



**VERSE BY VERSE MINISTRY**  
INTERNATIONAL

*TEACHING THE WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD*

# Jude - Lesson 1

## Jude 1-3

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- The book of Jude is a small book with a power-packed message.
  - It is small in the sense that it is 25 verses long.
    - Yet it is power-packed in the sense that the writer leaves no table unturned regarding remaining faithful in the faith amongst false teachers.
  - This book contains both immense love and affection for God’s people while giving much-needed caution and warning.
    - Immense love and affection in the sense that the writer uses the word beloved 4 times which is representative of God’s abounding love.
  - It is a word of warning and caution to warrant the believer against the schemes and tricks of false teaching and false teachers.
    - This caution is so necessary that the writer of Jude barely completes his salutation to address the elephant in the room.
    - Check out what he says in verse 3 of Jude.

**Jude 3 Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith that was once for all time handed down to the saints.**

- Jude’s urgency in writing this letter to primarily Jewish Christians in the Diaspora is that they remain faithful in the faith, or they will give way to apostasy.
  - This departure from the faith can begin very subtly until, soon, one finds themselves in full denial of what it is they once knew.
  - This is ultimately a result of letting their proverbial doctrinal and theological walls down.
  - In an effort to guard these precious believers in the faith, Jude, through his passionate yet convicting tone, urges them to stand firm and fight the good fight.
- The structure of this letter is based upon poetic groupings of threes, known as triads – this Jewish epistle alone totals 14 triads.
  - We will see throughout this book that Jude makes many connections to Old Testament references and history.
  - What stands out in this book that has raised concerns to some is the extra-biblical material used in this letter.
    - These extra-biblical materials are what’s known as apocryphal literature and are used as elements from this literature that contain truth.
    - The two books Jude references are the Assumption of Moses and the Book of Enoch.
    - Because of the use of these references, there are many scholars who have even questioned the canonical authenticity of this book.
  - However, Jude is a part of the 66 books and according to 2 Timothy 3:16, All scripture is inspired by God.
    - So what does this mean for you and me today, reading this letter?

- It means that we can trust the legitimacy of this book in the bible regardless of the extra-biblical material.
  - We must understand, the use of these extra-biblical materials is what is inspired and NOT the source itself.
- Lastly, this book is estimated to have been written between AD 67-68. We are able to gather this because of its similar content found in 2 Peter.
  - It is estimated that Jude may have written this letter of warning after 2 Peter being that Second Peter was written between AD 65-67.
    - Peter, in his second letter, was warning the churches that false teachers would be coming in to corrupt and unravel the faith.
    - Whereas, Jude’s letter alludes to the fact that these men have already arrived.
  - We will see how Jude will take examples from the old testament references and the use of extra-biblical material to make a clear and concise point.
    - That if we remain firmly in the faith that we have been called to and live it out, we will not be uprooted or moved.
  - If I were to put a tag on this text, it would be “Contend for the faith”.
- And with all that being said, let’s dive into the book of Jude.
  - Pick me up at verse 1 and we will read verses one through three this morning together.

**Jude 1** Jude, a bond-servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, To those who are the called, beloved in God the Father, and kept for Jesus Christ:

**Jude 2** May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

**Jude 3** Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith that was once for all *time* handed down to the saints.

- It’s recommended that about every 5,000 miles or so, you should have the oil changed in your vehicle.
  - If you’re like me, you may depend a bit more heavily on the sticker they give you at the end of your oil change.
    - It’s on that sticker that they provide you the date you should return for a routine oil change.
    - And just in case that isn’t good enough, they even indicate the mileage you should be at to return for your next oil change.
  - Unfortunately, the problem with that sticker in the very top left corner of my windshield, is that I don’t pay much attention to it.
    - However, the moment that the oil light pops on in my car I become extremely shocked because I have forgotten the reminder in the corner.
    - That sticker that was handed down to me through the window has now become less and less prominent.

- You see that sticker carries much importance. It was handed down with good measure with the intent to prevent damage to my vehicle.
  - However, if I am not diligent in being reminded of what needs to be known to provide safety to my car, I jeopardize the very health of my vehicle.
- In this same way, these majority Jewish Christians have been handed down an important message.
  - That message of warning was indicated in 2 Peter 2:1-2. Here is the message:

**2 Peter 2:1 But false prophets also appeared among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.**

**2 Peter 2:2 Many will follow their indecent behavior, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned;**

- ◦ But like that oil sticker, they don't take the time to remind themselves of this warning to guard their churches and their hearts.
- As we open up the book of Jude, we will see how Jude unfolds this letter to draw us to a point of focus.
  - Pick me up in verse 1.

**Jude 1 Jude, a bond-servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, To those who are the called, beloved in God the Father, and kept for Jesus Christ:**

- With any typical epistle, the writer of the letter, typically an Apostle, begins with their name.
  - However, the author of this particular epistle is not an apostle.
    - As a matter of fact Jude is not the author's true name.
    - His actual name is Judah or Judas based upon the Greek text.
  - You may recognize the Greek translation of the name, Judas, based upon the one who betrayed our Lord, Jesus Christ; Judas Iscariot.
    - It could be assumed that the name Judas tends to carry about a negative association.
    - It could be reasoned that this is why the translators chose to change the name from Judas to Jude.
  - I personally find it interesting that the purpose of this letter and the naming of this letter are rooted in the same intent of the letter.
    - To distance the believers, the writer of this letter, and the truth of the scriptures, from the false teachers and their treacherous teaching.
  - So for the purpose of this letter moving forward, we will identify the author as Jude.
- Jude starts the introduction of his letter by mentioning he is a bond-servant of Jesus

and then follows up by saying “and brother of James”.

- To a typical reader, one may rush past this detail but it is key to hone into what may seem as a minor detail.
  - Jude mentions that he is the brother of James which begs the question why mention this relationship at all.
  - I believe the mentioning of this detail is two-fold, but let’s address the history here.
- Jude is the brother of James and the half-brother of Jesus.
  - Jude’s familial connection to Jesus, doesn’t take precedence over his spiritual relation to Jesus.
  - Recognize that Jude isn’t name-dropping here. Rather his approach is that of humility and subjugation.
  - What is significant about this detail is that both Jude and James prior to the resurrection and ascension of Jesus did not believe he was Messiah.
- The knowledge of their brother being Messiah came after the fact.
  - One could assume observing the ministry of their brother prior to the cross could have served as an indication of him being Messiah.
  - However, Jude’s heart is not illumined to the truth until after the fact.
- Why do I mention this?
  - The scriptures make it clear that association and revelation are two completely different things.
  - You can know about Jesus and maybe even associate where he may be but you can only know him if you are called by Him.
- This is why I love the language that is used in v.1 where the author mentions that Jude is a bond servant.
  - The word for bondservant, as you have heard many times, in Greek is *duolos*. It simply means “one made a slave”
- Remember, Jude didn’t make himself a slave. He had no conception of his brother being the Messiah and denied it as did James, prior to the resurrection.
  - James 7:5 says this:

### **James 7:5 For not even His brothers believed in Him.**

- ○ Let’s be honest, if you are hearing your brother doing all of these amazing miracles, raising people from the dead.
  - Opening blind eyes, and walking on water. You would think they would believe Jesus was who He said He was.
- This simply goes to show you that no one can come to the knowledge of God unless God makes Himself known to them.
  - John 6:65 says it this way:

### **John 6:65 And He was saying, “For this reason, I have told you that no one can**

**come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father.”**

- ○ Jude continues in the same verse.
- “To those who are the called, beloved in God the Father, and kept for Jesus Christ:”
  - It is here that we see this trinitarian statement of truth in our first triad from Jude.
    - Jude mentions the following words: Called, Beloved, and Kept. Do you see it there in the text?
  - Those who are made slaves of Christ are those who are made slaves by God.
    - The calling comes from God, the love is initiated by God, and the keeping is accomplished in God.
    - 2 Peter 1:3 says it this way:

**2 Peter 1:3 for His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.**

- The calling of men and women to faith is based upon the illumination of the Holy Spirit.
  - What a gift of grace that is!
  - Why? Because you have nothing to do with this regenerative process.
    - 1 Corinthians 12:3 says:

**1 Corinthians 12:3 Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus is accursed”; and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.**

- We then see that we were called because of the Father’s love for us.
  - It was the Father’s love that qualified you and me to be called.
  - When you think on the reality that being a believer wasn’t based upon a tryout or trial run but Divine election, it changes things.
    - Family, this is something to give God praise for.
    - Jude is pointing to the fact of identity and fellowship here. We are intimately known and loved by the Father.
  - And lastly, Jude mentions the fact that we are kept for Jesus Christ.
    - Notice that word for – we are kept FOR Jesus.
    - Simply put, you and I are not the center of God’s world. Jesus is!
    - You are not the prize friends, Christ is the prize and Christ gets the Glory.
    - And we should recognize that Jesus MUST be the object of our affections.
  - The faster we realize that we are eternally kept and forever slaves to Christ, the more clearly we can see the love of God all the more.
    - We must recognize that our calling into the faith is not something that we can

initiate.

