

Ministry of The Holy Spirit

Jude 1-8

Last time...in Titus 3, with order in the Church, the Church is to be orderly in this present world in the summer of 2024, being mindful of Whose we are and why we are here

This time...the Epistle of Jude

The chronological timeline of when the books of the NT were written is imprecise

The next books...Jude, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, and Hebrews...could be “shuffled”

I am going to take them by recorder – Jude then Peter then Paul

The Epistle of Jude, part 1

Who is Jude

A greeting of great magnitude

Why this letter is written and preserved

Is there a problem in Christianity today?

Does God judge?

Is the judgment of God coming?

The Holy Spirit has a great deal to say in such a small letter!

If one is not familiar with the Hebrew Scriptures, this is an obscure epistle

v1a From: Jude

- Judas (Gr), Judah (Heb)
 - servant of Jesus Christ...voluntary service not forced labor, bondservant
 - brother of James
 - pastor of the church in Jerusalem
 - received and sent the Epistle of James
- James 1:1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ
- (sons of Joseph and Mary, brothers of Jesus)
 - during 2nd year of Jesus’ ministry, after Jesus taught the Kingdom of Heaven parables, the people were astonished at His wisdom and miracles, wondering
- Matt 13:55 Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas?
- at the end of 2nd year of Jesus’ ministry before the Feast of Tabernacles, His brothers taunted Him to go to Jerusalem (hostile place) to show Himself to the Jewish world because they did not believe in Him (John 7:2-5); His works/miracles did not change their view of their “big brother”!

- now...James and Jude are “servants/bondservants of Jesus Christ”
 - 1 Cor 1:31 according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord (for a reconciled relationship with the Living God and not in a worldly family relationship...”Jesus is my big brother!”)
 - 2 Cor 5:15 And *that* he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

So it is with us! We are

- children of God (John 1:11-13)
- Jesus-kind, reconciled and restored man-kind (2 Cor 5:17-21)
- heirs of God, joint-heirs with Christ (Rom 8:17)
- brethren of Jesus, sanctified by the One Who sanctifies (Heb 2:11)
- servants of Jesus Christ...no greater honor and privilege than to live for and serve Him who died for us and rose again

v1b To: them (the Church, us, followers of Jesus, servants of Jesus) that are

1. sanctified...made holy...by God the Father

John 17:19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.

Acts 26:18 To open their eyes, *and* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

1 Cor 6:11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

(who can un-make, un-do what God has made, done?!)

2. preserved...guarded/held fast...in Jesus Christ (by God)

John 6:39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.

John 10:28-30 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no *man* is able to pluck *them* out of my Father's hand. I and *my* Father are one.

John 12:25 He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. (Lord, would you please keep this for me?)

(who can break the hold that God has on us?!)

3. called...(by God) saints, responded by faith to the testimony of God
 Rom 1:6-7a Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ:
 To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called ~~to be~~
 saints
 Rom 8:28

v2 Blessing:

- A. Mercy...the help and compassion of God (who does not need God's mercy?)
 Lam 3:22-23 *It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.*
 Micah 7:18 Who *is* a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth *in* mercy.
 Ps 103:11 For as the heaven is high above the earth, *so* great is his mercy toward them that fear him. (How high is that?)
 Is 40:12 Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?
- B. Peace...the rest of and in God (Anybody tired of the world? Fighting God?)
 John 14:27 **Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.**
 Rom 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:
 Phil 4:6-7 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.
- C. Love...the supernatural sacrificial love of God (as Father for His children)
 Rom 5:8 God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

1 John 4:10

1 John 4:16-19

God's mercy and peace and love (most valuable) be multiplied...not merely added

$$10 + 10 + 10 + 10 = 40$$

$$10 * 10 * 10 * 10 = 10,000$$

Meditate on v1-2, the Greeting...jam-packed with comforting and humbling Truth,
as Scripture interprets Scripture!
Now, the purpose the letter was written

- v3 Jude's heart was to remind and encourage the Church regarding the common salvation
- 1 Cor 15:3-4
 - the Gospel of Christ, the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believes/trusts the testimony of God, the righteousness of God whereby the just shall live (eternal life) by faith (Rom 1:16-17)
 - the preaching of the cross that to us that are saved (the called) is the power of God and Christ crucified is the wisdom of God (1 Cor 1:18-24)
- but the Holy Spirit had something else in His heart and mind that was necessary to publish to the Church, the Body of Christ:

We, the

- sanctified by God the Father
- preserved in Jesus Christ (by God)
- called (by God)

would contend earnestly

- not roll over under mounting societal pressures
- not be silent before the enemies of the Cross and the Gospel of Grace
- but stand against the wiles of the devil and be on the offensive

for the faith

- the righteousness which is of God by faith, the faith of Christ (Phil 3:9)
- the simplicity that is in Christ (2 Cor 11:3)
- the Gospel of Grace, for by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. (Eph 2:8-9)

Contend for the faith because the faith is always under attack...from without and within!

