

A Commentary On Jude

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Dedicated to my Family

For all their love, prayer, encouragement and support of me in good times and bad. God has richly blessed me with such a group of people, and I would not be who I am or where I am without them.

(1) Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called:

Jude (*Ιουδας*) , is the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew name Judah or *Yehudah* (*יְהוּדָה*), which means “praiser of God”. It is from this Hebrew word we get the term *Yehudim* or Jews. To be a Jew literally means you are one of the people who praises God. **The servant of Jesus Christ** is an ironic phrase for Jude to identify himself with, seeing as he is actually the half brother of Jesus. But Jude was not a follower of Jesus until at the very least the crucifixion. For almost all of Jesus’ three year ministry, Jude and Jesus’ other half brothers and sisters did not believe in him and rejected him as the Messiah. Apparently that all changed after the crucifixion and resurrection. Now Jude openly proclaimed that his half brother was none other than the Son of God, the promised Messiah of Israel and the world. Whether through shame at past unbelief or modesty, Jude leaves out the fact of his blood relation to Christ. And brother of James He only refers to his relation to James, another half brother of Christ and the first pastor of the Jerusalem church.

(3) Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

This verse commands us to contend and defend the faith through apologetics. We should be ready to give an answer to unbelievers and to instruct the brethren.¹ The true faith of Jesus Christ is one that we must toil and labor to defend and stand strong in without compromise. We do not take up arms and literally fight, but we are commanded to contend over doctrine. The next verses of Jude tell us why.

(4) For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Apostles and the Holy Spirit warned the Church that people will come along who pretend to be religious, and religious teachers, but whose underlying motives and values are contrary to that of Christ and His Church. Peter even added that some will bring in “damnable heresies”. They are conniving, sneaking and manipulative men whose goal is power and money. They outwardly profess to be holy, but are living in

¹ I Pet.3:15; Php.1:27; II Tim.1:13.

scandal, seeking to take advantage of the simple and naive. It is the leadership of the Church that must stand on guard for such wolves.

(5) I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not.

Even after witnessing the plagues God wrought against their captors, crossing through the Red Sea and partaking of His provision in the wilderness, many Israelites ultimately chose to rebel against God and were destroyed. Jude goes on in the following verse to say that even angels who were heaven with Him have made the same choice to rebel against their Creator.

(6) And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

Which kept not their first estate speaks of the fallen angels who joined in Satan's rebellion, but could extend specifically the Nephilim in Genesis 6. *But left their own habitation* is used by those who teach the Nephilim to be angels, something I have not dismissed. *He hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness* is also interesting concerning the Nephilim argument because not all fallen angels are chained. Many roam free as demons. The extra-biblical book of Enoch--whose authenticity is questionable, says that God chained the angels who mixed with women. So in this verse that argument appears a possibility. Assuming that the book of Enoch can be trusted, Enoch referred to these angels as the Watchers.

(7) Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

Though Sodom and Gomorrha were not part of the Church by any means, they are set up as an example of wickedness after which those who do the work of Satan are classified and these two cities are recorded as a Divine warning against rebellion and being contrary to the plan of God. Sowing seeds of discord, division and fracturing the unity of a local church is an assault on the worldwide Church and therefore God sets that sin on the same level as the rebellion and sodomy for which these two vile cities were destroyed by Divine fire.

(8) Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities.

This verse has terrible implications: First, those who work this evil of division are counted with the damned of Sodom and Gomorrah in that they will meet the same end of divine wrath and judgment unless they repent. Second, they allow their wicked pride and imaginations of the heart to rule them, even to the point that they defile themselves with their own desires and lusts--and not only themselves, but all those who flock to their poisoned tongues. Third, they despise God-ordained authority and cause others to do so as well. This can extend even to legal authorities, but in this context it speaks directly to the God-ordained authority of the Church: The ordained ministers and elected elders. They hold contempt for such authority and allow the evil of their hearts and the repulsion in their spirit to spread into words and actions that undermine, slander, disobey and rebel against Almighty God and the shepherds He has placed over His Church. The lusts of their hearts crave to be free of restriction and limitations and standards and therefore they buck against the holiness of God and against the officers of the Church set in place to maintain those things. Fourthly, their disgust for God-ordained authority turns vocal or legible. They begin to speak openly the wickedness of their hearts and subvert the simple and spiritually weak. At this point Paul tells us they must be rebuked and marked as those who cause division and thrown out of the Church and given over to Satan. This is a harsh reality, but the goal is to achieve repentance and restoration.

(9) Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.