- Our calling into this faith is not something that we can experience on an intellectual capacity or even geographical proximity.
- This saving relationship of divine intervention is accomplished because of the divine work of a loving savior!
  - Jude clearly is speaking to a particular audience and with a particular kind of love and concern.
- We will see later on in the text why Jude uses this collective and affectionate language to this group of primarily Jewish Christians.
  - Jude continues on in verse 2

## **Jude 2 May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.**

- We arrive to our second triad in this letter from Jude. He mentions Mercy, peace, and love.
  - His prayer is simple, “may these things (mercy, peace, and love) be multiplied to each of the Christian believers.”
  - It is mercy that has been extended to the believer by way of God’s love that we escape the penalty of sin and the wrath of God.
    - This mercy that has been demonstrated prevents us from eternal separation from God and an eternity in hell.
  - This mercy is a sign of relief knowing that what we rightfully deserved has been satisfied in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
    - Before we move on too quickly from mercy, we cannot ignore the second way that mercy impacts us.
    - Mercy will also be needed to combat these false teachers and teachings, especially in these trying times.
  - Remember, that these Jewish Christians have been dispersed and are experiencing the uprising of false teachers within the churches.
    - They are living amongst wicked and perverse teaching and teachers within the church.
    - And they are surrounded by the constant pull of men endorsing sin, perversion, and evil all in the name of “grace”.
  - For those who may not have been strong in the faith or rooted in sound teaching, this environment would have been enticing to give into.
    - But for others, they would manage to remain faithful in the hope that is within them and faithful to the Gospel that took hold of them.
  - If we were to be honest with where our world is today, even within the Big C church, we aren’t too removed from Jude’s warning against false teachers.
    - Within churches today, there is a lack of sound teaching, to the point that grace is used as a pass to sin, and folks think it’s okay.
  - This is why Jude mentions mercy, peace, and love being multiplied to each of

them.

- The cultural and environmental situation will not get any better.
- The circumstances facing these believers will not change.
- And friends may I say, the world we live in is not going to get any better until Jesus comes back.
- But in the meantime, while we wait to be with Christ, Jude prays that mercy is multiplied. Why, because it's desperately needed.
  - Mercy to sustain the difficulties and distractions of this life, especially the very present struggles of sin around us.
  - God will provide the means to keep us and sustain us in our most urgent time of need.
  - Hebrews 4:16 says this:

**Hebrews 4:16 Therefore let's approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace for help at the time of *our* need.**

- Our confidence as believers can only found in the person and work of Christ.
  - We can be and should be most satisfied in Him, even when things around us look bleak and hopeless.
    - Jude continues by saying “ may peace be multiplied.”
  - The word peace here in the Greek is *eirēnē*. It means freedom from worry.
    - This is a peace that is not moved by what is around.
    - It would require you to be steadfast and confident with who you are in Christ, with your eyes fixed on the Hope of eternal life.
    - This is a peace that surpasses all understanding.
  - This peace reminds me of the hymn written by Horatio Spafford after the tragic death of his four children while sailing on vacation.
    - The only survivor in his family on that ship was his wife.
  - After having received a telegram from his wife stating the tragic accident that had occurred, he immediately set sail for England.
    - It is documented that the captain of the ship, aware of Mr. Spafford's loss, enlightens him that the area they were sailing through was where his daughters drowned.
    - It was there where Spafford penned the words we all now know and love.

**When peace like a river, attendeth my way  
When sorrows like sea billows roll  
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say  
It is well, it is well, with my soul**

- Friends it is this peace that Jude reminds these Jewish believers of during the uprising

of false teachers within their congregation.

- And may I say this, that it will be and must be the peace of God that guards your hearts during difficult seasons of life.
  - As Paul told the church at Philippi in Chapter 4 verse 7:

**Philippians 4:7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.**

- The last of the triad is love. Jude prays that love be multiplied to the believers.
  - This love is a specific love. This love that Jude mentions is Agape love.
  - Jude’s prayer in his opening salutation centers on the believer’s spiritual well-being and affections for Christ.
    - His prayer is that mercy, peace, and love be given to them abundantly because they will need them as they combat the false teachers of their day.
    - They will also need this multiplied to remain focused, unmoved, and faithful during these difficult days ahead.
  - It is after this greeting and heartfelt prayer, that Jude moves to the purpose of his letter.
    - Check out verse 3.

**Jude 3 Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith that was once for all *time* handed down to the saints.**

- Here again, Jude uses this heartfelt language, clearly addressing those who are beloved by the Father, called by the Spirit, and kept by the Son.
  - I want you to lean into the language here.
    - There has been a directional change in the focus of the message.
    - Jude’s original focus on one particular topic has moved to something that he deems as a much more pressing matter.
  - The first thing we can observe from the text is Jude’s original intent was to “write about a common salvation”.
    - We see a similar use of the phrase “common faith” from Paul in his letter to Titus.
    - Titus 1:4, where Paul says these words,

**Titus 1:4 To Titus, my true son in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.**

- This word “common” comes from the Greek word *koinos* which means shared in common or jointly shared.

- Notice though Jude uses the word “our” before common salvation, meaning that this faith is communally shared because we are in fellowship
- This faith that Jude is speaking about is in regards to the teachings that have been passed down by the Apostles.
  - This faith is the Gospel message that has been preached into the hearing of these Jewish Christians.
- The message of the Gospel is what the audience of this letter and Jude share together.
  - We will never know what that original message from Jude would have fully entailed.
  - However, it is evident that what the Holy Spirit directly inspired Jude to write was placed in the scriptures for such a time and at the right time.
  - Check out the next part of the verse.
- Jude says he felt the “necessity” to write about something entirely different.
- It’s like that dreaded call you receive when you have made plans with friends or relatives and they say “Hey, about those plans we talked about...I have a last-minute change”
  - In some instances, it’s disappointing, but for most cases, the change in plans requires immediate attention due to the present circumstance.
    - Recognize what’s happening here.
    - There was an original intent in writing this letter, however, that due to the circumstances observed, things needed to change.
  - One thing is clear: It is evident that when the Holy Spirit speaks we must yield and be sensitive to the direction by which He is leading us.
- For me, entering into full-time ministry in the time that I did, was not something I had anticipated so soon.
  - However, making room for the Holy Spirit to order my steps, shifted my direction and my life’s focus.
    - I went from teaching high school students to where I am now, because I yielded to God’s plans for my life.
    - The question that we must ask ourselves this morning is, are we making room for God to bring about divine detours?
    - Detours that are sovereignly orchestrated to get our attention and bring God glory in our active participation.
  - We see further along in the verse why Jude is compelled to abruptly change the focus and direction of the letter’s intent.
    - He is appealing to the believers whose faith is in the Lord Jesus Christ, to contend earnestly for the faith.
  - The word “contend earnestly” here in the text is the Greek word *epagōnizomai*. It means to struggle for or fight for the faith.
    - Jude’s tone here is unrelenting to the point of pleading.
    - Stand firm in this truth and be confident of who you are in the Lord and what

you have been taught. Don't forget!

- As a parent, we labor, work, train, and disciple our children to be honorable and respectful in public spaces because we have put in the work at home.
  - It is our hope that when our children are not in our presence that they behave and act the way we have taught them.
    - As a child, before my sister and I would leave the house, my mother would have “The Talk”
    - That talk would go a little something like this...
  - “Don't you act a fool out here in public, you are a Livingston. You represent me, you represent your father, you represent me, and most importantly you represent God.”
  - The focus was to know how to behave because of who we represent and who we were.
    - And in this same way, Jude is earnestly reminding these believers of who they are and that they have been bought with a price.
  - Jude then moves to a key phrase that I don't want us to rush over. This point is key to the entire pivot of the letter and message to these believers.
    - The struggle or the fight for the faith is to maintain what the apostles have taught and have handed down to the believers, to the called.
    - Jude mentions that this faith “was once for all *time* handed down to the saints.”
- Jude is writing this letter to this group of believers that somewhere down the line between Peter's warning and now have become, in a way, lackadaisical in their faith.
  - These men and women have apparently not been guarding the gate of their pulpits.
    - Somehow these Christian believers have allowed false teaching to creep inside of their doors to the point that it is unnoticeable.
    - We will get to that point in the next part of our study in Jude.
  - Jude states that this faith has once for all been handed down.
    - This handing down of the faith refers to the finished work of Christ that brought about salvation to those in whom the Father chose.
    - And it is this message that was passed down by the apostles to the churches and church leaders to preserve.
    - Hebrews 1:1-2 says it this way:

**Hebrews 1:1** God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,  
**Hebrews 1:2** in these last days has spoken to us in *His* Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom He also made the world.

