

“Wrath & Rescue!”

I. **INTRO:**

- A. **Show #2** Cuckoo Bird – Did you know the female Cuckoo Bird lays her eggs in the nests of smaller birds of different species, which raise the young cuckoos, usually at the expense of their own young **Show #3** (*brood parasitism* Being larger, they get most of the food)
1. Satan is the “*mother cuckoo*”, laying his young cuckoos (false teachers) in **different church nests**. And often, if undetected by the church leadership, it will be at the expense of many of the **churches young!**
- B. **Show #4** (blank)
- C. We’ve all been *scammed, swindled, or conned* before!
1. **Maybe**, it was as harmless as losing some spare change purchasing some **gizmo** where you figured out, “*you got what you paid for!*”
 2. **Maybe**, it was more serious like losing your retirement in some **investment scam**.
 3. I think *the worst of the worst* is the **religious phonies** though.
 - a) **Today** we have whole ministries that counter the counterfeits & challenge the charlatans.
 4. In 2 Cor.11:3 Paul writes about the world’s **1st con artist**, **But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.**
 5. A little later Paul describes **the deceiver’s disciples**, **For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness.** 2 Cor.11:13-15
- D. Christianity has always been plagued by **false teachers & false teachings**.
1. This chapter talk about those that were **among** them. **The Infiltrators!**
- E. **Define terms:**
1. **Apostate:** *professed believers* who deliberately rejects revealed truth (ex: Judas)
 2. **Error concerning truth:** *ignorance* (Apollos)
 3. **Heresy:** belief or opinion *contrary* to orthodox religious doctrine (used here)

- F. Is it right to warn about false teachers or Cults...or, is that being mean & judgmental?
1. Why is it not seen as mean when a doctor informs a patient, that he has a terminal illness? Or, when one yells “fire! fire!” Awaking a sleeping family that is about to perish? Or, roughly grabbing a child out of the street, just being missed by an on coming car?
 2. No patient would respond to the doctor “you are mean”; nor to the yeller “we were sleeping!”; nor to the child saver, “hey don’t grab my child that way!”
 3. And yet, the Pastor is seen as mean or judgmental if he warns his listeners of wolves, or bad wolf teachings, that might creep in unaware!
 4. Finally, how can we judge the teachings of the teachers that are amongst us, as Peter commands us to, w/o judging them???
- G. Here Peter warns the church not of *wolves in wolves clothing* (unbel’s that persecute the church); *not even wolves in sheep’s clothing* (unbelievers posing as Christians); *but wolves dressed like sheep, & sporting clerical collars!* (unbelievers posing as spiritual leaders)

II. **WOLF WARNINGS!** (1-3)

- A. Show #5-9
- B. Show #10 (blank)
- C. (1) Note the contrast between the *holy men of God who spoke as they were moved by the H.S.* (1:21) versus the men of 2:1!
 1. They deny Christ: either his deity or his true humanity.
 - a) Both heresies flourished in 1st cent.
 2. The description of the false teachers is clear enough to help detect them & vivid enough to make you want to avoid them.¹
 - a) George Lucas accepting a lifetime achievement award at the Academy Award ceremonies, March 1992 said, “I’ve always tried to be aware of what I say in my films because all of us who make motion pictures are **teachers, teachers with very loud voices.**”² (yes sir-ee)
- D. (2,3) Many will follow – Really? Why do sheep follow them? Because they know not the scriptures!
 1. Deceivers are always well studied.
- E. The way of truth will be blasphemed – How?
 1. Because they “profess” Christianity, they “profess” to know the way of truth, which is really not truth at all!

¹ Warren Wiersbe; With the Word; pg.835.

² George Lucas, accepting a lifetime achievement award at the Academy Award ceremonies, March 1992 (quoted by Edwin A. Roberts, Jr., in the Tampa Tribune, April 5, 1992). Christianity Today, Vol. 36, no. 8.

