

2Peter 11-10-07b

Let's pick up our study now in 2 Peter chapter 2. We're looking at this very fascinating first verse of the chapter. There were false prophets among the Israelite people in anticipation of the coming of the Lord Jesus and there will be false teachers among you who will secretly bring in and we saw our *par eis* ago word there. This is the only place by the way that that word is used in the New Testament as a verb; we have it used by Paul in a single passage as a verbal adjective *par eis actas* in Galatians chapter 2 and verse 4. Interestingly, he is also talking about the false brethren secretly brought in who came in by stealth to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus that they might bring us into bondage. You remember that whole circumcision issue where they were? They were acting like they were friends and they were just there to take a bath or whatever. But they were secretly trying to figure out if they could bring an accusation against Paul related to circumcision on the part of his Greek companion. Remember there was one case with Timothy, another with Titus, and so Paul is describing that in Galatians chapter 2 and he says these false brethren *par eis actas* who were alongside and next thing, you know, they're doing something they shouldn't but this combination is a telltale. Used in a lot of other places, so they will insinuate they will sort of amalgamate and what seemed harmless at the time turns into something not harmless, a destructive factionalizer, a destructive divisive teaching but the word destructive and destruction is in our passage. Secretly bring in destructive heresies even denying the Lord who bought them bring on themselves swift destruction. Many will follow their destructive ways. So you have destructive destruction. Destructive right in a row.

All of these are forms of the word *Apollia* and it's been a while since we reviewed this word. So we want to take a look at it. It doesn't occur very often in secular Greek. It is from the verb *Apollome* which has the sense of destroying a thing or ruining a thing or wearing out a thing. This could be an implement, an article of clothing, a household pot or dish; it could be almost anything but you render it useless.

It is a loss. You can drop your iPhone face down on the concrete; you've still got the phone, but it's ruined. You can do certain things that render something useless or unfit and so it has the idea not of necessarily completely obliterating a thing but of ruin. It's a total loss. Write it off on your insurance. You're I've had at least one car that was totaled. Well, the car was still sitting there. The engine would still start, radio worked, seats moved back and forth. 9 tenths of the car was in perfect working order. But the front-end damage was such that the car was totaled.

It was not legal to drive. The insurance company would not pay to fix it. It could not be inspected and driven legally. It's ruined even though it's all still there. I'll pull I'll pull. *Lumi* is the idea. You find this word used to translate things in the Old Testament that are in a group. Several Greek words can be used for death. *muth* in Hebrew. Sometimes it will be translated with *Thanatos* other times. It will be translated with a *polia* so there is this word group that helps us understand the use of it through the Septuagint because this often colors the New Testament.

usage.

So Job 26 6 where he says Shaol is naked before him and destruction has no covering sort of a synonymous district there well Shaol and destruction are translated with Hades and Apollia In the in the Septuagint so you kind of get the idea there these individuals Bring in ruinous Heresies, it doesn't mean that anything is is literally Oblivionized or destroyed or rendered completely non-existent But it ruins it can take a church and divide it and ruin it it can take Relationships and friendships and divide them and ruin them You see this happen in cults where somebody joins the cult and now they're estranged from their family their family has to try to mount some kind of a rescue mission to get them back out and or they will Get some sort of false idea of separating that. Well, my family is evil. I'm not going to talk to them anymore or my You know, it's it's divisive.

It is ruinous to things that are normally healthy and productive Now Apollia and it says they will bring on themselves swift Destruction This is the word Takinas, you know what a tachometer is right? It tells you how quickly your engine is turning over how many revolutions per minute Takinas can mean Swift but it's more Along the lines of Soon soon They will bring on themselves destruction soon Or they will soon bring on themselves destruction might be the best way in English to render it they they introduce ruinous teachings But they will soon be ruined themselves This is the this is the way it turns in Greek, that's why you have Apollia twice They bring in these divisive ruinous teachings, but they will soon be ruined by it themselves. You can't Sling mud without getting some on you. You can't spray-paint Stuff without eventually getting some on you.

You can't shoot somebody without getting that backblast. You are tainted You are corrupted with the very thing that you introduce They cannot long survive the ruin that they bring in is going to come back on them. They will soon be ruined themselves This is not yet a specific reference to future judgment This is soon judgment if they do this for very long.

It's going to come back and bite them Why is that because God is looking out for his people if it's a healthy church and somebody brings in a heresy It's going to very quickly Reverse itself. It's going to go back and bite the hand that brought it in if it's a healthy church They they are not going to thrive. They're not going to survive.