- The message of God's redemptive work in human history through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus is a message that has always been at work.

- And friends this message of reconciliation is contained within these 66 books of the bible.
- This message has been beautifully preserved, passed down, and taught generation after generation.
- And what we see from it even today is that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is still moving people from spiritual death to spiritual life.
  - This is the message that Jude is persistent and committed to keeping tried and true.
- Growing up, my grandmother's sister-in-law, we called Aunt Agnes, used to make this amazing dessert for thanksgiving.
  - It was called a Coca-Cola Cake. It was the best chocolate cake you will ever taste in your life.
  - We knew that eventually, Aunt Agnes would no longer be with us on this side of glory, so we decided to sit down with her to write down the recipe.
    - We took the time to listen to her and were careful to write down word for word, how she baked this cake.
    - You see, in essence, we wanted to preserve the goodness that we had the privilege of tasting for so many years.
  - And in this same way friends, God, in His goodness, wrote down through the inspiration of the third person of the Trinity into human minds these 66 books.
    - And it is in these 66 books that reveal the redemptive work of God that when those in whom have been called by the Father hear it, they will be drawn to Him.
    - So anyone that preaches or teaches a message that does not line up with what has been passed down, preaches a false Gospel.
  - Any message that adds to or subtracts from this book, is a sign to stand clear and away.
    - Why? Because the truth is not in them. There is no fellowship with them in the common faith.
    - There are no more special revelations or inspirations of the text.
  - What has been settled and sealed in the canons of scripture are done.
    - This message was delivered only "once".
  - Friends hear me when I say this, other teachings will masquerade their faith and belief in love, charity, kindness, and compassion.
    - Some religions will even utilize Jesus in their teachings as a "good teacher".
    - However, deviation from the truth is always deceitful and therefore wicked and demonic and should not be tolerated.
  - This message, Jude says, was delivered to the saints, and may I say is still being delivered.
    - We must be adamant about preaching the whole counsel of God.
    - We must be committed to teaching people the word of God and not just sound bites of what makes them happy.

- It is clear that somewhere along the road in these churches from the diaspora that the ball was dropped in maintaining their love for the word.
  - A study from the Barna group in 2019 reported that approximately 48% of American Christians are disengaged from their bibles.
  - Meaning that these men and women interact with the bible infrequently if at all and say that the word has minimal impact on their lives.
- You see, the less we engage the scriptures the less we can contend for what we believe.
  - What we see clearly from this text that we can draw out application-ally, is that we must be devoted followers of Jesus in orthodoxy and orthopraxy.
  - Acts 2:42 provides the perfect example of how seriously believers should take their study of the word of God.

**Acts 2:42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.**

- The moment we let up on being committed to sound teaching is the moment we give way to hearing anything that “sounds right...possibly”
  - As Dr. Steve Lawson mentions, “I am so committed to expository preaching that I would be willing to say any teaching outside of expository is no teaching at all.”
    - Family, this commitment is not just for the pastor/teacher or elder, this work also is expected from you.
    - You and I must be like the Bereans in Acts 17:11
    - Check out what Luke documents:

**Acts 17:11 Now these people were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily *to see whether these things were so.***

- Jude is bringing these believers into a sense of committed courage to stand firmly on the unchanging word of God.
  - As we continue through the book of Jude over time, we will see how these false teachers act, what their end will be, and how we are to respond and contend for the faith.
    - As we dive further through this book, it is my prayer that we will learn how to contend well.



**VERSE BY VERSE MINISTRY**  
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# Jude - Lesson 2

## Jude 4-8

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- Our last time together in the book of Jude, we opened up with the first 3 verses.
  - We were introduced to the writer, Jude, who is the half-brother of Jesus and full brother of James.
    - We witnessed Jude’s immense love and affection for God’s people while also experiencing a much-needed warning and rebuke.
    - Jude will continue this letter in verses 4-8 similar to that of the sandwich technique we have all heard of in the business world.
    - You start with the good news, move to the bad news, criticism or critique, and end with the good news.
  - If you are to imagine this letter in that similar structure, that is how these 25 verses are setup.
    - We will see this morning that verse 4 starts the transition into the bad news regarding false teachers and their ultimate judgment and condemnation.
    - However, before we get there, we must not forget how this transition began.
  - By the leading of the Spirit of God, Jude changes directions in the intent of this letter.
    - What initially began as a letter regarding the shared common faith amongst these Christian believers has now shifted.
    - A focus that would start as a message of God’s salvific work and power moved to a focus on the doctrines and theology of our faith.
  - Jude would now write to this group of majority Jewish Christians from the diaspora about the need to contend for the faith.
    - This morning we will pick up at verse 4 through verse 8.
  - If I were to put a tag on the text, it would simply be, “Fruit never lies”
    - Pick me up at verse 4 of Jude.

**Jude 4** For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

**Jude 5** Now I desire to remind you, though you know all things once for all, that the Lord, after saving a people out of the land of Egypt, subsequently destroyed those who did not believe.

**Jude 6** And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day,

**Jude 7** just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.

**Jude 8** Yet in the same way these men, also by dreaming, defile the flesh, and reject authority, and revile angelic majesties.

- “What goes on in the dark always comes to light.”
  - As a child growing up, my mom would always use this phrase. I never understood why until I started realizing the context it was used in.
    - It would typically be used to address individuals who would commit injustices or some wrongdoing.
  - Whether it was an ill-intended decision from the administration from her school or the political/cultural climate of the day.
    - If there was something done wrong or an unjust decision made, she would make that statement.
    - Eventually, I started picking up the pattern and noticed the results from those particular situations.
    - It never failed that individuals that seemed like kind-hearted, well-meaning folks, good folks, always had bad intentions in what they did.
  - In other words, what my mom was really saying was, those who operate stealthily and with evil intent may not be seen for who they are now
    - But they will be found out in the end and justice will be served.
  - I am sure you have wondered the same thing too. When will evil and ungodly men receive what they deserve?
    - The question many believers have is “Why does injustice seem to continue on? When will justice be served?”
- This morning Jude, in verses 4-8, will show us that evil wicked men do have an end and that end is eternal judgment and condemnation.
  - Jude will make it plain for us that God’s justice always prevails and that God takes sin seriously.
    - All false teachers will have a final judgment and an end.
    - Ultimately, we will discover that the fruit never lies.
    - Pick me up in Jude verse 4.

**Jude 4 For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.**

- Jude mentions that certain people have “crept in unnoticed”, in what we see as the third triad.
  - Notice, Jude says these are “certain men”. It means anyone. However, these are specific men.
    - How can we identify these men are a specific type? Well check out the next part of the verse.
    - These men have “crept in unnoticed”.
  - This phrase “crept in unnoticed” is one word in greek.
    - It is the Greek word, *pareisdyo* (par-ice-doo'-no). It means to slip in stealthily.

- The expression literally means that this person has slipped in through the back door.
  - What is most interesting is that this word is only used one time in the New Testament, and it is used here, in Jude 4.
- The imagery that is painted here is the bad guy in the movie that slips through the door unnoticed, right before the door shuts and is locked.
  - Not only have these men slipped through the doors but family, Jude tells us that they did so without being detected.
  - The question that should be raised in your mind is: How are these men not identified as outsiders or stealthy men at the least?
  - One could assume that these men may have dressed the part extremely well.
  - These men blended in well with their surroundings. They could talk the talk and walk the walk.
- Growing up in the church I have had my fair share of Christian vernacular and I'm sure you have to.
  - You know, when you ask someone, "How are you doing today?", the typical response growing up in the old baptist church was:
    - "I'm blessed and highly favored in the Lord!"
- These men knew exactly what to say and how to say it. Some were so good that they would even find their way teaching in these Christian communities.
  - You see, it was not uncommon to have itinerant prophets or teachers come into town.
  - So it is not too far off to see how these "certain men" could potentially come under that guise and gain access to preach in these churches.
- What we can see that the text makes evidently clear is these men were cunning and these believers were not diligent in analyzing the messages that were taught.
  - Why is this important for us to see?
  - Because a body of believers that are not diligent in analyzing what the preacher says according to what the text says is a sleeping church.
  - It is not enough just to go to church, participate in service, and go home just to do it all over again.
  - You must know that the word is being rightly divided. This is why we pass out bibles and ask you if you need one.
- You must search the scriptures for yourself and don't just take my word for it.
  - The question you have to see for yourself is, "Is the word of God being rightly divided?"
  - Does the teaching hold tried and true to the Apostle's teaching.
  - Clearly, these churches and communities were not examining the claims and teachings of these men who were teaching.
  - But if you examine this further you can see that some of these Christian believers tolerated the teaching being taught.
- The fact that these false teachers were not noticed at some point in time and

identified as such is clear that some trusted these men and their teaching.

