

Justice

Justice = people receive what they deserve

“For I envied the arrogant
when I saw **the prosperity of the wicked.**

They have no struggles;
their bodies are healthy and strong.” Psalm 73:3-4

The world is NOT just

So how should we live?

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Our **Final** Evaluation

2 Peter 2

ref.ly/2P2;niv



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Some key Old Testament stories of good and evil

Bad angels (apparently) raped women

Genesis 6:1

Evil flood generation died. **Noah**+7 people rescued

Genesis 6-9

Evil Sodom and Gomorrah died. **Lot**+2 people rescued

Genesis 19

Balaam blessed Israel, then helped the Midianites
entice and entrap Israel

Numbers 22-24; 31

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2 Peter 1 ends...

We have promises from God that are based on...

- reliable eyewitnesses
- true prophets carried by the Holy Spirit
recorded in the Bible

But there are others who are not true...

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2 Peter 2:1-3

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 depraved conduct and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. ³ In their greed these teachers will exploit you with fabricated stories. **Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.**

False teachers bring harm. They will be condemned.

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2 Peter 2:4-10a

⁴ For if God did not spare **angels** when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them in chains of darkness 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;

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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 depraved conduct of the lawless 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 the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment. ¹⁰ This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the flesh and despise authority.

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2 Peter 2:10b-12

Bold and arrogant, they are not afraid to heap abuse on celestial beings; ¹¹ yet even angels, although they are stronger and more powerful, do not heap abuse on such beings when bringing judgment on them from the Lord. ¹² But these people blaspheme in matters they do not understand. **They are like unreasoning animals**, creatures of instinct, **born only to be caught and destroyed**, and like animals they too will perish.

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2 Peter 2:13-16

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 Bezer, who loved the wages of wickedness. ¹⁶ But he was rebuked for his wrongdoing by a donkey—an animal without speech—who spoke with a human voice and restrained the prophet’s madness.

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2 Peter 2:17-22

¹⁷ These people 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 the flesh, **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 “people are slaves to whatever has mastered them.”

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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 are 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 returns to her wallowing in the mud."

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The Bible's View of Life

This world is not just

- Time and chance happen to all (Ecclesiastes 9)
- The righteous often suffer,
and the wicked often prosper (Psalm 73; Job)

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The Bible's View of Life

This world is not just

God is perfectly just

- "He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just.

A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he." *Deuteronomy 32:4*

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The Bible's View of Life

This world is not just

God is perfectly just

When Christ returns,

He will enact perfect justice

- Joy and peace for all who are in Jesus
- Condemnation for all who deny Jesus as **Lord** and **Savior**

"But **grow** in the **grace and knowledge** of our **Lord and Savior** Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 3:18

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“Reward Horizon”

Animals learn to repeat actions

that give good results (behaviorism)

AI learns to repeat actions and answers

that give good results

People tend to repeat actions and answers

that give good results

Reward Horizon: how long a delay there is between the action and the result

The only result that truly matters

is when we meet our Lord and Master, Jesus

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Our **Final** Evaluation

“Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.”

Revelation 20:15

“But whoever disowns me before others,
I will disown before my Father in heaven.”

Matthew 10:33

The false teachers denied this final judgment

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So how should we live in our unjust world?

Know that judgment will come

- “Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.” Hebrews 9:27-28

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So how should we live in our unjust world?

Know that judgment will come

Repent and be baptized

in the name of Jesus Christ

- "When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

Acts 2:37-39

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So how should we live in our unjust world?

Know that judgment will come

Repent and be baptized

in the name of Jesus Christ

- Jesus died in our place so that God is "just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus."

Romans 3:26

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So how should we live in our unjust world?

Know that judgment will come

Repent and be baptized

in the name of Jesus Christ

Grow in Christian maturity

- "Therefore, dear friends, since you have been forewarned, **be on your guard** so that you may not be carried away by the error of the lawless and fall from your secure position. But **grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen." 2 Peter 3:17-18

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"You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies."

1 Corinthians 6:19b-20

Jesus is **Savior** (He rescued us)
and **Lord** (in saving us He purchased us)

"Grow in the grace and knowledge of
our **LORD** and **SAVIOR** Jesus Christ. Amen"

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