



THE EPISTLE OF JUDE

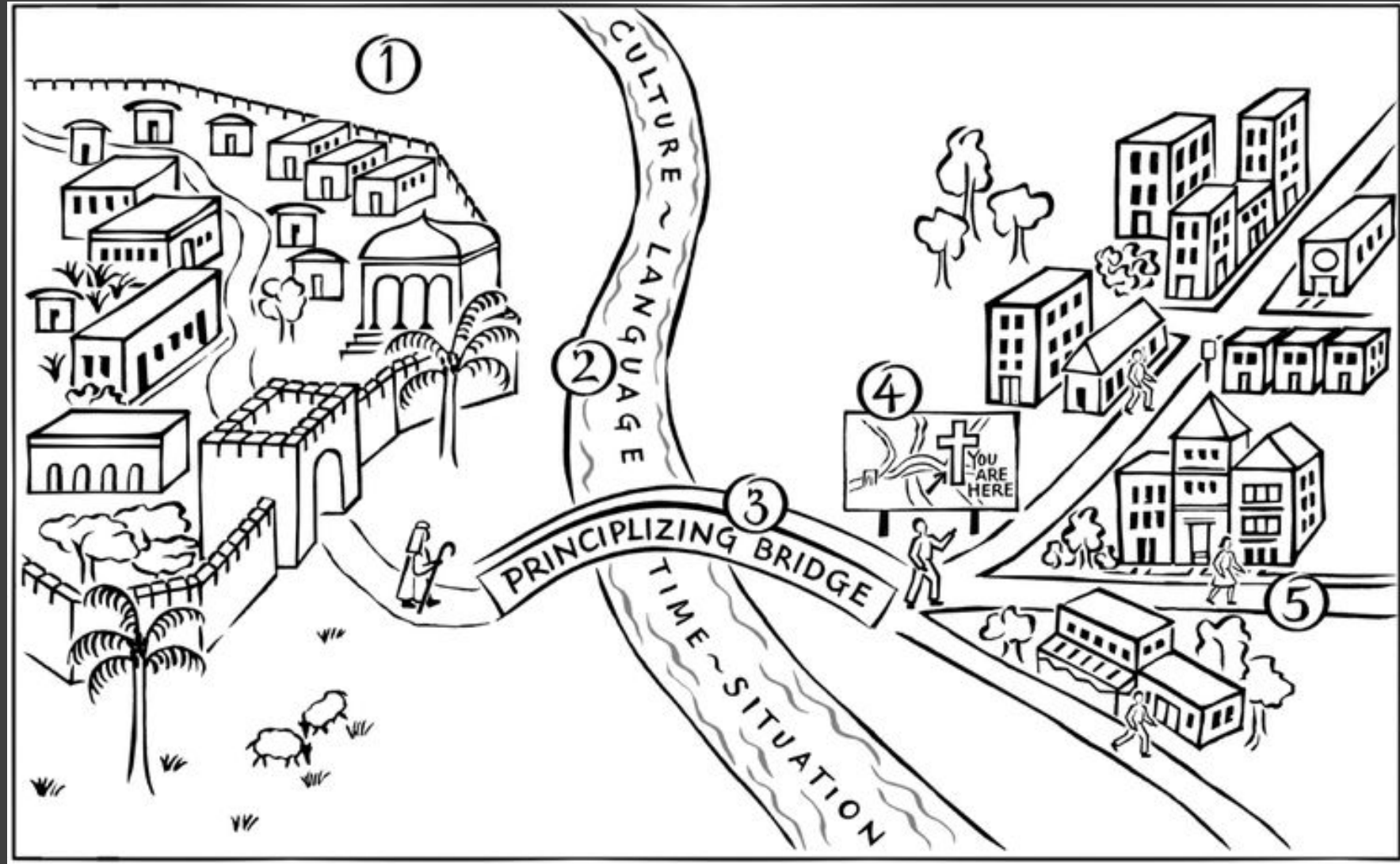
Rev. Todd Weedman



GRASPING GOD'S WORD

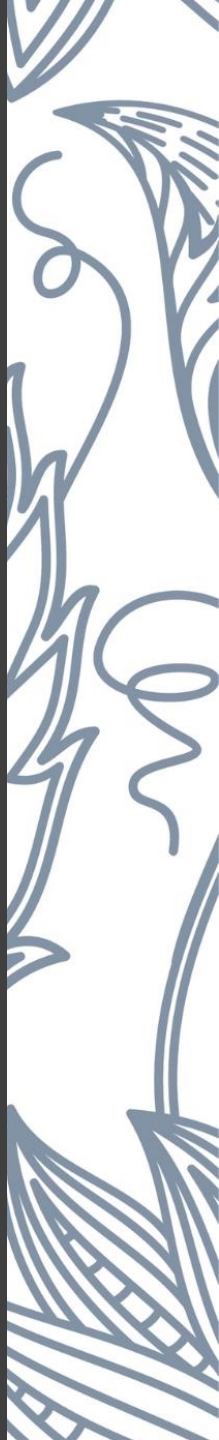
Duvall J. Scott & J. Daniel Hays. *Grasping God's Word : A Hands-On Approach to Reading Interpreting and Applying the Bible*. Fourth ed. Zondervan Academic 2020.



1. Grasp the Text in Their Town.
2. Measure the Width of the River to Cross.
3. Cross the Principizing Bridge.
4. Consulting the Biblical Map.
5. Grasping the Text in Our Town.





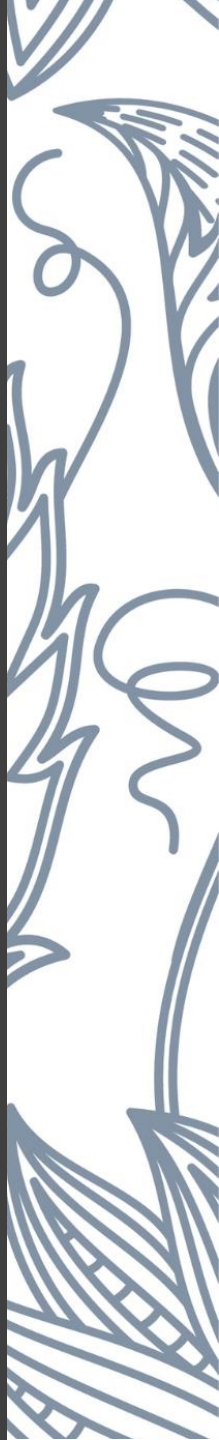
REVIEW

1. Who is the Author?
 - Jude, brother of James (Bishop of Jerusalem), and our Lord Jesus, who came to believe in Jesus as Messiah sometime between the resurrection and Pentecost. He serves as an itinerant preacher among the churches in Galilee.
 2. Who was Jude's intended audience?
 - First-generation Jewish Christians living in Galilee, among the churches that had been planted by the Apostles themselves.
 3. What is the genre of Jude?
 - Jewish-Apocalyptic style, popular in first century Palestinian Judaism, before 70 AD. Steeped in Greek speech rhetoric and Jewish Midrash and Peshar hermeneutics.
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4. When was Jude written?
 - Approximately 48 – 58 AD
 5. What was Jude's purpose for writing?
 - Jude indicates his longstanding intention to communicate with them, which has been made more urgent by a crisis in the churches. He wishes to urge his audience to contend for *the* faith, once for all handed down.
 6. What does Jude tell us about his opponents?
 - A. "Long ago designated for... condemnation"
 - B. "Ungodly people"
 - C. "Pervert grace into sensuality"
 - D. "Deny Jesus Christ"