- If there was a good example of diligence in standing firmly on sound teaching and doctrine, it would be seen from the church of Ephesus.
- Check out what Jesus had to say about this church and how they tested what would be preached and taught in their church in Revelation 2:2.

**Rev.2:2 I know your deeds and your labor and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil people, and you have put those who call themselves apostles to the test, and they are not, and you found them *to be false*;**

- Jude continues to say these false teachers that have crept in have “long beforehand been marked out for condemnation.”
  - There is an obvious eternal judgment and punishment that these men will face due to their unbelief and wicked and perverse actions.
    - Might I just pause here and say, although it may seem like these men are getting away with their actions today, there will be a final judgment for them.
  - This word condemnation in Greek is the word *krima*.
    - It means judgment or verdict.
    - And what we know from scripture is that every individual that does not come to faith in Christ will face the Great White Throne judgement.
    - And from there an eternity in hell separated from God.
  - Jude mentions that this condemnation was known long beforehand.
    - In other words, the uprising and infiltration of these false teachers and their evil deeds was not a surprise to God and should not surprise us.
    - Check out what Jesus says about the false prophets in Matthew 7:13-23

**Matthew 7:13 “Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it.**

**Matthew 7:14 “For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.**

**Matthew 7:15 “Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.**

**Matthew 7:16 “You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they?**

**Matthew 7:17 “So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit.**

**Matthew 7:18 “A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit.**

**Matthew 7:19 “Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.**

**Matthew 7:20 “So then, you will know them by their fruits.**

- What Jesus mentions in Matthew 7 regarding these wicked men, especially verse 20 is key!
  - These men not only have no fruit to show for what they know or what they teach but there is nothing good for them that is to come.
  - Jude describes these men more clearly.
    - He says these men are ungodly men. Meaning they are not believers and are not submitted to authority in any regard.
    - These men have turned the very grace of God into a license to sin.
  - Jude, during this time, is combating what we know as Gnosticism.
    - The gnostics taught believers they could glorify Christ through their sin.
    - They believed that the more they sinned, the more God provides His grace to us.
  - Family, not only is this heretical teaching but this is just downright wrong.
    - This “special revelation” from these teachers was not only unbiblical but it opened doors for license to deny Christ in our deeds.
    - In other words, these ungodly men used their lives to encourage believers to live in such a way that denies the very saving power of the Gospel.
  - This is exactly what Paul was reminding Titus of to warn the churches in Crete against the false teachers in Titus 1:16, where he says this:

**Titus 1:16 They profess to know God, but by *their* deeds they deny *Him*, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed.**

- It is in fact the deeds, the actions, the fruit of these men that reveal their spiritual condition.
  - These men are ungodly, unbelieving men, who because of their idolatrous hearts, seek to corrupt and turn the minds and hearts of believers away from the truth.
    - Their very actions deny our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
  - Check out the similar language that Peter uses in 2 Peter 2:1.
    - It reads this way:

**2 Peter 2:1 But false prophets also appeared among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.**

- It will be in the next few verses, that Jude will show through historical examples how God has and will deal with unbelief and false teachers.
  - Check out Jude 5-7

**Jude 5 Now I desire to remind you, though you know all things once for all, that**

**the Lord, after saving a people out of the land of Egypt, subsequently destroyed those who did not believe.**

**Jude 6** And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day,

**Jude 7** just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.

- It is in verses 5-7 that we reach the fourth triad. This triad brings us to historical implications of how God deals with evil in the world.
  - You will see how Jude uses these examples in parallel to the issue he is now writing about which is false teachers and their evil deeds.
    - We will take a look at each example as it appears in these verses accordingly.
    - Let's start out with verse 5.
  - Jude begins by saying that he “desires to remind them though you know all things once for all..”
    - Notice a similar phrase from our first teaching in Jude: “once for all”
    - This term is once again, connecting the reader and hearer of this letter to remember what has been passed down in apostolic teaching.
    - This is that pinch mom would give after having to tell you a second and third time about not touching anything in the store.
  - This reminder is what Peter mentions in 2 Peter 1:12, where he says:

**2 Peter 1:12** Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you *already* know *them* and have been established in the truth which is present with *you*.

- What Peter means is that he will continually always be reminding them of what they already know.
  - This is a constant reminder because clearly the churches that Jude is addressing have forgotten or misplaced what they have been taught.
  - As one theologian noted, “Preaching is not designed to teach us something new in every sermon; but to put us in remembrance, to call to mind things forgotten.
    - So this proverbial pinch is to steer them to remember what it is that they have been taught and what has, indeed, been passed down.
  - Because this is a primarily Jewish Christian audience, Jude uses an Old Testament reference to the children of Israel based upon Exodus 12:51.
    - Jude mentions that the God of Israel saves a people (His chosen people) by delivering them out of Egypt.
    - It is clear that although the Children of Israel are God's chosen people, some did not believe in the promises of the God that saved them.

- By God’s mercy, He draws Israel (both believing and unbelieving Jews) out of Egypt, however, he destroys those who did not believe.
  - It can be clear from this first example that when it comes down to matters of sin and unbelief, God takes it seriously.
  - So seriously that, as we see from the text, God judges Sin and for Israel, it led to death.
  - Check out 1 Corinthians 10:5-10 and Hebrews 3:16-19 speaking about God’s chosen people and those who were unbelievers:

**1 Corinthians 10:5** Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased; for *their dead bodies* were spread out in the wilderness.

**1 Corinthians 10:6** Now these things happened as examples for us, so that we would not crave evil things as they indeed craved *them*.

**1 Corinthians 10:7** Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: “The people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.”

**1 Corinthians 10:8** Nor are we to commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day.

**1 Corinthians 10:9** Nor are we to put the Lord to the test, as some of them did, and were killed by the snakes.

**1 Corinthians 10:10** Nor grumble, as some of them did, and were killed by the destroyer.

- ◦ Here is Hebrews 3:16-19:

**Hebrews 3:16** For who provoked *Him* when they had heard? Indeed, did not all those who came out of Egypt *led* by Moses?

**Hebrews 3:17** And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose dead bodies fell in the wilderness?

**Hebrews 3:18** And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient?

**Hebrews 3:19** And *so* we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief.

- Jude makes a very clear statement with this example: There are those who are God’s and those who are not.
  - Association, familiarity, and proximity have nothing to do with belief and trust in God.
  - True belief in the Lord is always followed by a right response.
    - And if you are in the mix due to association, don’t think that it will be hidden for too long or that you can get away with it.
    - God takes sin seriously and he will destroy it and those that are not His, masquerading as such.
- The second example that Jude gives is what Jude wants them to be reminded of.

Check out verse 6:

**Jude 6 “And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day,”**

- Jude mentions that there were angels who did not stay where they belonged.
  - Messianic Jewish Scholar Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum in his exposition of Jude states this about the Greek translation of this verse:
    - “The Greek text literally reads, “They (the angels) did not attend to their own business.”
    - These angels went against what they were told and disobeyed God and his Holy instructions.
  - Scripture reveals to us that this particular account that Jude mentions is connected to Genesis 6:1-4.
    - This account deals with the demons impregnating women on the earth in an effort to corrupt the seed of man.
    - Clearly, these angels were no longer angels but were in fact demons and rightly so.
  - I want us to look at the result of these angels’, now demons, disobedience to God. They are now kept in eternal bondage until the appointed judgment.
    - This appointed time of judgment is known as the Great day.
  - Why would Jude use this example as an historical illustration to the current situation?
    - Here is why he uses it:
      - Just as angels knew who God was, have seen His glory and splendor.
      - Knew the second and third person of the Trinity (Jesus and the Holy Spirit)
      - They still chose to rebel even with the truth before their very eyes.
    - And just as the angels rebelled against God and His Heavenly majesty, so are the false teachers that have infiltrated the ranks of God’s believers.
      - Although these men are amongst you, it does not mean they are of you.
      - And eventually, if you are truly girding yourself in the truth, you will see these men for who they really are, counterfeits.
- Jude continues in this section of the text in verse 7.
  - It is here that Jude uses the example of Sodom and Gomorrah. A story that some are no strangers to.
    - For those of you who may not be familiar with the story of Sodom and Gomorrah, this city was what we would call “Sin-city”.
    - And even that name doesn’t give it any justice.
  - Sodom and Gomorrah were known for fornication and sexual deviance and desire of all levels.

