

EVANGELICAL BIBLE COLLEGE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA



“LAST WORDS” COMMENTARY

JUDE

(With Perfect Tenses Emphasized)

by

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[BOOK 8]

Revised Easter 2022

WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?

Professor Simon Greenleaf was one of the most eminent lawyers of all time. His "Laws of Evidence" for many years were accepted by all States in the United States as the standard methodology for evaluating cases. He was teaching law at a university in the United States when one of his students asked Professor Greenleaf if he would apply his "Laws of Evidence" to evaluate an historical figure. When Greenleaf agreed to the project he asked the student who was to be the subject of the review. The student replied that the person to be examined would be Jesus Christ. Professor Greenleaf agreed to undertake the examination of Jesus Christ and as a result, when he had finished the review, Simon Greenleaf personally accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as his Saviour.

Professor Greenleaf then sent an open letter to all jurists in the United States jurists saying in part "I personally have investigated one called Jesus Christ. I have found the evidence concerning him to be historically accurate. I have also discovered that Jesus Christ is more than a human being, he is either God or nothing and having examined the evidence it is impossible to conclude other than he is God. Having concluded that he is God I have accepted him as my personal Saviour. I urge all members of the legal profession to use the "Laws of Evidence" to investigate the person of the Lord Jesus Christ and if you find that he is wrong expose him as a faker but if not consider him as your Saviour and Lord"

HOW CAN I BE SAVED?**Salvation is available for all members of the human race.**

Salvation is the most important undertaking in all of God's universe. The salvation of sinners is never on the basis of God's merely passing over or closing His eyes to sin. God saves sinners on a completely righteous basis consistent with the divine holiness of His character. This is called grace. It relies on God so man cannot work for salvation neither can he deserve it. We need to realise that the creation of this vast unmeasured universe was far less an undertaking than the working out of God's plan to save sinners.

However the acceptance of God's salvation by the sinner is the most simple thing in all of life. One need not be rich, nor wise nor educated. Age is no barrier nor the colour of one's skin. The reception of the enormous benefits of God's redemption is based upon the simplest of terms so that there is no one in all this wide universe who need be turned away.

How do I become a Christian?

There is but one simple step divided into three parts. First of all I have to recognise that I am a sinner (Romans 3:23; 6:23; Ezekiel 18:4; John 5:24).

Secondly, realising that if I want a relationship with Almighty God who is perfect, and recognising that I am not perfect, I need to look to the Lord Jesus Christ as the only Saviour (1 Corinthians 15:3; 1 Peter 2:24; Isaiah 53:6; John 3:16).

Thirdly, by the exercise of my own free will I personally receive the Lord Jesus Christ as my Saviour, believing that He died personally for me and that He is what He claims to be in an individual, personal and living way (John 1:12; 3:36; Acts 16:31; 4:12).

The results of Salvation

The results of this are unbelievably wonderful:

My sins are taken away (John 1:29),

I possess eternal life now (1 John 5:11,12),

I become a new creature in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17),

The Holy Spirit takes up His residence in my life (1 Corinthians 6:19),

And I will never perish (John 10:28-30).

This truthfully is life's greatest transaction. This is the goal of all people; this is the ultimate of our existence. We invite and exhort any reader who has not become a Christian by trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ to follow these simple instructions and be born again eternally into God's family (Matthew 11:28; John 1:12; Acts 4:12; 16:31).

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THE LETTER OF JUDE**INTRODUCTION**

Jude is the "epistle on apostasy". It is very appropriate nowadays as many churches are subject to false doctrine and practices, and Jude stands as a reminder of the fatal dangers of ignoring false teachers and teaching.

Jude divides into four sections.

[a]	Introduction.	verses 1-3
[b]	The apostate's position and history.	verses 4-19
[c]	What we ought to do about it as believers.	verse 20-23
[d]	Our confidence in the Lord Jesus Christ.	verses 24-25

This is a very systematic treatment of the subject of the threat of apostasy. It was written by Jude, the name being the Greek form of Judah (Y'hudah). With James (Jacob, Ya'akov), he is one of the half brothers of the Lord Jesus Christ. Both brother's letters are very Jewish in their style and tone, they are practical and focused on correcting specific problems within the local church, and some references can appear to be obscure at first reading. There are similarities to the Pastoral Epistles, as the theme is the same; the defence of the truth of the historic gospel against the attacks of satanic falsehoods that will undermine faith in the only truth that saves and protects the Lord's people. There is a strong emphasis upon the eternal consequences of decisions made by the churches in time, drawn attention to by the use of the perfect tense in the Greek.

The Letter of Jude also bears many similarities to 2 Peter, from which some believe it draws much of its content. (Note 1). It is clear that one was used by the other, but which is first is still a point of debate, where good scholars differ. Compare Jude 3 - 18, with 2 Peter 2:1-18, and see the parallels. The probability is that clearly not much time elapsed between them. In Jude we have, I believe, the first thought, in Peter the second thought. (Refer A T Robertson, 1933, Vol VI, page 183). Mayor and Robertson's conclusion, "feels right", but this is as precise as we can be. Both men will extensively use perfect tenses to underline the eternal consequences of wrongful and faithful decisions. They are Holy Spirit led, not copyists of each other – but in their combination we get binocular vision onto the subject of falsehoods.

The heretics appear to be people who combine several eastern philosophies with basic sexual immorality; as Moffatt, 1963, describes them, "an unholy alliance between speculative theosophy and practical immorality". (Page 220).

Jude speaks like an old Hebrew prophet, as that is his context, and we are directed to remember our place in the affections of the Father, and so correct our lives. This is balanced by the clear judgement message, with what one writer calls, the "whirlwind of his wrath", being held out as the Lord's answer to this sort of evil. (Farrar, page 227).

While Jude's authorship has been questioned, (Note 2), we have good evidence from history that it is as it appears, the work of the Lord's half brother. The early church councils debated this letter thoroughly and were closer to events than we are. "What reason have we for rejecting the verdict of Ecclesiastics and theologians of the fourth and fifth centuries, who were well aware of the doubts which had been raised respecting the authority of the letter and after serious and prolonged consideration decided that it possessed full canonical authority." (Plummer, 1896, page 366).

Out of interest there are a number of men with the name Jude / Judas / Judah in the New Testament, and it was a very common name in the first century. There was the betrayer, Judas, and the one Judas, not Iscariot, **John 14:22**. There is Jude of James, **Luke 6:6**, Jude the Lord's brother, **Matthew 13:55**, Jude of Galilee, **Acts 5:37**, Jude of Damascus, **Acts 9:11**, and, Jude Barsabbas, **Acts 15:22**.

We know very little about our author Jude. Farrar notes, "Even tradition, which delights to furnish particulars respecting the apostles and leaders of the early church is silent about him". During the persecution under Domitian, Jude's grandsons were brought before the Emperor, as the descendants of the throne of David they may have been suspected threats to Rome, but Eusebius (3:20) records that they were poor farmers with only about seven acres of land between them. (Recorded in, Farrar 1882, page 221 - 225). The Romans quickly saw they were no political threat.

We are reminded in this story of the ordinariness and simple, even in our terms, economically unsuccessful lives, of the believers within the early church, and also of the cost of discipleship for many of the early Jewish believers. Dean Farrar speaks of, "the simplicity and poverty which continued to the end to be the earthly lot of those who were connected with the Holy family of Nazareth". (Farrar, IBID, page 225).

This little Letter was written to the churches in Palestine in the period 66-69 AD, (Note 3) and combined with the letter to the Hebrews, which also dates from around this time, it was the last warning to the Jewish churches before the Roman war brought an end to Judea, Jerusalem and the temple, exactly as prophesied. **Daniel 9:25-27**. It was a time of terrorism and political instability, with a series of inefficient Roman Procurators, and many terrible things were happening in Jerusalem with murder and assassinations becoming daily events, and a general breakdown of law and order. In this

environment the Church was not giving the clear witness that the days demanded. In our own troubled days, like those of Jude, we must ask ourselves, are we giving the clear witness to the world that it desperately needs?

There were many people in the church who were teaching false doctrine. They were robbing the Christians of their assurance at the very time when they needed to be confident in the truth. The good news is, the members of the Jewish churches of Palestine heeded these "Last Words" letters, and they correctly acted in accordance with them, and were saved from the great catastrophe that befell the unbelieving Jewish people in the years of the rebellion (66-71AD).

The church at Jerusalem required the "last words" book of Hebrews, as its last warning, a few months or years after this little letter of Jude arrived. Many in that church stayed in the city until it was first besieged, and then escaped when the Romans lifted the siege for a time in October 66, but they left with what they could carry only; all their homes were lost. Note God's grace here, as 2 Timothy, 2 Peter, Jude and Hebrews were sent as warnings to the Jewish (and other) churches, and the believers were delivered in God's grace, even though at the last opportunity.

Jude quotes from and alludes to both the book of Enoch and the Assumption of Moses. These two non-canonical books have never been accepted as Scripture by the church as a whole, but were "highly esteemed" by the early church. (Green, 1968, page 49). Our position on this matter is clear; the parts of these two books that are alluded to or quoted from are clearly certified by the Holy Spirit as correct, but that does not mean the whole text of these books is correct. Jude refers to the parts that are true, but as to the rest of them, the early Church decided they were not up to scriptural standard for truth. Refer to the Bible Topic Book, Doctrine of Canoncity, also Systematic Theology Lectures.

TEXT - JUDE VERSES 1 - 3

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: 2 Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied. 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.

KEY WORDS

Sanctified	Agapao	(Perfect Passive Participle) Loved, in past with results that keep on going. God's work for us is eternal in its consequence/results.
Preserved	Tereo	(Perfect Passive Participle) Kept, guarded, watched over and kept safe. We are eternally and securely kept by the Lord.
Called	Kletos	[Verbal adjective], called ones.
Multiplied	Plethuno	(Aorist Active Optitive) expresses a wish; that mercy and peace might be multiplied and you might receive it.
Diligence	Spoude	All speed and haste, earnestly to write. Real concern.
Common	Koine	Common to all.
Needful	Anagke	Compulsion, necessity; he could do nothing else.
Exhort	Parakaleo	(Perfect Active Participle) To keep on urging, encouraging, beseeching – the results are eternal of this work.
Earnestly	Epagonizomai	(Present middle Infinitive) To struggle as an athlete who is giving Contend their all to win a contest at the games.
Once	Hapax	One and only.
Delivered	Paradidomi	(Aorist Passive Participle) Delivered over, handed down, committed or entrusted to.

ANALYSIS AND BACKGROUND

Verse 1. This verse brings us face to face with God, for Jude sums up the activity of the Godhead that led to our salvation. We are reminded immediately we open this letter that we must be sure of our place as believers, our position in Christ and our calling. Jude is a fundamentalist, and this is the fundamentalist epistle; he stands upon the apostolic foundation of historic Christianity. We rest in Christ Jesus upon eternal foundations in God's Plan, and eternal promises that are secure because they rest upon the eternal certainties of God's holy Character. Note the Perfect tenses in this first verse; we are "sanctified/loved", we are securely "kept/guarded" – with eternal and absolutely dependable results.

Jude tells us to stand here also, to stand in the truth that the early church received from the Holy Spirit, and not to compromise the truth in any way. The foundation of assurance is surety in our knowledge of the stability of the character of God; the Lord is stable in all the characteristics of his nature. He is always, Lord of all, just, righteous, truthful, loving, gracious, full of mercy, all powerful, all knowing, and unchanging; and our salvation depends on his nature not the strength of our faith. **Matthew 17:20.** Faith expressed may be foolish, if the object of faith is unreliable, but the Lord isn't!

Even though he is thought to be the half brother of the Lord Jesus Christ, he did not claim anything special because of his family relationship, instead he claims servant hood to the risen Lord. It was the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ that convinced James and Jude of his Messiahship, and they were humbled by their salvation, and bowed before his Lordship. Their physical relationship through Mary was a matter of no consequence to them, for they saw that the Lord has no "relatives", only sons and daughters in his grace, through personal faith. Jude is humble, he is devoted to his Lord, so should we be! Too many believers today get familiar with the Lord. This is a verse, with **James 1:1**, that reminds

us to be respectful and humble, he is our Lord and our God, and we are sons and daughters under his authority, and must not speak and act arrogantly. **Matthew 20:25-28, John 13:1ff, 15:1-17.**

As a servant he classifies himself, like Paul, as a "doulos" or bond slave. There were different classifications of slaves such as the school teaching slave, the tutor and governor as indicated in Galatians. They had responsibilities and certain privileges even though they were slaves or servants, but the bond slave had none, being available to his master at any time until his death. In addition there was no chance of him being set free. If you are a minister of the Word of God you are a "doulos" for Christ. This is a positive thing however, for we live here to serve, our reward and true position will only be seen in heaven. All pastor-teachers are challenged to "look up" only for reward and acknowledgement.

They were sanctified by the Father, preserved by the Lord Jesus Christ and called by the Holy Spirit. Instead of the word sanctified most manuscripts have the word loved by the Father. This word incorporates both concepts; sanctification and loved, and so could best be translated as "constantly loved and sanctified" forever (perfect tense); whichever manuscript reading is correct the meaning is the same, we are loved and saved by the plan and work of God for us forever.

We are the recipients of God's love and God's gracious work, and the results of being loved flow on forever. We are made something new, becoming permanently objects of our Father's love. Knowledge of the perfect love that God has for us, casts out all fears for our safety and eternal security. **1 John 4:15-19.** Most commentators believe that the original word was the perfect passive participle of "agapao", and this underlines God's character, plan and provision for us.

Preserved is the present passive participle of "tereo" which is a military word meaning guarded or garrisoned by God. The perfect tense here, like that of agapao, shows action in the past that continues forever, passive voice, we receive it. Both of these concepts are summed up in the 23rd Psalm. God's Character is on the line. If God lost us he loses His absolute character. You are perfectly the recipient of God's love. You are called, and those He calls, He keeps forever.

We are set upon the rock, and our eternal position is secure. Every cult tries to undermine believers at this point. On verses like these we as a College stand for the doctrine of "Eternal Security", or as the old Calvinistic theologians called it, "The perseverance of the Saints", and as one wag put it, the "eternal insecurity of the aints". Arminianism, with its doctrinal position that you can lose your salvation, gives you an insecure faith that then leads to emotional swings. Jude says remember your position in Christ, and be stabilised. There is no room for emotionalism in our faith – it is upon the "Rock" that is the perfect person and work of Christ. Too much theology of men is garbage built upon the sands of their limited thinking abilities, or excessive emotionality! **He cares for you - 1 Peter 5:7, you are kept by his power not your own, and it is God's Holy Character we rest upon, not our feelings. John 6:47, 65, 2 Timothy 1:7.**

Verse 2. Jude uses the optative mood here, which is a mood reflecting his wish or desire for the believers. He wants three things to be multiplied in the believers' lives; mercy, peace, and love. "If mercy, peace and love are ever lacking it bespeaks not a stinted supply of grace, but a failure to enter into what is freely bestowed upon all who receive with thanksgiving what our God so delights to give". (Ironsides, 1983, page 10).

Multiplied - "plethuno" is in the aorist passive optative. The aorist tense is a "point of time" tense, and here the meaning is in a cumulative sense, so Jude is saying, "at all points of time in your life my wish is that you should receive, (passive voice), an increase and multiplication in your soul of mercy, peace and love". The passive voice shows that these are ministries of the Holy Spirit to be received by and through obedience to the Lord's words. **John 15:14.**

Mercy - "eleos" - is the deep desire not to see another person hurt and to look after the best interests of others. It is to give the unbeliever the gospel so that they can be spared the horrors of hell. Mercy reflects on yourself on the basis that if there is something in your life which offends others you will see this and take steps to rectify it. Mercy cuts both ways; it is a two edged sword that corrects the soul who possesses it, and challenges all it meets to be kind and considerate.

Peace - "eirene" - is peace, tranquillity and prosperity of soul. It is the state of the soul of a believer who is secure in the Lord Jesus Christ. If you know you are secure you have peace of mind. The unbeliever seeks such peace in the insecurities of the evils of the world, and we have the obligation to be like a city on a hill, a light on a lamp stand, to show what is possible when a person is under the loving care of the living God.

Love - "agape" - the deep concern for the ultimate well being of others. God alone has this total care for us and we are under his care permanently. If we love others we tell them the truth and share with them the only way out of the emptiness of this world. Remember Jesus words, **Matthew 7:13-23**, "by their fruit you know them...."

Jude is going to contrast these characteristics with the attitudes of the apostates, as it is by the characteristics of a person's life and behaviours that you truly know them. As believers we must be fruit inspectors. Matthew 7. The fruit that flows from a life is an indicator as to where the person is; either with the Lord, or with the enemy. It is not the dramatic gifts of the Holy Spirit that give a guide, for some of these can be counterfeited by Satan. The only thing that Satan cannot counterfeit is the holiness of the Lord seen through the believer's life in the fruit of the Holy Spirit within them.

Verse 3. Be sure of your position firstly, be sure of your own ground, before you take on the enemy. Get your armour on, be filled with the Spirit, and be prayerfully speaking to your God every minute, and so be ready for the enemy. It is a battlefield we walk upon here and now, not a religious theme park! **Ephesians 5:14-21, 6:14-18.**

"Beloved" is your title as a believer. Really celebrate the fact that you are loved of God. We were all saved the same way by grace through faith. There are no super saints. No one should come in and count them selves as special. We are all members of the royal family of God. **1 Peter 2:9-10**. We are all saved in a common way and so we are all common royalty. We are also workmen studying to show ourselves approved by God. Let us enjoy being God's called and royal workmen. The only place of "arrogance-free" equality like this is in Christ.

Note the word "needful" - you must not forget that it will always be necessary to stand for the truth. It is needful that you stand for the truth because where error is present it must be faced even if there is going to be trouble. However before you act make sure you are on firm ground. You contend for the faith; not your opinion of the truth! You contend without being contentious, but when you hear of error you do not let the sun go down without opposing it.

We must always oppose those who distort the Scriptures. Sit down with them and go through the Scriptures with them. Jude hadn't intended to write, he had spent over thirty years as a believer and not written before. It was the challenge that these false teachers gave that forced him to put pen to paper to authoritatively record their condemnation before he passed on and the judgement fell upon the churches that were led astray. "The faith once delivered, needs neither angelic nor human additions. It is perfect and complete and the man of God will refuse all other newer revelations." (Ironsides, 1983, page 12).

If you have a cultic group in your church the only thing that will give them a chance to reconsider their position is the fruit of the Holy Spirit in your life as you earnestly speak with them. Only with a pure and loving life can you then begin the teaching in that area to show them where they are wrong. They should be asked to examine their own lives and their own motives. If they are contentious but you are calm, holy and loving, you are on solid ground, and the Holy Spirit will be able to work through you and upon them.

The phrase, "once delivered unto the saints", is an important one. The truth of the gospel was once and for all delivered unto the saints. No one is authorised to change it. Most of the liberal churches fail at this point. The liberals will say that this teaching was all right in the first century but we now know better; we have new information. That view, Jude says, is false. No additions and no deletions are to be allowed from the Word of God. The fruit of arrogance is the fruit of Satan!

"Hapax" is the word used for once and for all. God gave a revelation to the apostles and it stands. What we are writing, Jude states, stands, and do not think that anyone can change it, they can't. No one can come along to correct Paul, John, James or Jude. Keep on "Exhorting" all to remember the eternal nature of the revelation received by the Apostles – it has results that go on forever. The perfect tense reminds us to make the choices clear to all – for if people get it wrong they get it wrong eternally. The result of abusing or ignoring the "truth once delivered" to the apostles goes on forever in judgment! The results that flow from embracing the truth also goes on forever in joyful fellowship with God, the elect angels, and all the saved of space-time.

If they say they "know better", they are trying to correct the Holy Spirit who made the authors write – (aorist, passive participle of "paradidomi") – they are seriously and fatally in error, and are directly insulting God. It was delivered at one point in time and entrusted to the writers of the Scripture as the authoritative revelation, and it stands until the Lord's return as his Holy Word to us, not men's words about God. Keep on contending for the truth – for to ignore this truth is to face eternity without hope and without God. As we near the Lord's Return we see more and more churches rejecting the Holy Word and spinning their own fantasies in the place of authoritative truth.

APPLICATION

It is not good enough just to believe the Word of God, for the life of the believer must be beyond reproach also. Like James, Jude states that, "it is not enough to uphold the doctrines of Christ, the behaviour must also commend the truth which the lips proclaim". (Ironsides, 1983, page 15). Remember, Satan and the demons know the Bible is truth indeed, and they tremble – we must do a lot more than just "tremble" at the truth. **James 1:22-27, 2:14-26**.