7. How has God historically responded to such things? Jude's 3 examples:

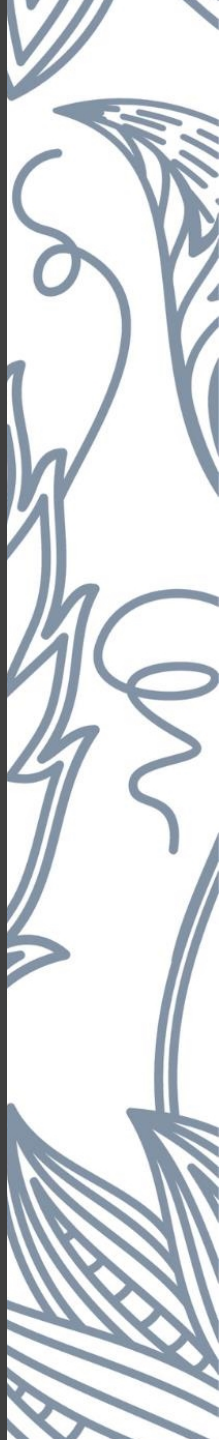
- A. The unbelieving after the Exodus (Num.13-14), whose faithlessness (believing neither the power nor the command of God) provoked God's wrath and punishment.
 - B. The fallen Angels (Gen. 6, I En. 6-11), whose rebellion against God by abandoning his creational purpose for themselves (and teaching or encouraging others to do the same) provoked God's wrath and punishment.
 - C. The cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, whose sexual immorality and pursuit of unnatural desire provoked God's wrath and punishment.
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8. What indictments does Jude bring against his opponents?

- A. They are “dreamers.”
- B. They “defile the flesh.”
- C. They “reject authority.”
- D. They “blaspheme the glorious ones (which they don’t even know)”
- E. They are condemned by their carnality.

9. To what other historical figures does Jude liken his opponents?

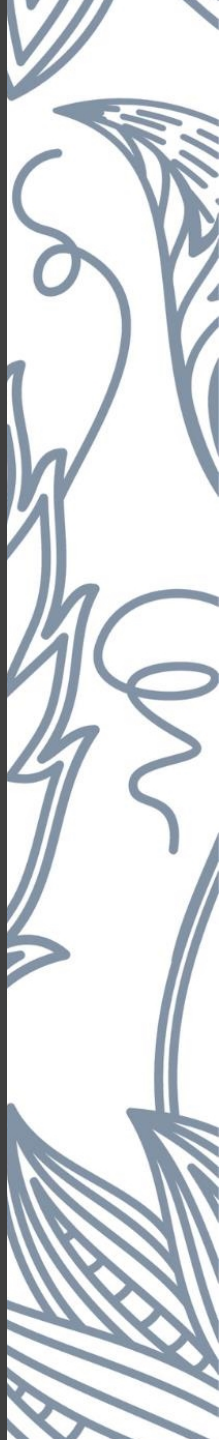
- A. “Walk in the way of Cain.” (Gen. 4)
 - B. “Rush into Balaam’s error.” (Num. 22-24, 31)
 - C. “Perish in Korah’s rebellion.” (Num. 16)
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Korah's rebellion provides a model for dealing with those who claim to belong to the Church, yet reject authority and rebel against God's law:

1. Teach all that God has commanded.
2. Warn those who are in error.
3. Separate from those who persist.
4. Intercede on their behalf.
5. Leave the work of judgment to God.

10. What other indictments does Jude bring against his opponents?


- These people are blemishes upon your Eucharist, eating without fear, shepherds feeding themselves.
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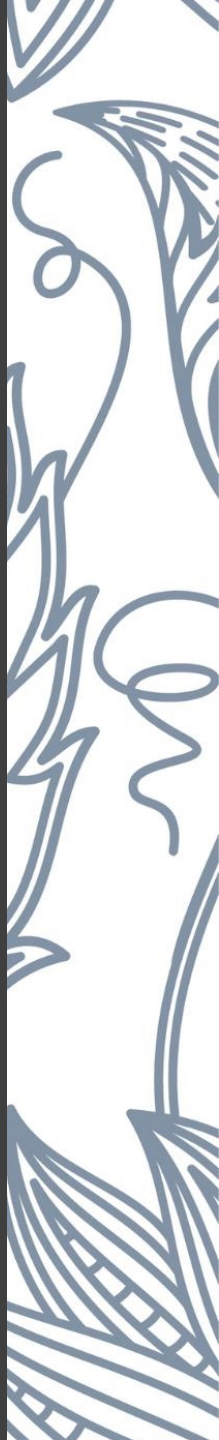
[These are] waterless clouds, swept along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted; wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever.

