 if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction, reducing them to ashes as an example of what is coming on the ungodly; 7 and if He rescued Lot, a righteous man distressed by the depraved conduct of the lawless 8 (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)— 9 if all this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials ...”

That's awesome! Notice...

II) THE CONSOLATION: v 9 “if all this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials ...” WOW, what a comfort! We know all that's mentioned here took place just as scripture said. And the Bible tells us, because God has always taken care of His children, we can have confidence that He will take care of us!

Satan's job is to discourage you, demoralize you, and cause you to despair. But the devil is a defeated foe! Oh how I love the words of 1 John 4:4 “You, little children, are from God and have overcome them, because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.”

APPLICATION: Some of you are going through some hard trials as we speak. I mean you are here in this place, but truth be known, your mind is all over the place, as you fret what will come tomorrow. LISTEN TO ME, God knows your situation, He cares about your sorrow, and He is able to touch your dead spirit and raise you to new life today, if only you will trust Him.

Look at verse 9 again, “if all this is so (AND IT IS, take it to the bank), then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from (ALL YOUR) trials ..” Now personalize it, “the Lord knows how to rescue (ME) from (ALL MY) trials ..” SAY IT WITH ME... “the Lord knows how to rescue (ME) from (ALL MY) trials ..”

Now Satan is good at his job, so I know what he's saying to some of you right now. He's saying, “Look, the Bible says God will rescue the godly from their trials. But that doesn't apply to you, 'cause you're not godly! Had he put that in anyone's mind already? Well let me show you something. Notice...

III) THE COMPARISONS: vv 5, 7-8 “... but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, among the eight;” “and if He rescued Lot, a righteous man distressed by the depraved conduct of the lawless 8 (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)”

Noah and Lot are the examples the Holy Spirit chose to use to make His point.

I) THE CONDITION: vv 4-7, 9

II) THE CONSOLATION: v 9

III) THE COMPARISONS: vv 5, 7-8 CONTINUED So what kind of dudes were these two guys? Noah was called a preacher of righteousness, and Lot was called a righteous man, and both of them are called godly in our passage. AND I BELIEVE THE BIBLE IS TRUE AND GOD KNOWS WHAT HE'S TALKING ABOUT! But let's look at these two for just a moment.

NOAH: We know that Noah was obedient to God in the building of the Ark and preaching about the coming disaster, but according to Genesis 9:20–21, at some point after Noah, and his family survived the flood, Noah planted a vineyard, and with some of the grapes he made, obviously, some very fine wine, and then he started drinking, and he didn't know when to stop! The Bible says he started drinking in his tent, evidently alone, then at some point after he had drank, well, a lot, he stripped down naked and continued to drink until he passed out! What followed was the sin of Ham (and possibly Canaan). And the result was a very uncomfortable episode in Noah's life. But it serves well as a reminder that even those saved by the grace of God are prone to sin. **THAT'S THE FIRST GODLY MAN THE BIBLE USES AS AN EXAMPLE.** Notice...

LOT: We know Lot as the beloved nephew of Abraham. The two traveled together for sometime, but eventually went their separate ways. Abraham gave Lot the choice as to the direction he wanted to go and according to their deal, Abraham would then go in the opposite direction. Lot chose the land that appeared to be the best. SO, we know a little about his character right off. He chose what appeared to be BEST, while leaving his uncle Abraham with what was less. Then Lot finds himself in the city of Sodom. It was a vile place. He should have left but he didn't. He stayed. So sinful was this place that God declared to destroy it. But before He could, He needed to get LOT, a righteous man, out. The Bible tells us in Genesis 19 that God sent two men, who were really angels, to retrieve Lot. When they get into the city, some wicked men of Sodom surrounded Lot's house seeking to have homosexual relations with the angels. Lot begged the men of the city not to do this evil thing, and he offered up his two virgin daughters to them instead. He offered up his two virgin daughters to be gang raped! **RIGHTEOUS LOT.** That's not all. After finally getting Lot out of the city, God destroys the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. Lot and his daughters settle in a cave. At some point the two girls talk to one another and decide to get their dad drunk and have sex with him so they can have children. So, the oldest got him drunk one night, and had sex with him. The very next night, the youngest did the same, and both got pregnant by their father, **RIGHTEOUS LOT.**

Now granted, these two men didn't always make bad decisions, but what about them made them righteous? They were righteous for the same reasons you and I are, they believed God! The Bible says in **Isaiah 64:6** *"But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousness is like filthy rags;"* This means that nothing we can do is worthy of Christ! The Bible says in **Romans 3:10-12** *"As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; 11 There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. 12 They have all turned aside;...There is none who does good, no, not one."* **BUT THERE IS GOOD NEWS!** **2 Corinthians 5:21** says, *"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."* **Romans 10:4** *"For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes."*

CONCLUSION: Now, if you are a believer in Christ, don't let the devil tell you, you have no place in the promises of God! God calls those who truly believe, godly. And He knows how to deliver His righteous people out of their trials. **COME GET THE HELP YOU NEED!**