

Summary/Overview of THE EPISTLE of JUDE

(This teaching was given at the 1st "God's Word, Alive!" Bible Conference; March 22, 2014)

Introduction

- Jude is one of five "one-chapter" books in the Bible. (The others: Obadiah, Philemon, 2 John and 3 John)
- Jude is only one chapter. But, it has much to tell us.
 - Jude can be compared to the condensed items that are on the market, today. For example, what used to come in large bottles is now condensed and comes in very small packages. Although the packaging is smaller, the product is just as effective.
 - Many characters:
 - Divine: God, the Father (v1); God, the Son(v2); God, the Holy Spirit (v19)
 - Angelic: Michael, the archangel (v 9); the devil (v9); sinning angels (v6)
 - Human: saints (v3); the ungodly (v4); some (v22); others (v23)
 - Many situations: angels warring (v9); false teachers among true believers (v4, v12); saints presented to the Holy God (v24); Sodom & Gomorrah destroyed by fire (v7), etc.
 - Wide timeframe: from Cain (v11), to the second coming of the Lord (v14).
- Jude contains the earliest prophecy of the second coming of Jesus (Enoch; Jude 14)
- Two main themes: 1) the ungodly are RESERVED (v6, v13) unto eternal judgment; 2) the righteous are PRESERVED (v 1, v24) unto blamelessness unto a holy God.
- 2 Peter (especially chapters 2 and 3) is closely akin to Jude. – Recommended exercise: Compare 2 Peter chapters 2 and 3 along with Jude to see how many similarities there are.)

Jude 1, 2

- The name "Jude" is a derivative of "Judah," which means "praise unto the Lord!" (Gen 29:35) It is from the name "Judah" that we also have the names: Judea, Judas, Judy, Judith (Gen 26:34)
- Jude's two-fold description of himself:
 - **Servant of Jesus Christ**
 - Servant = one that performs duties of and complies with the commands of another; one that contributes in the welfare of others.
 - Jesus is Lord; we/Believers-Christians are His servants.
 - It is important to remember who we are serving.
 - As Jesus' servant, Jude is writing on Jesus' behalf. (It is the Lord Jesus who has something to tell us in and through Jude.)
 - As servant of Jesus Christ, Jude bestows upon the saints the spiritual gifts/fruit of mercy, peace and love.
 - Compare Jesus Christ, as Servant in Philippians 2:5 – 11.
 - **Brother of James**
 - Both James and Jude were "half-brothers" of Jesus. (Mark 6:3)
 - Never in Scripture, does anyone ever call Jesus "brother" or "elder-brother." Jesus Christ is always addressed, by His children, reverently in the Bible as Lord, Lord Jesus (Christ); Savior. (There are other names the Bible reveals for Jesus Christ, e.g., Prince of Life, King, the Word of God, the Lamb of God, etc.)
 - In Galatians 1:19, Paul refers to James as "the Lord's brother."
- **Jude's letter is addressed to the:**
 - **Sanctified (by God)**
 - Saints, holy ones, set apart "by" God and "for" God.
 - Set apart from the world system; from the judgment and wrath of God.
 - **Preserved (in Jesus Christ) ... Ultimately: We are "preserved" to be "presented." (v24)**
 - To be kept from contamination and corruption.
 - Compare Noah and his family being preserved in the "ark." (Jesus Christ is our "ark," our preserver.)
 - Compare food preservatives (something added to keep from spoilage)

- To keep safe from injury, harm or destruction; to protect, to keep alive and intact (free from decay)
- PRESERVED vs. RESERVED (compare vs 1, 6, 13 and 24)
The fallen angels and apostates: reserved for eternal judgment.
The saints: preserved in Jesus; and kept from eternal damnation and reserved for glory.
- **Called**
 - Summoned unto another.
 - To be brought “out of darkness” into God’s marvelous light.

Jude 3, 4

- **Jude addresses the Believers as: Beloved.**
 - It is out of a “servant’s heart” that Jude sincerely cares for the people.
 - This is in contrast to false teachers and hirelings (v16) (John 10:11 – 13)
 - He calls them “beloved” three times in his epistle (v3, 17, 20)
- **Jude was formerly occupied with writing about our “common salvation.”**
 - Those things we share in common as Believers (cp. Ephesians 4:4 – 6)
 - As Christians, there are many different denominations (e.g., Catholic/Protestant; Baptist, Presbyterian, Methodist, Non-Denominational, etc.) But, we have one faith: Christianity.
 - (Other different faiths that are NON-CHRISTIAN: Buddhism, Hinduism, Unitarianism, Islam/Muslim, Judaism, New Age, etc.)
 - As Christians, with our “one faith” we have many differences as far as how we do things; our mode and manner of worship; our customs, etc. (For example, baptism/sprinkling, pouring or immersion; the place of spiritual gifts; the gift of speaking in tongues; the role of women in the church; the interpretation of end-time prophecy, etc.)
 - (Other faiths that are NON-CHRISTIAN: Buddhism, Hinduism, Unitarianism, Islam/Muslim, Judaism, Jehovah’s Witnesses, New Age, Mormonism, Atheism, etc.)
 - There is a movement ongoing in society today to “put Jesus Christ” on the same level as other “gods.” This is demonic; this is not-of-God. Compare: the “Coexist” movement.
 - The god of this world (Satan) seeks to “REDUCE – REMOVE – REPLACE.” As Christians, “We stand for and contend for the faith.”
 - Jude gave 100% in his writing(s). (We, too, should give our all and not serve the Lord half-heartedly.) cp. Romans 12:11
 - Jude’s writings about “our common salvation” are not revealed to us. (There are “unfinished” and “unseen” good works in our lives; works that are only seen by God.)
 - As Jude was writing, he sensed (spiritually) that the saints needed to know something else.
 - Jude was sensitive to the Spirit’s leading.
 - Jude was aware of the people’s condition and, therefore, he knew (or came to know) what they needed.
 - One can see from Jude’s epistle, that he had a vast knowledge of the Word of God and He knew how to appropriately apply it. Jude was very familiar with the Old Testament and the “words of the apostles” (the then completed New Testament).