- What is interesting is how Jude takes verses 6 and 7 and connects them both using the phrase “Just as” in the beginning of verse 7.
    - This is important to understand because both the demons in verse 6 and the men and women in verse 7 of this example are given over to their desires.
  - The result of the men and women of Sodom and Gomorrah giving into their sexual desires resulted in the destruction of that city by fire.
    - One theologian documents it as “a scene of sulfurous devastation”.
    - This provided a simple foretaste of the eternal fiery judgment that is to come.
  - It could be seen that this acting out by one’s own compulsion or desire is what these false teachers were known by.
    - Their allegiance and submission is not to Jesus and His Lordship. Their reverence is not to a Holy God and His saving power.
    - These false teachers are not guided or yielded to the power of the Holy Spirit because the Spirit of God is not in them.
  - It becomes all the more clear that these men’s actions and deeds do not align with what they “claim” to believe or even know.
    - These false teachers find much joy in their deviant and destructive desires.
    - They exhibit no remorse or repentance for their ways
  - So what we see within this triad is that no belief, a rejection of God’s power and authority result in destructive behavior which leads to eternal punishment.
- Family, do not think for one moment that the false teachers of today are getting away with anything they are doing and the way they are leading people astray.
  - It is evidently clear from a historical perspective that the way in which God deals with sin does not change.
    - These false teachers may be relishing in their advances over the vulnerable and spiritually dead now, but they have a special seat in hell with their name on it.
  - God’s justice is perfect and it doesn’t overlook anyone.
    - God is wholly committed to His word and Himself.
  - Jude now moves to summarize this particular triad in verse 8. Check out what he says:

**Jude 8 Yet in the same way these men, also by dreaming, defile the flesh, and reject authority, and revile angelic majesties.**

- We arrive at the fifth triad where Jude will summarize from the previous historical examples, what kind of men these false teachers are.
  - He mentions that through the false teacher’s mystical dreaming, sin is the result.
    - Jude mentions these sinful acts are the result of their dreaming.
    - Recognize that the false teachers’ dreaming give permission and license to sin.

- The question we should be asking ourselves is what are these “dreams” these men are experiencing.
- The word dreaming in Greek is *enypniiazomai* (en-oop-nee-ad'-zom-ahee). This word simply means a dream, a revelation, or divinely suggested.
  - These false teachers would tell believers in these Christian communities that their license to do what they did came through revelation.
  - Family, this is why we have to be cautious when people say that the “Lord told me this or that”.
  - This is why we must be careful when individuals say “the Lord showed me this in a dream”.
  - It is not to say everyone that says that is false, it is to say that that revelation must be tested by the truth of God’s word. Here is why:
- In churches today, prosperity theology is polluting the minds of millions. You may have heard some of these false teachers before.
  - They begin with these elaborate dreams or revelations that they say the Lord showed them and then follow it up by asking you to sow a seed for their private jet.
  - Or maybe they had a dream and the Lord showed them something that is not found in the scriptures.
- I want to read to you a brief excerpt from a story done by a false teacher that is still in the pulpit today and has established his own denomination.
  - Here is what the excerpt says:

**"I couldn't reconcile a God whose mercy endures forever, and this torture chamber that's customized for unbelievers," said the false teacher. And he often agonized over the fate of his non-Christian family members. According to his faith, they were doomed to hell. This particular man would say, "How can you really love a god who's torturing your grandmother? And that's what I went through for years." The more he studied, the more this certain man saw the Bible not as the literal word of God but a book by men about God -- primitive men prone to mistranslations, political agendas and human emotions. And one night, as he watched Peter Jennings' report on the parade of suffering in Rwanda, he had a revelation.**

Here is the special revelation from this certain man,

**"I remember thinking that these were probably Muslims because God wouldn't let that happen to Christians," he said. "Unbelieving Muslims, little starving babies and that they were going to die and go to hell." "And that's when I said, 'God, how could you, how could you call yourself a loving God and a living God, and just let them suffer like that, then to suck them into hell?'" he continued. "And that's when I thought I heard an inner voice say, 'Is that what you think we're doing?' I said, 'That's what I've been**

**taught. You're sucking them into hell.' And that voice said, 'Can't you see they're already there? That's hell. You created that.'"**

**This certain man believed that God was telling him hell is the creation of man on earth.**

- ○ God's truth and revelation of Himself is found in scripture and not our emotions or lack of understanding.
- The God that we serve can be trusted and taken at His word without confusion and it can be confirmed through the scriptures.
  - Check out what the Lord God said regarding false prophets in Jeremiah 23:25-32.

**Jeremiah 23:25** "I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy falsely in My name, saying, 'I had a dream, I had a dream!'"

**Jeremiah 23:26** How long? Is there *anything* in the hearts of the prophets who prophesy falsehood, *these* prophets of the deceitfulness of their own heart, **Jeremiah 23:27** who intend to make My people forget My name by their dreams which they report to one another, just as their fathers forgot My name because of Baal?

**Jeremiah 23:28** The prophet who has a dream may report *his* dream, but let him who has My word speak My word truthfully. What does straw have *in common* with grain?" declares the Lord.

**Jeremiah 23:29** "Is My word not like fire?" declares the Lord, "and like a hammer *which* shatters a rock?"

**Jeremiah 23:30** Therefore behold, I am against the prophets," declares the Lord, "who steal My words from each other.

**Jeremiah 23:31** Behold, I am against the prophets," declares the Lord, "who use their tongues and declare, '*The Lord* declares!'"

**Jeremiah 23:32** Behold, I am against those who have prophesied false dreams," declares the Lord, "and reported them and led My people astray by their lies and reckless boasting; yet I did not send them nor command them, nor do they provide this people the slightest benefit," declares the Lord.

- Once again, it becomes clear that God does not like sin and He is serious about His word.
  - The false teachers have no high view of scripture, no acknowledgment of the truth and the truth is not in them.
    - Because of this fact, the false teachers turn to their own desires and pleasures exchanging what is pleasing to God to what is pleasing to self.
    - Friends, this is idolatry at the core and these false teachers see nothing wrong with it.
  - Because the Lord Jesus is not their Master and King, they turn to themselves.
    - And what becomes of that is their giving into their sexual desires.
    - Rejecting the one and only God by denying Jesus Christ as Lord and King.

- And lastly, the text says reviling “angelic majesties”.
  - You may remember that Greek word for revile. It is the word blaspheme.
    - So the text says that the false teachers blaspheme the angelic majesties.
    - You may be scratching your head wondering what are angelic majesties, what all does it encompass?
  - That phrase “angelic majesties” in Greek means “doxa”.
    - The word Doxa means, glory.
  - In other words, these false teachers deny the very glory, splendor, majesty, and power of our Great God.
    - They have no regard for who God is, what He has done, nor His word.
    - For the false teacher it is literally in one ear and out the other.
  - The only glory that they see is their own and friends, might I say that is no glory at all.
    - What the text shows us this morning is that, these men are evil, wicked, and wrapped up in themselves.
    - They have no regard for scripture but will use the Lord’s name in order to gain access to more people and positions of power.
    - Can you see why Jude sensed the need to transition the intent of this letter in a different direction?
  - There is no room or excuse for a believer in Jesus to not be diligent in knowing the word of God.
    - The more that we love this book, spend time with Jesus, and worship the Lord for who He is, the more we will value His truth!
    - The more that we value God’s truth, the better we can detect the lies from the enemy.
    - We also see that not everyone who uses Jesus’ name is of Him. You will tell who they are by their fruit.
  - If the result of being saved is a life committed to Jesus, then the life of the believer must be based upon knowing and loving this book.



**VERSE BY VERSE MINISTRY**  
INTERNATIONAL

*TEACHING THE WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD*

# Jude - Lesson 3

## Jude 8-10

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- This morning we find ourselves in session 3 of Jude.
  - In Jude verses 4-8, we witnessed that these false teachers have been entering into these Christian communities “unnoticed”.
    - These men were counterfeits with the aim to bring about division, confusion, and ultimately, destruction.
    - The means by which these men attempt to infiltrate the church is by looking the part.
    - They speak the Christian vernacular and use wording that convinces you that they are in alignment with you doctrinally and theologically.
    - Saying the name Jesus is one thing, yet being submitted to Him as Lord is another.
  - These men are stealthy. They may attend a local small group, volunteer for a needed ministry, and even attend seminary.
    - By any means necessary, they will do what it takes to blend right on in.
    - However, Jude explains in the latter half of verse 4 that these men have particular characteristics.
  - He mentions that these men are the following: They are...
    - Ungodly
    - Turning the grace of God into a license to sin (Licentiousness)
    - Denying our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ
  - Jude continues on by providing 3 Old Testament examples for these Jewish believers as to the ending result of these men in verses 5-7
    - We found that these examples that Jude uses are quite familiar to this particular audience.
    - The audience that Jude is writing to is primarily Jewish Christians which means that they are familiar with these stories.
  - These examples that he uses would have been passed down to them generation after generation so that they would know their history.
    - Imagine a family reunion where the family historian, typically the patriarch, shares the history of the family and their origins.
    - In this same way, these Old Testament stories would ring into the hearing of these readers and listeners.
    - But ultimately they would serve as a warning to these Jewish believers.
  - The warning would be made clear: Those who sin against a holy God will be rightfully judged and condemned.
  - As we recap verse 8 and walk through verses 9 through 10, it is my prayer that we see the following things:
    - Revelation without the affirmation of the scriptures leads to deception and purposeful misinterpretation.
    - True Gospel transformation and sanctification is assessed by the fruit of your life not the fruit of your lip service.