You can't break up healthy people's relationships whether it's marriages Churches families there has to be something rotten to begin with for it to be broken by one of these people But they will introduce it and it says that there will be a measure of success in the latter days There will be among you all he says in the future he doesn't say how far in the future, but he says many will follow their destructive ways their Apolia ways their ruinous ways and because of them because of whom the way of truth will be Blasphemed will be ill spoken of Now what this tells us is that normally the way of truth is not ill spoken of if we are doing Christianity, right if we are living our lives before God as we should We should not under normal circumstances be ill spoken of It is ruinous and destructive ways that cause the truth to be ill spoken of If our speech is gracious seasoned with salt if we speak the truth in love if we have the fruit of the Spirit Against such there

is no law Paul says nobody's going to legislate against genuine Christianity Nobody's going to prohibit kindness or prohibit patience or prohibit self-control Against such there is no law But because of Ruinous and destructive teachings the way will be evil spoken of I'll give you an example. I saw a A well-known pastor I was getting on the elevator this afternoon And there's a bank of TVs right there at the elevators before you go up to the parking garage And I just glanced up there, and I recognized this pastor, and he was talking about one of the presidential candidates and his Religious persuasion, and he was saying you know God-fearing believers can never vote for this man because of his religion and I am here to tell you that is a destructive teaching Politics and public office is one thing private Religious persuasion is something else Now if I want on my own to make an issue out of somebody's faith persuasion And I say I could never vote for a Muslim to be the governor of my state I could never vote for a Jehovah's Witness to be the whatever. He's running for that's my business and It's your business.

You can make whatever decisions you deem appropriate in that regard But if I get up in a public venue as a pastor with my pastor hat on and I say None of you Christians should ever vote for this Individual because they don't believe like we do for public office That is wrong. I am here to tell you it's wrong. It is unbiblical We can privately make all the applications we want But I do not stand up and condemn somebody for public office, which has no Requirement now if he was running for pastor of a church if he was running for you know if I was in a denomination and That's a different thing if he was going to be a professor at my Bible college or my seminary I would care an awful lot about what his private religious beliefs are But people came out against John F. Kennedy in 1960 because he was a Catholic and he was running for president Whatever Kennedy did or didn't do as president during his three-something years in office had nothing whatever to do with his Catholicism It's a political office.

It's a polit let me ask you this if it's if it's a job qualification if it's a deal-breaker For public office how about for other jobs? Do you want to go into a job interview and have somebody start asking now? What kind of Christianity do you believe in? Oh, you're pre-mill pre-trib. Yeah, we're not hiring you for this computer job or this Administrative position or this clerking job. No, you're you got that theology.

No, sorry All the people in our law office are pre-mill pre-trib well, I mean you can do that, but it's Divisive and it causes the way of truth to be ill-spoken of do you know how? Much flack it generates when Christians start putting a religious test on stuff that should not have a religious test a Lot the way of truth is ill-spoken of is this the issue we want to make is this the the light that we want to? Shine that well, if you're not one of us, we're not voting for you for public office I don't think so Separate and apart from that though. He says These will bring in these these ruinous teachings these ruinous and divisive teachings Even denying the Lord who brought them and bring on them and that ruin will soon come on them come on themselves And these are Serious things and it's in the context of the people in the Old Testament The people is the nation of Israel does the nation of Israel internally? Have the right to apply a religious test if he's not a prophet if

he makes a false prophecy stone him to death That's inside Israel, right? God did not say now if you see a prophet in the in the land of Edom Go over there and stone him if he gives the Edomites a false prophecy It was only in the land right we can certainly apply a religious test within our church within our assembly of believers, however, small or large it may be absolutely if someone brings in a Denying of the deity of Christ or denial of his work on the cross or some other ruinous heresy we can absolutely expel expunge and and Say we'll love you from afar to someone But to tell other people that they should or should not vote for a person based on our particular theological persuasion is Amiss and it causes the way of truth to be ill Spoken of we make an issue of the wrong thing if we get the chance to speak in public What should we be talking about? Don't vote for that guy. He's in a cult or The Lord Jesus Christ is the answer to the problems of mankind the Lord Jesus Christ Reconciles us to the Father redeems us from our sins Gives us a life of meaning and purpose grants to us eternal life.

That's our message. Our message is not Influence the government with your religion if that's just not it The way of truth would be blaspheme by covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words and they're after something there is a Motivation when you covet something in the negative sense of the word this is a False motivation I Am teaching for money. I am teaching for fame.

