

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

2 Peter 2

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Peter opens chapter two with a warning about **false prophets** and **false teachers** who were present among those pilgrims scattered throughout the empire. The Greek words are just as they sound, fake, imposters, phony, and the results are

grave. **Ψευδοπροφήτης**, pseudoprophétés, pronounced (*psyoo-dop-rof-ay'-tace*) **Ψευδοδιδάσκαλος**, **pseudodidaskalos**, pronounced (*psyoo-dod-id-as'-kal-os*). The false prophets were those who claimed supernatural commissioning from God. They also gave out false prophecies, so that not only were they deceitful in their origin, but in what they prophesied. They were false teachers in that they taught lies, but also their motives were evil. Peter said all of these things under divine inspiration, it was not just his judgment and discernment, but God's.

God knows how to deal with false prophets and false teachers as is evidenced by three examples of the **"ancient world."** **First** Peter goes back to Genesis six and the days of Noah and the angels who sinned by rebelling against the order of creation God assigned them and looking upon the beautiful daughters of mankind and seducing them into having sex with them that produced offspring that were not according to God's

original design. This brought the judgment of those evil angels/demons into chains of darkness in a place called **"Tartarus"** in the Greek text. **Secondly**, Peter uses as an example of God's righteous judgment, the flood, where God spared Noah, who found grace in His sight. Noah and his sons and daughters did not participate in the destructive behavior of their era and God spared them from the flood that destroyed the ancient world. **Finally**, the Apostle speaks of God sparing **righteous Lot** from the destruction that came upon Sodom and Gomorrah. God delivered Lot from the judgment even though Lot was righteous he had chosen to cast his lot with an evil city but did not participate in their debauchery. He lived among them and was miserable. The phrase is this "vexed" his righteous soul. He saw what they did, he heard what they said, and it grieved his soul and made him miserable, but not miserable enough to say or do anything about it. He had so tolerated their ungodliness that when he sought to convince his family of the coming judgment, he realized his witness was lost.

The false prophets and false teachers were so wicked that they used their positions in such a deceptive way that they lived for their depravity and were consumed by pulling others down with their own destruction, especially those who were vulnerable.

Prayer and Action Steps

**Lord, thank you that you know how to judge the ungodly and preserve and deliver the righteous.
Amen**