- Submission to the scriptures and our Savior point to who our true authority is and not our own desires.
- Lastly, a high view of scripture will produce high reverence for God and His Glory.
- If I were to put a tag to this text, it would be “Right belief leads to right behavior”.
  - With that being said let’s read verses 8-10, together.

**Jude 8 Yet in the same way these people also, dreaming, defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak abusively of angelic majesties.**

**Jude 9 But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him an abusive judgment, but said, “The Lord rebuke you!”**

**Jude 10 But these men revile the things which they do not understand; and the things which they know by instinct, like unreasoning animals, by these things they are destroyed**

- Lets Pray
- Dr. Tony Evans said, “We do not fight for a position of victory, but we fight from a position of victory”.
  - In few short words, Dr. Evans makes mention that the victory that the believer experiences in Christ is not our victory but rather, it is God’s victory.
    - As believers beloved by the Father, called by the Spirit, and kept for Jesus Christ our greatest place of position is under the authority of Christ.
    - This means that there has to be complete and total dependence upon the very person and work of Jesus Christ.
  - It is Jesus Christ who is our Master and Lord.
- God must be the beginning and the end, the first and the last, and above all, our only authority as followers of Jesus.
  - Jude, by means of extra-biblical material, will make known the staunch difference between that of believers versus unbelievers.
    - Let’s recap verse 8 from our last teaching in Jude.

**Jude 8 Yet in the same way these people also, dreaming, defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak abusively of angelic majesties.**

- If you recall from our last teaching in Jude, verse 8, we mentioned several things regarding these false teachers in the fifth triad.
  - We mentioned that these men were unbelievers that had no hold of truth, righteousness, or authority.
    - As a matter of fact, Jude provides Old Testament examples for us to understand that these men and their actions are not surprising.
    - The very history of false teachers’ deeds and motivations has existed for ages.

- As Solomon mentions in Ecclesiastes 1:9, he says:

**Ecclesiastes 1:9 What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun.**

- Jude mentions that they defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak abusively or revile angelic majesties, depending on your Bible translation.
  - And apparently, all of this is done by way of demonic dreaming. Do you see that in the first half of verse 8?
    - As a recap from the last teaching, The word dreaming in greek is *enyphiazomai* (en-ooop-nee-ad'-zom-ah-ee). This word simply means a dream or a revelation.
  - This way of dreaming spoke to prophetic dreaming as if given in a divine sense, however, remember who we are dealing with here.
    - If these men are ungodly, misleading miscreants, these dreams are simply delusions and wicked perversions to mislead men and women of God.
    - These special revelations are dreams that have been shared while using Jesus' name as a means to verify and authorize their wickedness.
  - Just to remind you that there is nothing new under the sun, check out Jeremiah 23:25-28.
    - These false teachers have been using the name of God to permit sin amongst believers even before this letter was written.
    - Here's what the text says:

**Jeremiah 23:25** “I have heard what the prophets say who prophesy lies in my name. They say, ‘I had a dream! I had a dream!’

**Jeremiah 23:26** How long will this continue in the hearts of these lying prophets, who prophesy the delusions of their own minds?

**Jeremiah 23:27** They think the dreams they tell one another will make my people forget my name, just as their ancestors forgot my name through Baal worship.

**Jeremiah 23:28** Let the prophet who has a dream recount the dream, but let the one who has my word speak it faithfully. For what has straw to do with grain?” declares the Lord.

- This “dreaming” is evident even today, but what is even worse, but not surprising, is that this type of false gospel is emerging all the more within Christian churches.
  - Friends, this is what Jesus, Peter, and Jude were warning believers about.
    - We tend to want to warrant ourselves from those who are outside of the church or even outside of the faith (there is wisdom there)
    - However, Jude and Peter mention that if we are not diligent in studying the scriptures and contending for the faith, the greatest threat will be from within.
    - And dare I say it, we are seeing this more and more every day in churches

around the world.

- We are hearing more and more about an inclusive Gospel, prosperity teaching, universal salvation, and the like.
  - All of these various teachings have come from men within the church all using the name of our only Master and Lord, for the sake of their gain.
  - Whether that be monetary gain, social status, sexual gain...the list goes on and on.
- Jude continues by mentioning 3 things regarding these ungodly men that create parallelisms within Jude's examples. He mentions that these men:
  - Defile the flesh (give into their lustful desires )
  - Reject authority (deny the authority of God)
  - And speak abusively of angelic majesties (shaming the Glory of God)
- Jude, in verse 9 will directly contrast these wicked, unbelieving men and their behaviors to that of the archangel Michael's reverence and submission to God's authority in response to contending with the devil.
  - Pick me up at verse 9.

**Jude 9 But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him an abusive judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"**

- It is here in verse 9 where we are introduced to the first use of apocryphal literature referenced in the book of Jude. He references the "Assumption of Moses".
  - Now before we dive into verse 9, let us recall that the use of this reference within the scriptures is what is inspired not the source itself.
    - Why do I note this?
    - Because the reality is these apocryphal writings were common reading for Jewish men and women and they contained some historically accurate information.
  - We must be very careful in differentiating between the authenticity and inspiration of the canon of scripture and the use of extra-biblical material used within the canon.
    - For example, the Assumption of Moses is not an inspired work of scripture.
    - Meaning that the Holy Spirit did not inspire the writing or the writer of the words of that particular work.
    - But rather the Assumption of Moses was written by someone to tell the history of the Israelite nation.
  - Similar to other writings in the world, there are some books that contain some truth even if the book isn't based upon true events.
    - For example, it's like an old adage that you grew up on. That proverb may not be found in the bible word for word, but it contains some truth.
    - For example, there is an old saying "A friend means well, even when he hurts

you”

- Although this saying is not found in scripture, it bears some truth.
- How can we attest to its truth? By looking at scripture: Look at Proverbs 27:6

### **Proverbs 27:6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But deceitful are the kisses of an enemy.**

- As Charles Spurgeon once said, “I charge you, examine every statement you hear from Christian pulpits and platforms; I charge you sift and try every religious book by the great standard of the word of God.
  - In this same way Jude, by the inspiration of the Spirit of God recalls truth from this particular piece of literature that is in fact historically accurate.
  - So with that being said, let’s examine this excerpt from the Assumption of Moses regarding Michael the archangel, the devil, and the body of Moses.
  - If you notice, Jude uses this example in direct connection to his previous statement regarding false teachers speaking abusively about angelic majesties.
    - Or as some of your translations may say, reviling angelic majesties.
  - Before we move too far ahead, it is important to define terms, so let’s understand what the word revile means.
    - The greek word for revile is this word we have heard previously, it is the word *blasphēmeō*.
    - The word literally means to slander, defame, or speak profanely about sacred things.
  - In other words, these false teachers defame the very glory of God and speak profanely about the very wondrous and glorious works of God.
    - By mere process of elimination, you can see how the very rejection and slander of God’s power and Glory is the rejection of His authority.
    - These are the very characterizations and behaviors of these types of men.
  - Jude mentions that Michael the archangel is contending with satan regarding the burial of Moses’ body.
    - To a reader unfamiliar with Jewish literature, this reference may be a bit confusing and questionable.
    - However, we have to remember that the use of the Assumption of Moses ties to a particular event in the Old Testament that contains some truth.
    - This event is well known to many Jewish men and women as they are familiar with these ancient readings.
  - The question that we should be asking ourselves as believers is, where is this truth of the burial of Moses found in scripture?
    - I’m glad you asked! We can read about the death of Moses at the end of Deuteronomy.
    - Check out Deuteronomy 34:1-6

**Deut. 34:1** Now Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho. And the Lord showed him all the land, Gilead as far as Dan,

**Deut. 34:2** and all Naphtali and the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, and all the land of Judah as far as the western sea,

**Deut. 34:3** and the Negev and the territory in the Valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees, as far as Zoar.

**Deut. 34:4** Then the Lord said to him, “This is the land which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, ‘I will give it to your descendants’; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you will not go over there.”

**Deut. 34:5** So Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab, in accordance with the word of the Lord.

**Deut. 34:6** And He buried him in the valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor; but no one knows his burial place to this day.

