

**Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church  
We're glad you're here!**



# At Calvary

## Hymn 415



# Jesus Saves

## Hymn 667



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**Call to Worship**  
**Psalm 118:14-20**

**Psalm 118:14-20** The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. Glad songs of salvation are in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the LORD does valiantly, the right hand of the LORD exalts, the right hand of the LORD does valiantly!" I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the LORD. The LORD has disciplined me severely, but he has not given me over to death. Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD. This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.

# In My Heart There Rings A Melody

## Hymn 633



# Since Jesus Came Into My Heart

## Hymn 639





## Praise and Prayer Request

**Philippians 1:3-6** I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

# Receiving of the Offering



**2 Corinthians 9:5** So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for the gift you have promised, so that it may be ready **as a willing gift**, not as an exaction.

# *Famous Quote:*

*“Our God is a consuming fire, and we try to reduce Him to something we can handle or are comfortable with ... We are religious consumers. We want our religion to be convenient. It’s the perpetual job of writers, preachers, the church and the gospel to help people respond to God as He reveals Himself.”*

**EUGENE PETERSON**

An open book is shown from a low angle, looking up at the pages. The pages are filled with small, dense text, likely a Bible. The book is set against a bright blue sky with wispy white clouds. The text is overlaid in the center of the book's pages.

**Today's Message**

**“Today's Warning”**

***Who Do You Follow, Part 2***

**Scripture text: 2 Peter 2**

# GOD WARNS US...

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**2 Peter 2:5-9** 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; 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; and **if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed** by the sensual conduct of the wicked (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); **then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials**, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment,

Peter's purpose was not just to denounce the apostates; he also **wanted to encourage the true believers**. He once again reached back into the Old Testament and cited **two examples of deliverance**.

**Noah** (v. 5). This man of faith experienced a twofold deliverance. **First, God delivered him from the pollutions of the world around him**. For 120 years, Noah faithfully proclaimed the Word of God to people who would not believe it. He and his family were surrounded by moral and spiritual darkness, yet they kept their lights shining. God did not protect Noah and his family by isolating them from the world, but by enabling them to remain pure in the midst of corruption. Through Jesus Christ, we too have "escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust" (2 Peter 1:4).

**Our Lord petitioned the Heavenly Father, John**  
***17:15 I do not ask that you take them out of the***  
***world, but that you keep them from the evil***  
***one.***

Imagine Noah and his wife raising a family in a world **so wicked that they could have no believing friends!** Yet God found believing wives for their three sons, and **God guarded this home** from the pollutions of the world.

**But God also delivered Noah and his family from the judgment of the world.**

The flood waters that brought condemnation to the world **only lifted Noah and his household up above the judgment.** They were secure in the ark of safety. In his first epistle, Peter had seen in the ark **a type of our salvation in Jesus Christ** (1 Peter 3:20–22). The world, as it were, was “buried” in the baptism of the Flood, but **Noah was lifted up, a picture of resurrection and salvation.**

**Isaiah 40:31** but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; **they shall mount up with wings like eagles;** they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

**1 Peter 3:18-22** For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, 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. **Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.**

Certainly Peter was assuring his readers that, **when the great day of judgment does come, they will be kept safe.**

Jesus Christ is our “ark of safety.” He **delivers us from the wrath to come** (1 Thes. 1:10). God has promised that the earth will never again be judged by water, but **there is coming a judgment of fire** (2 Peter 3:10ff). But those who have trusted Christ will never face judgment (John 5:24), because **He bore their judgment on the cross.**

**1 Thessalonians 1:9-10** For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, **Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.**

**John 5:22-24** The Father judges no one, but **has given all judgment to the Son**, that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. **Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.**

Now let's us look at **Lot** (vv. 6–9a).

Abraham took his nephew, Lot, with him when he left Ur and went to the land of Canaan, but **Lot proved to be more of a problem than a blessing**. When Abraham, in a lapse of faith, went down to Egypt, Lot went with him and **got a taste of “the world”** (Gen. 12:10–13:1). As Lot became richer, he had to separate from Abraham, and this removed him from his uncle's godly influence. What a privilege Lot had to walk with Abraham who walked with God! And yet, **how Lot wasted his privileges**.