Jude 12-13





Blessed Lord, who caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and the comfort of your holy Word we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.





WATERLESS CLOUDS

νεφέλαι ἄνυδροι ὑπὸ ἀνέμων παραφερόμεναι

Waterless clouds being carried about by winds.





GALILEE











WATERLESS CLOUDS

νεφέλαι ἄνυδροι ὑπὸ ἀνέμων παραφερόμεναι

Waterless clouds being carried about by winds.

- *“Like the cold of snow in the time of harvest is a faithful messenger to those who send him; he refreshes the soul of his masters. Like clouds and wind without rain is a man who boasts of a gift he does not give.” Prov.*

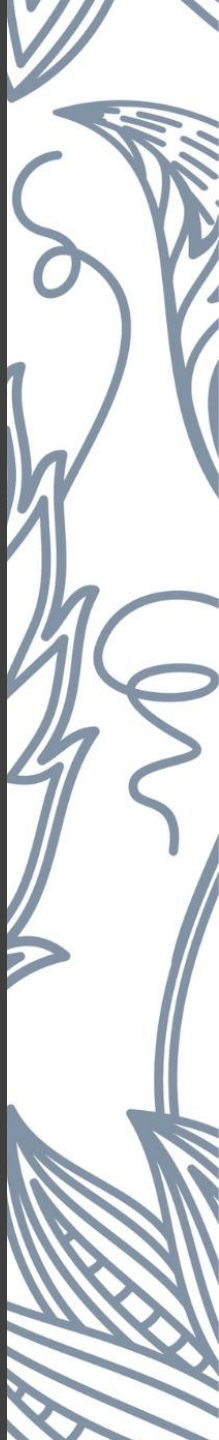
25:13-14



FRUITLESS TREES

δένδρα φθινοπωρινὰ ἄκαρπα δις ἀποθανόντα
ἐκρίζωθέντα

Fruitless trees of late autumn, twice having died and
been uprooted.


- *“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.” – Matt. 7:15-20*
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WILD WAVES OF THE SEA

κύματα ἄγρια θαλάσσης ἐπαφρίζοντα τὰς ἑαυτῶν
αἰσχύνας

Wild waves of the sea, foaming with their own shame.


- *“But the wicked are like the tossing sea; for it cannot be quiet, and its waters toss up mire and dirt. ‘There is no peace for the wicked,’ says my God.” – Isaiah 57:20-21*
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WANDERING STARS

ἀστέρες πλανῆται οἷς ὁ ζόφος τοῦ σκότους εἰς αἰῶνα
τετήρηται

Wandering stars for whom the gloom of darkness
has been reserved until the end of the age.



And I saw a deep abyss, with columns of heavenly fire, and among them I saw columns of fire fall, which were beyond measure in height and in depth. And beyond that abyss I saw a place which had no firmament of the heaven above, and no firmly founded earth beneath it: there was no water upon it, and no birds, but it was a waste and horrible place.