- We are made aware in Deuteronomy 34:4-5 that Moses will not be entering the promised land.
  - Deuteronomy 34 verses 4 and 6 will establish 3 big questions that will address verse 9 of Jude.
    - Those questions are the following:
      - Why will Moses not go into the promised land?
      - Why doesn’t anyone know where Moses is buried?
      - What significance does this hold?
  - We are not told why specifically in this verse but previous study through the book of Exodus reveals why Moses was not able to enter the promised land.
    - Due to our time restraints in the message we are not able to go into deep detail regarding how Moses disobeyed God.
    - However, I would like to simply provide you with a brief cliff note on Moses’ disobedience and inability to enter the promised land, based on the Exodus study by VBVM (Verse By Verse Ministry).
    - If you are interested in learning more about it in detail, I encourage you to check it out.
  - So Moses was not allowed to enter the promised land because he disobeyed the Lord’s instructions.
    - It begins in Exodus 17 where the Lord instructs Moses to strike a rock that is before him in order to produce water.
    - This account is found in Exodus 17:6. It says:

**Exodus 17:6** Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.

- Moses, out of frustration with the people, disobeys God’s instruction according to

Numbers 20.

- Rather than speaking to the rock as God instructs Moses to do, Moses strikes the rock again.
- Here is that account in Numbers 20:9-11

**Numbers 20:9** So Moses took the staff from before the Lord, just as He had commanded him;

**Numbers 20:10** and Moses and Aaron summoned the assembly in front of the rock. And he said to them, “Listen now, you rebels; shall we bring water for you out of this rock?”

**Numbers 20:11** Then Moses raised his hand and struck the rock twice with his staff; and water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their livestock drank.

- ◦ You may be asking yourself at the moment, what is the big deal with this rock? Here is why this detail matters.
- The significance of this rock in Exodus and Numbers was intended to establish a picture of Jesus Christ, the promised Messiah having to be struck once for all.
  - Throughout scripture, we see the text uses the imagery of a rock to speak about Christ being the solid rock on which we stand.
  - For example, Deuteronomy 32:4 says:

**Deut. 32:4** The Rock! His work is perfect,  
For all His ways are just;  
A God of faithfulness and without injustice,  
Righteous and just is He.

- ◦ We see this same use of the rock as a picture of Christ confirmed in the New Testament by the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 10:1-4. It reads:

**1 Cor. 10:1** For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our fathers were all under the cloud and they all passed through the sea;

**1 Cor. 10:2** and they all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea;

**1 Cor. 10:3** and they all ate the same spiritual food,

**1 Cor. 10:4** and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ.

- So because of Moses’ disobedience and choosing to strike the rock a second time, the picture God establishes to represent Christ was interrupted.
  - If not rectified, the picture would have demonstrated that the promised Messiah would have to be repeatedly struck for our sins.
  - So how does God bring clarity to this picture for His people after Moses’ misstep?
  - It results in Moses not entering into the promised land. God, by His grace, allows

Moses to see it, but not enter it.

- This marks the start of a new picture being formed in using Moses' inability to enter the promised land.
  - The next question that comes about is, who does God use to lead the chosen people of Israel into the Promised land?
- He uses a man by the name Joshua.
  - God uses Joshua to lead the Children of Israel into the promised land.
- With God preventing Moses from entering the promised land, this new picture begins to unfold.
  - Moses is the picture of the law as law-giver and his inability to enter the promised land shows that the law does not provide means to salvation or eternal life.
- Therefore, if Moses represents the law then what does Joshua represent?
  - Joshua, who's name is Yeshua in Hebrew which translates as Jesus, represents how men enter into salvation and attain eternal life.
  - It is only through and by Christ that men can be saved. It is by Christ and Him crucified.
- So we have answered our first question: Why Moses didn't enter into the promised land.
  - But we still must answer the second question from earlier: Why doesn't anyone know where Moses is buried and what significance does this hold?
  - Here is our answer to the second question:
- God buries Moses' body Himself so that Satan could not use someone to dig up the body to make it into an idol.
  - Imagine if Satan were able to locate the very body that represents the Law of God and raise up Moses' body.
  - This type of act would have caused false worship and misplaced trust and faith in Moses rather than the true Law Giver, God Himself.
- I think we can witness several things from the text alone regarding God's word.
  - One, God's word and redemptive work in Christ is beautifully preserved.
  - Secondly, the enemies' plans will not stand against the work and power of our Great God.
  - If there is anything you see from this story alone it is that God is sovereignly in control and holds all authority.
- Let's look back at verse 9 regarding the dispute between Michael the archangel and the devil.
  - We see that further in the verse between Michael and Satan that the archangel Michael refuses to pronounce railing judgment against Satan.
  - Remember that word "railing judgement" is another way to say blaspheme or revile.
- What I don't want us to miss this morning is how Michael contends with Satan.

- Michael does not stake claim to his authoritative position as the Chief Angel or even his power and ability.
- Clearly, Michael could pull his Chief angel card, however, according to Ezekiel 28, Satan was a Cherub.
- Cherubim are the highest order of the angelic beings and angels are of a lesser form.
- So rather than Michael being contentious and flexing his own power and status regarding Satan's fallen state, Michael honors the angelic position in order to refrain from reviling God's order.
  - In other words, Michael appeals to the only authority that has the ability to Judge all creation, and that is God Himself.
- It's clear that Jude is contrasting the characterization and actions of false teachers and their rejection of authority to that of remaining in position and recognizing true authority, and that is God, Himself.
  - If I could briefly park here for a moment I want to encourage us as believers in Jesus, as we come up against spiritual warfare, to be mindful of how we pray.
  - If Michael the archangel dares not revile a railing judgment against Satan, what makes us think we have the ability to in our prayers?
- The only authority we have is the very word of God. It is God Himself that is able to rebuke Satan, not you and I.
  - When it comes to how we are to approach spiritual warfare and prayer, you and I can't attack the enemy or rebuke him.
  - This way of praying has crept into so many churches especially those of the charismatic persuasion.
  - They believe that somehow rebuking Satan in our prayer time is doing something.
- We must default to the only authority that we have and know and that is the scriptures, and acknowledging that there is only one judge and it's not us.
  - We must appeal to the Lord in our moments of distress and spiritual attack.
  - Why? Because we must have a proper theology.
  - Clearly, this is something that the false teachers know but reject because they have no fear of the Lord.
- If we have an understanding of the text and a high view of our God, we know that God has provided the means of safety for us in His word.
  - We can easily look at James 4:7 where James records these words:

**James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God, Resist the devil and he will flee from you.**

- Notice what the text does not say: It doesn't say revile the devil and he will flee from you.
  - How are believers able to resist the devil? James gives us the answer before that comma, Submit yourselves therefore to God.

- Submission is something that these false teachers not only reject, but they can't do it because their own authority trumps the authority of scripture.
- As believers in Christ, we resist temptation and are victorious in the spiritual battle because we are in Christ.
  - We are children of God and because our trust is in Christ, our strength alone is in Christ. It wasn't ours, to begin with.
  - We must turn to the Lord and what the scriptures say because God has the final say and has all authority and power in His hands.
- Let's keep moving to verse 10.

**Jude 10 But these men revile the things which they do not understand; and the things which they know by instinct, like unreasoning animals, by these things they are destroyed**

- Jude is going to summarize for the reader what these false teachers are really all about and their ultimate end.
  - Jude mentions that these men revile “what they do not understand”.
    - We find ourselves seeing the word “revile” once again.
    - It is apparent that these men, false teachers, have a consistent habit of blaspheming the very handiwork and Glory of God.
  - Here in the text, these men blaspheme what they do not know or understand.
    - Don't miss what Jude is showing us here. These men due to their “special revelations” believe that what they possess and say is correct.
    - These men can't be corrected because they “got it all figured out”.
  - At best, these men are egotistical and have no desire to be corrected or shown what is truly right.
    - It's that annoying kid in grade school that is convinced that the answer he gave is correct and everyone else including the teacher is wrong.
    - There is no going back and forth with that person because only what they say is true.
  - Friends this is just one way to gauge the teachability and heart of a person. Are they willing to be addressed and repent if they sincerely see they are wrong, doctrinally?
    - Are they willing to submit under the authority and leadership of church leadership, the elders, and ultimately the scriptures?
    - These false teachers want nothing more than to be right because they see themselves and their deeds as permissible because they are their own authority.
    - Jude further explains the very root issue of these men's hearts.
  - He states, “and the things which they know by instinct, like unreasoning animals, by these things they are destroyed”
    - Jude juxtaposes the fruit of these men's knowledge of what they don't know

(spiritual and biblical matters) versus what they do know.

- It is apparent that these false teachers stake no claim to biblical truth because their lives bear no fruit of what they claim to know.
  - Paul mentions in Romans 1:19-28 an interesting comparison between the rejection of the knowledge of God and the false teachers.
  - Check out what Paul says to the church in Rome regarding unrighteousness and ungodliness.

**Romans 1:19** because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.

**Romans 1:20** For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, that is, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, being understood by what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

**Romans 1:21** For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their reasonings, and their senseless hearts were darkened.

