

August 22, 2021

KIBC Sunday Worship Service

Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

The title of the Message: "Do not Disregard God's Judgement"

—Let Us Live Sincerely in the Present—

Text: 2 Peter 2: 4~10a

2:4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment;

2:5 if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;

2:6 if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly;

2:7 and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked

2:8 (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard);

2:9 then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment,

2:10 and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority.

Introduction

The fifth wave of the **Covid-19 pandemic** has started in Osaka. So many people are infected with the virus and precious lives have been lost. There are mild cases, moderate cases and severe cases. I hear that healthcare is under pressure in Osaka and only severe cases are allowed to be hospitalized.

Even though Osaka's situation is not as serious as Tokyo's, many people come to Osaka and Umeda station, the biggest station in Osaka, and department stores are very crowded. They spend days no different than ordinarily daily lives even though

they are under a state of emergency declaration. It seems that they have gotten used to **the new coronavirus lifestyle under the declaration.**

When the first emergency declaration was issued, they felt a sense of tension. However, the fifth wave of the coronavirus pandemic has started, and the fourth declaration was issued, and it has continued for a year and a half, so that they have become used to these unusual times.

Human beings are ever mysterious beings. At first, we feel a high sense of tension, but we quickly get used to the situation as time passes and come to be hardly nervous. Like this, a slight deviation arises first, and it is gradually getting bigger. That is human beings, this is us.

Satan cannot be indifferent toward our states of mind. Satan is interested, with an eye on those of us whose hearts are trapped with sin of arrogance and turn away from God's face and begin to walk by themselves. Satan is patiently waiting for that moment. When our hearts are covered with sin, we can hardly judge what is good or not.

Our sense of ethical standards gradually become dull and dim. The point where we go astray begins when we come to lose the fear of God in us.

We must keep a strict watch on Satan because he tries to slip in while we are distracted.

Proverb 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Do we really desire lives to love God? Do we seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness?

Peter teaches from the today's Scripture to the Jewish Christians who were exiles, about **God's judgement** and **God's salvation** by focusing on human history.

Main Points

1. We Should Not Forget God's Judgement.

2:9 then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment. 2 Peter

God rescues the godly from destruction and always judges the arrogant. However, He does not always judge immediately. Peter teaches that God saves his judgement until the end of days. He tries to confirm it by taking three examples from the Old Testament.

1) **The angels who committed sin (the fallen angels)**

2:4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment;

The Scripture records angels who sinned. Yes, angels committed sin.

Isaiah, Chapter 14 records as below,

Isaiah14:12 "How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn!

How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low!

14:13 You said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north;

14:14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.'

14:15 But you are brought down to Sheol, to the far reaches of the pit.

They are angels who had fallen from heaven, the fallen angels. They were heavenly beings who served God and were closest to Him. However, they felt their precious status to be like God and committed the sin of arrogance. God judged them and brought down them to Sheol and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness.

God judges even angels. The ones who were closest to God are no exception. God is impartial and does not show favoritism. God fairly treats those who crossed the line.

Then, why did Peter firstly record that God judges even the fallen angels? It is an example that prefigures God's **judgement** for every creature that falls.

We hope to not be like the fallen angels that were trapped by desires.

Let us remember the following Scripture.

1 Timothy 6:6 But godliness with contentment is great gain,

2) The ungodly people in the days of Noah

2:5 if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;

Jesus also said about Noah.

Luke 17:26 Just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man.

17:27 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.

Noah taught righteousness but the people refused it. Therefore, people in the days of Noah are also an example of God's judgement, who refused the truth of God's salvation.

God gave us the Gospel (*evangelion*, the good news) through Jesus Christ in the days of the New Testament. The God of righteousness prepared the path where human beings could escape from His judgement of sin. It is only by God's grace and compassion.

3) The ungodly in Sodom and Gomorrah

2:6 if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly;

2:7 and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked

Genesis 13:12 Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled among the cities of the valley and moved his tent as far as Sodom.

13:13 Now the men of Sodom were wicked, great sinners against the LORD.

Genesis 18:20 Then the LORD said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave,

The people of Sodom and Gomorrah became sexually and morally corrupt. It was beyond description. They didn't listen to Lot's word. Their conscience became numb, so God gave them up to dishonorable passions.

Romans 1:26 For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature;

1:27 and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

1:28 And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.

Finally, the people of Sodom and Gomorrah fell into a sexual perversion. It is an example of God's judgement upon them, who refuse light of the Gospel and what their consciences tell them.