We live because of God's mercy towards us, and we must operate towards others in the sphere of mercy ourselves. We have received the peace of God that passes all understanding and have the obligation to share this joy with all who will hear of it or wish to know of it. We are loved, and we must be loving. To achieve all this we need, the filling of the Holy Spirit, and this involves confession of sin whenever required. What this involves is prompt dealing with any sin in life (1 John 1:9) so that not a shadow comes between us and the Lord and his word and will for our lives.

We are to stand for the faith of the apostles, and argue for that alone; no changes, no new policies, just new people and situations to apply the Lord's principles. There is blessing when we do things God's way, and trouble when we do things our way! We walk in the Spirit and we are fruitful, not just talkative or emotional.

PARAPHRASE

"Judah (Y'hudah), the bond slave of Jesus Christ, and brother of Jacob (Ya'akov), to them that are permanently loved by God the Father, and eternally guarded by the Lord Jesus Christ; to those who are these called ones. May God's wonderful mercy, and peace be multiplied to you. My beloved ones, when I earnestly used all haste to write to you, I did so because of the nature of the subject; the salvation that is the common experience of us all. It was necessary for me to write to you, and urge and encourage you to strive like an athlete for a gold medal, for our precious faith, which was once for all time entrusted to us through the apostles."

DOCTRINES**GOD: THE CHARACTER OF GOD**

Whilst God is revealed to us in three persons all three persons have exactly the same essence or character:

a) SOVEREIGNTY

The Father (Ephesians 1:11, cf. Isaiah 40:8, Matthew 6:10, Hebrews 10:7, 9)

The Son (John 5:21, Revelation 19:16)

The Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:11, cf. Hebrews 2:4)

b) RIGHTEOUSNESS

The Father (John 17:25)

The Son (Luke 1:35, Hebrews 7:26, 2 Corinthians 5:21)

The Spirit The Holy Spirit

c) JUSTICE

The Father (Job 37:23, cf. 8:3)

The Son (Acts 3:14, John 5:22, Revelation 19:11)

The Spirit (Nehemiah 9:20)

d) LOVE

The Father (John 3:16)

The Son (Ephesians 5:25, 1 John 3:16)

The Spirit (John 16:7-11, 1 Corinthians 2:10)

e) ETERNAL LIFE

The Father (John 5:26)

The Son (Micah 5:2, cf. John 1:1-2, 1 John 5:11)

The Spirit (Isaiah 48:16)

f) ALL-KNOWING

The Father (Hebrews 4:13, cf. Matthew 11:27, 1 Peter 1:2)

The Son (John 18:4, cf. Matthew 9:4, John 2:25, 1 Corinthians 4:5)

The Spirit (Isaiah 11:2, cf. 1 Corinthians 2:11)

g) EVERYWHERE

The Father (2 Chronicles 2:6)

The Son (Matthew 28:20, cf. Ephesians 1:23)

The Spirit (Psalm 139:7)

h) ALL-POWERFUL

The Father (Mark 14:36, cf. 1 Peter 1:5)

The Son (Hebrews 1:3, cf. Matthew 24:30, 2 Corinthians 12:9, Philippians 3:21)

The Spirit (Romans 15:19)

i) UNCHANGEABLE

The Father (Hebrews 6:17, Psalm 33:11)

The Son (Hebrews 13:8)

The Spirit (John 14:16)

j) TRUTH

The Father (John 7:28, John 17:3)

The Son (1 John 5:20, cf. John 1:14, 14:6, Revelation 19:11)

The Spirit (1 John 5:6, cf. John 14:17, 15:26, 16:13)

BIBLE: INSPIRATION

1. The principle of inspiration is found in (2 Timothy 3:16) "All Scripture is God breathed" - Gk. THEO PNEUSTOS.

The Holy Spirit communicated to the human authors God's complete plan (2 Samuel 23:2, 3, Isaiah 59:21, Jeremiah 1:9, Matthew 22:42, 43, Mark 12:36, Acts 4:24, 25, 28:25).

The human authors of Scripture so wrote that in spite of their personalities, they were able to communicate God's plan with perfect accuracy in the language they wrote.

2. The origin of Scripture is beyond human viewpoint (2 Peter 1:20, 21).

3. The Bible is the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16). Therefore it is the absolute standard for believers (Psalm 138:2).
4. Pre-canon revelation from God occurred through the Holy Spirit. There was no written scripture until the time of Moses (2Samuel 23:2, Ezekiel 2:2, 8:3, 11:1, 24, Micah 3:8, Hebrews 3:7).
5. Four categories of Old Testament revelation:
 - a) The spoken word - thus saith the Lord (Isaiah 6:9, 10, Acts 28:25).
 - b) Dreams (Numbers 12:6, Genesis 15:12, 31:10-13, 31:24, Daniel 10:9) - whilst asleep.
 - c) Visions (Isaiah 1:1, 6:1, 1 Kings 22:19) - whilst awake.
 - d) Angelic teaching (Deuteronomy 33:2, Acts 7:53, Galatians 3:19, Psalm 68:17).
6. The extent of revelation:
 - a) The unknown past - the Bible portrays past historical details unknown to man apart from revelation (Genesis chapters 1-11). The accuracy of these historical facts is guaranteed by inspiration, e.g. Creation, Noah's Flood.
 - b) Ancient history - whilst the Bible is not a text book of history, all historical citations are accurate.
 - c) Objective law - the Old Testament contains many laws for both individuals and national life. These laws express perfectly the mind of God to those people to whom they are addressed.
 - d) Some portions of the Bible contain direct quotations from God. The doctrine of inspiration guarantees that such quotations are properly recorded exactly as God desired.
 - e) God uses the emotions, trials and triumphs of certain believers to declare His grace in devotional literature like the Psalms, Song of Solomon
 - f) Inspiration extends to the recording of falsehoods just as they were uttered - Satan Genesis 3:4.
 - g) Inspiration guarantees the accuracy of all recorded prophecies.

FATHERHOOD OF GOD

1. The Father over creation - all beings get their life and very existence from God (Ephesians 3:14, James 1:17).
2. The Father of Israel - Exodus 4:22 - Israel is my son - this is my firstborn. God has a special relationship with Israel.
3. Protecting and caring for the nation. However, not all Jews are saved.
4. The Father of the Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:3).
 - a) This indicates the roles within the Trinity - the Father God in control, and the obedient Son Of God who obeyed the Father's plan and purpose.
 - b) It also shows the intimate relationship of love and dependence between the earthly Jesus and His true Father in heaven.
5. The Father of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 8:15, Galatians 4:6-7)
 - a) Only in Christ do we become brothers (Galatians 3:27-29). This is the result of the Holy Spirit who baptizes us into the body of Christ and makes us a new creation in Him (1 Corinthians 12:13, Ephesians 4:5).
 - b) God is not the spiritual father of the unregenerate man, they are His creation but not His children (John 14:6). Before salvation we were sons of our sinful nature (John 8:42-47, Ephesians 2:19).

ETERNAL SECURITY

1. When a person truly trusts Jesus Christ for salvation, he is saved forever. He cannot lose his salvation.
2. POSITIONAL APPROACH (Romans 8:38-39)
We are united with Christ ("in Christ"). Absolutely nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ.
3. LOGICAL APPROACH (Romans 8:32, Romans 5)

As unbelievers we are enemies of God (Romans 5), as believers we are his children. If he did the most for his enemies what will he do for his children? This excludes loss of salvation for he saved us while we were his enemies.

4. GOD'S HANDS APPROACH (John 10:28, Psalm 37:24)

Neither shall anyone seize them out of my hand. God is all-powerful.

5. EXPERIENTIAL APPROACH (2 Timothy 2:12-13)

If we deny Christ He is going to deny us rewards (context=suffering and rewards). If we renounce Him, HE REMAINS FAITHFUL. The believer is in Christ and Christ indwells the believer. He cannot deny Himself.

6. THE FAMILY APPROACH (Galatians 3:26, John 1:12)

When you believe in Christ you are born again as a child of God. You cannot be unborn, once a child always a child.

7. THE INHERITANCE APPROACH (1 Peter 1:4-5)

We have an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled which fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for us who are kept by the power of God. Perfect tense - it will always be reserved, since it is kept by God, not us.

8. THE SOVEREIGNTY APPROACH (2 Peter 3:9, Jude 24)

He is not willing that any should perish - refers to the whole human race (2 Peter 3:9) Now unto him who is able to keep you from falling (from perishing). Once you are saved, it is His will that you don't perish.

9. THE BODY APPROACH (1 Corinthians 12:21, Colossians 1:18)

Christ is the head, we are the members of the body. If any are lost, the body of Christ is incomplete.

10. THE GREEK TENSE APPROACH (Ephesians 2:8-9)

"For by Grace are ye saved." Perfect tense of the verb "sozo". For by Grace have you been saved in the past so that you go on being saved forever.

11. THE SEALING MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT APPROACH (2 Corinthians 1:22, Ephesians 1:13, 4:30)

In the ancient world the seal was a guarantee for protection. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit guarantees our security.

ELECTION AND PREDESTINATION

1. The Biblical concept of predestination does not conflict with human freewill.

2. Christ was predestined for a specific purpose from eternity past - to go to the cross and be raised to glory (Isaiah 42:1, 1Peter 2:4-6, Acts 2:23).

3. All members of the human race are potentially elect by the Father under the concept of unlimited atonement (2 Peter 3:9, 1John 2:2).

4. When a person trusts in Christ for salvation, he is united with Christ and therefore shares His election and destiny (1Corinthians 1:2, 30, Romans 8:28, 32, Ephesians 1-4).

5. Election is closely linked with foreknowledge. In eternity past, God knew who would believe, He therefore predestined them, called them, and they were saved (Romans 8:29-30, 2 Timothy 1:9).

6. Therefore, election and predestination applies to the believer only. No person is predestined for hell - it is a choice of freewill (John 3:18, John 3:36).

7. Election is a present and future possession of every believer (John 15:16, Colossians 3:12).

8. Election is also the foundation of the universal church (1 Thessalonians 1:4).

9. There are five Greek words used in conjunction with predestination:

a) Pro Orizo - to predesign (Romans 8:28, 29, Ephesians 1:5, 11)

b) Protithemi - to predetermine (Romans 3:25, Ephesians 1:9)

c) Prothesis - a predetermined plan (Romans 8:28, 9:11, Ephesians 1:11, 3:11, 2 Timothy 1:9)

d) Proginosko - to foreordain, to preordain. (Romans 8:29, 11:2, 1 Peter 1:20)

e) Prognosis - foreknowledge or predetermined purpose (Acts 2:23, 1 Peter 1:2).

10. The life of Judas is a good illustration of predestination and freewill:

- a) God's call is to all people, His desire is that all will be saved. (Matthew 28:18-20, John 3:16 1 John 2:2, 3:23)
- b) God is long suffering towards the lost, not willing that any should perish. (2 Peter 3:9)
- c) God's call is to all, but people must respond. (John 3:36, 16:8-11)
- d) God's call is of love. (Jeremiah 31:3, John 3:16)
- e) Those who resist become hardened in their souls and open to Satanic influence or possession. (Romans 1:20-32, 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12)
- f) Judas was chosen in love by the Lord (Matthew 10:1-4, John 13:18) and received the sop of the honoured guest and sat at the Lord's right hand at supper.
- g) However Judas was a thief and a traitor. (John 12:6, 13:18)
- h) As an unsaved man he was involved in evangelism. Others were probably saved through his reading of the word but he was not. (Matthew 10:1-8)
- i) He became the Son of Perdition by his decision, he could not blame anyone else (John 17:12)

BROTHERHOOD OF BELIEVERS

- 1. All believers are referred to as brothers (gk adelphos), the Greek word used indicating family relationship with both male and female included. As members of the same family who will rule throughout all eternity together it is of the greatest importance to have a special attitude towards our fellow believers (1 Peter 2:5, 9-10, Revelation 5:10).
- 2. This attitude should be one of agape love or caring for the ultimate well being of others (1Peter 2:17, 3:8, 1John 3:23, 4:12).
- 3. We are our brothers keepers, not by way of interference but by being active and alert for their good (Genesis 4:9 cf. James 5:20, 2 Thessalonians 3:15).
- 4. Because of family closeness there is a danger that one member may lead another astray, so discipline is required (1Corinthians 5:11).
- 5. In our family there must be a readiness to forgive (Matthew 18:21).
- 6. The world has its own brotherhood of evil and sin (John 15:19).
- 7. The soul and fruit of a person shows the family to which they belong (Matthew 12:33).
- 8. All of us were born into Adam's family (1 Corinthians 15:22).
- 9. We either stay there in sin or become a member of the Lord's family (John 8:42-44).

FUNDAMENTALISM - (Contending for the faith once delivered)

- 1. Fundamentalism requires belief in:-
 - a) The deity of Christ and the virgin birth
 - b) The miracles of Christ
 - c) The cross of Christ on which He paid for the sins of the world as God's efficacious substitutionary sacrifice
 - d) The bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ
 - e) The certainty of the yet to come Second Coming of the Lord for His church and to judge
 - f) The inerrancy of the Bible as the Word of God.
- 2. False teachers and liberal theologians will distort all or some of these doctrines.

TEXT - JUDE VERSES 4 - 7

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. **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. **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. **7** Even as Sodom and Gomorrhah, 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.

KEY WORDS

Certain	Tines	Certain sort of man
Crept	Pareisduomai	(Aorist Active Indicative) Slipped in alongside secretly like a spy or enemy agent in time of war.
Unawares	(no word)	The concept here is carried in the word above, these people are never spotted until they show themselves, and we must be vigilant
Ordained	Prographo	(Perfect Passive Participle) Written down ages ago in God's book of judgement
Condemnation	Krima	Sentence of judgement.
Ungodly	Asebeis	Without respect for God, impious, ignoring God
Turning	Metatithemi	(Present Active Participle) Always changing the nature of a thing
Lasciviousness	Aselgeia	Immorality and uncontrolled living
Denying	Arneomai	(Present Middle Participle) Saying "no" to, denying(the right of the Lord to tell them what to do
Remembrance	Hupomimnesko	(Aorist Active Infinitive] I want to cause you to remember
Destroyed	Apollumi	(Aorist Active Indicative) He destroyed and ruined them.
Believed	Pisteuo	(Aorist Active Participle) plus me Those who kept on rejecting the truth
Kept not	tereo	(Perfect Active Indicative) Guarded not at one point with permanent results for them of judgement
Left	Apoleipo	(Aorist Active Participle) Left behind, deserted, forsook their place
Reserved	tereo	(Perfect Active Indicative) God keeps them guarded perfectly
Like Manner	Homoios mentoi	Similar, of the same basic sort of problem
Fornication	ekporneuo	Aorist Active Participle) Indulged in excessive, and unnatural immorality
Other flesh	sarx heteros	Flesh of a different kind than is natural, or ordered by the creator
Set forth	prokeimai	(Perfect Middle Indicative) Laid out before us all, as a corpse is laid out in a public place for all to see
Example	deigma	Sample of the crop to come; these show what evil will continue to be like through the ages
Suffering	upecho	(Present Active Participle) Undergoing suffering continually
Vengeance	dike	The penalty, the judicial punishment given by a judge
Eternal	aionios	Unto the ages; eternity of time without time; everlasting

ANALYSIS AND BACKGROUND

"It has ever been the object of Satan to secretly introduce evil workers into the assemblies of the saints of God, that thus the simple and the unwary may be deceived and led astray". (Ironsides, 1983, page 16).

Jude had to write to counter the threat of spiritual saboteurs, spies, and terrorists who had crept into the churches and were undermining the faith of believers from within the church itself. All such people are condemned by the Lord as far back as **Deuteronomy 13:1-11**, where severe judgement is spelled out for all who lead others from the truth. Jude reminds the people of his day and ours that the Bible has many examples of the Lord's judgement upon these evil ones and we are to remember these and take warning from them. He reminds them, and us, of three great apostasies; the angels, the Israelites and the pagans of the cities of the Plain. To protect ourselves we must hold onto the truth of the gospel message.

We are not followers of a martyr or a hero who died on the cross; rather, we are servants of the risen Lord Jesus Christ, the king of kings and Lord of Lords. Apostolic teaching makes clear that the crucifixion must always be looked at in the light of the resurrection, and the two spoken of together, for we serve a victorious Saviour. It is not where you were born or who your parents are, it is whether you are born again that matters eternally. We focus on, "eternal life perspective"!

We have to remember the tremendous riches we have in Christ Jesus, for these evil people will try to rob us of our heritage in Christ. It is because we have this position in Christ that Satan hates us so much and is involved in infiltrating and undermining local congregations, doctrinally, organisationally and any other way he can. Satan hates you believer!

John 15:18ff. He is doomed, and your salvation proves again that he is rightly judged, for if a pathetic creature like you can accept the gospel and bow their knee to God, then he should have as a far more intellectually superior creature! He knows he is doomed, and he hates you because you are saved! He wants to create misery for you, and this is why he attacks believers so much; he cannot stand a happy and stable Christian.

Jude talks about the tactics that Satan uses to destroy churches. Satan does not want any of the believers to enjoy the position we have in Christ Jesus. When a person believes and is saved, Satan recognises that he has lost them and that they are not going to spend eternity in the lake of fire with him, but he is going to try and give them as much fire as possible while they are here so that they do not enjoy their position in Christ.

When a believer is out of fellowship he/she is susceptible to Satanic attack for they have grieved or quenched the Holy Spirit's protective work within them. After they were saved, like the seed of the sower in the Lord's parable, the brambles of sin and worldliness, have grown up around them, and they were choked. Part of the job of the pastor is to use the sword of the Spirit to cut down the brambles of falsehoods, but the person concerned also has to do the weeding, and weed out their own persistent sins from the fabric of their daily life.

They must also sow the seed of the Word into their own life, or there will be no lasting crop for them to harvest except weeds. When someone is saved the battle has not been won completely. You must redouble your efforts with them to bring them through to spiritual maturity thus bringing them through the next section of satanic attack that will come upon them, and warning them to stay alert. The cause of the fall of most churches and believers into sin, or spiritual uselessness, is found in this book. The central cause is the lack of biblical application into the fabric of daily life. Truth must be heard, believed, and applied passionately into the fabric of each and every day.

Verse 4. The people who came in "unawares" came in by the side door. This is a terrorist/spy attack – a satanic "hit squad" has entered the church to destroy it from within. **John 10:1-10** is the passage that will later capture in a fourth Gospel what Jude is referring to here. The Lord says that those who come in any other way than through the door (himself) are thieves and evil men, come to kill the sheep. We all too often under-estimate the malice of the enemy. Jesus reminds us – the enemy hates us. **John 15:18ff.** We are however secure in the Lord love, and safe on His path for our life.

The Greek word here is, "pareidouomai", and is the aorist active indicative. This means, aorist tense, they came in at different points of time, and this is a reality in the church through history, and always will be. They have crept in to stir people up, get them distracted, and destroy them. John 10:10 says that the purpose that Jesus Christ came was that all who believe in him might have life, and have it more abundantly, and so do not expect Satan to rejoice when this happens. Increase prayerfulness believers – the enemy is consistent and dependable in his hatred. It is all however written about from before time – their behaviour was foreseen by God and their final doom/judgment is as certain as their present malice. Jude is reminding us by the perfect tense here that the future is settled in the eternal plan of God.

All who come through the true door of salvation have that life, but these people don't; they are not there to enjoy life in Christ but to eat and molest sheep! They are in the church but they have not come through the door, they have not come through Christ, they are not genuine believers at all, they are "make believers" – hypocrites and spies from the enemy. They are the wolves and the Lord's words over them are words of judgement and condemnation. We should be as tough as the Lord is over those who enter the church for any other reason than to worship, serve, love him and his flock.

There are two passages that come to mind in relation to this verse of Jude. The first is **2 Corinthians 11:13-15**. Paul pictures these false people as masquerading as followers of Christ, but they are deceitful; they are of Satan, who is able to change into/pretend to be an angel of light. These people, Paul says are not going to come into the church with horns on their heads, tails and carrying a trident. This is the Greek god Pan and not the Satan of the Bible. We must be careful we do not follow the Hollywood version of the devil, rather than the Biblical one. He is the most beautiful creature that God ever created, he looks good and sounds good, and he is not an ugly troll. He is beauty personified, a PR marketing machine of falsehood, who leads people away from truth, and that is the really powerful evil of him.

