

PREPARED TO LIVE IN VICTORY: LESSONS FROM GOD'S STORY

Houses of Light Church • November 11 -12, 2023 • Pastor Netz Gómez

I. HISTORICAL PROOFS OF GOD'S JUSTICE AND PROTECTION

A. After Peter made a clear distinction about who the false prophets are, he concludes by speaking of the judgment that awaits them: ***"Their condemnation has been prepared for a long time and their destruction awaits them."*** (2 Pet. 2:3b). Then Peter cites three examples to prove this very fearsome statement but also the love of God to deliver His own.

1. THE ANGELS WHO SINNED WERE THROWN INTO HELL, INTO DEEP PRISONS OF DARKNESS.

v.4 "For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell[a] and committed them to chains[b] of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment."

The story of the fall of angels is deeply rooted in Hebrew thought and there are various references throughout Scripture (Gen. 6:1-5; Job 4:18; 1 Cor. 6:3). This is an important lesson in understanding that this is ultimately what rebellion leads to. **Even the angels, when they sinned, were punished. How much more human beings if they remain in rebellion!**

2. THE PEOPLE OF THE FLOOD AND THE RESCUE OF NOAH AND HIS FAMILY

v.5 "if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly."

The second illustration of the destruction of the wicked and the preservation of the righteous that Peter chose was the case of the ancient world whose wickedness caused the judgment that brought the flood (Gen 6:5) but in the midst of the destruction, God did not forget those who were on His side and delivered them.

3. THE DESTRUCTION OF SODOM AND GOMORRAH AND THE RESCUE OF LOT.

v.6-7 "if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; 7 and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked;"

Peter chooses for his third example this dramatic story which begins with the Lord informing Abraham that, due to the garbead of the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah, He was descending to confirm the situation and bring destruction; Abraham then begins to intercede so that God would not destroy the upright with the guilty and so that these cities would be delivered (Gen 18:16-33). Afterwards, the angels came to the city and Lot invited them to stay in his house; and at that moment the men of Sodom surrounded the house demanding that these foreigners be brought out to have relations with them (Gen 19:1-11). With that action the condemnation of those cities was proven. Lot and his family were spared from destruction except for his wife, who looked back longingly and became a pillar of salt (Gen 19:26).

B. So the conclusion of these three stories is what Peter says next:

2 Ped. 2:9 " then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials,[d] and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment."

II. SIMILARITIES AND CONTRASTS BETWEEN NOAH AND LOT

- A. Both lived surrounded by a corrupt society and both were warned by God of the judgment that was coming because the Lord wanted to deliver them and their families and he does the same with us at this time..

Gén. 6:17-18 " For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die. 18 But I will establish my covenant with you [Noah], and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you."

Gén. 19:12-13 " Then the men said to Lot, "Have you anyone else here? Sons-in-law, sons, daughters, or anyone you have in the city, bring them out of the place. 13 For we are about to destroy this place, because the outcry against its people has become great before the Lord, and the Lord has sent us to destroy it."

- B. They both kept themselves from being influenced by the evil around them but one was passive and the other was active.:

Gén. 6:9 "These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God."

2 Ped. 2:8 "(for as that righteous man [Lot] lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard)."

1. Lot was grieved by the evil that surrounded him but could not resist it, while Noah is called "a preacher of righteousness." From what we see in these texts, Lot's attitude was passive and Noah's was active. It is true that to preserve our own purity, we must separate ourselves from what can pervert us, but we should not hide the grace we have received. Our calling is to bring light to those who are in darkness and warn of what is coming. **Noah did everything possible to turn the men of his time away from his evil ways and to induce them to change their attitudes and behavior.**
2. One commentator states: 'Our great security against sin is that it continues to outrage us.' When evil first arises, people are shocked; But, as time goes by, they get used to it and end up accepting it as the most normal thing. It would be good to ask ourselves: what things have we stopped being indignant about? **For the good of our souls we must keep alert the sensitivity that is indignant in the face of sin and actively resist it.**
3. Many become accustomed to the present perversity and lose all sensitivity. **We must have criteria and take care of what enters our house and our bedroom.** The screens we see, the music we listen to, the friendships we have, the movies we watch. **We talk here about having discernment and criteria. This is essential to preserve sanity and good judgment, because all those things we see and hear affect what we think and what we think affects what we transmit to our children..**
1 Tes. 5:22 "Abstain from every form of evil."
4. Beware of a supposedly liberal and open position that is nothing more than a loss of sensitivity. Beware of tolerance towards evil and indifference towards good. Beware of curiosity and morbidity that can expose us to what destroys judgment.