Jude’s exhortation: “Earnestly contend for the faith.”

- Earnestly – it denotes haste and diligence; not relaxing in effort.
- Compare the word “contend” in v3 with “contending” in v9.
- Both words indicate a fight. (Although in v3, the “fight” is not a physical, literal one.)

- V3 signifies an intense battle for “the faith”
- Take a stand for “the faith” ... doctrinal truth. (*But, first you must KNOW WHAT WE BELIEVE AS CHRISTIANS.*)

“The faith” is the core beliefs of “Christianity.” As Christians, we believe: (See also Ephesians 4:4 – 6)

- That there is one true and living God.
- God is manifested in three persons (Father; Son; Holy Spirit).
- We believe that Jesus Christ is God. Jesus Christ is Lord.
- We believe that the blood of Jesus fully paid the price for sin.
- We believe that there is only one way to God and that is through faith in Jesus Christ.
- We believe that all are born sinners and stand in need of salvation.
- We believe in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.
- We believe that salvation is by grace, through faith; and not of works.
- We believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God.

“The faith” was “once delivered.”

- There are no additions, editions, revisions, amendments or modifications to the Bible.
- The faith was delivered by Jesus Christ through the Apostles (cp v.17)

False teachers; apostates (v4).

- In contrast to the book of Acts, which is the “Acts of the Apostles” or the “Acts of the Early Church” or the “Acts of the Holy Spirit,” the Epistle of Jude could be called the “Acts of the Apostates.”
- Apostates – apostasy: “a falling away;” a denial of the Christian faith once believed; a departure of the faith; a denial of God and of Jesus Christ, the Lord. (There is no remedy for apostasy.) (Cp. 2 Peter chapters 2 and 3)
- Apostasy is the act of professed Christians who deliberately reject revealed truth. (2 Thessalonians 2:3; 2 Timothy 4:1)
- Apostasy differs from a Christian who may be in error or in ignorance.
- Apostates turn the grace of God into lasciviousness – something sensual and sexual (totally devoid of the Spirit of God).
- From the Scofield Reference Bible: ALL TEACHINGS ORIGINATING FROM DECEIVING SPIRITS:
 - Weaken the authority of the Scriptures.
 - Distort the teachings in Scripture.
 - Add to the Scripture the thoughts of man.
 - Put the Scriptures aside entirely

Certain men crept in unawares.

- They are in our churches.
- They fellowship with us and seek positions of influence. (cp v 12)
- They are often unnoticed.
- They creep in through some lack, laziness, unawareness, ignorance, toleration of sin in the local church.
- Compare the seven churches of the Revelation (notice the weaving of false teachers in and with the true church.) (Revelation chapters 2 and 3)
- “Certain men” also includes women (cp. Jezebel/false prophetess—she’s both in the OT and NT).
- Compare “the kingdom of heaven parables” of Matthew 13.

Jude 5 – 7

3 examples of those who “fell away” through unbelief and rebellion

- Israel – “believed not.”
 - Result: God destroyed them.

- The angels – “kept not.”
 - Result: God reserved them in everlasting chains.
- Sodom & Gomorrah – “gave themselves over to fornication.”
 - Result: They suffered the vengeance of eternal fire

Jude 8 – 19

False teachers described:

- Filthy dreamers.
- Defilers of the flesh.
- Despisers of dominion.
- Speak evil of dignities.
- Speak evil of things which they do not understand.
- They corrupt themselves.
- They go in the way of Cain. (Genesis 4; 1 John 3:12)
- Run greedily (for reward) – Balaam, the example.
- They perished (like Korah). (Numbers 16)
- Spots in your feasts of charity.
- They are without fear.
- Empty – clouds without water; trees without fruit.
- Twice dead.
- Judged – plucked up by the roots.
- Enraged – “raging waves of the sea”
- Eternal judgment awaits them.
- Reserved unto blackness of darkness.
- Ungodly.
- Murmurers.
- Lustful.
- Complainers.
- Boastful.
- Deceitful.
- Mockers.
- Sensual - They have not the Spirit (of God).

Jude 17 – 23

Exhortations to the saints:

- Remember the Word of the Lord (spoken by the Apostles)!
- Build up yourselves (on your most holy faith)!
- Pray (in the Holy Spirit)!
- Keep yourselves in the love of God!
- Look for God’s mercy!
- Have compassion on lost humanity!

Jude 24, 25

A doxology of praise unto God.

- The promise, praise and assurance that God is able:
 - To keep us from falling (into spiritual error; from “the faith”).
 - To present us without blame and faultless unto Himself.

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