The second passage is, **2 Timothy 3:1-6**, where Paul notes that these people who follow Satan and his viewpoint, look religious, but deny the true spiritual power of living faith. These are deceitful people, and from these people genuine believers are to turn away. They have a form of godliness but have no relationship with God. Behind closed doors their lives are different altogether. These people zero in on women who have unhappy relationships at home which is probably more than 50% of all men and women. If a man is evil he can exploit the unhappiness of another's wife very effectively. Their ungodliness is rooted in their rejection of the authority and guidance of God in all matters; they act independently and in opposition to God's revealed plan and will. They hate morality, they hate goodness, and they delight in destroying beauty and godliness.

This is very much a part of the present church scene and this should not surprise you. God forewarned us - "prographo" - He has written before - He has revealed this in His Word many times. We should not judge others, for God alone can judge and He will, but to protect the flock of God we must follow Jesus words and be "fruit inspectors", "you shall know them by their fruit". **Matthew 7:13-23**. You therefore have to look at the lives of the people that you are dealing with.

If you have people in the congregation whose lives are not measuring up there are two possibilities. You are not teaching as you should be teaching, or they are resisting the Holy Spirit, which in itself has two reasons - the person is out of fellowship and needs conviction of sin, which the Holy Spirit will bring upon him/her, or he/she is not a believer at all, but

one of Satan's "fakes". If they are an unbeliever they may be one of Satan's spies/wolves in the church, and need to be removed, either on their own accord (preach them out), or by you removing them, or you evangelise them directly, and get everyone to pray for them.

Check your sheep pastor, and if you smell a wolf trust your intuitions, check that there is no wolf in sheep's clothing. These evil fakes are "asebeis" ungodly - they do not think about God or see him as important in their life even though they talk about Him. At the church social or get together, speak to your sheep in a spiritual manner and in that way sniff out the wolves in the congregation, for they are the ones who do not speak or think of spiritual things in a true manner. **Malachi 3:16-18.**

You are also able to look at your sick sheep when you talk about the Lord. Irrespective of how large your congregation is you will have some of them. Make sure that they do no damage by turning the grace of God into lasciviousness. Here we have sexual sins in view. Just because we are not under the Mosaic Law it does not mean that we do not have standards, we are under, "the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus". **Romans 8:1-9.**

If their life is under the control of the Holy Spirit their life will be holy. If any person is going to be an elder or a deacon they must be well spoken of by unbelievers, for unbelievers will spot a phoney even faster than many believers! Take notice of Paul's words in Timothy and Titus; you can legitimately check out the candidate for deacon and pastor with his unbelieving workmates. If they are immoral secretly it will come out in error doctrinally as well; an immoral life will lead to doctrinal error soon enough, if it wasn't based in it to start with.

Any life out of control, based on gratifying sexual or other sensual needs is a life that is not controlled by the Holy Spirit. Any such person must be challenged in the church, never ignored. For they are, either a wayward sheep in need of care and order, or they are a wolf, and if they are a wolf they will soon hurt the sheep, or lead any they can astray after their own selfish pleasures and false viewpoints.

The most evil thing is to pervert something good, and that is what the "fake" Christians do; they pervert Grace into immorality. Satan hates the doctrine of God's Grace, for it reminds him of the terrible unforgivable nature of his sin against the love and grace of God. His people, like him, will use grace to cover their sinful lives, claiming they are "forgiven", when the Word of God labels them as "condemned".

These people claim to be Christians, yet their lives are immoral, and by their claim they abuse those who stand for true grace, and thereby bring the very doctrine and the gospel itself into disrepute. Moral and upright unbelievers who see these libertines are disgusted with their behaviour and associate it with Christianity, and thereby harden their hearts against the gospel message that would truly save them.

Satan wins a victory by such a strategy, as every time a false view of the gospel is portrayed before men, it becomes harder to give the truth. This is why these false brethren, these wolves in sheep's clothing, must be thoroughly exposed, publicly called evil, and all men and women warned against them as perverters of the truth. Unless they repent and their lives demonstrate the change, the church must expel all whose lives are immoral, lest a false message be given about the nature of the gospel and people are led into confusion about God's holy standards. Note 4.

Such people, once they have gained a foothold in the church will start to deny the absolute Lordship and Saviourhood of the Lord Jesus Christ. They are clever, wily and devious like their master, and so they do not openly directly reject the Lord, but they place others along side him, and say that there are many ways to heaven, many lords and many gospels, many like Jesus, and we should "be open" to others views, for they also have truth. Remember **Exodus 20:3-6.**

They preach the "spirit of tolerance", but they lie, for in this matter there can be no tolerance, for to be in error on this matter is to be lost forever! This shows they are Satan's people, for their views imperil the gospel message and lead people to hell. Remember again, they are "ordained" (prographo – written down before) to their judgment, which has been seen by God from before time and space were made! At this point we touch eternity and our mind's limits are met. Two things are clear from Jude's points in this verse and the next ones. **Firstly** these people have, like Satan who they copy, made free choices, and they are accountable, responsible, and will be judged for them. **Secondly**, God is not surprised by their choices and neither should we be shocked by evil people who we didn't spot were evil beforehand. All choices are woven into God's Plan and from the other side of space-time we will see how this works, but in the mean time, do not let shock at evil control you, let your assurance that God's Plan is certain and victorious guide and protect your thinking!

Jude is aware of the shock that is going to happen to those who read this. He says that, 'you once knew these things but you have forgotten, you have become lax in your thinking'. When you have been in a good church for a number of years you can relax too much and your guard comes down, and you no longer stand for the truth of all God's Word, and start just reading favourite passages, and then any compromise on holiness brings evil results. He is now going to give some examples of this insidious impact of evil, so we can see how God intends us to apply these warning principles.

Verse 5. The first incident Jude draws on is a Jewish one (appropriate for his Jewish readers); it is the rebellion of Israel at Kadesh-barnea in the Exodus. The story is told in Numbers 14, and reflected upon as a "walking in faith disaster" in Hebrews 3-4. The Jews sent spies into the land, whereas they were told to go in themselves in battle order and take the land without needing any "checking" first. Ten of the twelve spies came back with panic, two with the Word of God, and the people still panicked, they stopped trusting God and got their eyes on giants, they fell into fear, and they

all died under God's judgement. They were all believers but they panicked, and the majority trusted their eyes, not the promises of God, and that is the issue for Jude, as it was in Paul's "last words" in Hebrews. **Numbers 14:26ff.**

The message from the Lord is clear. Whatever is not of faith is sin! - **Romans 14:23.** The people perished because they refused to believe the Word of the Lord and obey his commands. **Hosea 4:6.** The sin of unbelief is a serious one; if God says trust and obey, he means, you can trust him and you must obey his word! Spurgeon's dying words to his church are pertinent. "Believe more, prayer more, and so receive more". One of the first lessons we should learn as believers is that we can fall into apostasy; apostasy is simply falling into unbelief, by leaving the path of God and going astray into alternatives. A one millimetre deviation on your called journey of life has you miles off God's path for you over time.

Such a path is dangerous and may lead to ultimate punishment. The ten spies who brought back bad reports died immediately and the people that listened to them all died over the next forty years. Jude therefore reminds the reader of his letter how important it is to deal with apostates, and reject apostasy. God will not tolerate faithlessness. If you allow apostasy in the church you will have maximum discipline and the church will suffer judgement in all manner of ways. This is probably why ministers have the greatest numbers of breakdowns, as they are under maximum divine discipline. To get this spiritual principle wrong is to waste your life, suffer and finally die under the "Sin Unto Death". 1 John 5.

Verse 6. Here we go to Genesis 6, and **2 Peter 2:4**, which gives the main reason for the flood. Satan sent demons to the earth to seduce human beings and by sex between the two groups he aimed to destroy true humanity. God stopped this with the flood, saving the one family not contaminated, and believing his Word. Here demons fooled people in the area of sex. Sexual sin and sexual temptation are still areas which Satan uses to destroy and undermine believers and unbelievers. All men and women are urged in all the scriptures to set our guard against temptation in this area. Note 5. Satan doesn't need to change his strategy, because most people don't learn from history, and the majority are not "alert", but are "ignorant of his devices", and so able to be deceived.

Verse 7 All expressions of sexuality outside that of the marriage concept, but especially any bestiality, and child abuse (all covered by the word *ekpornea*) are identified as "evils" (as against God's clearly revealed plan) and Jude makes clear that they here are a satanic operation to destroy individuals, marriage, and the family. All things that undermine the divine institutions of marriage and the family are evils, as they undermine the Plan of God for mankind and all people involved in these things are involved in a deceptive evil that will always destroy them. God is against such things, and the judgement of God is against such people, if they reject the gospel of salvation, and persist in their immoral practises.

In 1 Corinthians 5, where a believer was having an immoral sexual relationship with his step-mother, the church was not taking it seriously enough. On Paul's instruction, he was thrown out of the church, and was not allowed back until he had dealt with that sin. In 2 Corinthians he was to be brought back into the church as a repentant and changed man. This is the reminder to us that things condemned as "evil" do not "damn" the person, for repentance and change in life is possible, and then restoration is assured, and then anything lost can be made up in Holy Spirit filled living.

All sex outside of legitimate marital relationship is going after, "other flesh" than God designed, and like the men and women who had sex with demons before the flood, crossing God's boundaries for such sexual connection is forbidden. These are not "social conventions"; these are God appointed boundaries! Men are biologically made for sex with women and visa versa; we were not made for sex with the same sex, or with other animals, or creatures like angelic beings. The anus is made for excretion of waste, not sexual activity. Do not think you know better, nor be guided by the "pleasure principle", for many things feel good, but are not fruitful of righteousness, or moral goodness, and may have lasting physical and spiritual health consequences unforeseen at the time. To reject God's created plan is to insult Creator-God, and reject His way and go after the way of Satan, who rejected God's rules also. It is to say you know better than the creator, and to do this you have joined the enemy's camp and will receive the judgement of all who reject the Lord and side with Satan.

Jude places the person who rejects biblical marital sex, the child abuser, and the person having sex with animals in the same moral place, and he urges them to repent of their decisions making. Be clear of two things; firstly God's desire is their salvation, 2 Peter 3:9, and secondly, the issue is not just the sexual practises, it is the fact that they reject God's orders as the sole Creator! In case others are revolted at the thought of these sins, he reminds the church that these people must be allowed back into the church once they have recognised that their behaviour is against the Creator's Plan and so is "sin" and must be repented of. If they started practising it again they were to be ejected, because the church must have God's standard alone.

Jude is clear - **God's standard is unchangeable**, and when men or women break it, they are to be disciplined by separation from fellowship, but when they repent they are **always** to be forgiven and restored. Grace is behind the instructions here. Our personal attitude towards specific sexual behaviours is irrelevant – it is God's standards that we are called to uphold, not what we like or hate. Personal disgust is not a guide to anything! God's Word alone is the Guide for every moral issue! Satan's question to Eve remains the key one – "Has God said...?"

If the church lowers its standard the church no longer has God's message. We are not to be emotionally ruled by what disgusts us, for all sin disgusts God, as it is rejection of God's orders to us all. By calling lesbianism, paedophilia, or homosexuality a "disease" or an inherited genetic defect, we deprive the person of all eternal hope. Each of these sexual behaviours is a free choice, and as such it can be affirmed, decided upon, remade, and rejected. All people have different desires and weaknesses, and some OSN weaknesses will be in the sexual area, but to give into them if God

says “no” is sin. God’s standard remains stable throughout the ages of history – individual culture’s assessment of what it finds disgusting varies. Immoral acts are defined by God’s Word, not sociologists or moralists, and they are all “sins” that can/will be forgiven in Christ, and through the working of the Holy Spirit the old, sinful way of life can be abandoned, and a new one established (**Isaiah 1:18; 1 John 1:7; 1 Corinthians 6:9,11**). God’s answer to all sexual immorality is in repentance, and being changed in our redeemed relationship with Christ Jesus. (**1 Corinthians 7:1-9**).

APPLICATION

Beware of infiltrators! How seriously we need to take this warning, for the more active we are for the truth the more vehement will be Satan’s attempts to plant his people in the church to undermine it from within. Pastors - Audit your congregation, and act on any reported unholiness, without being a gossip, that brings the Lord’s name into disgrace.

Sexual immorality is always an evil, and tends to be an indication of a person who has strayed far from the truth before they fell into the sexual sin. Homosexuality is just one sexual choice, alongside all others. The choices of “alternative sexual practises” to heterosexual fidelity, are all condemned because they ignore/oppose/insult God’s Plan, which puts a boundary for sex against all such practises. The sin of disobedience is the one that leads to the others, and so Satan can use the foolish believer who strays away from the path, but he also uses his own people here, and they are most dangerous. Any hint of the denial of the only Saviourhood of the Lord, and his unique position as King of kings and Lord of Lords must be investigated and acted upon. Such people will destroy the faith of many if left in the assembly.

God judges immorality and all who claim to be his and yet reject his words. The Creator sets the rules for the Creature. He alone defines some actions as “evil” = “against His Plan”. They are defined as such because they violate the plan and purpose of God as he laid them out as the creator. Any rejection of God’s plan for man, as spelt out in the scriptures is evil; such rebellion against the clear policy of God places such a rebel in the company of the fallen angels, the condemned Israelites, and the people of Sodom. God has standards and they are not changeable; we stand for the truth and it does not change. As the days darken towards the last days of this age, the biblical standards will be mocked!

Ask yourself believer. Do you have protocols for behaviour that keep you safe from sexual immorality? Do you place yourself in situations where you may be in temptation’s way? We are challenged by this passage to keep ourselves safe. This may mean you do not have any private fellowship with potential sexual partners, lest you be tempted, or others led astray by your example. Many men and women can fall into sexual temptation after business lunches; this ought not to happen! Every moment you and I are making decisions that are either safer, or more dangerous to our walk with God, and so the challenge Jude gives is, “take personal responsibility”. Let us adopt safe protocols for behaviours that keep us safe and ensure we do not lead ourselves into mischief, or others in temptation.

PARAPHRASE

"A certain sort of man has infiltrated into the church, as an enemy agent, and you have not spotted them. These people were written down as condemned long ago, ungodly men, perverting the nature of grace into immorality, and denying the saviourhood and lordship of the Lord Jesus Christ. For this reason I want you to remember the truth, for you once knew it! The truth is (the truth of judgement), that the Lord having saved his people out of Egypt, later destroyed those who kept on rejecting the truth. Likewise also (he judged) the angels who did not guard their status and position, and fell; these are kept guarded in chains until the last judgement. Also, (look at) Sodom and Gomorrah, and the five cities of the plain around them, for they sinned in a similar manner. They indulged themselves in excessive and unnatural immorality, lusting after unnatural sex, and so they are laid out before us, as a corpse, as an example of the eternal judgement of God’s penalty against such rejection of his standards."

DOCTRINES

APOSTASY

1. Apostasy means falling away.
2. Apostasy differs from backsliding. A true Christian can backslide, an apostate is never born again, eg. Judas Iscariot.
3. The backslidden Christian breaks fellowship, but doesn't lose his salvation (John 5:24).
4. The apostate is declared in (2 Timothy 4:3-4) and (1 John 2:19).
5. Apostates may do good works calling themselves Christians but they should not be accepted as such (2 John 9-11, John 10:12-13).
6. There will be a great apostasy prior to the Rapture (2 Thessalonians 2:3).

ANGELIC CONFLICT

1. There is a spiritual warfare between elect and fallen angels, which affects the human race (Ephesians, 6:12, Revelation 12).

2. Angels and mankind have a number of parallels:

- a) Angels began in innocence and full obedience to God (Job 38:7 Ezekiel 28:14-15)
Man began in innocence (Genesis 2:25)
- b) Angels sinned - rebellion of Satan (Isaiah 14:12-14)
Man sinned - rebellion of Adam (Genesis 3:1-7)
- c) Angels are divided into two categories - elect or fallen
Man is divided into two categories - believers and unbelievers

3. Freewill is the key to the angelic conflict.

- a) In eternity past, Satan was called Lucifer, the most important angel. However, he became proud and rebelled against God (Ezekiel 28:12-17, Isaiah 14:12-14). One third of the angels chose to rebel with Satan (Revelation 12:4,9).
- b) In eternity past, God sentenced Satan and the fallen angels to the lake of fire (Matthew 25:41). This sentence will be executed at the end of human history (Revelation 20:10). The delay in the execution of this sentence suggests that God created the human race to provide a clear legal witness to Satan and his angels of their sin. The whole of human history is to prove certain points to the angels.
- c) It appears that God created Adam and Eve, to show Satan that mankind, created lower than angels (Hebrews 2:6-7), would choose to obey God. Mankind therefore, by a choice of freewill, would decide whether to obey God and be blessed, or to disobey God and be judged (the same choice that Satan had).
- d) A test was instituted for man's freewill - obedience to God or disobedience. (Genesis 2:16-17). Adam - and therefore all mankind - sinned and thereby rebelled against God. All of mankind, therefore, is in the same condition of sinful rebellion as Satan.
- e) However, God instituted another test of freewill for mankind - will they choose to return to God through Jesus Christ, or will they choose to continue in sin and rebellion (John 3:16, 2 Peter 3:9).
- f) Anyone who chooses to return to God will be saved; anyone who chooses to remain in rebellion to God will be judged in the lake of fire, the same fate as Satan (Matthew 25:41).
- g) Therefore, by the work of Christ on the cross, and man's freewill faith in Christ, God has vindicated His love to save and His justice to judge.

4. The result of the angelic conflict:

- a) Stage 1 - Salvation - by faith, man is saved and made positionally superior to angels (Hebrews 2:6-7)
- b) Stage 2 - Christian Walk - by faith, the believer overcomes Satan (Ephesians 6:10-17)
- c) Stage 3 - Eternity -in Christ, the believer will judge Satan and his fallen angels (Hebrews 2:8, 1 Corinthians 6:3).

5. Angels watch the human race (1 Corinthians 4:9, Ephesians 3:10, 1 Timothy 5:21, 1 Peter 1:12). Elect angels rejoice every time someone is saved (Luke 15:10).

6. Adam was made ruler of the world (Genesis 1:27-28). When he sinned, Satan obtained control of the world (2 Corinthians 4:4, Ephesians 2:2, John 16:11). What makes it possible for man to live in Satan's world and not be under his control? By faith and obedience to God and His Word, we can resist and overcome Satan.

7. The angelic conflict answers three basic questions:-

- a) Why did God create man? Jesus Christ, as perfect man in perfect obedience to God, paid the penalty of sin. Jesus Christ is able to save mankind. The key is freewill and obedience to God. It is a matter of freewill choice whether we are saved by God or judged by God. This shows that God's judgment of Satan is totally just.
- b) Why sin? Mankind, through the fall of Adam, was reduced to the same sinful and rebellious condition as Satan and his fallen angels. However, through Jesus Christ, man is able to choose to return to God.

c) Why does God allow suffering? Suffering, sickness and death is the result of Adam's sin. However, God still uses this for our good because suffering makes people look in faith toward God. God is therefore able to strengthen our faith (1 Peter 5:6-10).

8. Satanic attack:-

a) In the Garden of Eden, Satan attacked Adam and Eve, resulting in their sin. Satan thought he had destroyed the plan of God, because man had sinned and rebelled against God. However, God promised to send the Messiah to remove sin and defeat Satan (Genesis 3:15).

b) In the Old Testament, Satan attacked the Jews and Jesus Christ Himself. Satan wanted to prevent and/or destroy the Messiah (Revelation 12:1-5).

c) Now that Jesus Christ is seated at the right hand of the Father, Satan has turned his attack on believers on earth. Satan wants to thwart and/or delay the plan of God, and his own final judgment (Revelation 12:12,17).

THE JUDGEMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

1. There are three types of judgement for believers in the Church Age:

a) Judgement of Sins:- The Lord Jesus Christ on the cross substituted the payment of all man's sins. The penalty of sin is death (Romans 6:23). There is therefore no judgement for those in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:1). The substitutionary death is given in 2 Corinthians 5:19-21, Galatians 3:13.

b) Judgement of Self:- We are told that if we judge ourselves we shall not be judged. Failure to do so brings discipline. (1 Corinthians 5:1-5, 11:31, 32, 2 Corinthians 2:5-7, Hebrews 12:7, 1 John 1:9)

c) Judgement Seat of Christ:- This is the evaluation of the production of believers for the purpose of reward (2Corinthians 5:10).

2. The Judgement Seat of Christ is a time of reward. Our human works (wood, hay, stubble) will be burned, our works in the power of the Spirit (gold, silver, precious stones) will be rewarded (1 Corinthians 3:11-16).

3. At the Judgement Seat of Christ the believer can be denied reward but can never lose his salvation (2 Timothy 2:12-13).