Michael the archangel is one of several angels named in Scripture. Others include Gabriel, the messenger angel and Lucifer, the leader of the angelic rebellion. It would be very easy for any pastor or elder to deal with such a person in the flesh and take carnal paths in doing so, but God admonishes us to simply repeat His words to the offenders and follow the example of the archangel Michael. One reason why Michael did not directly combat Satan may have been that Michael is an archangel and Satan is a fallen cherub, much higher on the angelic hierarchy. But that is only my speculation. He did not go after Satan in his own words or strength, but simply gave Satan a rebuke that pointed Satan to the rebuke of God--who is all-powerful and will pierce and cut to the uttermost part of the heart.

(10) But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves.

These deceivers and subverters are not walking in the Spirit, if indeed they possess the Spirit at all. Therefore when they speak forth things against the Church and the leaders, they cannot do so in wisdom or truth because those things do not dwell in the people being described in Jude. Their minds are warped and guided by their lusts and sinful hearts and as Isaiah says, their “judgement is afar off”. They know only the things of the natural man and only can wallow deeper into corruption by pursuing those things, even if only under the guise of being a spiritual teacher.

(11) Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.

They have followed Cain in that their pride and corruption have erupted and is now laid bare for all to see. Their hatred for other brethren began in their heart, but has now led to action that has all but murdered their brethren. Whether it be for money, power or influence in the church, their greed drove them hastily to act on the fantasies of their hearts. Whether or not they are already destroyed of God or not, unless they repent and turn from this wickedness, their doom is sure. In fact, God has already considered it accomplished. They have followed in the path of Korah, who led a vile rebellion within Israel (a picture of the Church) against God’s ordained leader Moses. As a result of their pride and desire to lead, they attempted to overthrow the God-ordained authority and are now cast out and will soon perish in the depths of the earth, outside of repentance.

(12-13) These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots; Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.

They are black marks against the purity of a congregation and must be removed. They are fruitless, in spiritual deadness and their every move and word displays and proves their sin and shame.

(14) And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,

Enoch was the first prophet, and how he could know of the Second Coming is astounding. It must have been revealed to him, because in the next two verses of Jude,

we see that Enoch did indeed preach repentance to the heathen. Many believe it was Enoch who oversaw construction of the Great Pyramid of Giza and that it is a gospel picture in the way in which it was constructed. For example, there is one door and it leads to what is called the Narrow Way, which leads to an empty tomb. It was also covered by 144,000 stones. And mysteriously, the head capstone was never laid. Many believe this could be the original event which is referenced as “the stone the builders rejected” and that it was a pre-flood Messianic prophecy. The greatest evidence of this theory of Enoch building it are that the Great Pyramid was found by Egyptians and they do not historically take credit for building it, but rather the smaller ones around it--probably reverse engineering to discover how to replicate it. Secondly, the Great Pyramid has flood damage in the top levels--indicating the entire structure was underwater for a significant time.

(15-16) To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him. These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.

When the LORD returns, such people and their deeds will be laid bare before the saints and be judged for what they are. They will give account for the wickedness of their words and actions, both against God and His ordained Church and leaders. They will be utterly ashamed at best, and if they are not in the faith, they will be cast into the Lake of Fire. They murmured at the structure of leadership and order in the Church as God willed it, and complained against it, the leadership and walked according to the lusts and pride of their hearts. They gained the ear of some by flattery, seeking power, money and the admiration of others, hoping to gain from them

(17-19) But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.

They have mocked, scoffed, laughed and discounted the things of God, His Law, His ministers and His ways. But they will one day lose their laughter and kneel in shame confessing Him to be LORD. They divide themselves into factions, clicks and distance themselves from those who are walking in the Light and Life of God's Word. They may even physically separate from the Church to form their own following. At least they sometimes do depart from the camp; and for that God's people may rejoice. They are

controlled by the flesh and not the Holy Spirit. Perhaps they do not even possess the Holy Spirit.

(20-25) But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh. Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

So what is the Church to do while people like this do their Satanic work? First, mark them, have no fellowship with them and continue in the fight of the Christian life, building up in the Faith. Prayer must also be our priority--both for the repentance of such wicked people and for the purity and growth of the Church. Cling to the true love of God with your eyes fixed on Christ and His eternal presence and reward to those who love Him. Have compassion, be the difference and show the wicked how Christ's children live and remain faithful. Sometimes stern rebuke is required to save some from eternal damnation. Keep yourselves clean from this world and our flesh. Present your life before Christ as one that is constantly confessing and repenting of sin that you may be blameless at His appearing. Fear not those who would divide and do the work of Satan; God our Savior is the Glorious, Majestic Conqueror and He alone will win in dominion, power and glory forever! Amen.