

Lessons From Jude

Righteous Judgements

(Jd 5-7)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening,
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of “Lessons From Jude.”
 - a. Last week we looked at Jude and his desire for us to “Contend Earnestly For The Faith.”
 - b. This week we are going to examine and look at God’s “Righteous Judgments.”
3. Jude encouraged his readers to “contend earnestly for the faith because...”
 - a. Certain men had crept in unnoticed.
 - i. These men were ungodly men guilty of...
 1. Turning the grace of God into lewdness.
 2. Denying the Master and Lord Jesus Christ.
4. Jude 4 also points out these men found themselves as ones “who long ago were designated for this condemnation...”
 - a. This has led some to think that these men were “predestined to act this way.”
 - i. In other words God forced them to act this way.
 - b. This is not the case however.
 - i. Warren Wiersbe explained it best, “Jude did not write that these men were ordained to become apostates, as though God were responsible for their sin. They became apostates because they willfully turned away from the truth. But God did ordain that such people would be judged and condemned. The Old Testament prophets denounced the false prophets of their day, and both Jesus Christ and His Apostles pronounced judgment on them.” (Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *The Bible exposition commentary*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.)
5. In our text today we find Jude supporting his point here.
 - a. He does this by reminding everyone of three specific events in the O.T.
 - i. Israel In The Wilderness
 - ii. The Angels Who Sinned
 - iii. Sodom & Gomorrah
6. Therefore let us examine these three events and glean from them what Jude wanted us to understand which is God’s Righteous Judgments.

I. Israel In The Wilderness

- A. God saved His people from Egyptian bondage
 1. From the 10 plagues to the crossing the Red Sea God brought His people out of slavery and saved them.
 2. Despite the Jews having received God’s wonderful grace, God destroyed that generation
 - i. Their constant lack of faith required they “wander” for 40 years in the wilderness.

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- ii. This was done so that those over the age of 20 when they left Egypt would die before entering the Promised Land.
 - a. All those except Joshua and Caleb.
- B. Jude gives this example so that there is no doubt that...
 - 1. God can and will under certain circumstances destroy the saved.
 - i. The Israelites were God's chosen people a saved people.
 - ii. Yet He did not spare some due to unfaithfulness.
 - 2. This is not new and should not be a shock.
 - i. Paul made this point clear when he wrote to the Corinthians.
 - a. **I Co 10:1-12**
 - ii. The Hebrew writer had similar thoughts.
 - a. **He 3:16-4:2, 11**
 - 3. The Bible clearly states it was a lack of faith that destroyed the saved.
 - i. **Jd 5** "Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe."¹
 - ii. **He 3:18-19** "And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? 19 So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.
 - iii. **He 11:6** "And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him."
 - 4. The Bible clearly states as well that the faithful will be secure in God with no need to worry about destruction.
 - i. **I Pt 1:5, 8-9** "who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time...8 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, 9 obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls."
- C. Thus...
 - 1. God can and will destroy the saved if they have become unfaithful.

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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II. The Angels Who Sinned

A. Little is known about them

1. Jude only tells us...
 - i. **Jd 6** “And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day”
 - a. They “did not stay within their own position of authority.”
 - b. They “left their proper dwelling.”
2. Peter only tells us...
 - i. **II Pt 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”
 - a. They “sinned.”
3. There is an old interpretation that refers to **Gn 6:1-4**.
 - i. Here the “sons of God” is understood to refer to angels.
 - a. Job describes angels as “sons of God.”
 1. **Jb 1:6; 2:1; 38:7**
 - ii. This was a common interpretation in Jewish literature.
 - a. Enoch 7; 9:8; 10:11; 12:4
 - b. Jude gives this more credibility because he quotes from Enoch in **Jude 14**.
 - iii. It is also a common interpretation in...
 - a. The intertestamental literature.
 - b. The early church father writings.
 1. Justin in his Apology for example.
 - iv. It is further bolstered by Jude himself.
 - a. **Jd 7** “just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, **which likewise** indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.” (emphasis mine)
 - b. **Jd 7** “Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them, having in like manner with these given themselves over to fornication and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the punishment of eternal fire.” (ASV) (emphasis mine)
 - c. **Jd 7** “just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.” (NASB95) (emphasis mine)

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- B. Jude gives this example to show God has prepared a place for the wicked
 - 1. He has the angels in “eternal chains under gloomy darkness.”
 - i. **Jd 6**
 - 2. He has the ungodly a place where “the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever.”
 - i. **Jd 13**

III. Sodom & Gomorrah

- A. God’s judgment is vividly described in Scripture
 - 1. **Gn 19:24-28** “The sun had risen on the earth when Lot came to Zoar. 24 Then the LORD rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire from the LORD out of heaven. 25 And he overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. 26 But Lot’s wife, behind him, looked back, and she became a pillar of salt. 27 And Abraham went early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the LORD. 28 And he looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah and toward all the land of the valley, and he looked and, behold, the smoke of the land went up like the smoke of a furnace.”
- B. Why was God’s judgment so swift and fierce
 - 1. It was “Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave” (**Gn 18:20**).
 - 2. It was because...
 - i. They “indulged in fornication.”
 - ii. They had sought after “strange flesh.”
 - a. **Jd 7**
 - 3. This is seen clearly in Genesis.
 - i. **Gn 19:4-11**
- C. Jude gives this example to show the ungodly the eternal fire and righteous vengeance of God Almighty
 - 1. Bot Jude & Peter make it clear Sodom & Gomorrah are examples.
 - i. Peter says it is “an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly” (**II Pt 2:6**).
 - ii. Jude says it serves “as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire” (**Jd 7**).

CONCLUSION

- 1. Brethren like Jude recipients we too are most likely well versed in these events but as Jude makes clear we must be “reminded” of them and we need to be reminded often.
 - a. **Jd 5**
- 2. Question: Are you striving for faithfulness in God or simply trying to get by?
 - a. If you are striving for righteousness continue therein and grow thereby.
 - b. If you are not striving for righteousness, why not?

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3. Invitation

- a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
- b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**