I Want notoriety? I want acceptance. I want to sell more books. I Want to be interviewed on TV? I Want to be well thought of I'm like the Pharisee who drops his money into the thing to be seen of men I like the attention I'm a narcissistic Whatever it may be Coveting something there is a motivation that will inevitably out someone.

Why would you want to teach a ruinous and divisive? Type of teaching why would you want to do that? You've got some sort of compulsion You've got some sort of motivation Whatever it may be, but it's covetousness and by covetousness they will exploit you Genuine teaching of the Word of God is not Exploitative it doesn't pressure you to put money in the plate or into the church or into a ministry Or to pay the guy that taught it or to buy his stuff Or to support any other cause that he might be promoting but false teaching inevitably becomes exploitative Yeah, the sheep start getting sheared by covetousness. They will exploit you with deceptive words. Oh This is all for God.

This is for the glory of God. This is it's for the children. It's for the lost It's for the you know win the world by what are they looking at now 2020 or something? For a long time their judgment has not been idle and their destruction does not slumber I am going to save the discussion of that set of statements For next week because we are going to we're going to take a different and somewhat unique tack Next week.

I want to move to versus Four and five For a couple of reasons, but we are going to get great help and great illumination on a number of these statements next week If God did not spare the angels who sinned now keep in mind What have we just looked at you got good teachers and bad teachers just as there were good prophets and bad prophets How do you know a bad

prophet or a bad teacher? He is doing it for his own reasons he covets something it is always divisive in An unhealthy way. It is ruinous. It produces a polio and It is Exploitative I walk away with less instead of more instead of my soul being edified.

My wallet is depleted or my Associations and relationships are diminished in some way. I have been Cajoled into exclusivism and sectarianism and Us against the world ism in some way and he mentions that there is judgment and Destruction that is impending. It's not asleep.

It's not dozing it is coming and Then he illustrates it if God did not spare the angels who sinned but cast them down to Hell and delivered them into chains of darkness To be reserved for judgment. Now. This is interesting because he has just talked about soon ruin and the destruction and judgment are not asleep and Not idle right and somebody says well, I don't see any destruction.

I don't see any judgment. How long is this going to take? Well, he says look at how God typically operates What are the records of other such happenings that we know about the angels who sinned? The angels who sinned not the angels who fell Not Satan himself who would be the archetype and the absolute Example of the fallen angels, but the angels who sinned and Peter assumes that these people know what he's talking about And these are the Genesis 6 angels notice. They were good guys and they were alongside they were para the people Judging and so on guiding civilization and then they took a left turn into error and they led others astray and they started apparently brokering these marriages and exchange for influence and Getting into all kinds of things that divided up the human race so that now there was animosity.

There was murders The imagination of man's heart was only evil all the day and everything turned very very bad very very quickly once this Initial set of schisms was created and every man began to be out for himself. There were power plays and alliances and betrayals and all kinds of chaos God did not spare those angels who sinned but cast them down to Tartarus Again, we'll talk about Tartarus a little bit later. It's a place of imprisonment.

That's all we need to know for now and Delivered them into chains of darkness notice. These are not demons free to roam It's not Satan going up to the Council of God and talking about Job. These angels are imprisoned They are sequestered in chains of darkness darkness meaning they don't have access.

They can't see what's going on They are reserved for judgment. Now. How long have they been reserved? How long ago was the flood? before Abraham before Ham Shem and Japheth had all of their children Remember all three of those couples were childless in the flood, right? They were married but no children So they must have been young couples.

I mean not even a baby not not a single baby on the ark for the people apparently not so but the angels at that time apparently were removed from the earth and They didn't go back to the heavenly realms they came from they didn't join up with Satan and the fallen Angels the demons

they are in a third place and they are reserved for judgment Is that judgment certain? Is it sure? Absolutely, but it hasn't happened yet and Peter says look at these angels. It is not the timing of God's judgment. That is the issue.