4. Backslidden believers have no reward at the Judgement Seat of Christ (Hebrews 6:7-12).

5. The Judgement Seat of Christ is illustrated by the famous athletic games in the ancient world (1 Corinthians 9:24-27).

6. Rewards at the Judgement Seat of Christ is based on grace (James 2:12, 13).

7. Since we will be judged by Christ, we are not to judge each other (Matthew 7:1-2).

JUDGEMENT: THE GREAT WHITE THRONE

1. The judgement of the Great White Throne is the last judgement. (Revelation 20:11, 15)

2. Only the unsaved are judged at the last judgement as there is no judgement for Christians. (Romans 8:1)

3. The last judgement occurs at the end of the Millennium. (Revelation 20:7-15)

4. The unsaved are judged according to their works from the Books of Works. (Revelation 20:12)

5. The judgement is to show that the Human works of man cannot satisfy the justice of God. God is totally fair and shows that he is only satisfied by "The Good Work" - the death of Christ on the Cross.

6. Having shown the unsaved they have failed to satisfy the holiness of God, the condemned are cast into the Lake of Fire. (Revelation 20:15)

SATANIC ATTACK

1.- Pre Adamic

	Scripture	Remarks
Original Creation	Genesis 1:1	Perfection and unity.
Creation of Satan	Ezekiel 28:13-15	Created the most beautiful creature, a genius.
Fall of Satan	Isaiah 14:12-15	"I will" 5 times. Satan sets himself up as God.
1/3 of Angels follow Satan	Revelation 12:4	
God's Judgment	Matthew 25:41	Lake of fire created for Satan and his angels.
Satan appeals		Man created with a free will to show the fairness of God's judgment.

Man having been created, Satan wages war firstly to get man to sin, secondly having had a Saviour promised to attack the line of Christ, thirdly an attack on the Saviour until He completed His work, fourthly to attack the Word of God and the individual believer.

2. - Stage 1 - Innocence-Sinfulness

	Scripture	Remarks
Man created	Genesis 1:26, 27	God provides everything. One tree a test of free will.
Woman falls	Genesis 3:1-6	Through ignorance of God's Word
Man falls	1 Timothy 2:13, 14	Man chooses deliberately to go against God's provision.
Salvation promised	Genesis 3:15	

3. - Stage 2 - Attack on the Line of the Saviour

Object:- If Satan can prevent the Saviour being physically born he has proved that God does not keep His promise in Genesis 3:15 and is therefore not perfect.

Attack 1. Cain kills Abel (Attack on the seed of the woman)	Genesis 4:8, 9	An unbeliever kills a believer but Seth, another believer is provided for the line of Christ.
Attack 2. Infiltration of Fallen Angels. (Attack on the humanity)	Genesis 6:1-8	Infiltration until only Noah's family left as the humanity. Flood removes angel/men demons incarcerated in Tartarus (Hades)
Attack 3. Tower of Babel (Attack on nationalism)	Genesis 11:1 -7	An attempt by Satan to bring in the Millennium without God. The original U.N. God forms nations and confuses their tongues.- Tower of Babel.
Abraham promised the Saviour will be descended from him.	Genesis 12:1-3	Attack on the line of Abraham.
Attack 4. Pharaoh of Egypt.	Exodus 1:22	Using Pharaoh by ordering the slaughter of the male Jews Satan attempts to eliminate the Jews.
David promised a King descended from him will reign forever	2 Sam 7:12-16	Satan now attacks the descendants of David
Attack 5. Against the Kings of Judah	2 Kings 22:1, 2	Josiah, boy King of Judah divinely protected comes to throne at age of 8 after coup d'etat eliminates every other member of the royal line.
Attack 6. Against the Jews	Esther 3:6	Satan attempts to destroy the Jews using Haman. Haman eventually executed.
Attack 7. Against Jerusalem.	Isaiah 37:36	185,000 Assyrian troops under Sennacherib killed by God outside Jerusalem.

4. Stage 3. Attack on the Person of Christ

Attack 1. Possible stoning of Mary	Matt 1:18-20	The nobility of Joseph defended the as yet unborn Jesus.
Attack 2. Herod the Great.	Matt 2:16-18	Satan using Herod attempts to eliminate the Christ child by murdering all the young males

Attack 3. Temptation in Wilderness	Matt 4:9	in Bethlehem. Joseph takes Jesus to Egypt. A sinner cannot redeem other sinners. Satan offers the crown (Millennium) before the cross. Jesus follows God's plan.
Attack 4. Temptation not to go to the Cross.	Matt 16:21-23	Jesus follows God's plan although the cross was obnoxious to him.
Attack 5. Attempt to stone Jesus.	John 8:59	It was prophesied that the Saviour would die on wood. Stoning would have cut across this prophecy.
Attack 6. Attempt to tempt Jesus down from the cross.	Matt 27:40	If Jesus had come down from the cross there would have been no salvation.
Attack 7. The drugged wine.	Matt 27:34	Gall was a drug which if Jesus had accepted it would have impaired his free will and there would have been no salvation.

5. Stage 4 - Attacks since the Cross.

Attack 1. Against Scripture.	Attempting to get false books accepted in the canon of Scripture. Liberalism and Modernism, Humanism and Evolution.
Attack 2. Revival of Roman Empire	Under Charlemagne in 800 and Charles V in 1500. Roman Catholic Church.
Attack 3. Massacre of Jews.	Hitler's final solution attempts to eliminate Jews. No Jews no Kingdom for Jesus to reign over. Inquisition, Crusades, Russian pogroms.
Attack 4. One World Government.	Revival of the Tower of Babel concept under the League of Nations and U.N.
Attack 5. Socialism.	Satan's millennium.
Attack 6. Persecution.	Nero, Reformation, Inquisition

6. Strategy of Satan at the Present Satan's strategy is divided into 3 sections.

- (a) Towards unbelievers. -
To blind them regarding the gospel. (2 Corinthians 4:3, 4, 2 Thessalonians 2:9, 10)
- (b) Towards believers.
He accuses believers. (Revelation 12-9, 10, Job 1:6-11)
He persuades the believers to ignore the will of God through disobedience (Genesis 2:17), through worry (1 Peter 5, 7-9), ignoring doctrine (1 Chronicles 21:1)
He seeks to entice the believer from the will of God. (James 4:7, 8)
He seeks to destroy the believer's focus by getting eyes on self (1 Corinthians 1:10, 11 on people (1 Corinthians 1:12) by getting eyes on things (Hebrews 13:5, 6)
To get the believer frightened of death. (Hebrews 2:14, 15)
- (c) Towards the world in general.
Satan tries to deceive the nations. (Revelation 20:7-10)

Principle:- The more you know about the Word of God the more you will be able to be effective as a Christian. c/f. Jesus in Matthew 4.

GRACE

1. Grace is all that God is free to do for man on the basis of the cross. Therefore Grace is unmerited favour from God.
2. Grace depends on the character of God therefore Grace depends on who and what God is. Grace is what God can do for man and still be true to his own character.
3. The believer must recognise the difference between legalism and grace. Legalism is man's work intruding upon the plan of God.
4. The greatest thing God can do for the saved person is to make him exactly like His Son Jesus Christ. This is accomplished in three stages of sanctification.

5. Positional Sanctification: At Salvation every believer enters into union with Christ. (Hebrews 1:2-4) Jesus Christ is seated at the right hand of the Father and is therefore superior to all angels in his humanity. At the point of salvation we are entered into union with Christ thus we are positionally higher than angels. We are positionally seated with Christ at God's right hand.

6. Experiential Sanctification: During the Christian's life on the earth the time spent under the power of the Holy Spirit. During this time we produce the character of God in our lives - gold, silver, precious stones. (1 Corinthians 3:12-15)

7. Ultimate Sanctification: When the believer receives a resurrection body he loses the sin nature and all human good. At this point the believer is physically superior to all angels. He remains in this perfect state eternally.

8. All believers have tasted of Grace at least once (1 Peter 2:3). This refers to the point of Salvation at which the believer receives at least 34 things which he did not earn or deserve. (Ephesians 2:8, 9) Disorientation to grace is the believer's greatest occupational hazard in his Christian life. (Galatians 5:4, Hebrews 12:15)

9. The divine attitude to grace is expressed in (Isaiah 30:18, 19) God is constantly waiting to pour out his blessing on all believers in the Christian life.

10. Grace in salvation is expressed in many ways. It is always the same - believing in Jesus Christ (Psalm 103:8-12, Romans 3:23-4, Romans 4:4, 5:20, Ephesians 2:8, 9)

11. There are many ways in which the Christian life expresses GRACE:

- a) Prayer (Hebrews 4:16)
- b) Suffering (2 Corinthians 12:9, 10)
- c) Growth (2 Peter 3:18)
- d) Stability (1 Peter 5:12)
- e) Lifestyle (Hebrews 12:28, 2 Corinthians 1:12)
- f) Production of Divine Good (1 Corinthians 15:10, 2 Corinthians 6:1).

12. Grace is the correct attitude in relation to giving. (2 Corinthians 8 & 9)

13. Grace is the only means of coping with suffering in the Christian life. (2 Corinthians 12:7-10) Through Grace God is able to bless the believer in the midst of the pressures and adversities of life. (1 Peter 1:6,7)

14. Implications of grace:

- a) God is perfect, his plan is perfect.
- b) A perfect plan can only originate from a perfect God.
- c) If man could do anything in the plan of God the plan would no longer be perfect.
- d) A plan is no stronger than its weakest link. Grace therefore excludes all human merit, all human ability.
- e) Legalism, human works is the enemy of Grace.
- f) The works of human righteousness have therefore no place in the plan of God. (Isaiah 64:6)

GOD: CHARACTER OF GOD [See page 5 above]

HOMOSEXUALITY

1. The Bible tells us that homosexuality is not a form of immaturity; an aspect of normal human development; the product of certain kinds of experience, or the result of genetic factors. It is a learned and chosen activity.
2. It is not a condition or sickness; it is an act of sin against God's Design. (Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; Deuteronomy 23:17; 1 Timothy 1:10; 1Corinthians 6:9; Revelation 22:15). It is associated with other sins and evils.
3. It is the culminating sexual practice of a culminating apostasy and hostility towards God. It is an act against God's design and therefore against nature (Romans 1:21-30). The "burned out" product of rebellion (verse 27).

4. In the Bible, homosexuals are called "dogs" = in a Jewish context = a "despised" sin and practice. (Deuteronomy 23:18; Revelation 22:15). Jude's point above is "Don't be disgusted at the sex, but see the disobedience as the key factor!"
5. It was the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah, hence the word 'sodomy' (Genesis 19:5).
6. Being the product of rebellion and spiritual apostasy, it is not surprising that we see this activity (together with prostitution) as a religious practice in pagan worship in Canaan.
7. God's patience allowed the Canaanites four generations, from Abraham to Joshua before judgment (Genesis 15:16; Leviticus 18:24-28), but judgment will always come upon those who reject God's Design/Plan. It is a sin especially associated with paganism, and may involve demonic elements, as it actively rejects God's Word.
8. The failure of Israel to execute God's judgment fully became their own judgment (Judges 2:2,3; 19:22,25; Leviticus 18:28; 1 Kings 14:24; 15:12; 2 Kings 23:7).
9. By calling homosexuality a disease or an inherited genetic defect, we deprive the homosexual of all hope. It is a sin of rejection of God's Plan, and the selection of your own desires ahead of the Maker's design. As disobedience, it is a sin that can be forgiven in Christ, and through the working of the Holy Spirit the old, sinful way of life can be abandoned and a new one established (Isaiah 1:18; 1 John 1:7; 1 Corinthians 6:9,11). God's answer to all forms of sexual immorality is given in 1 Corinthians 7:1-9.

SATAN'S STRATEGY

1. Believers are warned against him and his tactics (Ephesians 4:27, 6:11-13, James 4:7, 1 Peter 5:8).
2. We must be ready and alert (2 Corinthians 2:11).
3. Satan is a deceiver and a counterfeiter. He uses deception - not obviously wrong or sinful - but very subtle changes to the truth (Genesis 3:1). Remember, a counterfeit looks like the original.
4. Satan is described as an "angel of light" - often seeming attractive and "good" (2 Corinthians 11:14).
5. His tactics:
 - a) Towards unbelievers:
 - i) to blind them regarding the gospel (2Corinthians 4:3, 4, 2Thessalonians 2:9, 10).
 - b) Towards believers:
 - i) Satan seeks to hinder our growth and witness (1 Peter 5:8).
 - ii) Satan will mislead into false doctrine and legalism (1Timothy 5:14-15).
 - iii) He persuades believers to ignore the will of God through disobedience (Genesis 2:17, James 4:7-8).
 - iv) Satan often attacks our assurance of salvation so that we doubt God.
 - v) Worry (1 Peter 5, 7-9).
 - vi) Fear of death (Hebrews 2:14-15).
 - vii) He accuses believers of sin both to God and to the believer (using guilt) (Revelation 12:9-10, Job 1:6-11).
 - viii) He takes our focus off Christ by getting eyes on self (1Corinthians 1:10-11), on people (1Corinthians 1:12), on things (Hebrews 13:5-6).
 - ix) When we don't allow the Holy Spirit to control our lives, we open ourselves up to Satanic attack (1Corinthians 7:5, 2 Corinthians 2:11, 1Timothy 5:14-15).
 - x) The Lord will allow Satan to attack a believer as discipline for unconfessed sin (1Timothy 1:20 cf. 2Corinthians 12:7).
 - xi) Satan cannot indwell or possess a believer, only beguile them (Galatians 3:1).

c) Towards the world in general:

i) The World - Satan tries to deceive the nations (Revelation 20:7-10).

SIN UNTO DEATH

1. There is a sin unto death (1 John 5:16, 17, 1 Corinthians 11:31,32)
2. The sin unto death is the physical death of a believer, where ultimate discipline is administered to the Christian due to unconfessed sin of a serious nature.
3. Confession of sin under the concept of I John 1:9 is the way to forgiveness.
4. Examples of sin unto death:-
 - a)The Corinthian Pervert (1 Corinthians 5)
 - b) The Corinthians who habitually came to the Lord's table in an unworthy manner (1 Corinthians 11:27-32)
 - c) Moses (Deuteronomy 32:48-52)
 - d) Achan (Joshua 7:16-26)
 - e) Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5: 1 -1 1).
5. Whilst there is a sin unto death there is no condemnation to them in Christ Jesus - all believers (Romans 8: 1).
6. The effect of the sin unto death is to reduce the time which a believer can spend on earth accumulating good of eternal worth. The gold, silver and precious stones of 1Corinthians 3:11-15.

TEXT JUDE VERSES 8 - 10

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

KEY WORDS

Likewise	Homoios mentoi	In the same manner (as Sodom), in spite of the warnings given.
Filthy dreamers	Enupniazo	(present middle participle) Dreamer here indicates they are in a fantasy land, dreaming rather than being in reality.
Defile	Minaino	(Present Active Indicative) Keep on defiling, staining with sin.
Despise	Atheteo	(Present Active Indicative) Keep on rejecting as valid.
Dominion	Kuriotes	Lordship (ie, the Lord's rulership/authority over them.
Speaking evil	BlaspHEMEO	(Present Active Indicative) Keep on speaking blasphemies
Contending	Diakrinomai	(Present Middle Participle) Taking issue with and disputing.
Disputed	Dialegomai	(Imperative Middle Indicative) Was arguing with
Durst	Tolmao	(Aorist Active Indicative) Did not dare to presume
Railing	blasphemia	Blasphemous, or aggressively reproachful attack
Accusations	Krisin	A charge of blasphemy
Rebuke	Epitimao	(Aorist Active Optative) May (the Lord), correct, rebuke and judge you
Naturally	Phusikos	By instinct, from their own nature
Brute	Alogos	Irrational, without logical thought
Corrupt	Phtheiro	(Present Passive Indicative) They receive ruin and destruction

ANALYSIS AND BACKGROUND

"The profane libertines allow themselves to speak evil of dignities in a way which even an archangel did not venture to adopt in rebuking Satan. It is a very strong argument afortiori." (Plummer, 1896, page 419)

We have Scripture as our example, and we are to take its examples seriously. Even Satan is to be treated with respectful words, as a higher created being to us. This may seem strange to our modern ears, but the reason is based in the vital

principle of the creation, and God's order is not to be broken or insulted. God's orders are to be followed, not our attitudes! The angels were created superior to us and, while we in Christ have a superior position to them now, **1 John 4:4**, we are not to usurp a superiority we do not have in and of ourselves. Satan's sin is pride and we are to guard our hearts and tongues in this matter. We are not here to be clever, witty, or intellectual, but to be respectful and obedient.

The angels, elect or fallen, are not to be insulted, or abused in any way. We will one day judge them and destroy the fallen angels, **1 Corinthians 6:3**, but until that day we are to follow Michael's example, and recognise that our superiority rests in our position with our Saviour, and his rebuke alone is appropriate for the angels, and for Satan. We rebuke Satan and demonic forces in Jesus name only. No name calling, no arrogance, no "hairy legs" humour, just, "In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I rebuke you".

Verse 8. Jude calls these false teachers, "the filthy dreamers". By using the word for dreamers, he indicates that these people are like the pagan mystics, who dream dreams and spin fantasies. They claim to have wonderful things to tell us, but they are not in touch with the reality of the angelic conflict, and to listen to them is to enter a world that does not tally with reality! Beware of those who have dreams and visions yet their lives are not holy. Many people go around being big on dreams and visions but small on holy lives and obedience to Bible teaching. They are "filthy dreamers" – fakes – false prophets – their life filled with evil fruit showing their family of origin!

"Filthy dreamers" have no respect for authority or for leadership in the church. They think they are super spiritual - their lives are an immoral mess but they are having visions and dreams, so they believe they are special, and above the rules that "lower" status believers have to live by. You cannot be too polite to a filthy dreamer; they are to be bluntly challenged and corrected, and if they will not be obedient to the Word, rejected from the fellowship. They are either "wolf", deceived, or carnal, but unless silenced they will mislead the young and the foolish.

A minister must be tough on this according to the Scriptures, because God's standard must be kept. Learn from history, even the archangel Michael respects authority. When a pastor will not listen to a dreamer, or calls them out as fakes, the dreamer will run down the pastor, accusing them of sin - expect this. The reason is clear; they accept their experience above the Word of God, where-as the true believer corrects their experience by the Word of God. Obedience to the Word, and holiness of life is the only evidence of spirituality, for it will always produce the visible fruit of the Holy Spirit.

Verse 9. Even when Michael was contending with Satan over the body of Moses he recognised the authority that belonged to Satan. "The Lord rebuke you", he said. This story is alluded to in scripture but not directly contained in our Bible. **Deuteronomy 34:5,6, Zechariah 3:1**. While we do not accept Rabbinic tradition as all true, the Rabbinic commentary on **Deuteronomy 34: 6** (Rabbah 11:12), is by Jude's inclusion of it here certified by the Holy Spirit as true and scriptural.

The apostate here is not a believer who has ceased to be a believer, but is one who has come in and seemed to be like a believer, or one that has known the truth but rejected it and walked away, and has continued to live in error. They are "make believers" who, knowing the truth are wilfully rejecting it. These people are dangerous, as they know the truth and are therefore more effective at undermining the church. They raise experience up above Scripture, and once what we "feel", or think we have dreamed, becomes the standard for truth, we have no moral stability in life at all.

These apostates worm themselves into churches, sneaking in through the back door of legalism, rather than being genuinely "born again" by faith through grace. **Ephesians 2:8-12**. They have no respect for any sort of authority, the authority of God's Word or the authority of the pastor, elders or deacons. These people are led by their lusts, and they hold their views more precious than God's Holy Word. In **Galatians 5:16-26**, Paul makes it clear that you are either walking under the power of the Holy Spirit, or in the power of the Old Sin Nature (OSN). By your FRUIT you are known!

The apostate of course must walk under the power of their O.S.N. The inner corruption of these people's lives will eventually come out, but once they are identified, action must be taken against them lest they destroy others. It is important as pastors you spot this before the rotten fruit becomes visible to all, for by then it will be too late. If you do not sort these people out you will have a lot of your weakly and sick sheep slaughtered by them. You will be unpopular opposing these people, for many of your sheep will not see their danger until they have grown up further, but you must act on God's Word, not any desire for popularity or false "peace".

Verse 10. Just like the people of Noah's day, the evil inhabitants of Sodom, and the Israelites of the Exodus generation, the "apostates" of Jude's day kept right on with Satanic policy and demonstrated their ignorance by their words. So it remains true until our own day; those who place their opinions above God's Word do evil, and will continue to exult their ideas above the revelation of God. Refer 2 Peter 2:12 for the parallel verse. Stand for truth, and oppose all evil whether it is nasty or just nonsense – both are equally dangerous. Satan wins every time he distracts God's people from the path of godliness and truth.