Any other faith,

Any other gospel,

Anything added to Christ and Him crucified (1 Cor 2:2)

- diminishes the work of Jesus Christ on the Cross
- is a **great** affront to God
- must be rebuked and corrected!

v4

Certain men...false teachers, false prophets, false shepherds, false apostles

Matt 7:15 **Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly (in the heart that God sees and reveals) they are ravening wolves.**

Acts 20:28-30 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

crept in...lying in wait, sneaky creeps, “up to no good” but their own

unawares...how?

Forgot even the simple truths of God?

Either no watchmen on the wall or silent watchmen on the wall (Ezk 33)?

Sleeping elders derelict in ministering to the spiritual health of the flock (Titus 1)?

Lack of spiritual discernment by the spiritual leaders?

Foolishness, having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

Gal 3:3

Insufficient knowledge of the Truth in order to recognize everything false, and therefore deceived by a “really good sheep disguise”?

Lack of diligence in sound doctrine by the pastors?

John 8:31-32

1 Tim 4:16 Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save/protect thyself, and them that hear thee.

When found out/revealed, these creeps are to be flushed out

Gal 2:4-5 because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage: To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.

who were before of old ordained to this condemnation...these creeps were foreknown by the all-knowing, never-surprised God from before the foundation of the world

vs

chosen by God to be creeps (Calvinism)

ungodly men...wicked men, children of the devil

2 Cor 11:13-15 false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works (condemnation).

turning the grace of God unto lasciviousness...

pervverting the “beauty treatment” of God

- Rom 5:20 for the called of Rom 5:8
- Song 4, Bride’s beauty, Bridegroom’s desire, Bride’s exclusiveness into unrestrained sexual immorality
- sexual sin physically, a sin against the body (1 Cor 6:18)
- sexual sin spiritually, whoredom with false gods against the Lord, pervverting the Gospel of Christ/Grace into another gospel (Gal 1:6-7)

and denying...contradicting, disavowing

- the only Lord God...Absolute Ruler
- our Lord Jesus Christ...Supreme Authority, Who declared Matt 10:33

This is a very serious spiritual problem in the Body of Christ, so much so that the Holy Spirit redirected Jude’s heart to speak of “this condemnation” to alert the Church

But how serious of a problem?

Does God judge?

Will God judge?

God does judge and God will judge...and righteously so!

v5 The Holy Spirit (John 14:26, 2 Peter 1:20-21) thru Jude brings this important truth (God does judge and God will judge) into our remembrance by speaking of three previous times God did righteously judge

We must be continually reminded of even the basic truths we know

We even need to be reminded that we need to be reminded!

We never hear the basic truths of God too many times!

The Gospel of Grace NEVER gets old!!!

Hearing of the mercy of God is needed continually!!

My “gift”: telling you things you already know

The 1st instance of when God did judge: Israel in the wilderness

After God saved/delivered

Israel (His people separated unto Himself)

out of bondage (to sin and death)

in Egypt (the world, the dominion of sin and the god of this world)

He led them to the Promised Land (His rest),

into which they had to enter by faith (Heb 3-4)

But, even after

- the 10 plagues upon Egypt, of which they were spared/separated
- being led out of captivity by the Lord Personally, seen visually as a protective pillar of cloud by day and an illuminating pillar of fire by night
- the miraculous Red Sea deliverance and the destruction of their enemy forever
- being provided the water of life out of a Rock struck by Moses' rod
- being provided manna from heaven every morning
- being given quail until it came out their nose because they murmured about the manna and lusted for flesh/meat

when Israel came to Kadesh-Barnea, the southern border of the Promised Land, they refused to enter, they refused to follow the Lord their Strength because of an evil report by 10 of the 12 spies

- the land is evil, it consumes people
- the people are giants and we are like grasshoppers

Israel did not believe/trust their oft-proven God, but rather

- walked by sight and not by faith
- chose Fear over Faith

For their unbelief (distrusting their God), the generation 20 years old and up perished in the wilderness and never entered into God's rest

God did NOT lead them back to Egypt, the power of Egypt over them had been broken forever, but they "built their lives" with wood, hay, and stubble (1 Cor 3:10-15)

God did judge their unbelief, their distrust of Him and His Word

v6 The 2nd instance when God did judge: Lucifer/Satan and the fallen angels

They did not keep their first estate/place,

- the presence of God to serve Him
- ministering spirits to serve the heirs of salvation (Heb 1:14)

opting instead to leave their own habitation

Ezk 28:14-15 Thou *art* the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee *so*: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou *wast* perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.