It is the certainty of it Not the timing but the certainty think about our salvation in our eternal future, it's not the timing it's the certainty What about reward and blessing for a faithful life? Does it need to happen now? Must it be immediate are we content to wait and let God in his own time and in his own way bless and reward Peter says look don't fret yourself about evil men Why do the wicked prosper Bide your time remember that God knows how to reserve judgment for those that deserve it think about these angels Think about the ancient world in the days of Noah God looked down and there was an stench coming up in his nostrils. He went down to see and he saw that the Imaginations of men's heart were only evil all the day and he said I'm going to destroy man that I've created I regret that I've made him I'm going to destroy them So and Behold that very day the human race was obliterated and Noah looked around and said it's going to take me a long time to bury all these people Is not what happened is it? How long did it take from the time God decided to judge the earth until he judged the earth with the flood? It was hundreds of years hundreds of years Peter is bringing this example forward not just that God executed judgment, but he says Kind of like people do oh my look at the time. Well look at the time between the judgment and the Execution of that sentence If God did not spare the angels but put them in Tartarus and has put them in chains of darkness and they are reserved for a yet future judgment and then inside that Bracket you have the ancient world But saved Noah and as we saw last week, I would translate this eighth preacher of righteousness Bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly Now When did God decide that there was a problem with man that he couldn't tolerate? We saw back in Genesis.

It goes back to Enos Right, that's when men began to call upon the name of the Lord because God said it's gotten too raunchy down here I'm not going to come down and commune with Adam and Eve or with Seth anymore or Like I did with them anymore beginning with Enos's generation God removed himself the earth had already started to become corrupt. Look at the parallel line We don't have time to do it. But look at the parallel line of Cain Those people were also Proliferating and God said there is too much of this and God withdrew there is no train of his robe in the temple There is no Shekinah.

There is no place for his presence So he is absent and men have to call upon the Lord beginning in the days of Enos so you've got the somewhat degenerate line Stemming from Cain certainly symbolically and representatively it isn't as though they didn't have a choice But they by and large follow in the footsteps, you know, you are of your father Cain these others are of their father Seth and again in the same way that God conveniently located believers in Israel so that he could teach them and care for them and provide for them and bless them and Communicate to them through the prophets. I think in the ancient world It was not accidental that People positively disposed toward God were born into the line of Seth People uninterested in God were born into

the line of Cain If you want to talk about the sovereignty of God, I think that is a valid exercise of sovereignty Why should he put a lonesome? Hungry for righteousness believer in the line of Cain where he's going to get nothing God knows How we will be disposed he doesn't cause it but he knows it and he provides for us even before we're born So you have what is in effect the godly line of Seth and the worldly line of Cain and as those people proliferate in each generation, there's just dozens and hundreds, you know the exponential growth and the intermarriage and the proliferation that that builds the human race in those early generations men begin to call on the name of the Lord in the days of Enos so who is teaching Generation one after Seth about God so that they know to call on him and know what to say How to sacrifice what the difference was between Cain sacrifice enables Enos is a preacher of righteousness and he's preaching into the growing decadence and depravity and Criminality of his generation it didn't happen in the early days of Seth and Cain But by the time Enos and Cain's sons start coming along and remember, you know, you know, she's name means It's the same as Anosh Anoshim his name means man small M That's what Enosh means. It means man just like Adam means man Well, Enosh is man Adam is man sort of capital M Enosh Anosh Anoshim That's man small M and you're you're in the worldly realm where God has removed So Enosh and each of those succeeding generations are Preachers of righteousness.

What is Peter's point here? Why is he talking about Noah being eighth? How long did did God wait? How much notice did he give the world in those generations most of whom stayed alive for all eight? generations Remember that how much overlap there was how long people lived in those days? The the next generation Enosh's generation not only heard him preach But heard his son preach and his grandson preach and his great-grandson preach there was widespread preaching about God and the importance of relationship with God to which That godly line in ever decreasing numbers Responded ever decreasing numbers. How do I know that? How many are there in Noah's generation that are still interested in calling on the name of the Lord for men? Noah and his three sons and that's it Out of all of that proliferation how many of them listened to the preaching of righteousness and how many of them went the way of Cain? It got down to the point where God said it is time for me to execute this judgment before there aren't any righteous men left but it is the point Peter's point is don't Fret yourself at the proletariat look around today. We we bemoan the loss of biblical values and genuine Christian influence and genuine Christian understanding Generations of Christians today claim the name of Christ have no clue what the Bible teaches don't even know the Bible stories anymore And we look around and we despair and we say Isn't God? Going to do anything Peter says if God did not spare those angels if God did not spare the world But you remember how long he waited and how much opportunity Peter is working his way down to the point That we're going to see and if you and if you look ahead He says In chapter 3 verse 9 He says beloved don't forget this one thing with the Lord one day is as a thousand years and a thousand years is as a day Why does he say that we like to you know, get into numerical calculations with that? But what point is he setting up in chapter 3 verses 8 and 9? Day is a thousand years thousand years as a day The Lord is not slack concerning his promise as some count slackness But is long-suffering not willing that any should perish but that

