

- ❑ Why did Peter include the example of Balaam here in his section about False Teachers in the church?

[17] These men are springs without water and mists driven by a storm. Blackest darkness is reserved for them. [18] For they mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of sinful human nature, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error. [19] They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity—for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him. [20] If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning. [21] It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them. [22] Of them the proverbs are true: “A dog returns to its vomit,” and, “A sow that is washed goes back to her wallowing in the mud.”

- ❑ Vs. 17 What is the significance of springs without water and mists driven by a storm?
- ❑ Why would such punishment be described for False Teachers? see James 3.1
- ❑ Vs. 18 What three categories can all desires be broken down into? When do they become lustful ^{NIV} or fleshly? ^{NRSB}
- ❑ What is the difference between a desire and a need?
- ❑ s. 20-21 Read Luke 11.24-26
- ❑ How can it be better to have never know Jesus?
- ❑ Does this mean they can never again return to Christ as their personal savior? See Hebrews 6.4-6
- ❑ Vs. 22 Why do you think Peter used these proverbs to describe the False Teachers within the church?
- ❑ How can someone preach about _____ on Sunday and then commit the same sin themselves?



Study lesson #2 *The Enemy Within*

© 2014 Rev. Bob Highlands III - Text 2 Peter 2.1-22^{NIV}

[2:1] But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves. [2] Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. [3] In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.

- ❑ Vs. 1 How does Peter compare the sinful Old Testament leaders to the sinful New Testament ones?
- ❑ Why should heresies be considered destructive?
- ❑ Vss. 1-3 What are the marks of a false teacher?
- ❑ Vs. 3 What will be the end result for them?
- ❑ What damage can a false teacher do to the church?

[4] For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment; [5] if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; [6] if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; [7] and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the filthy lives of lawless men [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 this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment. [10] This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the sinful nature and despise authority.

The word for angels in verse 4 can have two prime meanings in scripture. The word literally means “a messenger.” The first possible meaning is a man who has been called to serve God and give his message. The Old

Testament Prophets were his messengers. 2 Peter 1:21 is referring to prophets in this way. The second meaning is the eternal beings that serve God who serve him and bring his message. It is important to put the meaning of the word in context to know if you are talking about a human being or a messenger from God.

Vss. 4-9 contain one of scriptures great gifts, the “IF” “THEN” sections. Circle any time ‘if’ or ‘then’ appears in this sections. It will help prepare you for the coming truth.

- Vs. 4 before deciding which messenger is referred to here answer these questions.
 - What did these messengers do?
 - What happened to them as a result of this?
 - How long will they be held there?
 - Look back at verse 2, who are these messengers that are being referred to here?
 - Why is it important to know that God did not spare these messengers when they went off the message given them by God? See Ezekiel 18:21-27
- Vs. 5 How many people died in the flood?
- Vs. 6 Give two reason God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah. (hint one reason is the same one he dealt with the messengers in verse 4, the other is in verse 6)
- Vs. 7 Why is it important to know he rescued Lot?
- Vs. 8. How does this verse remind us of 1 Peter?
- Vs 9. What is this ‘if’ referring to?
- What three things can we know for sure?
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
- Vs. 10 What is Peter’s message here about false teachers?
- What are the two key messages of this section?

Bold and arrogant, these men are not afraid to slander celestial beings; [11] yet even angels, although they are stronger and more powerful, do not bring slanderous accusations against such beings in the presence of the Lord. [12] But these men blaspheme in matters they do not understand. They are like brute beasts, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like beasts they too will perish.

A better way to translate vss. 10b-11 would be:

Bold and self-pleasing they do not tremble when they blaspheme what should be praised, whereas messengers (angels) who have greater might and power do not bring blasphemous/slanderous judgment before the LORD. ^{REHIII}

How does Peter contrast these men to the actions of angels that minister before God?

But these, like unreasoning animals, born as creatures of instinct to be captured and killed, reviling where they have no knowledge, will in the destruction of those creatures also be destroyed, ^{NASB}

- How does this description portray these sinful men?
- What will be the results of their actions?

[13] They will be paid back with harm for the harm they have done. Their idea of pleasure is to carouse in broad daylight. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their pleasures while they feast with you. [14] With eyes full of adultery, they never stop sinning; they seduce the unstable; they are experts in greed—an accursed brood! [15] They have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Beor, who loved the wages of wickedness. [16] But he was rebuked for his wrongdoing by a donkey—a beast without speech—who spoke with a man's voice and restrained the prophet's madness.

- Vs. 13 How will they be paid back? How does this compare to what Jesus said in Mark 4:24?
- How do these people act while teaching such doctrines in the church?
- Vs. 14 What is adultery? Why is it used here to describe these false teachers?
- What three ways does Peter characterize them?
- Vs. 15 (Balaam see Numbers 22:1-24:25) What was Balaam willing to do? (see Numbers 31:7-8 to see what happened.)
- What was the point of the donkey speaking to Balaam?