APPLICATION

Too many believers today have been led astray by extremes within the modern Pentecostal movement, and they are speaking "against" Satan and the fallen angels, saying insulting things against Satan and getting good laughs from their congregations by so doing. This is condemned by this passage.

We are to say nothing about Satan or the demons that is not said by the Word of God. We are to pray that the Lord will keep us safe from/through their attacks, and safe from all evil, and pray with confidence for the Lord's judgement upon them all. Put your spiritual armour on daily and stand against the devil, but do not insult any angels/demons, just oppose the evil ones with the Word of God.

Satan's men and women always think they ought to be the pastor, not you. Jude said that the only thing these people are expert in is their old sin nature and they follow this like slaves. Let the Word deal with them as you preach it directly and systematically. As a pastor you must confront them with truth alone, and contend for the faith respectfully but truthfully.

If you do not stop the wolves, you will have the Lord's sheep ripped apart right, left and centre. Get doctrine right in your own life and in the life of your congregation. Sexual immorality is to be stood against and personally fled from, and so is any disrespect towards Satan; he and his strategies are to be respectfully feared and avoided, and then rebuked with biblical truth.

PARAPHRASE

"In the same manner as the Sodomites, in spite of the clear warnings given, these people are so out of touch with reality that they keep on defiling and staining their bodies with sin, rejecting the Lord's authority as Lord over them, and keep on speaking blasphemies against the godly angels. But even Michael, the archangel, when disputing with Satan about the body of Moses, as he was arguing, did not dare to make any reproachful attack on Satan (by charging him with blasphemy). Rather he said, the Lord rebuke and judge you. But these (people today) keep on speaking blasphemies concerning things they have no knowledge of, speaking only from their base instincts, as irrational animals, and in their words they receive destruction upon themselves."

DOCTRINES

APOSTASY [See page 13 above]

SIN

1. Sin means to fall short (like an arrow falling short of the target) of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).
2. Therefore, anything which does not meet God's standard of righteousness and holiness is sin.
3. It is clear to see, then, that mankind, in his own strength, cannot achieve the righteousness of God (Romans 3:9-10).
4. The sin of Adam:
 - a) Sin entered the world with Adam (Genesis 3:1-5, Romans 5:12).
 - b) The penalty of sin is death (Romans 6:23)
 - i) spiritual death - separation from God in time (Genesis 3:8)
 - ii) physical death - separation of the soul from the body (Genesis 3:19, 5:5)
 - iii) eternal death - separation from God in the Lake of Fire Revelation 20:13-14).
 - c) The man, Adam, as head over the woman, was therefore held responsible for sin (Romans 5:12).
 - d) The penalty of sin is imputed to all people, and, apparently, passed down through the male in birth.
 - e) Because Jesus was born of a virgin, He did not inherit the sin nature from Adam.
 - f) As a sinless man, He was therefore qualified to offer Himself as a sacrifice to pay the penalty of sin (death - spiritual and physical).
 - g) Because Christ has paid the penalty for sin for us, those who trust in Him are no longer condemned (Romans 5:19, 8:1).
5. All of creation is corrupted as a result of sin (Genesis 3:16-19, Romans 8:20-22).
6. Three types of sin:-
 - a) Adam's sin is imputed to all mankind
 - b) As a result, we all inherit a sinful nature

c) As a result, we therefore commit personal sins.

7. Sin manifests itself in three categories:-

a) Sins of action/deed:-

i) Examples include murder, adultery, stealing

b) Sins of the tongue/spoken:-

i) Examples include lying, slander, gossip, blasphemy

ii) Out of the seven "worst" sins, three are sins of the tongue (Proverbs 6:16-19)

iii) Can result in the sin unto death (Psalm 12:3)

iv) God protects and blesses the believer who is victimised by the sins of the tongue (Matthew 5:11-12)

v) Troublemakers are always characterised by sins of the tongue (Psalm 52:2).

c) Sins of the mind:-

i) Examples include pride, coveting, jealousy, bitterness, hatred, vindictiveness.

8. Recovery from in:-

a) When a believer sins his fellowship with God is disrupted. The Holy Spirit is grieved, and can no longer control your life.

b) Confess the known sin (1 John 1:9, Psalm 66:18) God forgives these sins upon confession and cleanses from the unknown sins in the believer's life as well as known sins.

c) Examine your motivation - this involves full surrender to God (Romans 12:1-2, 2 Corinthians 13:5).

d) Move on from the sin which you have confessed. Don't get tied up with guilt - this is another sin. (Philippians 3:13-14, Psalm 103:10-12)

e) Resume your active spiritual walk. Avoid areas where you might be tempted. (Hebrews 12:12-13)

f) Be reconciled to others once you have been reconciled to God (James 5:16).

g) In human forgiveness we are told to forgive others even as God has forgiven us (Ephesians 4:32).

9. Jesus washed the feet of the disciples (John 13:10):-

a) The body is clean - we were eternally forgiven once and for all at the cross (Hebrews 10:1-12).

b) The feet need regular washing - we must confess our sins to the Father to restore fellowship (1John 1:9).

10. Satan constantly accuses us of our sins before God (Revelation 12:10). However, the Lord Jesus Christ is our Advocate/Lawyer in heaven (1 John 2:1). He pleads for us by saying that the penalty for that sin has been paid in full.

11. Names for sin include:-

a) Unbelief - denial of the truth. (John 16:9, Hebrews 3:12)

b) Lawlessness - rejection of rules of life. (1 Timothy 1:9)

c) Iniquity - evil acts. (Acts 8:22, 23)

d) Trespass - encroachment on God's authority. (Ephesians 2:1)

e) Disobedience - refusal to obey. (Hebrews 2:2)

f) Transgression - violation of law. (Luke 15:29, Galatians 3:19)

12. The sin unto death is the physical death of a believer, due to habitual unconfessed sin or rebellion against God. (1 John 5:16, 17, 1 Corinthians 11:31, 32) Examples:

- a) The Corinthian Pervert - (1 Corinthians 5)
- b) The Corinthians who habitually came to the Lord's table in an unworthy manner (1 Corinthians 11:27-32)
- c) Moses (Deuteronomy 32:48-52)
- d) Achan (Joshua 7:16-26)
- e) Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1 -11).

13. There is only one sin which can't be forgiven - the unpardonable sin - rejection of Jesus Christ.

- a) It is based upon rejection of the ministry of the Holy Spirit to reveal the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour. Genesis 6:3, John 16:7-11, Hebrews 10:29.
- b) Synonyms for the unpardonable sin are: willful sin (Hebrews 10:26-31), blasphemy against the Holy Spirit (Matthew 12:31), resisting the Holy Spirit (Acts 7:51), insulting the Holy Spirit (Hebrews 10:29).

14. The first recorded sin was that of Satan - pride (Isaiah 14:12-14).

15. God is not the author of sin nor the author of temptation. It is incompatible with the nature of God for Him to create sin because of His divine character. (James 1:13)

16. Temptation comes from the world, the flesh (sin nature within man), or Satan. If he entertains the sin, man then chooses to sin - sin is therefore a result of man's own free will. (James 1:14)

SATAN – ADVERSARY

1. SCRIPTURE - Genesis 3; Isaiah 14; Ezekiel 28; Matthew 4; Revelation.

2. BIOGRAPHY

Satan is the most beautiful creature ever to be created by God. He is an angel who rebelled against God before the creation of man (Isaiah 14:12-15). Originally he was the covering angel, the personal attendant of Jesus Christ in the very throne room of God. Unlike God, Satan is a created being and as such can only be in one place at any one time. He is attended by a vast number of angels (called demons) who have given him unswerving allegiance. After the creation of man, he tempted Adam and Eve to be as gods and to know good and evil by disobeying God. Satan then became the ruler of this world (Genesis 3:1-7). He attacked the human race in many ways prior to the birth of Jesus Christ. Throughout Jesus Christ's life, Satan attacked the Lord. Since Christ's victory at the cross he attacks believers. Satan still has access into heaven where he accuses the brethren. Halfway through the tribulation period Satan is thrown out of heaven (Revelation 12:7-9). This causes him to intensify his attack on the human race. During the millennium he is confined to the bottomless pit, allowing a perfect environment on the earth (Revelation 20:1-3). After a brief rebellion at the end of the millennium (Revelation 20:7-10), Satan is condemned to the eternal lake of fire which was created for the devil and his angels.

3. EVALUATION

Satan is called:

- a) The destroyer (Revelation 9:11).
- b) The accuser of the brethren (Revelation 12:10).
- c) The adversary (1 Peter 5:8).
- d) Beelzebub, prince of devils (Matthew 12:24).
- e) The deceiver of the whole world (Revelation 12:9).
- f) The great dragon (Revelation 12:9).
- g) An enemy (Matthew 13:28,29).
- h) The wicked one (Matthew 13:19,38).
- i) The father of lies (John 8:44).
- j) The god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4).

- k) A murderer (John 8:44).
- l) The prince of the power of the air (Ephesians 2:2).
- m) The ruler of this world (John 12:31; 14:30).
- n) The ancient serpent (Revelation 12:9).
- o) The tempter (Matthew 4:3; 1 Thessalonians 3:5).
- p) A blinder of minds (2 Corinthians 4:4).
- q) A roaring lion (1 Peter 5:8).

4. PRINCIPLES

- a) Believers are in Christ and therefore in a position of supremacy over Satan (Romans 8:37).
- b) Satan was defeated at the cross once and for all (Colossians 2:14,15).
- c) He can therefore only use devices and schemes, trying to convince the believer that he can still win the battle against God.
- d) Satan, through religion, tries to get man to work independently from God.
- e) A Christian out of fellowship can promote principles proposed by Satan (Matthew 4:8-10; Mark 8:33).
- f) Satan will use Scripture slightly changed, or added to, to try and confuse believers and lead them astray (Matthew 4:3-10; cf. Psalm 91:11,12).
- g) If Satan the adversary is resisted he will flee from you (James 4:7).
- h) Knowledge and application of the Scriptures is essential in understanding the wiles of the devil (Ephesians 6:11).

SATAN'S WORK

1. Satan's sphere of operations among mankind. (Psalm 109:6--13)

- a) Satan blinds mankind to the truth of the Word of God by means of religion (v.7)
- b) He has the power to shorten life (v 8a)
- c) He can remove persons from a place of authority (v 8b)
- d) Satan can kill (v 9)
- e) He can persecute children (v 10)
- f) He can remove wealth (v 11)
- g) Satan can turn people against each other (v. 12)
- h) He can cut off man's posterity to the second generation (v. 13)

2. Satan as a killer

- a) He has the power of death (Hebrews 2:14, 15)
- b) Killed Job's children (Job 1:12, 18,19)
- c) Motivated Cain to murder Abel (John 8:44, cf. 1 John 3:12)
- d) Often administers the sin unto death (1 Corinthians 5:5)

3. Satan as a source of disease

- a) Was responsible for Paul's "thorn in the flesh" (2 Corinthians 12:7)

- b) Produced illness in Job (Job 2:6-8)
 - c) Uses his demons to inflict diseases (Matthew 12:22, Luke 13:16, Acts 10:38)
 - d) Causes certain types of deafness, dumbness, paralysis and crippling effect by means of demon possession (Matthew 4:24, 12:22, Mark 9:17, 18)
 - e) When demon possession causes the affliction, the removal of the demon or demons produces an instant cure (Matthew 10:1, Mark 1:32-34, 6:13, Acts 8:7, 19:12)
4. Satan as an instrument of discipline
- a) Desired to discipline Peter (Luke 22:31, 32)
 - b) Was authorised to discipline the Corinthian adulterer (1 Corinthians 5:5)
 - c) Was called upon by the Apostle Paul to administer extreme discipline to Hymenaeus and Alexander (1 Timothy 1:19,20)
 - d) May become involved in the discipline of ministers and deacons (1 Timothy 3:6, 7)
 - e) Attacks through a believer's lack of forgiveness and orientation to grace (2 Corinthians 2:10, 11)
5. Satan as a healer
- a) Healing was a temporary spiritual gift before the completion of the Canon of Scripture (Acts 19:11, 12, cf. Philippians 2:27, 2 Timothy 4:20)
 - b) God still heals today (Philippians 2:27)
 - c) Since Satan possesses the power of disease he often counterfeits healing by the removal of demons (Matthew 12:24, 24:24, 2 Thessalonians 2:9, Revelation 16:14)
6. Characteristics of Demon Possession
- a) Loss of individuality: the demon-possessed person no longer has control of faculties of the soul (Mark 5:1-13, Luke 8:27, 9:39, 40)
 - b) Abnormal behaviour:-
 - i) Convulsions (Mark 1:26, 9:20, Luke 4:35)
 - ii) Violence (Matthew 8:28)
 - iii) Abnormal strength (Mark 5:4, Luke 8:29, Acts 19:16)
 - iv) Raving (Mark 5:5)
 - v) Foaming at the mouth (Mark 9:20)
 - vi) Nakedness (Luke 8:27)
 - c) Loss of health:-
 - i) Dumbness (Mark 9:17, Luke 11:14)
 - ii) Deafness and dumbness (Mark 9:25)
 - iii) Blindness and dumbness (Matthew 12:22)
 - iv) Epilepsy (Mark 1:26, 9:20, Luke 4:35)
 - v) Mental illness (Mark 5:15)
7. Demon possession explains:-
- a) So called divine healing
 - b) Alleged speaking in tongues

- c) Faked contact with the dead (1 Samuel 28)
- d) Success of self styled exorcists
- e) Rise of certain world leaders (2 Thessalonians 2:9, Revelation 16:13, 14)
- f) Cause of some wars (Revelation 20:8)
- g) Reincarnation
- h) Fortune telling (Acts 16:16)

SATAN'S DESTINY

1. Satan is called a "prince" indicating that he had his own power and followers (John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11, Ephesians 2:2, 2Corinthians 4:4).
2. Yet he is still a creature, and is still ultimately subject to God (Job 1:12).
3. At the cross, Christ defeated Satan, as his main power was through sin and death (John 12:27-32, Romans 5:12, 1Corinthians 15:54-56, Colossians 2:14-15, Hebrews 2:14-15).
4. God purpose with the world is not yet complete - therefore the enforcement of Satan's defeat will not take place until the end of the Millennium (Hebrews 1:13, Revelation 20:10).
5. Satan's final judgment is sure:-
 - a) When he fell he was condemned, this was before Genesis 1:2.
 - b) In the garden the certainty of God's judgment was announced (Genesis 3:15).
 - c) The Cross was his final defeat (John 12:31, Colossians 2:14-15).
 - d) In the midst of the Great Tribulation his access to heaven will be stopped. He will no longer be able to slander believers. (Revelation 12:7-12)
 - e) At the Second Advent he is arrested and bound (Revelation 20:1-3).
 - f) After the Millennium he is briefly released to lead the last great rebellion against God, and is finally cast into the Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:10).
 - g) There are therefore four falls of Satan:-
 - i) from his place in eternity past to the earth with access to heaven
 - ii) then that access is denied causing him to be restricted to the Earth
 - iii) he is then contained in Hades for a thousand years
 - iv) then his final fall into the Lake of Fire.
6. Satan has six abodes in his journey from the throne room of God to the Lake of Fire:
 - a) The Throne of God (Ezekiel 28:12)
 - b) The Mineral Garden of Eden (Ezekiel 28:13)
 - c) The Atmospheric Heavens (Ephesians 2:2, 6:12)
 - d) The Earth (Revelation 12:7-12)
 - e) The Abyss (Revelation 20:1-3)
 - f) The Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:7-10).

TEXT - JUDE VERSES 11 - 15

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. 12 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; 13 Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever. 14 And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, 15 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.

KEY WORDS

Woe	Ouai	Woe, or doom, destruction, loss, etc.
Way	Odo	Locative, in the sphere of life of; here = the way of life of Cain
Gone	Poreuomai	(Aorist Passive Indicative) Travelled along in this manner of living
Ran greedily	Ekcheo	(Aorist Passive Indicative) Rushed headlong(active), their lives were poured out/driven(passive) under inner compulsion in this direction
Error	Plane	Error, wandering off away from the path
Gain saying	Antilogia	Hostility, rebellion
Perished	Apollumi	(Aorist Middle Indicative) Were destroyed
Spots	Spilas	Hidden rocks, dangerous reefs, hidden from view
Feasting	Suneuocheomai	(Present Middle Participle) They are eating with you as if all is well
Without Fear	Aphobos	Without fear (of God or man); their arrogance in view
Without Water	Anudros	Without water in the clouds
Carried	Paraphero	(Present Passive Participle) Clouds carried past without bringing the refreshing rain their appearance promised
Withered	Phthinopoinos	Trees of late autumn, dry, leafless, fruit gone or dead
Twice Dead	Apothnesko	(Aorist Active Participle) plus dis Twice dead; sterile, fruitless and also lifeless. Just like the apostates who lack spiritual fruit and also have no spiritual life, they were never born again in the first place
Plucked up	Ekrizoo	(Aorist Passive Participle) Pulled/torn up by their roots, for burning. A strong OT metaphor for judgement (Psalm 53:5, Proverbs 2 : 22). Also refer to John15 : 1-6, especially verse 6
Raging	Agria	Angry, wild, untamed, waves
Foaming	epaphrizo	(Present Active Participle) Constantly splashing/foaming up the rubbish of the sea. Metaphor of the evil of these people Isaiah 57:20, Proverbs 4:16, Job 15:20
Shame	Aischune	Shames (plural), disgracefulness of behaviours
Wandering	Planetes	Wandering, or shooting stars that flash for a moment then are swallowed up in the darkness of the night, as if they never existed
Blackness	Zphos	Gloom
Darkness	Sotos	Impenetrable darkness/nothingness
Reserved	Tereo	(Perfect Passive Indicative) Kept/guarded ready for their judgement
Forever	Eis Ton Aiona	Unto the ages - for ever and ever, without any end
Prophesied	Propheteo	(Aorist Active Indicative) He gave the prophetic message
Myriads	Murias	Ten thousands
Execute	Poieo	(Aorist Active Infinitive) To do/make judgement. Infinitive of purpose
Convince	Elegcho	(Aorist Active Infinitive) With the purpose of convicting
Ungodly	Asebeia	(Three times in verse 15) Godless, and irreverent, rebellious
Hard	skleros	Harsh, inhumane, unfair, uncivil, negative
Sinners	hamatolos	Sinful sinners; the doubling up here indicates the sin and evil of these people

ANALYSIS AND BACKGROUND

"Strictly speaking there are but two religions in the world; the true, that is, of God's appointing, and the false, the product of man's own mind". (Ironsides, 1983, page 31.)

Verse 11. Jude refers to three specific apostates, Cain, Balaam, and Korah. Each one gives us an insight into the motivation of the various types of evil apostates, and each are good examples to us of what we need to oppose and avoid. These three think they can do things their own way and impress God, but they are following their own lusts. These three give us the insight into God's standards, and our own sinful narcissistic natures. Cain had arrogance and lust to power, and lacked love and affection for God or man. Balaam had lust for money, and lacked devotion to the will of God and the Lord's truth. Korah had power lust, a spirit of rebellion against the legitimate authority set up by God for the government of Israel. Let us learn from them, and stay as far away from them in our behaviour as is possible. Lets also spot such fakes quickly! These are dangerous people and their evils lead to other's deaths.

Each man is a good study of the satanic form of rebellion; they provide a three sided portrait of apostates so that we may better spot them early and act firmly and decisively to protect those who would be deceived. They hated God's rules and desired their own, and didn't believe God would judge them for their evils. Ironside refers to, "the unholy trinity of Apostasy. The way of Cain is false religion. The error of Balaam is false ministry. The gain saying of Korah is false worship and rebellion against Christ's authority." (1983, page 37)

The key to understanding apostasy is to see its twin roots; pride and lust. Apostasy, at its heart, is the belief by a mere mortal that they can, "do great things for God", that they, in their own human strength, are able to impress God by their deeds, or ignore God's laws altogether, as they are "special" and "their way" is better than the Bible way. True faith, on the other hand, is identified by the belief, behaviour, and attitude of grace, humility and Holy Spirit empowered, Bible obedient service. The genuine/true believer realises that they are, by themselves, incapable of pleasing God in anything, but accountable to the Lord in everything. Let us examine each of these three men that Jude selects as examples of apostates, for each helps us "spot the phoney" in our churches today. **Isaiah 55:6-11**.

