### 2 Peter

## Chapter 2

1However, just as there were false prophets in the world, there’ll be false teachers among you! They’ll introduce ruinous heresies and deny the master who bought them, which will bring swift ruin upon themselves.  
  
2Yet, many will follow them into their disgusting ways. And because of this, the way of the truth will be slandered. 3Also, because they’ll desire whatever you have, they’ll worm their way [in among you] with carefully-planned words.  
  
However, the ancient judgment upon them won’t be delayed, and their destruction hasn’t fallen asleep.  
  
4Notice that God didn’t spare the [spirit] messengers who sinned, for He threw them into the dark pits of ‘Tartarus’ where they’re still awaiting His justice.  
  
5Nor did He spare the first system of things… Although He guarded Noah (who was a preacher of righteousness) along with seven others, when He brought a downpour upon that world of godless people.  
  
6Also, after He condemned the cities Sodom and GomorRah, He reduced them to ashes.  
  
And all of these things are examples of what’s going to happen to such godless people!  
  
7Yet, remember that [God] protected righteous Lot, who was deeply disturbed by the lewd actions of those lawless individuals. 8For the wicked things that this man saw and heard each day while he was living among them tortured his righteous soul.  
  
9So, [understand that] Jehovah knows how to rescue devout people from trials, while he keeps the unrighteous for a day of judgment when they’ll be punished.  
  
10This is especially true of those who chase after flesh in filthy acts of lust and who despise divine appointments… The self-willed who don’t tremble when they speak ill of the glorious ones.  
  
11Even the messengers [of God] (who are much stronger and more powerful than they are) wouldn’t commit such blasphemy before Jehovah!  
  
12So, people like that are like unreasoning animals that were born to be caught and killed. And because they speak badly of things that they don’t understand, they’ll rot in their filth.  
  
13Yes, the payback for their unrighteousness is the mistreatment of themselves!  
  
For what brings pleasure to these people is just spending their days in luxury… They’re spots and flaws that enjoy doing anything that they feel tempted to do, as they feast among you!  
  
14Such ones have eyes that are always full of adultery and sins, as they try to tempt those who are weak.  
  
Yes, their hearts have been trained to want things that aren’t theirs, and they [give birth to] children who are cursed. 15For they’ve been led away from the straight path and are directed onto the course of BalaAm [the son] of BeOr, who loved the reward for doing what was wrong, 16but was scolded for going beyond the limits by a farm animal which couldn’t speak… Yet it did speak in a man’s voice – and it stopped that crazy prophet!  
  
17Such people are like springs without any water, and like clouds being blown by storms that are reserved for the gloom of darkness.  
  
18Yet they talk in big ways about stupid things, as they try to tempt [people] into following human desires and loose lifestyles… Yes, they turn the little ones who are fleeing [this system of things] back into doing things that are wrong.  
  
19They keep promising them freedom, while they’re personally slaves to filth… For whoever is conquered by another, becomes his slave.  
  
20Understand that anyone who’s escaped from the filth of this system of things by coming to an accurate knowledge of our Lord and Savior (Jesus the Anointed) and then turns back to it, is conquered by it again and is worse off than he was before [he became a Christian]!  
  
21Therefore, it would be better for such ones if they’d never learned about the ways of righteousness than to have turned from it after they’ve been taught the ways of Holiness!  
  
22So what happens to them is just as the proverb truthfully says, that the dog...  
  
 ‘returned to its vomit’ [Proverbs 26:11]  
  
... and the washed pig [returns] to wallowing in the filth!