I saw there seven stars like great burning mountains, and to me, when I inquired regarding them, The angel said: 'This place is the end of heaven and earth: this has become a prison for the stars and the host of heaven. And the stars which roll over the fire are they which have transgressed the commandment of the Lord in the beginning of their rising, because they did not come forth at their appointed times. And He was wroth with them, and bound them till the time when their guilt should be consumma-

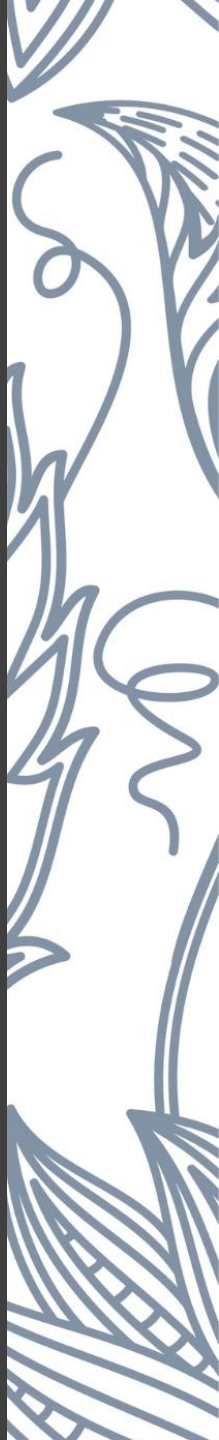
ted (even) for ten thousand years...

And I proceeded to where things were chaotic. And I saw there something horrible: I saw neither a heaven above nor a firmly founded earth, but a place chaotic and horrible. And there I saw seven stars of the heaven bound together in it, like great mountains and burning with fire. Then I said: "For what sin are they bound, and on what account have they been cast in hither?" Then Uriel, one of the holy angels, who was with me and was chief over them said: "Enoch, why do you ask, and why are you eager for the truth? These are of the number of the stars of heaven, which have transgressed the commandment of the Lord, and are bound here till ten thousand years, the time entailed by their sins, are consummated."



WANDERING STARS

“[This] is a likely reference to planets that appear to wander from their course or to comets or meteors that manifest an apparently erratic course... Clearly the author intends this as a metaphorical description of life without God forever... The teachers are thus accused of disorderly, useless and harmful conduct.” – Ben Witherington III



Observe everything that takes place in the heavens, how they do not change their orbits, and the luminaries which are in the heavens, how they all rise and set in order each in its season, and transgress not against their appointed order. Behold the earth, and give heed to the things which take place upon it from first to last, how steadfast they are, how none of the things upon earth change, but all the works of God appear to you.

Behold the summer and the winter, how the whole earth is filled with water, and clouds and dew and rain lie upon it. Observe and see how (in the winter) all the trees seem as though they had withered and shed all their leaves, except fourteen trees, which do not lose their foliage but retain the old foliage from two to three years till the new comes. And again, observe the days of summer how the sun is above the earth over against it. And you seek shade and shelter due to the heat of
the sun, and the earth also burns with

growing heat, and you cannot tread on the earth, or on a rock because of its heat.

Observe how the trees cover themselves with green leaves and bear fruit:

Therefore give heed and know all His works. Recognize how He that lives forever has made them. And all His works go on thus from year to year for ever, and all the tasks which they accomplish for Him do not change unless God has ordained.

And behold how the sea and the rivers in like manner accomplish their task and do not deviate from His commandments'.

Not so with you. You have not been steadfast, nor done the commandments of the Lord, but you have turned away and spoken proud and hard words with your impure mouths against His greatness. Oh, you hard-hearted, you shall find no peace.



JUDE'S USE OF I ENOCH

First Enoch describes all of nature becoming disorderly and lawless just before the eschatological end of things. And the fate of such star beings is utter and outer darkness. The rhetorical intent and effect of this colorful language was to create a negative emotional response, to create pathos, in this case appealing to one's sense of fear and horror at betrayal and shameful behavior. The... metaphors of [Jude] vv 12-13 provide a powerful series of mental images and associations which seriously diminish the ethos of the sectarians especially with regard to their leadership and teaching roles, and elicit much negative pathos against them.

— Ben Witherington III





NEXT WEEK...

- Jude 14-15: Enoch's prophecy against Jude's opponents.
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