

2 Peter 2:4-10
A Brief History of God's Justice

1. The Problem at Hand 3

- A. A Switch from the Future to the Present
- B. Justice is not Idle

"Justice, when used of God, is a name we give to the way God is, nothing more; and when God acts justly He is not doing so to conform to an independent criterion, but simply acting like Himself in a given situation." AW Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*

2. Examples of God's Righteous Judgment 4-8

- A. Rebellious Angels 4

Interaction of angels before Noah's flood in Genesis 6:1-4

"And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day—" -Jude 1:6 ESV

- B. The Great Flood and Noah 5

Genesis 6:5-9:29

"because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water." -1 Peter 3:20 ESV

"For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man." -Matthew 24:37-39 ESV

- C. Sodom and Gomorrah 6-8

"Just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man. They were eating and drinking and marrying and being given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. Likewise, just as it was in the days of Lot—they were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building, but on the day when Lot went out from Sodom, fire and sulfur rained from heaven and destroyed them all— so will it be on the day when the Son of Man is revealed." -Luke 17:26-30 ESV

3. The Lord Rescues the Godly 9, 10

- A. The Lord Knows How to Rescue the Godly 9
Noah

"But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord." -Genesis 6:8 ESV

Lot

"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." 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. 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." And Lot said to them, "Oh, no, my Lords. Behold, your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have shown me great kindness in saving my life. But I cannot escape to the hills, lest the disaster overtake me and I die. Behold, this city is near enough to flee to, and it is a little one. Let me escape there—is it not a little one?—and my life will be saved!" He said to him, "Behold, I grant you this favor also, that I will not overthrow the city of which you have spoken. Escape there quickly, for I can do nothing till you arrive there." Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar." -Genesis 19:15-22 ESV

"Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. And when they came to him, he said to them: "You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ." -Acts 20:17-21 ESV

"Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing." -James 1:2-4 ESV

“In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” -1 Peter 1:6-7 ESV

Jesus to the church at Philadelphia

“Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.” -Revelation 3:10 ESV

“Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?”
1 Peter 4:12-17 ESV

B. The Lord Will Judge Justly 10
Sodom and Abraham’s pleading

“Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?”
Genesis 18:25 ESV

“For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of Lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe.”
Deuteronomy 10:17 ESV

“the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether.” -Psalm 19:9 ESV

“Clouds and thick darkness are all around him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.” -Psalm 97:2 ESV

“And I will make justice the line, and righteousness the plumb line; and hail will sweep away the refuge of lies, and waters will overwhelm the shelter.” -Isaiah 28:17 ESV

“And I heard the angel in charge of the waters say, “Just are you, O Holy One, who is and who was, for you brought these judgments. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink. It is what they deserve!” And I heard the altar saying, “Yes, Lord God the Almighty, true and just are your judgments!”
Revelation 16:5-7 ESV

Reflection: How do you view the justice and judgement of God? Do you take any comfort in His grace and consistency in justice through the ages?

Follow UP in the Word through the Week...

Monday: Acts 20:17-21. What is Paul describing in this part of his speech to this group of elders? In your life, what would you consider your trials to be?

Tuesday: 1 Peter 4:12-17. Describe the instruction given by Peter in this part of his first letter? What do we have to be careful of falling into and what can we still expect regardless?

Wednesday: Genesis 18:25. What statement and question does Abraham make to God regarding His justice? How does that translate regarding to the injustice you witness today? How can this verse be a help for you to explain and understand God’s character better?

Thursday: Deuteronomy 10:17. How does Moses describe the LORD to the people and to us? What difference does this make in comparing the LORD to other judges past and present?

Friday: Revelation 16:5-7. What does the angel state about the Lord? How does this compare to Wednesday’s and Thursday’s readings?

Saturday: Luke 17:26-30. What does Jesus compare the flood of Noah’s day to? How should this affect our lives today?