Today, it is called the end times and the deterioration of our society by drugs and sexual perversion is reported over the world. It is very regrettable truth that even some Christians in America and Europe are involved in drugs and sexual perversion.

We live in a dark and ungodly world. What should we do to be watchful so that we do not live in Sodom without noticing? We should know the secret to live among temptations and danger.

- ① First of all, we should be quiet before God every day.
- ② Secondly, we should read the word of God and meditate on it.
- ③ Then, we should pray and live in God's protection.

Those who keep these three points will not give up in evil temptations, because God the Almighty walks with them.

Like this, Peter took three examples from history and taught the secret for life in a dark society to Jewish Christians, his fellow people. It is the truth that is accepted today.

God Himself is the righteous One so He cannot accept evil. He absolutely judges it.

Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.

We should not forget that God perfectly judges sin. Peter taught this truth and continues teaching another important thing.

2. Godly People Are Saved

God teaches His judgement to the ungodly as well as His **salvation of the godly**. Scripture records Lot as below,

2:7 and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked

2:8 (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard).

Let us study 2 points here.

1) Lot, the Righteous Man

The Scripture above records Lot the righteous man. However, Lot who appears in Genesis is not always righteous. He comes up with Abraham, a man of faith. Abraham feared the Lord and sought the life that God was pleased with.

On the other hand, Lot is recorded as a man who acted according to humanlike judgement. He sometimes drank. He did not behave resolutely like Abraham. Then, why is he called **the righteous man**?

Verse 8 records about Lot, **“that righteous man lived among them.”**

On the contrary, Abraham did not decide to live in Sodom. However, the latter half of the verse records **“day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard.”**

Lot was not like Abraham. Even though he realized the reality of sin of the world,

he reminded in Sodom.

Watching lives of people in Sodom, Lot did draw a line between them and him. Therefore, the Scripture records, **“His righteous soul was tormented.”** He must have felt conflicted because of his weakness that he could not behave firmly like Abraham.

Lot was tormented and conflicted by seeing people who did evil, and he wondered if he should stay there or leave there. The pain and agony in his heart showed the fact that he is one of God’s people. The reason is that people who do not belong to God’s people do not suffer the pang and conflict of conscience.

In that sense, we may feel an affinity with Lot rather than Abraham who was a good example. We live in society that lacks ethics and morality. On top of that, we are really troubled over news on TV, radio, YouTube and SNS.

2) Training of Faith

Let take time and consider now. Lot, who separated himself from Abraham, lived in Sodom and Gomorrah because of his choice. He really felt pain for living in the corrupt world as one of God’s chosen people. However, he probably got used to them. His conscience might have lost a sense of judgement and became insensitive to the problems there.

These things probably led his judgement astray, so that as he held onto God’s hand he was pulled out that place.

2:9 then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment,

A word trial (*peirasmos*) refers to trials and temptation. Temptation leads us to sin. Trial is a special training that God gives us to train our faith. Anyway, God rescues the righteous.

Now, let us look at another point that we should focus on.

It is that Noah and Lot spent long, conflicted days until they were saved from trials. Noah was told to build a huge ship in order to survive from the evil days. Lot had to stayed in Sodom and Gomorrah until his conscience become almost numbed.

How about today’s message? We expect that our problems will be quickly resolved.

If it is solved, we give thanks for quick resolution of problems. However, God foresees the far future. Looking ahead to history of all human beings and their far future, He becomes closely involved with us in the present

Therefore, He does not give us the temporary resolution that we expect. He correctly sees through our tangled problems and issues. He also knows what we need right now. God's salvation gives us relief according to His deep plans.

Therefore, we should trust in God's authority. We should wait for His timing and consider what we should ask Him now, and what we should do to prepare. We should accept with fear the fact that God saves the godly and judges the unrighteous.

Let us pray the Lord's prayer, ["Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."](#)

Let us ask the Lord to make us sincerely live in the present.

Conclusion

The title of the Message: "Do not Disregard God's Judgement"

—Let Us Live Sincerely in the Present—

God spoke to us this morning. There were many people who led selfish lives in the days of Peter. Many people morally and ethically left God and made God to be displeased.

Therefore, Peter taught Jewish Christians how they should live. He taught them what God is like.

Peter's teaching is accepted by Christians today.

1. God judges evil.
2. God saves the godly people.

Let us remember these two points and walk with the Lord this week.

* God bless you!