Is 14:12-14 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *how* art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of

the clouds; I will be like the most High.
Rev 12:3-4a And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold
a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and
seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third
part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth

God did judge the fallen angels

- they are “reserved”
 - the very same Gr word translated into “preserved” in v1
 - to the degree we are preserved in Christ to salvation, they are reserved outside of Christ to damnation...
both “preserved” and “reserved” are equally certain!
- in everlasting chains...bound forever, liberty surrendered as eternal captives of God their Maker
- under darkness
 - hell...the pit/abyss in the center of the earth
Is 14:15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell,
to the sides of the pit.
 - Lake of Fire/outer darkness
Rev 20:14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

And, btw, God will use them to judge unbelief in the judgment of the Day of the Lord (Rev 9) before their final judgment in the Lake of Fire

v7 The 3rd instance when God did judge: Sodom and Gomorrah

Gen 19 fire and brimstone
Jer 50:40 As God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah and the neighbour *cities* thereof, saith the LORD; *so* shall no man abide there, neither shall any son of man dwell therein (utter destruction).

The citizens of Sodom and Gomorrah had given themselves over to

- fornication...promiscuous sexual immorality in defiance of God’s ordained safe-boundary (marriage of 1 man and 1 woman)
- going after strange flesh...homosexuality and bestiality

God is not mocked!

Reaping what they had sown (Gal 6:7-8),

Sowing to the wind and reaping the whirlwind (Hosea 8:7),

they are an example...a synonym...for God’s vengeance by eternal fire

Contrary to popular, liberal, Godless, social “truth”, homosexuality is still a grievous sin against God and it defiles the land

Rom 1:18-32

1 Cor 6:9

1 Tim 1:10

2 Tim 3:1-4

- v8 Likewise also...just as the judgment of God was upon Israel in the wilderness,
 the fallen angels, and Sodom and Gomorrah
so will the judgment of God be on these
- certain men/wolves
 - creeps
 - ungodly men
 - dreamers, disconnected by choice from the reality of “God”
- that
- defile the flesh...despising a gift of God, self-destructive
 - despise dominion...ruling authorities (Lord God and Lord Jesus Christ)
 - speak evil of dignities...vilify and rail against authority and godly men of God who believe/trust in and speak of God’s Word

Application

Does this speak to a problem in Christianity today?

The common salvation...the Gospel of Grace...is always under attack by wolves

Does God judge?

Categorically yes!

Will God judge...is the judgment of God coming?

Categorically yes!

As sure as God’s salvation (for the “preserved”)

is God’s justice/judgment (for the “reserved”)

As sure as God’s justice/judgment is God’s salvation

Does that comfort or discomfort you?

Depends on who you say Jesus is.

Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God, my Lord and Savior

or

Jesus is merely a man, a good man and a good teacher, but just a man

Jesus is a Muslim, a prophet but inferior to Mohammed

Jesus is the brother of Satan

Jesus is Michael the archangel

Jesus is a concoction of men’s minds in order to control other men

The true confession is unto salvation

Any confession other than the true confession will be judged!

Lesson for us followers of Jesus, the sanctified and preserved and called

When we read

- “the kindness and love of God our Savior toward men...which He has shed upon us abundantly thru Jesus Christ our Savior” (Titus 3:4-6)
- v2

do we

- have any idea how much compassion/mercy of God that is?!
- have any idea how much peace of God that is?!
- have any idea how much love of God that is?!
- have any idea how much grace of God is given us?!

- have any more than a “scratching the surface” understanding that God Himself, the Maker of heaven and earth and all that is therein has Personally saved us, and the depth and breadth of what that means?!

“Thank God my salvation does not depend upon my frail hold of Him but on His mighty grasp of me.”

Martyn Lloyd-Jones

When we read v4-8, esp v7, do we have any idea the depth and the breadth of God’s vengeance and judgment upon those who refuse His kindness/mercy, peace, love, and grace?!

And does that stir us to compassionate action?

The examples of when God did judge those who did not trust Him are written

- to teach us not to follow suit, to not be a be a bird of the same feather flocking together with them
- to admonish us to v20-21
- for our learning that we thru the patience and comfort of the Scripture would have hope, the promise of the Living God who cannot lie
- to stir our hearts to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with the lost because as certain the Good News is, so is the “bad news”!