C. Regarding their level of obedience, one was completely obedient and the other half obeyed.

Gén. 6:22 "Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him."

Gén. 19:15-17 "As morning dawned, the angels urged Lot, saying, "Up! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be swept away in the punishment of the city." 16 But he lingered. So the men seized him and his wife and his two daughters by the hand, the Lord being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city. 17 And as they brought them out, one said, "Escape for your life. Do not look back or stop anywhere in the valley. Escape to the hills, lest you be swept away."

- 1. Noah's total obedience allowed him to build the vehicle of salvation for his family. If we want to save our families we must adhere to God's orders.**

Heb. 11:7 "By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith."

- 2. Lot's partial obedience put him in dangerous places and he lost his entire family. Even when the angels told him to flee, he wanted to stay in a nearby village. There are times when the influence of Heaven helps us get out of a bad situation. It can happen to anyone to have to choose between the security of the known or starting over; and there are times when a person can only save his soul from it by totally detaching himself from his present situation and starting again from scratch.**

D. Their attitudes towards material things

Gén. 8:20-21 "Then Noah built an altar to the Lord and took some of every clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. 21 And when the Lord smelled the pleasing aroma..."

Gén. 13:10-13 "And Lot lifted up his eyes and saw that the Jordan Valley was well watered everywhere like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt, in the direction of Zoar. (This was before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) 11 So Lot chose for himself all the Jordan Valley, and Lot journeyed east. Thus they separated from each other. 12 Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled among the cities of the valley and moved his tent as far as Sodom. 13 Now the men of Sodom were wicked, great sinners against the Lord."

- 1. Noah was a man of altars and covenants: An altar is a place of worship and sacrifice; delivery and offering. For his part, Lot was materialistic, he was guided by what his eyes saw and not by the will of God.**

E. Regarding the influence they had towards their families: All of the above determined their ability to influence their family in the ways of God.

Gén. 7:13 "On the very same day Noah and his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them entered the ark."

Gén. 19:14 "So Lot went out and said to his sons-in-law, who were to marry his daughters, "Up! Get out of this place, for the Lord is about to destroy the city." But he seemed to his sons-in-law to be jesting."

1. **Because of his communion, Noah positively influenced his people.** Noah's family stood by him while he did something seemingly incoherent for about a hundred years.
2. **In Lot's case, his ability to influence was diluted, nor was his son-in-law and in the end not even his wife saved. Why was it that they didn't take it seriously?**
Lk. 17:32-33 "Remember Lot's wife. 33 Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will keep it."

III. CONCLUSION

- C. **While it is true that the salvation of our loved ones is a difficult issue for many of us because we would all like to see them in the ways of the Lord and in many cases it happened in history that bad parents had good children and vice versa, it is also true that we must do everything in our part to see that our people come to the Lord and that together we can serve Him as a family, just as Joshua said (Joshua 24:15).**
- D. **We are at a moment in history where nations are moving in very opposite directions. Those who are with the Lord will eventually be delivered but those who are against Him will be punished. Sometimes this radicality is not appreciated but it is reality and we have to recognize it and respond appropriately.**

II. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. **According to the teaching, what is Peter's purpose in remembering these three stories?**
2. **What is the best thing you can learn from Noah?**
3. **What can you learn from the story of Lot?**

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Prophecy Rooms Wednesday November 15 • Healing Rooms Thursday November 16 at 7:00 p.m.** Please register at www.nhop.la
2. **Men's Retreat • November 17-18.** You can register at the table outside or on our website www.housesoflight.org
3. **Special Thanksgiving Service on Thursday, November 23, 11:00 a.m.** The children's ministry will be open.
4. **Do you want to be baptized? We invite you to take the preparation class on Monday, November 27 at 7:00 p.m. in the Affirming Your Steps room.** The Baptisms will take place during services on December 2 and 3. Please register at the table outside or at www.housesoflight.org
5. **Praise Team Auditions: Musicians and singers, this is your time! Auditions will be on Saturday, December 9 at 9:00 a.m.** Please register at housesoflight.org