2. They actually come up with “**their own way**”!
3. When you go to the **doctor** regarding an illness...don't you seek the truth?
Or, do you seek for him to just make you feel good?
 - a) W/*eternal matters*, isn't it at least as important to know the truth?
4. Jesus said, “**Your word is truth!**” – he didn't use the adjective “*true*” (Your word is true), **but instead** used the noun “*truth*”!
 - a) **What's the difference?** If it was just **true** it would be like it must conform to “*some higher standard of truth*” – **but rather** the bible itself **is the final standard!**

F. Give me 4 ways to identify them! Ok...

1. They appear **among them** as members of the church!
 - a) See “among you” & “bring in”.
2. They are not marked by “moral excellence” but by “**sensuality**”!
 - a) **Their destructive ways** = *Sensuality*(NASB); *shameful ways* (NIV)
3. They are not evident by “brotherly kindness” but by “**greed**”! (*covetousness*)
4. They don't speak “knowledge” but instead “**deceptive words**”.
 - a) “**Deceptive words**” = *plastós* where we get plastic!
 - (1) Keep in mind that a false teacher is **not** a person who teaches false doctrine out of *ignorance*!
 - (2) They are professing believers who **deliberately** teach lies in the hope of promoting themselves & getting financial gain from their followers.³
 - b) So we can identify them often as: “*professing Christians, who are worldly, greedy, & deceiving!*”
 - c) They are **deceivers** not *disciples*; they are **seducers** not *saints*.

G. Q: Will they get away with this forever?

1. No, the NIV nails this one, “*Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.*”

H. Q: Any examples of this? – Here's 3 in this next section...

III. **LESSONS FROM HISTORY! (4-11)**

A. **Show #11** In each *historic illustration* God judged sinners, **while** at the same time delivering the godly.

1. Here is OT examples of judgment on sin to show the **certainty** of punishment for followers of false teachers.

³ Warren Wiersbe.

B. Show #12 **FALLEN ANGELS!** (4)

C. Satan fell to pride & 1/3 of the angels followed him.

1. Rev.12:9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.
2. Rev.12:4 His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven & threw them to the earth

D. Jude let's us know that some of these fallen angels went straight to the pit!

1. Jude 1:6 And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;

E. Here Peter adds "the place" in which they are being kept.

1. Hell here = *Tartarus* (known as the deepest or worst part of hell)

F. The fallen angels not in tartarus do what?

1. Read Job 1:6,7 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. And the LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" So Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it.

G. Q: So Satan has access to heaven still? Yes. He goes there to accuse us & will have access until the middle of the tribulation.

1. For the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. Rev.12:10

H. Show #13 **THE ANCIENT WORLD!** (5)

I. Q: How bad was the ancient world? Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. Gen.6:5

1. Gen.6:7,8 So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them." But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

J. Show #14 **SODOM & GOMORRAH!** (6-8)

K. Jude 1:7 Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

1. Billy Graham said, that *if God doesn't judge America soon, he may have to apologize to Sodom & Gomorrah!*
2. He who is not angry at sin is not in love with virtue!

- L. (9) **Then** – Peter now gets to his 2-fold point:
1. History shows us, God saved Noah & delivered Lot, & so He'll also deliver the righteous today from destructive attacks!
 2. And, Just as He **didn't** spare the angels who sinned; **nor** the ancient world; **nor** Sodom & Gomorrah; *He will also not spare the wicked in the end.*
- M. (10) **Presumptuous** – Headstrong daredevils. A reckless daring that defies God & man.⁴
1. **Self-willed** – “Self-pleasing, arrogant”. One who is determined to please himself at all costs. (LKGNT)
 - a) Andrew Murray asked, “What are the works of hell? They are chiefly these three: **self-will**, **self-trust**, and **self-exaltation**.”
- N. **TIPS!** (9-11)
- O. **Show #15 Stop; Look; Listen** [3 practical tips that will protect us from the acid rain of deception]
1. **Stop!** - Compare the views being taught w/the clear teaching of Holy Scripture & the central doctrines of the orthodox faith. [**orthos** *straight or right* + **doxa** *opinion*]
 2. **Look!** - **Ask...**Do they model Christlike values & virtues? Do they point to Christ or to themselves? Do you see accountability & transparency? Do they exhibit true humility? Authenticity? Love? Do they submit themselves to the authority of God's Word? What do their followers look like?
 3. **Listen!** - Listen closely; Think critically.
- P. **Show #16 (blank)**
- Q. **So**, is God a *frightening* **Judge**, or is He a *good gracious* **Father**? Is He the source of wrath & destruction, or the fount of eternal blessing?
1. The answer to this question depends **not on who God is, but on who you are**. God does not change.
 2. He just deals with His **children** differently than his **enemies**.
- R. Watch out for the cuckoo bird!

⁴ LKGNT