Living Hope, a study of 2 Peter

Wk #39: Examples From The Past For Our Learning

2 Peter 2:1-22 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition

Tim read from hard copy of scripture

Last lesson I used the word rejection. I want to expand the process of God's rejection to help us understand that His response to our sin is just. His justice is perfect. He is a just God.

Today is a simple reminder that Peter uses four examples from the past for our learning today.

* The angels that sinned
* The deluge (flood) of the ancient world during Noah's life
* The destruction of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah during Lot's life
* Balaam of Beor that sinned and led people into sin

I want to review three of the four examples this morning. For those of you that have never taken the time to read the narratives of each one of these examples, it is important for you to understand the example so that you can understand the warning for your own life.

Use the visual of a circular saw to illustrate the importance of understanding an example.

**The deluge (flood) of the ancient world during Noah's life**

We mentioned Genesis 5-9 last week as the chapters to study regarding Noah and the great deluge.

Genesis 6:5-12 **NIV *5The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. 6The Lord regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled. 7****So the Lord said, “I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created—and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground—for I regret that I have made them.”****8****But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.****9****This is the account of Noah and his family.* ***Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God****.****10****Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth.* ***11****Now the earth was corrupt in God’s sight and was full of violence.****12God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways.***

https://bibleproject.com/articles/why-did-god-flood-the-world/ (links for educational purposes)

https://www.gotquestions.org/Noah-flood.html

https://christiananswers.net/dictionary/deluge.html

As people who believe in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob we also believe in the Holy Scriptures. We believe that God created man/woman and that when given a choice, they chose their own ideas/ways instead of God's instructions.

We believe in the sinfulness of human beings. We have all sinned and come short of God's glory. (Romans 3:23)

The wage or the earning return on our sin is death. (Romans 6:23)

Romans 5:8 (NLT) *But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.*

All of these examples are designed by God to point us to His Son, Jesus of Nazareth, and His love for us.

Got Questions: (sharing resources for you to use in your own study) "When Jesus described the events that will surround His second coming, He said, “Just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man. They were eating and drinking and marrying and being given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and [the flood](https://www.gotquestions.org/global-flood.html) came and destroyed them all” ([Luke 17:26–27](https://www.bibleref.com/Luke/17/Luke-17-26.html)). Jesus was pointing out that, although the people of Noah’s day were totally depraved, they were not the least bit concerned about it. They were carrying on the events of their lives without a single thought of the judgment of God. Noah is described as a “[preacher of righteousness](https://www.gotquestions.org/preacher-of-righteousness.html)” ([2 Peter 2:5](https://www.bibleref.com/2-Peter/2/2-Peter-2-5.html)), meaning he had spent years warning his friends and neighbors what the Holy God was about to do. No one listened."

**The destruction of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah during Lot's life**

We mentioned Genesis 13, 14, and 19 last week regarding Lot's family and the two cities.

We will post an archaeological video (Expedition Bible) tomorrow regarding details of Sodom and Gomorrah.

https://answersingenesis.org/contradictions-in-the-bible/what-was-primary-sin-sodom-gomorrah/ (educational resource)

Ezekiel 16:49-50 NASB 1995 ***49****Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had arrogance, abundant food and careless ease, but she did not help the poor and needy.****50****Thus they were haughty and committed abominations before Me. Therefore I removed them when I saw it.*

Jude 1:7 ESV ***7****just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.*

I want to present four reasons for the destruction of these two great cities of the plain.

* Pride and arrogance
* Lack of hospitality (absolute disrespect/abuse of anyone who was not a Sodomite)
* Sexual sin and perversion
* Rape culture

Answers In Genesis: (sharing resources for you to use in your own study) "Pride is a fountain of many sins because it effectively is saying, “I want what I want, and I will have it regardless of what [God](https://answersingenesis.org/god/) says or the cost to someone else because I am better than they are and deserve it.” If that lustful passion is for “strange flesh” or “unnatural desire” as Jude 1:7 terms it, then that can lead to homosexual behavior. So yes, Sodom was judged for homosexual sin—which flowed from pride, which also led to cruelty and exploitation of their fellow men and women.

The Bible is not contradicting itself when it states that Sodom and Gomorrah’s sin was sexual immorality and pride (and its related lack of concern for others). The first was an outworking of the second. God can and does judge upon the motives of the heart, but he can and does also judge on the physical actions. But we must keep in mind that God was also ready to show mercy. Had there been even ten righteous people in the city, God would have spared it (Genesis 18:32). As it was, only four left Sodom alive, and only three made it to safety."

**Balaam of Beor that sinned and led people into sin**

Recorded in Numbers 22-24

Jude 1:11 ESV *Woe to them! For they walked in the way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error and perished in Korah's rebellion.*

Revelation 2:14 NIV ***14****Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality.*

https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/biblical-topics/hebrew-bible/balaam-part-two/

#### Bible Archaeology: Balaam in the Hebrew Bible; While Balaam’s main narrative in Numbers is largely ambivalent towards the figure, save for his final appearance in Numbers 31, in the Hellenistic and later periods, the figure of Balaam takes on the mantle of the detestable enemy and false prophet par excellence. To understand this change, it is necessary to turn to other references to Balaam in the Hebrew Bible. Although Balaam’s main narrative ends in Numbers 24, he is mentioned in four other books as well: Deuteronomy 23:4–5; [Joshua](https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/biblical-topics/hebrew-bible/joshua-in-the-bible/) 13:22, 24:9–10; Micah 6:5; and [Nehemiah](https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/people-cultures-in-the-bible/people-in-the-bible/nehemiah-the-man-behind-the-wall/) 13:2.

Among the four biblical books, only Micah presents Balaam in a slightly more positive light, where his story is included in a list of God’s saving acts. However, the other three books are overwhelmingly negative toward the figure. While Joshua 13 makes a passing reference to Balaam being killed alongside the enemies of Israel, the other mentions go further and completely reinterpret his narrative. In Balaam’s original narrative in Numbers 22–24, he is presented as a reliable spokesperson for the divine. However, the references to Balaam in Deuteronomy, Joshua 24, and Nehemiah claim that he set out to intentionally curse the people of Israel. It was only God who intervened to actively turn Balaam’s curses into blessings. It is possible that this interpretation flows from his appearance in Numbers 31:16, where it states that Balaam had convinced the Midianite women to lead Israel into adultery.

We are studying 2 Peter leading up to our celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus of Nazareth who was born in Bethlehem.

Jesus came into this world to redeem us from our sin debt.

I want to conclude with an expanded thought on the wage or earning concept.

ROI.....Return on Investment

Our investment in our sinfulness has a return. The return is temporary as well as eternal.

God sent His one and only Son to bring hope to our natural state of human existence.

John 3:17 Amplified Bible *For God did not send the Son into the world to judge and condemn the world [that is, to initiate the final judgment of the world], but that the world might be saved through Him.*

Rescue through believing God loves you and longs for a relationship with you

Ruin through rejection of God's love

Christ came into the world to save and rescue

You have a choice today and each & every day. What is your choice?