all should come to repentance God will abide even the increase of evil and the exponential multiplication of Rejection For the sake of those who are still listening for the sake of those who are still coming along and God bore with all of the descendants of Cain all of the ungodly descendants of Seth of which there must have been many thousands hundreds of thousands perhaps for the sake of Methuselah for the sake of Enoch for the sake of Lamech for the sake of Noah for the sake of Ham Shem and Japheth You say well, why didn't he wipe everybody out earlier and let those men? Exist, you know in splendid isolation Well, Peter would have a pretty hard time making this point now Wouldn't he is God going to do that every time there gets to be more ungodly men than there are God? He's gonna wipe them all out and leave just the godly men.

His whole point is Look at how strong righteousness and godliness is I can throw one righteous man into the mix and Rebuild the whole human race from him What does the number eight symbolize in? the the values of numbers for the Hebrews We know what twelve and five and three and the odd seven and six. How about eight? What is what's the what's the value of eight? Do you remember? What day do you circumcise a newborn child? What day did the leper get the chance to to rejoin the community eight is the number of new birth What is the number of God's? future eternal kingdom the kingdom of the Father six is the number of the time of man Seven is your millennial kingdom and eight is new heavens and new earth. It's the eighth phase Number nine is Noah preacher of righteousness who's the first preacher of righteousness in the New Age post-flood.

It's Noah He is the last of the old and the first of the new he bridges the gap. He bridges the judgment So Peter's whole point here is not just to dazzle us with an Old Testament point But to assure us When you see these destructive heresies when you see these false teachers when you see the way of truth being blasphemed Steady yourself calm yourself Remember God has got this in hand. God knows them that are his he is he will reserve These people for their judgment, which will be soon and it will be Ruin on them Don't try to ruin them yourself Don't decide you need to elbow God out of the way and execute judgment on his behalf No, I didn't try to go tackle all of the angels who sinned He didn't go on a rampage with the jawbone of an ass and try to wipe out the descendants of Cain What did he do? He was faithful.

He was obedient when God gave him a set of instructions. He followed it to the letter That's why the Ark floated because Noah Minded his own business and did what God told him to do if Noah had missed one detail of those instructions He and his family would have drowned that thing floated for 14 months Because Noah paid attention to his own business to his commands from God He didn't go trying to tell other people what they should do. He didn't go out there and try to judge them He didn't stand up in front of a microphone and say don't vote for them.

He tended to his own knitting He said God has given me a set of instructions. This is what I'm gonna do as for me in my house We will serve the Lord and we are going to survive the

judgment. I will leave judgment to God Vengeance is mine.

I will repay saith the Lord and We have to have that attitude. We are awash in evil. We are surrounded by failure and Blasphemy of the way of truth It is not our job to go out there and contend and strive and create even further divisions ourselves our job is to follow our instructions build our Ark shine our light and Let God sort out the judgment and it may take a long time.

That's Peter's point. God still got the angels on hold God took hundreds of years before he destroyed the ancient world and he had eight preachers of righteousness Before he destroyed it he gave them eight generations to straighten up and fly right because It isn't because God is slack concerning his promise. It is because he is not willing that any should perish but that everybody get that chance Everybody on this earth that's breathing air has got the chance for salvation right now But they're not going to find it if we join those who are causing the way of truth to be blasphemed They are going to find it if we shine like lights in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation That's our Set of blueprints.

That's how we construct the Ark and invite others to join us in it So that's the reason for this very Meaty very profound little section here now. We are going to get a whole fresh Dimension and a whole fresh light Shining on this next Friday night. You're not going to believe it.

It's just going to raise it up in relief At least that's what it did when I started looking at it. And so that's what we're going to Take a look at beginning next Friday night, but we'll close here in a word of prayer Father thank you for the privilege you have granted to us to live in this age and at this time even though we are sad to witness the demise of So many things that were built by godly men and and the Christian heritage that formerly existed and is rapidly eroding away and we we feel like we see things slipping and Darkening all around us, but we know that you have chosen us because this is the right time in the right place for us to live and to Fulfill our part in your plan. We pray that God the Holy Spirit will illuminate our path through your word Encourage us and motivate us through these truths and help us to see clearly where our duty lies where our obedience is and the ways that we can reflect the glory of the Lord Jesus both now and upon his return and into the Ages of the future we pray it in Jesus name.

Amen