Cain - Genesis 4 - Cain is the religious apostate who rejected the necessity of the blood sacrifice and probably is the best representation of the liberal minister nowadays. Cain did not believe that man was a sinner in need of a Saviour and stressed that man was created in the image of God, and could bring to God the fruit of his own work and be accepted. He hated any suggestion to the contrary, and hated his brother for "breaking ranks" and accepting his sinfulness. He believed that he was only one generation away from God, and therefore accepted in and of himself, through his relationship with Adam. God however, does not have grand-children, nor does he accept us in the creation as anything more than "fallen creatures". Cain's nature, by choice, was evil and clearly seen in the "fruit" of his false belief system.

Cain found the whole concept of the "fall" and sin repugnant. He felt that the blood sacrifice was uncouth and felt superior to his brother Abel and that the work of his own hands would be acceptable to God. Cain was an exponent of natural religion, rather than revealed religion. He stands as an example of human good, rather than divine good, man's works rather than God's work.

Liberals today teach the false doctrine of the "natural goodness of man", and that we each just need to be made by our own good choices a little nicer – day by pleasant day.... Cain was one of these, and he brought his offering in a sincere manner, within this false religious belief system, thanking God that he had been made so nice, and that he had been able to produce all these good things from the ground, even though God had cursed the ground. It was therefore a thanks offering, but in God's Word you do not bring a thanks offering before you bring a sin offering, as you are not worthy to bring anything to God unless you have brought a sacrifice for your sin first. It is this mental attitude that is behind apostasy; the rejection of the need for a sin offering, and an associated belief that you are good enough to face God.

Cain therefore rejected the notion of a "sin barrier" between God and man. He was sincere in his blind belief, but he was sincerely wrong and culpable! Many people today think that all that is required is sincerity and good intentions; the bible makes it very clear that this is false. What God demands of us is truth and obedience to his revealed standards, and that means to "kiss the Son", and recognize He alone is the Saviour we all need. **Psalms 2:1-12, John 3:15-36, Acts 4:12**.

In liberal colleges they talk about the non-existent "God of all nations", the "universal father/motherhood of God", and the "brotherhood of all mankind". They are talking apostasy and nonsense! They do not accept the sinfulness of all human beings and so think it is alright before God to just try to be nice. They consider that God is just a good but rather forgetful and foolish father in the sky who will pat us all on the head in the end saying that we did well, or as well as we could. They believe that they can say in the end when they stand before God, "we tried, and that is what matters". This view is evil and wrong; it is Cain's viewpoint. Cain was a nice fellow until he was convicted of his wrong doing. Then in the murder of his brother we see what evil will do in a person who is fooled into thinking that they are OK. We have an entire field of modern counselling based on the Book, "I'm OK you're OK", but we are "not OK"! We all need a Saviour, and to reject that is to join Cain eternally! Just like the Apostle John, Jude challenges us – Choices = Consequences.

A good example of this very Cain like rage today are the pacifists who will march against war and violence, but if they are resisted become the most violent and angry people you could ever meet. A pacifist will go feral and violent and almost kill you if you oppose them as a military officer. The total contradiction of a Vegan or Vegetarian animal rights protester killing a farmer who opposes them is understood only when we look deep into the soul of rebellion that is reflected by Cain. Malice is satanic at its core, and any "niceness" is skin deep and illusory, as with all true psychopaths.

When God convicted Cain of sin, his anger came out, together with bitterness and hatred towards his brother. He said to God, in effect that, if he wanted a blood sacrifice he would provide one in the form of his brother Abel who he proceeded to kill by cutting his throat with a sacrificial knife. Liberalism looks nice, but when faced with the truth its true nature will jump out. "In Jewish tradition Cain had become the type of self seeking men as well as of sceptics who refused to believe in any moral retribution or in the afterlife". (Moffatt, 1963, page 238).

The second apostate mentioned is **Balaam** - Numbers Chapters 22-25 - where he is shown as a money hungry religious man with prophetic gifting. He knew enough about God to know that God was morally pure, but he tried to push the line of what was permissible, to try to earn money as well. He tried to use his religious/spiritual knowledge to gain money by getting Israel cursed. He finally knew he couldn't curse Israel, but he knew that if they were tempted into sexual immorality then they would come under the curse of God. He therefore advised the enemy as to the strategy that would lead to Israel being judged by God, while apparently keeping his hands "clean". He was a true prophet, but had become

a pious fraud through his love for money; preaching holiness but counselling immorality and making money from it as a prostitute's pimp would. Balaam knew some doctrine, but did not understand the nature of God's holiness or grace, and the mechanics and dynamics of this graciousness regarding His own life and choices. He would be judged eventually!

If a person preaches holiness, but does not portray grace in their life, or talk about it, you may be looking at a religious apostate like Balaam. Many people will use the subject of holiness for their own ends. There are people who can talk about holiness, and make you think they are saints, yet they are using fake-holy words covering their immoral lives, or they are helping others to hell by their deceptive and immoral counsel.

The second thing he did not know was his position before God. First of all he tried to curse Israel but God would not allow him. He then gave Balak some advice to the effect that, "if you want to destroy Israel you have to separate them from God's blessing, by putting them under the sin unto death, and then God will do it for you". He told Balak to send his most beautiful women to seduce the young men of Israel and have sex with them. After that they would be invited down to the temple to worship the pagan gods. By getting the men of Israel into immorality and idolatry Balaam knew he would bring judgment upon Israel! He was right of course, but his advice was not righteous, it was evil, leading to the death of many! Now these people who sinned were wrong and individually culpable, but the prophet was using his gift for evil.

By immorality you compromise yourself and the other woman/man, and if you then follow immorality with religious idolatry, you compound the original sin and all of you will be destroyed, unless they repent quickly. God does not like immorality or religious apostasy. For this correct information Balaam received a fortune from Balak, and for a while it worked, until Phineas got to work with his javelin and later Balaam died, rich but under judgment. **Numbers 31:8**. Balaam knew the truth but the truth did not get to know him. He made money out of spiritual things, to "consume it upon his lusts", (**James 4:3**), and there are still people in the church nowadays who use their faith for money making purposes, for selfish lustful reasons. Many of them "die rich", but in spiritual poverty, and under God's judgment.

The third person was **Korah** who had two friends/relatives; Dathan and Abiram. Korah was a power hungry religious apostate, and like most who have this weakness they will always find others to share their lust for power and position. In your ministry you will meet all three of Satan's men. Satan just recycles old ideas, and always finds fools to work them.

Korah was the type of person who wants the pastor at his beck and call, and who believes he is "called" to be just as "special" as the pastor, and is able to do what the pastor does, he believes, and so despises God's men and women. There is no spirituality in these people however, as their only desire is for power or position; they do not understand service. Korah pushed Moses and Aaron aside and then started ministering in worship. He seized the office of priest, which was not his, and so he was judged by God.

There is always a danger that a person will usurp a position that the Lord has not given him. All this type of apostate person thinks that they are God's gift to the church. They are sincere in their narcissism, but sincerely and arrogantly wrong. It is this dynamic self assurance that gives them away as satanically deceived. They will be most shocked at the Great White Throne Judgment. They really will have thought in their life that they were believers, because they were in their own eyes super-spiritual, and superior to God's genuine servants! **Judges 21:25, Matthew 7:20-23**.

This man, like all lust dominated people is disqualified from leadership under the provisions of the first letter of John, because he has no "agape" caring-love for the brethren. **1 John 3:11-24, 4:6-13**. Also, refer **John 13:15-16**. A servant attitude is required for a person to hold any leadership position in a local church. **Matthew 20:25-28, 1 Peter 5:6**. If God wants you in a position He will raise you up, do not politic for votes. Satan's people tend to push for positions. If someone is pushing for a position it is usually a good indication that they should not get it. Recognise them, identify them and deal with them under church discipline. Let the Holy Spirit alone lift people up, by good fruit in their life.

Verse 12. This describes apostates in the church or believers in a continuously carnal state. "To the heavenly calling they are strangers, hence their aim and object is to advance their own interests in this world". (Ironsides, 1983, page 39). These people do not even understand spiritual things, for their gaze is fixed on the present. They seek present power and influence, and when they get it they do not know what to do with it and the church or group falls apart.

The love feast was an agape meal held in conjunction with (before the worship service) the communion service. For the evening service they would meet as a church and have a shared meal first in the ancient world. They met after breakfast at 5 in the morning (as Sunday was not a day of rest in the Roman Empire) and they would worship before they went to work. But after dark they would gather for a longer service, and they would have a "love feast" with the members of the church gathering the food together and sharing a meal together. After the agape meal they would have a communion service followed by a teaching service.

The apostates would be there for the evening service; wherever there is free food and fellowship these people love to gather. The Greek word used to describe them is "spilos" meaning spots. This is a hidden shoal of rocks close to the shore that a boat will strike and sink. You are just about at the shore and feel so confident you stop being vigilant and you hit the rocks; you are close enough to shore to be saved but you suffer great loss to all your cargo on your ship.

This is what apostates do in the church. **2 Peter 2:13**. They cannot affect the salvation status of the genuine believer, but they can rob them of eternal rewards by shipwrecking their lives and witness. They rob people of eternal reward by side tracking them from their legitimate service and destroy the spirituality of those who are influenced by them, and they rob them of joy in their Christian walk by filling their lives with distraction, distortion, and deception.

They are said to have “no fear”, that is, they have **no respect for God or His Word**, no fear of judgement, and **they reject the authority of anyone other than themselves**. The third thing that is said of them, is that they are like a cloud without water, **they look good from the distance**, as if they will bring needed rain, but they have nothing in them. They look and speak well, but they have no substance. They promise great things but produce nothing. Satan is a fraudster and so are his people!

The fourth thing that describes them is that they are **trees whose fruit has withered**, and come to nothing. Literally it is a tree in autumn, ready for the judgment of winter, but rather than being fruitful it has withered fruit, or bad fruit. From a distance it looks as if it has something on it, but there is no good fruit, or bad wizened up fruit, once you arrive. These apostates are like that; they are both sterile and useless. They will never meet expectations, or complete any contract made, and will let you down at critical times, but will also cause you to get a disease if you eat what they produce.

Like the poor vines in John 15, they must be torn up by the roots, and burned, with no trace of them left and they will be placed in the Lake of Fire. As a minister, facing these people, you have to “hang in there” under the pressures they will bring upon you, for in the end these people will be plucked up by the roots. Compare this passage with **1 Corinthians 11:20-22, Matthew 3:10, 7:19, 13:29, 15:13, Luke 13:6-9, John 15:2-6, 2 Peter 1:8, 2 Peter 2:13 -17**.

In **Proverbs 25:14**, such people are described as, those who boast of gifts that they fail to give, being like clouds and wind without rain. The true believer is always a “refreshment” to all they meet, the false brethren are shown to be false by their lack of production of anything other than confusion. **2 Timothy 1:16, Philemon 7**.

Verse 13. Eternally you are secure, but as “make believers”, they are not, except in eternal judgment. You have a place in heaven, due to your position in Christ, they have a place in hell, due to their following of Satan's policies. Even though they appear to be winning now, they will lose in eternity. “To the heavenly calling they are strangers; hence their aim and object is to advance their own interests in this world”. (Ironsides, 1983, page 39)

As Shakespeare said, they are “full of sound and fury, but they signify nothing”! They look powerful and mighty, but it is earthly and limited power and earthly and limited wisdom, and it has no significance against the power and majesty of God. Even though they behave as if they are a big raging wave of the sea. They will hit the rock, and you are on the rock. They will be foam on the beach, and like waves in a storm, and cause destruction to all who are exposed on the beach, and also they will carry all the flotsam and jetsam of the sea within them. They are a moving polluted wave of disgust!

The picture Jude uses is of a garbage filled wave spewing its rotten seaweed, sewerage, and dead stinking fish onto the beach, or against the rock. They are full of shameful things; their lives contain many disgusting evils. Just as you don't see what is in a wave until it breaks over a rock or upon a beach, just so with these people. It is only as they break on the rock that you see what was in them all along, and they are full of stinking decay and garbage! People do not see the malice that is within these followers of Satan, but we must know their evils and warn all of the truth about them.

Verse 14. This is a quote from the apocryphal book of Enoch that is not part of Scripture. The fact that Jude quotes this part shows us that the book of Enoch records this accurately, but does not mean that the entire book is canonical, or correct in any other part of it. Jude's message (as Enoch's was) is, “God is coming to judge and will end all apostasy. These evil ones will be dealt with and swept away. God is in control, and he will judge the evil, but if they are still active, it simply means that he hasn't moved against them yet!” Evil's existence doesn't prove God is powerless, or that God does not judge, just that HE hasn't judged “yet”.

We must claim **Romans 8:26-28**, in all such situations, and look for the good that can come as we confront evil directly. The debates about the validity of quoting Enoch fill many commentaries. Ironsides's point is a good one regarding these commentaries. “The source of Jude's information as to this prophecy is not given. Criticism has busied itself to find out, but all to little purpose and certainly to no profit.” (Ironsides, 1983, page 44).

Verse 15. These people are ungodly in all their ways, both immoral and anti-God in their beliefs and practises. Four times Jude uses the word for “ungodly”, to underline the evil of these people and the certainty of the Lord's visiting judgement on them. All they say that will happen to those not obeying them, will be visited upon them.

APPLICATION

Like the apostates of Jude's day the apostates of our own need to be identified quickly and dealt with promptly. “Like Cain they were devoid of love. Like Balaam they were prepared in return for money to teach others that sin did not matter. Like Korah they were careless of the ordinances of God and insubordinate to church leaders.” (Green, 1968, page 173). Once we spot such people we need to deal with them by thorough church discipline.

Do we train our fellow believers to put on their armour against such people? Do we take their threat seriously, or do we let them stay within the church and hurt the weak? Paul tells us as firmly, as Jude does, **Ephesians 6:14-18** - the whole armour of God must be put on, for only it will allow us to stand against the wiles of the devil, and his people. We stand on the rock and we must stand well armed against the attacks of these evil people.

Believers must be warned about and against these evil people, and from the pulpit their characteristics should be identified and God's people be taught how to avoid them. They can't be "dealt with" by the psychology of men, they are best just isolated and left to the Lord, but they must be stopped hurting the weak. Vigilance is the price of our Christian freedom, and we are to stand firm against all who would rob believers of their temporal confidence and eternal hope.

PARAPHRASE

"Doom and destruction to these men! For they have travelled in life along the pathway of Cain, they have been driven (by their lusts) into greed for monetary rewards, and are destroyed in their rebellious spirit like Korah (was). These are hidden reefs in your love feasts, sitting there and eating as if all is well, without shame or fear of judgement! They are like clouds that promise water but have nothing in them, being pushed around by the breezes. They are like trees in late autumn, without fruit and dead, fit only to be pulled up by their roots for burning. Like wild untamed waves, foaming the filth of the sea out from them, to their shame. Like shooting stars, (they flash across the sky and are gone), the gloom of eternal darkness is kept in judgement for them forever. Enoch, also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, behold the Lord comes, with ten thousands of his saints, to make judgement upon them, to convict them of their evil deeds, their evil words and godless lives; (all that they have spoken against God will be visited on them)."

DOCTRINES

CAIN AND ABEL

1. Salvation and Worship in Pre Flood Time

The only way to have a relationship with God in early times is the same as we have today - the blood of Christ - they looked forward to the Cross, we look back historically. (Hebrews 9:22, Ephesians 1:7, 1 Peter 1:18,19)

The way of Cain: The way of Cain is false religion - no blood - no regeneration - no salvation - the way of good works - good deeds.

The Family: The family was set up in the beginning to teach what is wrong, what is right, and how to approach God. Adam and Eve, who were born again, would have taught their children about spiritual things.

2. WORSHIP

a) Where to worship:

In (Genesis 4:3) and (4:16) they were taught that there was a place to worship - they both brought their offering to a specific place. Evaluation of (Genesis 3:24) would appear to show that the place of worship was at the entrance to the garden of Eden which was guarded by the cherubim. Abel came with the blood of the animal. Cain approached with produce - his own good works.

b) When to Worship:

In (Genesis 4:3) we read "in the process of time " which means at the proper time or at the end of a specified number of days. It could have been the Sabbath, it could have been Sunday.

c) Means of Worship:

In (Genesis 4:4) Abel brought a lamb, sacrificed it, and God was satisfied.

3. Cain and Abel

a) Cain - means 'acquired'. Eve was a little confused when she named her sons. Eve knew there were two lines - the line of the fig leaves - the line of the skins, the seed of Satan and the seed of woman. She thought Cain was the seed of the woman. He was however the first of the seed of Satan.

b) Abel - means 'nothingness' - he was orientated to grace and first in line of regeneration.

c) Occupations: Cain was a farmer whereas Abel was a shepherd. (John 1:29 cf. Genesis 3:21)

4. Cain's Offering

Cain was an excellent farmer who brought the best vegetables and fruit from the ground.

a) Type

i) it was bloodless (Hebrews 9:22)

ii) in the sweat of thy brow - it was a result of Cain's own hard work - human good. (Isaiah 64:6)

iii) it was cursed (Genesis 3:17)

iv) not acceptable to God (Titus 3:5).

b) Implications

- i) Cain failed to recognise sin and the penalty of sin and his own need.
- ii) He denied the curse of man.
- iii) Cain refused God's offer for help.
- iv) Cain's attitude - I have done this. Self righteousness.
- v) Cain wanted a cover not a cure. (Matthew 23:27,28)

c) Religion ignores the blood of Christ, it is characterized by good deeds.

5. Abel's Offering - Genesis 4:4

Abel was a shepherd and brought of the firstlings of the flock and fat thereof. (Hebrews 11:4, 1 John 3:12)
 Grace Principle - the approach through the blood of an innocent victim. It wasn't that Abel had a nice personality or Cain a bad personality, the principle is divine truth. The blood versus no blood. Divine works versus human works.

6. Verse 5 - God deals with Cain:

Human rejection of divine salvation means divine rejection of that individual. Cain's reaction - he was very angry to the point of a tantrum and his face fell. Abel was accepted. Cain became jealous of Abel and lusted for precedence in the second generation.

Verses 6&7 - God puts the alternative to Cain:

God asked why are you angry and look sad. "If you do well" (totally good) believe in Christ "shalt thou not be accepted", if not (human good) "the sin offering (Jesus Christ) lieth at the door. (Salvation is still available while the door remains open - Revelation 3:20. It is God's will that you be saved - 2 Peter 3:9) " thou shalt rule over him " - Cain was the first-born and had certain rights:- a) rulership; b) priesthood; c) double portion.
 Cain is about to be disinherited because he is not acceptable to God. He again rejects God's approach, his jealousy turns to hatred and hatred to murder.

7. Cain and Abel stand as representatives of the human race. Cain the unbeliever - Abel the believer. (John 3:36)

BALAAM

1. General Scripture. (Numbers ch 22-24)
2. Balaam means glutton, Balaam had a lust for money.
3. He lived in Pethor, 20 km. south of Carchemish. In Joshua 13:22 he is called a soothsayer.
4. He was hired by Balak, King of Moab, in Numbers 22 in order to rob the Israelites of their strength by his curses.
5. Balaam advised Balak of how to get the Jews out of fellowship. By Numbers 24:25 he had earned his fee.
6. He was shown as a true prophet as well as a miserable deceiver.
7. Even though in Numbers 24:25 Balaam left Balak, he later returned to live with the Midianites. He advised them how to lure the Israelites with the cult of Baalpeor (Numbers 25 cf. Numbers 31:16).
8. He was killed by the Israelites (Numbers 31:8)
9. In the New Testament Balaam's name is a symbol of greed (2 Peter 2:15, Jude 11) and participation in pagan cults (Revelation 2:14).

CHURCH DISCIPLINE

1. Those who will not heed the Word of God within the church are to be first warned and then rebuked (privately if the error is private, or publically if their error is public) (2 Thessalonians 3:14, Titus 1:13, 14).

2. If they still will not listen to the truth then the individuals are to be isolated from the fellowship and others are to separate themselves from them (1 Timothy 6:3-5).
3. If they still refuse to change they are to be expelled from the fellowship (Titus 3:10 Galatians 1:6 –10).
4. Paul warns about false doctrine (1 Timothy 1:4, 11). Then he expels the two false teachers, Hymeneus, and Alexander, that they might learn the truth and stop blaspheming (1 Timothy 1:18-20).
5. Any expulsion is only temporary, it applies only so long as the person is unrepentant. When they repent they are to be received back again as was the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32), and the man in adultery (1 Corinthians 5:1-13, 2 Corinthians 2:5-11).