When Lot had to choose a new area for his home, **he measured it by what he had seen** in Egypt (Gen. 13:10).

Abraham took Lot out of Egypt, but **he could not take Egypt out of Lot.**

Lot “pitched his tent toward Sodom” (Gen. 13:12), and then finally moved into Sodom (Gen. 14:12). God even used a local war to try to get Lot out of Sodom, but he went right back. **That is where his heart was.**

It is difficult for us to understand Lot. **Peter made it clear that Lot was saved** (“just Lot ... that righteous man”), and yet we wonder what he was doing in such a wicked place as Sodom. If we understand Genesis 19 correctly, Lot had at least four daughters, two of whom had married men of Sodom. All the while Lot lived in Sodom, his soul was “tortured” and “greatly troubled” by the filthy conduct of the people. **Perhaps he thought he could change them.** If so, he failed miserably.

**God enabled Lot and his family to remain unpolluted, even though they were living in the midst of a cesspool of iniquity. God also rescued Lot and two of his daughters before the judgment fell on Sodom and the other cities of the plain (Gen. 19). Lot was not rescued because of any merit on his part. He was rescued because he was a believer and because his Uncle Abraham had prayed for him. Abraham outside of Sodom had more influence than Lot inside the city. Lot even lost his testimony to his own family, for his married daughters and their husbands **laughed at his warning**, and his wife disobeyed God and was killed.**

Lot chose to live in Sodom and could have avoided the filthy influence of the place, but **many people today really have no choice** and must live surrounded by the pollutions of the world. Think of the Christian slaves who had to serve godless masters, or Christian wives married to unsaved husbands, or believing children with unsaved parents. Christian employees working in offices or factories are forced to see and hear things that can easily stain the mind and heart. Peter **assured his readers and us that God knows how to “be delivering the godly out of testing and temptation”** (2 Peter 2:9, wuest) so that we may live victoriously.

**He also is able to rescue us from judgment.** In Noah's case, it was a judgment of water, but in Lot's case it was a judgment of fire. The cities of the plain were caught in a violent overthrow as the area became a vast furnace of fire and brimstone. This certainly would parallel Peter's warning about the coming judgment of fire (2 Peter 3:10ff).

Peter was not pointing to Lot as an example of separated living, but rather as an example of one whom God rescued from pollution and condemnation. In a sense, **Lot was even rescued against his will**, because the angels had to grasp him by the hand and pull him out of the city (Gen. 19:16). Lot had entered Sodom, and then Sodom had entered Lot, and he found it difficult to leave.

**Our Lord used both Noah and Lot to warn us to be prepared for His return (Luke 17:26–37).**

The people in Sodom were enjoying their regular pleasures, careless of the fact that judgment was coming; when it came, **they were unprepared.**

**2 Peter 3:14** Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, **be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.**

But the same God who delivers the godly also reserves the ungodly for judgment. It has well been said that if God spares today's cities from judgment, He will have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah. Why is God's judgment lingering? Because **God "is long-suffering ... not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance"** (2 Peter 3:9). Society in Noah's day had 120 years in which to repent and believe, yet **they rejected the truth**. Though Lot's example and testimony were weak, he at least represented the truth; yet **his immoral neighbors wanted nothing to do with God**.

Our present age is not only like “the days of Noah,” but it is also like “the days of Lot.” Many **believers have abandoned the place of separation and are compromising with the world.** The professing church has but a weak testimony to the world and **sinner do not really believe that judgment is coming.** Society is full of immorality, especially the kind of sin for which Sodom was famous. It appears as though God is slumbering, unconcerned about the way rebellious sinners have polluted His world. But **one day the fire will fall; then it will be too late.**

God's people, as weak as they are, **will be delivered from judgment by the grace and mercy of God.** God could not judge Sodom until Lot and his family were out of the city.

**1 Thessalonians 5:9-10** For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord **Jesus Christ**, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep **we might live with him.**

One day soon, the fire will fall. Are you ready?



Luke 17:29 but on the day when Lot went out from Sodom, fire and sulfur rained from heaven and destroyed them all--

Luke 17:32 Remember Lot's wife.



# Almost Persuaded

## Hymn 437

