

Our Final Evaluation

2 Peter 2



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?

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*

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...

2 Peter 2

1-3

False teachers bring harm. They will be condemned.

4-10a

10b-12

13-16

17-22



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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)

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

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

“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

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

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

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

Jesus died in our place so that God is “just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.” Romans 3:26

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

“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”

Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. We are to know that judgment will come, and the people of Israel rejoiced in the coming of a just king (see Isaiah 9:6-7). How does the coming of Jesus to reign in justice affect how you look at the world? How does it affect how you live in the world? How should it?
2. How do you think about Jesus as Lord and Savior? How do these two titles (Lord and Savior) relate to each other?
3. What does it mean to “grow in grace and knowledge” of Jesus? What does it look like to grow in these things?

Conversation starters

From your perspective, what injustice in the world is particularly problematic?

Are there things you do, or could do, to address that injustice?

What gives you hope in an unjust world?