Notes

TEXT - JUDE VERSES 16 - 21

16 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. **17** But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; **18** How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. **19** These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit. **20** But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, **21** Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

KEY WORDS

Murmurers	Goggustes	One who grumbles, complains. 1 Corinthians 10:10, Philippians 2:14
Complainers	Mempsimoiros	Complainer s about their condition in life; about what God has ordained for their life
After	Kata + Epithumia	According to the standard of their own lusts
Walking	Poreuomai	(Present Middle Participle) Keep on walking/living in this way
Speaketh	Laleo	(Present Active Participle) Keep on speaking
Swelling	Huperogkos	Great swollen, puffed up, arrogant, excessive size
Admiration	Thaumazo	(Present Active Participle) Marvelling, admiring, wondering, all for the purpose of flattery and influencing the person flattered
Advantage	Ophelia	For personal profit and gain
Remember	Mneskomai	(Aorist Passive Imperative) Be recalling to mind right now!
Spoken	Prolego	(Perfect Passive Participle) Spoken, with lasting significance, before hand
Mockers	Empaiktes	Mockers, those who make fun of serious things
Ungodly	Asebeia	God rejecting
Separate	Apodiorizo	(Present Active Participle) They make distinctions, divisions, and separate themselves and others by their actions
Sensual	Psuchikos	Natural, soulish, no spiritual life or discernment
Building	Epoikodomeo	(Present Active Participle) Keep on up building
Keep	Tereo	(Aorist Active Imperative) Guard yourselves, right now, and at every point
Looking	Prosdechomai	(Present Middle Participle) Earnestly, expectantly looking forward to the mercy of God

ANALYSIS AND BACKGROUND

"When-ever a man gets out of touch with God he is likely to begin complaining about something. To grumble and moan is one of the distinguishing marks of man without God." (Green, 1968, page 178). By their "fruit" you spot the dodgy!

Verse 16. Jude shows that the apostates are murmurers and create an under tone in the church by their negative attitude. They follow lusts of power, revenge, money, approbation, influence, and sexual lusts. They boast about themselves, and their words are carefully crafted for the effect they want them to have on the listeners. They do not care for truth only the effect on the people they target. They have all the "right words", to get the desired effect, but they simply cover their own pride and lust. They cultivate and target people because of the advantage that may come to them from these people. They are like their master Satan, cunning and ruthless, seeking to use and abuse the sheep.

In these verses Jude shows that there is little possibility of the apostates being converted, therefore your concern must be for the sheep they target to fleece or BBQ. The apostates reject their "place" in the world and God's will for them. In their arrogance they seek a higher place than they are fit for, and they hate all who walk with God.

This arrogance is the same as Satan's pride when he fell. He sought to lift himself up, **Isaiah 14:12-18**, and the Lord cast him down. Just so it will be with these men. They claim to be great believers, yet they are far away from the heart of Jesus. **Matthew 20:25-28**, **1 Peter 5:6-7**. Humility before God and his plan is unknown to them for they are soulish men, not spiritual at all.

"The deification of humanity and the humanising of deity in the minds of men is the natural outcome of all this". (Ironsides, 1983, page 49). "They rebelliously reject the plain commands of God and yet servilely cringe to the humours and caprices of their fellow men". (Plummer, 1896, page 445).

Verse 17. The Lord warned that the weeds would be allowed to grow with the wheat until the harvest. **Matthew 13:25-40**. Many will come before him saying what great deeds of healing, exorcism and the like were performed in His name but the Lord will say to them, "Depart from me, I never knew you", because they were working under false power. **Matthew 7:21-23**. They are working under the false gospel, which is not a "gospel" at all. **2 Thessalonians 2:1-17**. The mystery of iniquity already works amongst the church. Believers often do not want to face these nasty things, but for their safety they must. It is a sad fact of human psychology that most people would rather believe good things than bad about people, and every confidence trickster trades on that fact. What is "spoken" (perfect tense) is settled forever, if it is spoken by the Lord. The other phrase we meet in scripture is, "it is written". Both remind us that what God says is settled forever, and with Him we are settled in our eternal destiny.

Why do we not see evil? The truth is as close as our own old sin nature; we do not want to throw stones at others as we are very sensitive ourselves about our own sins. Can you not see from this how vital it is to ensure that you deal with sins? Every sin that exists unconfessed within you makes it less likely that you will see and deal with (avoid, or warn others), the sins in others. You should see people as they are and not be naive; there is no excuse, for we have the words of the apostles to guide us. Note 6.

Verses 18-19. Here we have more characteristics of the apostates. These verses give us good guidance, so that if these sorts of people exist in a church they may be spotted quickly and identified as suspicious and possibly apostates. It is unlikely that you will find any person with all characteristics present, but from the fifteen or more in this letter there is enough evidence that can help you pull away from such people before they injure you and your witness. Ignorance of these verses makes the believer vulnerable; for ignorance opens the door to deception. Apostates can only target those who are not fore-warned and armed with correct information. Refer - **Romans 16:17, 18, Philippians 3:18, 19**.

In the last days, Jude says, (with Peter in 2 Peter 3) there will be "mockers"; people who walk after their own ungodly lusts, people who separate themselves (or make divisions amongst the people of God), people who are sensual, those who do not have the Holy Spirit. Let us look at each of these characteristics, as well as the earlier ones (ten in all). It is vital that all believers know God's Word, or they are not safe. The Bible isn't for heaven, it is to keep us safe in time, and its application, on our brief journey on God's path for us through space-time, ensures rewards eternally!

Firstly remember the meaning of the phrase, "the last days". It refers to all the period of time since the resurrection and ascension of the Lord. The last days begin when the Lord ascends back to heaven; we live in the time of the count down to the end of human history on the earth before the Second Advent.

[a] Murmurers -They are grumblers about everything; they cannot be satisfied. These people are known by the realisation that they can never be satisfied, any changes you make to meet their demands will be met by new demands.

[b] Complainers They are not happy with their lot in life, and reject the plan of God for them, wishing for a higher place or role, but they lack the ability and/or gifting to fulfil the tasks they seek to do.

[c] They live according to the standards of their desires. They do not accept the absolute standards of God's Word, rather the relativistic standard of their desires and thoughts, and experiences.

[d] They speak great swelling words. They are arrogant in their speech and speak to sound important; their accent, intonation of voice, and the words they choose, indicate that they are phoney. They sound too good to be true. As one wise man said, If a person sounds too good to be true it is probably because they are a phoney.

[e] They spot people and target them to take advantage of them, either because they are weak and able to be used, or because they are wealthy or powerful in influence and having them as "friends" will advance their interests.

[f] Mockers - "empaiktes" - these are people who laugh when they should be thoughtful, they mock things that are serious. The truth is lost in the presence of those who indulge in laughter when thought is called for. If a person responds to a doctrine with a joke they have robbed others of that doctrine. They should be challenged regarding this. If they continue to mock you must deal with them, as if they are apostates.

[g] Walkers after ungodly lusts - the word means that they walk on a journey and set a pattern for their lives on ungodliness. They do not care about God. He is left out of their lives.

[h] They separate themselves and cause divisions. "Apodiorizo" - they make divisive boundaries between themselves and others and create a faction. The division is normally on the basis of pride and therefore indicate that they are superior from the people they are separating from. When the Spirit is moving in the Christians life you want to associate with other Christians, and so by their attitude of superiority they indicate they are apostates. The person who is constantly wanting to disassociate themselves from other believers who love the Lord, is likely either to be an apostate or a persistently carnal believer.

[i] Sensual - "psuchikos"; which means natural, unregenerate, or soulish. These people live exactly like all unbelievers (because they are mostly unbelievers), having no spiritual discernment. During the week they live like unbelievers but on Sunday they make a great effort and put on their Sunday face and clothes. This is one of the reasons why those who stand for deacon or pastor should be tested by inquiring of their unbelieving workmates as to their opinion of them. A number of Christians go into the workplace with a big Bible under their arm but no witness except to their hypocrisy. If you are living soulishly, thinking normal worldly viewpoint, your spiritual life will be rightly under question, for the spiritual man or woman will have spiritual fruit in their life, and spiritual discernment in their speech.

[j] They do not have any evidence in their lives that they are indwelt by the Holy Spirit. The Word of God is clear on this matter, they that have not the Holy Spirit are none of His - **Romans 8:9-13**. The only sign that they have the Holy Spirit is that they have a holy life, the fruit of the Holy Spirit in their daily walk through the world. The holy life does not mean speaking in tongues, or doing miracles, for all these may be counterfeited!

Verses 20-21. The behaviours of the true believer are now contrasted to the lives of the apostates. What do we do about the presence of these people in the church? The first point is that we do not get distracted by them! We warn others against them, we expel them from the fellowship once we have identified them, and we strengthen ourselves in the truth. The first thing we do is, in fact, to look at ourselves and be strong in the Lord and keep serving the Lord. You are beloved, and they are apostate. Your growth depends on you feeding on God's Word, believe it, apply it in your life, growing spiritually upon the foundation of our most holy faith. That foundation is the grace and mercy and love of God for us. "A definite command follows; keep yourself in the love of God. Mark that, it is not keep God loving you!" (Ironsides, 1983, page 54). "To be conscious of being beloved by God is one of the great protections that the believer can possess". (Plummer, 1896, page 457).

Jude uses the word "holy" - "hagios" - and this means set apart for service. In combination with this he mentions prayer, and that is appropriate for the two go together where faith is genuine. Praying in the Spirit means that the person should pray always under the control of the Holy Spirit. **Ephesians 5:18-20, 6:18**. This does not mean speaking in tongues, it means praying in fellowship with the Holy Spirit, in obedience to the revealed word of God and with sins dealt with in life. As you feed on God's Word you learn more about God's policy. In your prayer life you will repeat it back to God so that it becomes a reality in your life, and fellowship with the Lord so that it becomes a living part of you. You talk about God's will for your life, and you speak to God, and listen to the Holy Spirit in your prayers.

Keep yourself in the love of God; that is, live in the sphere of God's love. His banner over you is His love for you. Protect yourself by being occupied with Christ, giving thanks to Him as you walk through the day. When you face temptation you resist by looking at the Cross, and reminding yourself of his love for you. His Love is as consistent as Satan's hatred, but God's loving power is way more powerful than any of the malice of the enemy. **1 John 4:4**.

We are also to be looking in keen expectation for the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. You are to spend eternity with Him; remember that and in time resist the temptation now to sin. Start enjoying living with Him now, let the sure expectation of the future change the power of the present temptation.

In **verse 21** Jude looks both ways to find the source of strength for the believer. We should let the past change us as well as the future. You have a faith that rests in what has happened and a faith in what will happen. Both realities stabilise us in the truth and provide a focus for us in each moment of each day. "It was by flagrant disobedience that the false teachers had fallen out of love with God, and thus inevitably, with men as well". (Green, 1968, page 185). To ignore the Word, and worse, to oppose it, will lead to a deepening of OSN self centeredness that has apostasy at its end point.

APPLICATION

The apostates practise politics, they target influential or weak people and speak to them; they craft their messages and conversations to secure personal advantage. This sort of "ministry technique" is the devils own. If you do this as a minister your ministry is finished. You are called to preach the Word and the Lord will raise up people to support you, so just do your job and wait for the Lord's provision. As pastor, you are navigator of the ship, you need to look out for these crowd pleasers, and never seek to copy them, and be the example to those who look to Jesus for their praise.

Believers are fooled many times by apostates in the church because they are not ready for them. They do not expect to be led astray in the church. The Lord and the apostles warned about Satan's tactics in the church. The main opposition for believers is from within the church, while the places of ill repute can be the source of your converts.

We must ensure we know the full counsel of God's Word, so that we are never out foxed by the apostates. We must have these ten characteristics well applied in our minds so that we "sense" these people well before they have the chance to cause trouble. They will always attack an active church to try to disable it – be alert.

PARAPHRASE

"These apostates are complainers about everything important, rejecting God's plan and place for their lives, living according to the standard of their lusts. They keep on speaking with arrogant, swollen words, with the purpose of flattery, that by it they might gain personal advantage and financial profit. But as for you, my beloved, right now, be recalling the words of the Holy Apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. Remember how they told you that in the latter days there would be these mockers of serious things, people who would live according to the standard of their godless lusts alone. These are those people, who make divisions in the fellowship, because they are natural soulish people, they do not even know spiritual things. But as for you beloved, keep on building yourselves up upon (the foundation of)your most holy faith, praying in the power of the Holy Spirit. Keep on guarding yourselves (within the secure position) of the love of God, expectantly looking forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, unto life eternal."

DOCTRINES

SPIRITUALITY

1. All Christians have the Holy Spirit indwelling them. When we allow Him to control our lives, we are said to be "filled with the Spirit" or "walking in the Spirit".
2. The filling of the Holy Spirit can be lost by:
 - a) Grieving the Spirit - by sin
 - b) Quenching the Spirit - by not submitting to His leading
 - c) This is called being carnal, or controlled by the flesh, the old sin nature.
3. The filling of the Holy Spirit can be regained by:
 - a) confessing sin (1 John 1:9)
 - b) surrendering your life to God (Romans 12:1-2)
 - c) This is called being spiritual, or controlled by the Holy Spirit.
4. Only the Holy Spirit in us can produce good works acceptable to God - anything in our own strength is unacceptable (Romans 8:8-9, 1 Corinthians 3:10-15).
5. The spiritual believer:
 - a) Imitates God (Ephesians 5:1, 1 John 3:9)
 - b) To glorify Christ (John 7:39, John 16:14)
 - c) Fulfills the Law (Romans 8:2-4, Romans 13:8).

SANCTIFICATION

1. Sanctification means to be made holy - to be set apart unto God. One who is sanctified is called a saint.
2. We are sanctified (made holy) in Christ Jesus (1Corinthians 1:2).

3. Sanctification is in three stages:
 - a) Stage 1: At salvation - union with Christ - positional sanctification (1Corinthians 12:13, Romans 1:1-7).
 - b) Stage 2: Christian way of life - filling of the Holy Spirit - spirituality (Romans 16:2; 1Corinthians 1-2).
 - c) Stage 3: Resurrection body - In heaven - Ultimate sanctification (1John 3:2).
4. Our position in Christ entitles us to share Christ's righteousness. It therefore:
 - a) protects us from divine judgment (Romans 8:1)
 - b) qualifies us to live with God forever
 - c) makes us a new creature in Christ (2Corinthians 5:17)
 - d) guarantees eternal security for every believer (Romans 8:38, 39).
5. However, because we still have the old sin nature, we will still sin during this life (Romans 7:21). When controlled by his carnal nature however, the believer is positionally sanctified but experientially carnal.
6. When we receive the resurrection body, we no longer sin - our sanctification will be complete (1Corinthians 15:56, Philippians 3:21, 1Thessalonians 5:23).

ETERNAL LIFE

1. Mankind was created by God to enjoy fellowship with Him forever (2 Peter 3:9).
2. Entry into eternal life is by faith in Christ (John 3:36, 5:24, Acts 13:46, Galatians 6:8, Matthew 25:46).
3. Those who are serious about life and death ask about it (Matthew 13:40-43, 19:16, Mark 10:17, Luke 10:25, 18:18).
4. The Lord provides the answer to questions about life and death (John 6:68, Romans 5:20,21, Romans 6:22,23).
5. It is the Lord who gives eternal life (John 5:39, 40, John 12:50).
6. Believers have eternal life now, as a present possession (1 John 5:11-13). This guarantees our salvation.
7. Eternal life is received in full at the rapture/resurrection when we all receive our new bodies from the Lord.
8. We are all urged to live each day with the eternal life perspective in mind, thinking of our place with the Lord forever (Matthew 19:29, 30, Mark 10:29-31, John 12:25, John 4:36, Romans 2:6,7).

PRAYER

1. We may know the provision of God but we must communicate with Him in order to obtain this provision.
 - a) Prayer is the believer's means of communicating with God.
 - b) The Bible is God's way of communicating with man.
2. Promises Involving Prayer
 - a) Matthew 21:22 We should ask believing.
 - b) Matthew 18:19 The power of corporate prayer.
 - c) Psalm 116:1, 2 God is always available to hear our prayer.
 - d) Isaiah 65:24 God will answer while we are yet praying.
 - e) Matthew 7:7 We are commanded to pray.
 - f) John 14:13-14 We can ask for anything in His name.

- g) Philippians 4:6 The prayer should be with thanksgiving.
 - h) 1 Thessalonians 5:17 We should pray without ceasing.
 - i) Hebrews 4:16 We can come boldly to the throne of Grace.
3. Prayer Divided into 4 Segments
- a) Confession of sins (1 John 1:9)
 - b) Thanksgiving (1 Thessalonians 5:18)
 - c) Intercession for others (Ephesians 6:18)
 - d) Petitions for one's own needs (Hebrews 4:16)
4. Power of Prayer
- a) Individual - Elijah and the burnt offering (1 Kings 18:36-39)
 - b) Corporate - the release of Peter from prison (Acts 12:1-18)
5. One Prayer that could not be Answered The prayer of our Lord on the Cross (Psalm 22:1-18)
6. To Whom are Prayers Addressed?
- a) Directed to the Father - (Matthew 6:5-9)
 - b) In the name of the Son - (Hebrews 7:25)
 - c) In the power of the Spirit - (Romans 8:26-27)
- The Son (Jesus) and Spirit are interceding for us.
7. Prayers can be Divided into Petition and Desire
- a) Petition - What you ask God for (e.g. a new car).
 - b) Desire - The desire behind the petition (e.g. happiness because you have a new car).
8. Four Possible Combinations
- a) Petition answered - Desire not answered. Psalm 106:15 - The quails of the Exodus generation. 1 Samuel 8:5 - A King to reign over Israel.
 - b) Petition not answered - Desire answered. Genesis 18:23 - The preservation of Sodom. 2 Corinthians 12:7 - Removal of the thorn in Paul's side.
 - c) Petition answered - Desire answered. 1 Kings 18:36-37 - Elijah requests fire for the offering. Luke 23:42 - The penitent thief's prayer. Type c) represents the perfect prayer.
 - d) Petition not answered - Desire not answered. Type d) unanswered prayer has 8 main reasons which are shown in paragraph 9.
9. Reasons for Unanswered Prayer
- a) Lack of belief (Matthew 21:22)
 - b) Selfishness (James 4:3)
 - c) Unconfessed sin (Psalm 66:18)
 - d) Lack of compassion (Proverbs 21:13)
 - e) Pride and self righteousness (Job 35:12-13)
 - f) Lack of filling of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:18)

- g) Lack of obedience (1 John 3:22)
- h) Not in the Divine will (1 John 5:14)

Most of the reasons for unanswered prayer, is some form of sin in the life, which can be solved by confession of known sins as per paragraph 3 a) under the concept of 1John 1:9.

10. Intercessory Prayer

- a) This is one of the four factors in a prayer, which are:-
 - i) Confession of sins
 - ii) Thanksgiving
 - iii) Intercession
 - iv) Own needs.
- b) The power of intercessory prayer is taught in (1 Kings 18:42-46) the principle being found in (James 5:16-18)
- c) The power of prevailing prayer is shown in (Acts 12)
- d) The prayer for the unbeliever (Romans 10:1)
- e) Prayer for an unknown believer (Colossians 1:3-11)
- f) Prayer for the known believer (Ephesians 1:15-23)

11. The True Lord's Prayer (John 17)

- a) That Jesus might be glorified as the Son who has glorified the Father (v 1 cf. Philippians 2:9-11).
- b) That He might be restored to glory which He had prior to the foundation of the world (v 5).
- c) For safety of believers from the world and the devil (v 11, 15).
- d) For the sanctification of believers (v 17).
- e) For the spiritual unity of believers (v 21).
- f) That the world might believe (v 21).
- g) That believers may be with Him in heaven to see and share His glory (v 24).

IMITATE CHRIST

1. Imitation is the foundation of discipleship, the surest and quickest method of training (1 Corinthians 4:16).
2. The Corinthians could imitate Paul, for he was imitating Jesus Christ. In context the imitation has to do with self sacrifice for the cause of the ministry (1 Corinthians 10; 23-33, 11:1).
3. As the believer imitates Christ he reflects the character of the invisible God. Here the imitation relates specifically to God's love expressed in forgiveness. (Ephesians 4:32, 5:1-2)
4. Peter illustrates the fact that the minister of God's Word is to be an example to those he teaches (1 Peter 5:2-3).
5. To become an example you first must be an imitator (1 Thessalonians 1:6-7).
6. Imitation is the primary teaching method of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 2:21).
7. The call of "follow me" was used by ancient rabbis to call their disciples to a life of learning by imitation (Matthew 4:19, John 21:19,22).
8. The principle of imitation is conformity (Matthew 10:24-25; Luke 6:40).
9. This principle was fulfilled when the training of the disciples was finally completed (Acts 4:13).

10. The quest of the pastor teacher must be to imitate Christ and to be imitated in the faith (Hebrews 13:7).

APOSTASY [See page 13 above]

LAST DAYS – CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LAST DAYS BEFORE THE LORD’S RETURN

Just as world conditions just before the flood indicated judgment was overdue so conditions now show that we are at the end of the last days.

1. Preoccupation with physical appetites (Luke 17:27)
2. Rapid advances in technology (Genesis 4:22)
3. Grossly materialistic attitudes and interests (Luke 17:28)
4. Uniformitarian attitudes and interests (Hebrews 11:7)
5. Inordinate devotion to pleasure and comfort (Genesis 4:21)
6. No concern for God in either belief or conduct (2 Peter 2:5, Jude 15)
7. Disregard for the sacredness of the marriage relation (Matthew 24:38)
8. Rejection of the inspired Word of God (1 Peter 3:19)
9. Population explosion (Genesis 6:1,11)
10. Widespread violence (Genesis 6:11, 13)
11. Corruption throughout society (Genesis 6:12)
12. Preoccupation with illicit sex activity (Genesis 4:19; 6:2)
13. Widespread words and thoughts of blasphemy (Jude 15)
14. Organised Satanic activity (Genesis 6:1-4)
15. Promotion of systems and movements of abnormal depravity (Genesis 6:5, 12)

DENIALS THAT CHARACTERIZE THE END TIME CHURCH

1. Denial of God (Luke 17:26; 2 Timothy 3:4-5)
2. Denial of Christ (1 John 2:18, 4:3; 2 Peter 2:1)
3. Denial of Christ's return (2 Peter 3:3-4)
4. Denial of the Faith (1 Timothy 4:1-2; Jude 3)
5. Denial of Sound Doctrine (2 Timothy 4:3-4)
6. Denial of Separated Life (Practical Sanctification) (2 Timothy 3:1-7)
7. Denial of Christian Liberty (1 Timothy 4:3-4)
8. Denial of genuine Spirituality (2 Timothy 3:1-8; Jude 18)
9. Denial of all legitimate Authority (2 Timothy 3:4)

MYSTERY OF INIQUITY

1. General Scripture: (2 Thessalonians 2).
2. The mystery of iniquity is the inherent evil which is personified in the lawless one . This system is being restrained by the Holy Spirit at the moment.

3. The mystery of iniquity was already at work at the time of writing of the epistle in 54 AD. (v 7)
4. There is going to be major apostasy in the professing church. This is pictured in the lukewarm church of Laodicea in (v 3 cf. Revelation 3:14-22)
5. At some time in the future the restrainer is removed so that the mystery of iniquity can fully develop. (v 6-7)
6. It is noted that the restrainer is a person. The restrainer is the Holy Spirit. Because the Holy Spirit indwells all believers in this present age, when He is taken out of the way all believers will also be taken out of the way. This will occur at the Rapture of the Church. (v 7 cf. John 14:16-17, 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17)
7. The manifestation of the lawless one, the Antichrist, will then occur. (v 8-10)
8. The coming of the Lord Jesus Christ and the destruction of the lawless one and his dispatch to the Lake of Fire. (v8)
9. The day of the Lord. (v 9-12)

TEXT- JUDE VERSES 22 - 25

22 And of some have compassion, making a difference: 23 And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh. 24 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, 25 To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

KEY WORDS

Have compassion	Eleao	(Present Active Imperative) Keep on showing pity, mercy, loving concern for their souls
Difference	Diakrino	(Present Middle Participle) The ones wavering, doubting
Others	Ous De	But with others
Save	Sozo	(Present Active Participle) Seize, or snatch them
Hating	Miseo	(Present Active Participle) Hating with all your heart
Spotted	Spiloo	(Perfect Passive Participle) Stain, defiled, contaminated
Garment	Chiton	Undergarment, worn next to the body
To the one	Dunameno	To the one who has the power
Falling	Aptaistos	Without stumbling, used of a sure footed horse who can be trusted in all terrain
Present	Istemi	(Aorist Active Infinitive) To present you (before an important person)
Faultless	Amomos	Without blame being able to be attached to them
Exceeding joy	Agalliasis	Exultation and joy, associated with final victory
Majesty	megalosune	Greatness
Dominion	kratos	Mighty power.
Power	exousia	Ruling power and authority

ANALYSIS AND BACKGROUND

"Men are indeed saved to serve, and one of the best ways of discovering the true value of any new theology is to test it in active evangelism". (Green, 1968, page 186).

Verses 22-23. On some who appear to be apostates, have compassion at first, using discernment, and deal with their wavering by stabilising them in the sure Word Of God. Some people are dangerous in this category, and we approach all work with possible apostates, with fear and caution, but we must be compassionate having pity for them and their fate, if they stay in error. Spend some time with them to try to help them, but you do that by systematically teaching the Word of God. You will win some but you will see most leave; let the preaching of the Word and the ministries of the Holy Spirit sort out who is able to be saved, and who are determined followers of the satanic viewpoint.

In order to do this you need to be walking closely with the Lord and be constantly looking to the reality of the Lord's Second Advent, and you need to be living in the reality of his soon coming, and walking in his Holy Word, allowing the Holy Spirit free reign within you. Even though you are going to be strong spiritually as a result of this, you are still to be careful of those you are dealing with. In this case you are snatching the brands from the flames, and the slightest inattention and you will get burnt. You do not leave your hand in the fire. This work is not done in a casual manner.

You look upon the evil that they are involved with as you look upon a fire; you respect it and keep your distance. If you are going to help them, do so, but do not get other people or yourself, into danger. For example, if you know that someone is living in sexual sin, or regularly enters into it, you do not go and see them alone.

"Garments soiled/spotted with the flesh", is a phrase that refers to anything associated with the O.S.N. and such things must be hated and rejected, as if infected with the plague. Post Covid-19 we understand "deep cleaning", and it is this concept that Jude refers to. The perfect tense of the verb is a reminder that the stain/spot of some sin is permanent, and the eternal consequences may be devastating, with loss of eternal rewards. If you are not disgusted about everything involving the O.S.N. you are in danger. Jude has given us in this letter warning about evil in the church that we may help those who are trapped in it, but we must not get mesmerised by the "nice" things about evil practises; they are to be hated!

"Mercy must not become a snare luring the orthodox into the falsehood of those he is trying to help". (Sidebottom, 1982, page 93). Clothing can carry some influences with it, as is clear from **Mark 5:27-30, Acts 19:11ff**. In these cases the influence is good, but it may be bad also, and so we must not be complacent about any things associated with evil. We must have nothing to do with the enemy's appearance, not resemble his team in any way at all.

Verse 24-25. These verses are a song of praise and confidence and now within the church, a favourite benediction. He is reminding everybody that they are on the winning team. God has kept you, is keeping you and will keep you through to glory. You are in the Lord's hands. He will give the power and the glory, and God will get the glory, and you will have joy.

"To him who is able. This is what gives new strength to the wearied warrior. Weak and helpless in himself, he looks up in the faith to one who is able and thus out of weakness is made strong. And as he has all needed stores of grace for the pilgrim path, so the end is sure." (Ironside, 1983, page 58, 59).

APPLICATION

Anything associated with evil is to be hated. This is strong and not often applied today, which is why we have so many believers being led astray by the very people they try to help. We must hate sin with all our being. If we do not, we do not have the Lord's viewpoint and we are standing into danger.

We have faced the reality of evil in the church, we have seen the apostates, we know we are going to have fights on our hands and will be under pressure but we know what we have to do we need to be strong in the Lord.

We can be concerned to win some of them if possible to the Lord and always remember that God is in control and that we are on the winning side. He is able to keep us and bring us through to glory.

When you are facing an apostate in the church you must remember that you are on the winning side. Be strong in the Lord, trust Him, claim this promise, the Lord is able to carry you through. Carefulness and praise go together; we praise and worship God and we guard ourselves with doctrine against the evil ones.

PARAPHRASE

"Keep on showing mercy and loving concern towards the ones who are in doubt and wavering, but with others snatch them from the flames, fearful (of being hurt or contaminated yourself). Hating even their clothing that is defiled by the sins of the flesh. Now (glory and worship) to the one who has the power to guard(our souls) from stumbling morally (on the path of life), and is able to present us (before the throne), without blame before the presence of his glory with the exultation and joy of victory. To the only wise God, our saviour, be glory and greatness, mighty power, and ruling authority, both now and forever. Amen."

DOCTRINES

ETERNAL SECURITY [See page 7 above]

LOVE

1. Love for God is total appreciation for all He is and has done.
2. Words for love in Greek language:
 - a) eros (sexual love) not used in the New Testament
 - b) storge (comradeship) not used in New Testament
 - c) agape (concerned love for others, great esteem for the loved one, reverence, a love that springs from adoration and veneration, and is a love of the will that chooses the loved one and devotes self to them to the exclusion of lesser objects. It may mean a self denying and compassionate devotion to the loved one)
 - d) phile (a love that embraces and kisses. This love is that of the affections and speaks of friendship and all one will do for a friend).

3. Our Lord makes it clear to Peter in John 21: 15-19 that he wants Peter to love him with agape love that flows from a deep occupation with the Lord. Agape, as a love of the will, must work out in service of the Lord, and this will express the believers love (agape) for other believers also.
4. Do not love of the things the world has to offer (1 John 2:15-17).
5. True love of God will always lead to love of the brethren (1 John 1:3 -11, 1 John 3:1-3, 10, 4:7 -12, 19).
6. Love is expressed in worship and in service (1 John 5:1-5).
7. Love for God will flow and grow from knowledge of His word (1 Corinthians 2:9).
8. This deep love will be expressed in witness for the Lord to others (2 Corinthians 5:14).
9. God loves every believer with perfect and unchanging love because we are united with His beloved Son.

NAMES AND TITLES OF GOD

Father, Son and Holy Spirit - Matthew 28:19,20. These titles emphasise the function of each member of the Trinity.

- a) Father - the sovereign authority, who decreed the plan of salvation.
- b) Son - the obedient Son, who offered Himself as a sacrifice for sin according to the Father's will.
- c) Holy Spirit - the one who reveals the Son to mankind, thereby bringing honour and glory to Him.

NAMES OF GOD IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

God reveals Himself and His character by His names:

1. EL - The strong one (singular) - 2 Samuel 22:33
2. EL ELYON - The most high God - Genesis 14:18-22
3. EL OLAM - The everlasting God - Genesis 21:33
4. EL SHADDAI -The almighty one - Genesis 17:1
5. ELOHIM - The all powerful one (plural) - Genesis 1:1
6. JEHOVAH - The self-existent one – "I AM" Exodus 3:14
7. JEHOVAH-ELOHIM - Lord God, Creator - Genesis 2:4
8. JEHOVAH-JIREH - Jehovah will provide - Genesis 22:13, 14
9. JEHOVAH -NISSI - Jehovah is my banner - Exodus 17:15
10. JEHOVAH-RAAH - Jehovah is my Shepherd - Psalm 23:1
11. JEHOVAH-RAPHA - Jehovah that Heals - Exodus 15:25, 26
12. JEHOVAH-SABOATH - Lord of hosts - Psalm 46:7, 11
13. JEHOVAH-SHALOM - Jehovah is peace - Judges 6:24
14. JEHOVAH-SHAMMAH - Jehovah is there - Ezekiel 48:35
15. JEHOVAH TSID KENU - Jehovah our righteousness - Jeremiah 33:16

NAMES OR TITLES OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

1. LORD - kurios - emphasises the authority of God. This is His divine title - it emphasises His deity.
2. JESUS = Joshua = Jehovah Saves. This is His human name - it emphasises His humanity.

3. CHRIST = Messiah = The Chosen One. This is His calling - it emphasises His purpose.
4. It is respectful to refer to Him by His full title: the Lord Jesus Christ.
5. SON OF GOD which emphasises deity - John 5:18, 10:33
6. SON OF MAN which emphasises humanity. He calls himself this 30 times in Matthew, 15 in Mark, 25 in Luke and 12 in John.
7. SON OF DAVID - He is King of the Jews on the throne of David forever.
8. THE LAST ADAM (1 Corinthians 15:45)
9. ADVOCATE (1 John 2:1)
10. AMEN (Revelation 3:14)
11. BEGINNING OF THE CREATION OF GOD (Revelation 3:14)
12. BRANCH (Zechariah 3:8, 6:12)
13. BRIGHT AND MORNING STAR (Revelation 22:16)
14. CORNERSTONE (1 Peter 2:6)
15. DAVID THE KING (Jeremiah 30:9, Hosea 3:5)
16. DAY SPRING (Luke 1:78)
17. DELIVERER (Romans 11:26)
18. ELOHIM (Isaiah 40:3, 9:6,7, John 20:28, Titus 1:3, 2:13, Romans 15:6, Ephesians 1:3, 5:5,20, 2 Peter 1:1, 1 John 5:20, Romans 9:5)
19. EMMANUEL God with us (Matthew 1:23)
20. THE FAITHFUL AND TRUE (Revelation 19)
21. FIRST AND LAST (Revelation 1:8, 17)
22. FIRST BEGOTTEN FROM THE DEAD (Revelation 1:5)
23. HIGH PRIEST (Hebrews 5:1,5)
24. HOLY ONE (Luke 4:34, Acts 3:14)
25. IMAGE OF GOD (2 Corinthians 4:4)
26. JEHOVAH (Zechariah 12:10, Jeremiah 23:5,6, Psalm 68:18, Ephesians 4:8-10, Psalm 102:12, Hebrews 1:10 ff., Revelation 1-22, Malachi 3:1)
27. JUST ONE (Acts 3:14, 7:52)
28. KING OF ISRAEL (John 1:49)
29. KING OF THE JEWS (Matthew 2:2)
30. KING OF KINGS (Revelation 17:14)
31. LAMB OF GOD (John 1:29, Revelation 5:6)
32. LIGHT TRUE (John 1:8, 9)
33. LION OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH (Revelation 5:5)
34. LORD (John 20:28)
35. LORD OF LORDS (Revelation 17:14)

36. LORD OF GLORY (1 Corinthians 2:8)
37. LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS (Jeremiah 23:6)
38. MAKER AND PRESERVER OF ALL THINGS (John 1:3, Colossians 1:16)
39. MEDIATOR (1 Timothy 2:5, Hebrews 12:24)
40. MESSIAH (John 1:41)
41. NAZARENE (Matthew 2:23)
42. PASSOVER (OUR) (1 Corinthians 5:7)
43. PRINCE OF LIFE (Acts 3:15)
44. PRINCE OF PEACE (Isaiah 9:6)
45. PROPHET (Deuteronomy 18:18, Luke 24:19)
46. REDEEMER (Job 19:25)
47. ROOT OF DAVID (Revelation 5:5, 22:16)
48. RULER OF ISRAEL (Micah 5:2)
49. SAVIOUR (Luke 2:11, Acts 5:31)
50. SHEPHERD (John 10:11, Hebrews 13:20)
51. SHILOH (Genesis 49:10)
52. SON OF GOD (Matthew 3:17, Luke 1:32)
53. SON ONLY BEGOTTEN (John 1:14, 18)
54. SON OF MAN (Matthew 8:20, John 1:51)
55. SON OF DAVID (Matthew 9:27, 21:9)
56. STAR AND SCEPTRE (Numbers 24:17)
57. WAY TRUTH AND LIFE (John 14:6)
58. WITNESS FAITHFUL (Revelation 1:5)
59. WORD (John 1:1, Revelation 19:13)

GOSPEL OF SALVATION

1. Gospel means "good news" - there are four gospels found in the New Testament.
2. Gospel of the Kingdom.
 - a) Preached by John the Baptist (Matthew 3:1, 2), the Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 4:23) and his disciples (Matthew 10:7) Thy Kingdom come (Matthew 6:10).
 - b) It consists of the setting up on earth of Christ's 1,000 year Kingdom thus fulfilling the Davidic Covenant (2 Samuel 7-16)
 - c) There will be another preaching of the gospel by the Jewish remnant in the days of the Great Tribulation before the 2nd Advent (Matthew 24:14, Revelation 7). After the 2nd Advent the 1,000 year reign commences (Revelation 20:1-6).
3. Gospel of Grace - the gospel of personal salvation by grace through faith. This gospel appears under many names and is the means of salvation throughout the history of mankind.
 - a) Gospel of God (Romans 1:1, 1 Thessalonians 2:2)

- b) Gospel of Christ (Mark 1:1, Romans 1:16)
 - c) Gospel of the Grace of God (Acts 20:24)
 - d) Gospel of Peace (Ephesians 6:15)
 - e) Gospel of your salvation (Ephesians 1:13)
 - f) Glorious Gospel (2 Corinthians 4:4)
4. The Everlasting Gospel - (Revelation 14:6) - the good news is everlasting. This gospel will be preached on earth just before Christ's return in glory (Matthew 25:31, 32). This gospel is the means of salvation to countless thousands both Jews and Gentiles (Revelation 7:9-14).
 5. Paul's "My Gospel" - (Romans 2:16) This is the same gospel of salvation by grace through faith but includes the mystery doctrines of the church age not previously revealed. The gospel in the Old Testament was revealed by the Tabernacle, Feasts, Levitical Offerings etc.
 6. "Another Gospel" which is not another (Galatians 1:6, 7, 2 Corinthians 11:4) This is a perversion of the Gospel of Christ (Galatians 1:8, 9) The curse is proclaimed on any who preach it. There have been many perversions - legalism in Galatia, angel worship in Colossae (Colossians 2:18) among others.

END NOTES

1. "It has a secondary origin since it summarises in an elegant style points which 2 Peter expounds with greater effort and more detail. Such smoothness of style is frequently characteristic of editors who condense and revise what has been laboriously drawn up by others." (Reike, 1984, page 189 - 190).
2. Both books deal with, "Grave errors" (Plummer, 1896, page 376), and Jude simply, "denounces the errors, instead of describing them". (Roberts, 1963, page 218). "When the handling of the Greek language is considered the authorship of the Galilean villager who was the brother of Jesus seems difficult to affirm". (Reike, IBID, page 191). This is easily dismissed, as the Galileans were all fluent in Greek and Aramaic, as these were the two languages of the region. To operate in the Galilee you needed both languages daily.

Sidebottom, 1982, pages 72 - 79, believes it to be pseudonymous, but sees that it is similar to the Pauline Pastoral Epistles. Farrar, page 236, notes. "The style of the Greek is exactly as we should expect from one whom Greek was not so familiar as his native Aramaic, but who still writes with a passion which gives force and eloquence to his words. It is the language of an oriental who knows Greek, partly by reading and partly by having moved among Hellenistic communities, but whose vocabulary is far richer and more powerful than his grammar."
3. Dates vary regarding Jude, with most liberals dating quite late in the first century, even Bo Reike, believing that the date is during the 90s shortly before the persecution of Diocletian. (Reike, 1964, page xv). He notes, "It has been argued that the heresy referred to by Jude could not have come into existence before the end of the first century". (page 191).

To counter this view Green, 1968, page 47, notes. "The fact that Jude refers to what the apostles said rather than wrote suggests that we are still moving within the oral period, when apostolic teaching was largely passed on by word of mouth." Guthrie is right when he states; "much of the so called evidence on this subject amounts to little more than guesses". (Guthrie, 1962, page 229).
4. Jude's opponents were once orthodox Christians who had gone wilfully astray into heresy." Green, 1968, page 164. This is not necessarily correct; they may be apostates, make believers, or satanic perverters.

Guthrie, 1962, page 233, also notes in similar vein. "Lying behind their immoral practises was a fundamental misconception of the Christian doctrine of Grace. Libertines, . . . Who disregarded the restraints of God's Grace and considered that immoral indulgence was perfectly legitimate." Such people are not spirit controlled, and if they do not repent they are to be dealt with as if they were from Satan.
5. Jude may be quoting from Enoch here. 10:12ff, 22:11, 11:12, 12:4. Refer to Sidebottom, 1982, page 86ff.
6. "The majority of scholars hold that 2 Peter is an expansion of Jude's letter, but these verses suggest that Jude drew on 2 Peter, since Jude not only excludes himself form the apostles of the Lord, but in reciting what the apostles said, he seems to be quoting 2 Peter 3:3." Refer to Jewish New Testament Commentary, page 783.

An even better view is expressed in the Liberty Bible Commentary, Vol 2, page 784. "There are close verbal correspondences with 2 Peter 3 : 3, and 1 Timothy 4 : 1, which seems to hint at some kind of oral formula in apostolic times."

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