**Romans 1:22** Claiming to be wise, they became fools,

**Romans 1:23** and they exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible mankind, of birds, four-footed animals, and crawling creatures.

**Romans 1:24** Therefore God gave them up to vile impurity in the lusts of their hearts, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them.

**Romans 1:25** For they exchanged the truth of God for falsehood, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

**Romans 1:26** For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged natural relations for that which is contrary to nature,

**Romans 1:27** and likewise the men, too, abandoned natural relations with women and burned in their desire toward one another, males with males committing shameful acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.

**Romans 1:28** And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a depraved mind, to do those things that are not proper,

- The false teachers that Jude describes in Jude 10 are deprived, unbelieving, and spiritually blind, and dead men.
  - Notice the characterizations of these men based upon Paul's description of ungodliness in Romans coincide seamlessly with what Jude describes of false teachers in the book of Jude.
    - Follow me really quickly in the train of thought because I want you to see the pattern for yourself.
  - Romans 1:21 – Rather than relying on God's revelation of Himself, the ungodly trust their own instincts and dreams.
  - Romans 1:27/28 – A rejection of God's established order leads to corruption,

death, and destruction. Simply put, the defilement of the flesh leads to further error.

- Romans 1:23 and 25 – Rather than worshipping the true and living God they reject the Creator for the sake of created things. (Idolatry is the root).
  - Can it be any clearer?!
  - Spiritual arrogance and ignorance is a result of spiritual corruption and blindness.
- Unless God regenerates the hearts and lives of an unbeliever, these things are the result of their lives. Unfruitful and unproductive.
  - This is why Jude uses this simile “like unreasoning animals, by these things they are destroyed”
  - In the same way that animals are instinctive in nature, so are the false teachers instinctive in their sinful behavior.
  - To simply define instincts, it is genetically hard-wired behaviors that enhance our ability to cope with environmental contingencies.
- These men’s beliefs are motivated by their behaviors.
  - If it satisfies their desires, they go for it. If it pleases their palates, they go for it. If it tickles their fancy, they go for it.
    - These false teachers will always accommodate their beliefs for more opportunities to sin.
    - It’s like the person that constantly changes the rules of a game in order to take advantage and win.
    - If the rules don’t cater to them they’ll adjust for their pleasure.
  - In the same way, Jude is making 2 things extremely clear, one, these false teachers are incapable of being spiritually mature or living holy.
  - Secondly, it is evident that these men are spiritually dead because they are unregenerate, meaning the Holy Spirit is not in them, therefore they are unbelievers.
    - These men are not called by the Spirit, loved, by the Father, nor are they kept for Jesus.
    - These men are carnal men masquerading as Christians!
    - In 1 Corinthians 2:14, Paul says these words:

**1 Cor. 2:14 But a natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.**

- So what does Jude show us in these 3 verses?
  - He shows us, by the leading of the Holy Spirit, that these false teachers:
    - Hold to no authority but their own
    - Reject our Master and Lord Jesus Christ in word and deed

- Defile their flesh as if ravenous and instinctive animals themselves
- Are unbelieving, spiritually deprived men
- Yet have found a way to creep into these churches unnoticed, blending in as if they are one of us.
- Jude makes it clear that corruption from within, if not careful and watchful, can cause much disruption and chaos.
  - Friends, we must be diligent in knowing the truth, be watchful and discerning.
- Right belief will always lead to right behavior.
- In our next teaching in Jude, we will discover more in detail how the unregenerate hearts of men can only yield to, at best, false promises which lead to eternal judgment.
  - Let's Pray.



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# Jude – Lesson 4

## Jude 11-16

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- In our last session of Jude, we ended in verse 10 where Jude describes the condition of the heart of these false teachers.
  - He mentioned that these men revile or blaspheme what they do not understand.
    - We came to the realization that they do not understand the things of God because they are unbelieving men.
  - In fact, Jude expresses that these false teachers operate off of their own instincts which he states are “like unreasoning animals”.
    - Jude takes a note from Peter’s previous warning in 2 Peter 2:12.
  - False teachers are defined in this way because they are spiritually dead, unbelieving men.
    - These men, although stealthy, have an end.
  - As we explore verses 11-16, Jude will use historical and natural examples to convey these men’s deeds and their end.
    - If I were to put a tag to the text, it would be “Woe to them!”
    - With that being said, pick me up in verse 11 for the reading of the word of the Lord.

**Jude 11** Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain, and for pay they have rushed headlong into the error of Balaam, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

**Jude 12** These are the men who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted;

**Jude 13** wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam; wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever.

**Jude 14** It was also about these men that Enoch, in the seventh generation from Adam, prophesied, saying, “Behold, the Lord came with many thousands of His holy ones,

**Jude 15** to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”

**Jude 16** These are grumblers, finding fault, following after their own lusts; they speak arrogantly, flattering people for the sake of gaining an advantage.

- Let’s Pray
- The prince of preachers, Charles H. Spurgeon, once said this about false teaching and false teachers:

**In looking carefully over the history of the times, and the movement of the times, of which we have written briefly, this fact is apparent: that ministers and Christian churches have held fast to the truth that the Holy scriptures have been given by God as an authoritative and infallible rule of faith and practice, they have never wandered very seriously out of the right way. But**

**when, on the other hand, reason has been exalted above revelation, and made the exponent of revelation, all kinds of error and mischief have been the result.**

- The moment that we let up on biblical orthodoxy is the moment that we give way to apostasy.
  - Church, may this never be the case for us.
  - The moment that will allow the YOLO mentality to dictate who we are and what we do, is the moment that we fail to reflect a redeemed witness.
  - Jude will make it clear that false teachers who come to corrupt the truth of the Gospel seek to undermine Christ.
    - Their lack of regard for God’s holiness and His word, is reflective of their corrupt deeds.
    - The error of their ways can only lead to destruction and unrest.
  - Jude’s striking examples are a desperate plea for believers to truly contend for the faith, at all cost.
    - Pick me up at Jude 11 as we walk through this study verse by verse.

**Jude 11 Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain, and for pay they have rushed headlong into the error of Balaam, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.**

- Jude begins verse 11 by proclaiming a heavy judgment against the false teachers.
  - Woe was a term used for announcing a coming judgment.
    - The use of this term against wicked men was common.
    - Jesus proclaimed woes against the Pharisees
    - And we see a similar instance of announcing judgment in the use of the word “woe” in Revelation 18:10. Here’s what it reads:

**Revelation 18:10 standing at a distance because of the fear of her torment, saying, ‘Woe, woe, the great city, Babylon, the strong city! For in one hour your judgment has come.’**

- After Jude announces this woe, he proceeds to explain the motivation of these men.
  - He first mentions that they have “gone the way of Cain”, in our 6th triad.
  - Two questions come to a head. What is the way of Cain and how do these men’s motivations relate to Cain?
    - In order to properly answer these questions, we need to understand Cain a bit more.
  - We know that Cain is the first-born of Adam and Eve in Genesis 4.
    - Cain and Abel are to present their sacrifice and tithes before the Lord.

- Abel presents a sacrifice and tithe to the Lord that is pleasing whereas Cain's offering is not.
- Here's what the text informs us regarding the matter, Genesis 4:4-7.

**Genesis 4:4** Abel, on his part also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and for his offering;

**Genesis 4:5** but for Cain and for his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry and his countenance fell.

**Genesis 4:6** Then the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?"

**Genesis 4:7** If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it."

- It is apparent from Genesis 4, that Abel understood by faith that a sacrifice was required.
  - It could be assumed that Abel's knowledge of a sacrifice for atonement was previously understood.
  - So why would Cain not provide a sacrifice for himself?
  - We see the need for atonement in Genesis 3:21, check out the text:

**Genesis 3:21** The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.

- The word skin in Hebrew is that of animal hide which presupposes that in order for Adam and Eve to be covered for their sin, something had to be killed.
  - Well, this serves as a foretelling of Jesus Christ, and how He would be the propitiation for our sins.
  - So clearly, Abel understood this by faith. One could presume this knowledge was shared.
    - So what did it say about the very heart of Cain?
    - It alludes to Cain's rebellious heart and lack of submission to the Lord.
    - He is more satisfied with his approach to God than he is to approach God the way God has established it to be.
  - We see this confirmation of Cain's heart in scripture, check out Genesis 4:5-6.

**Genesis 4:5** but for Cain and for his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry and his countenance fell.

**Genesis 4:6** Then the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?"

- Do you see God's question to Cain? Understand that these questions are rhetorical.
  - Remember, God is omniscient, meaning that He knows all things.

- This appeal to Cain is for him to examine his heart before a Holy God.
- Cain became angered because his attempt to get over on God failed, rather than simply obeying God’s instruction.
- However, the Lord mercifully extends an opportunity to Cain to present a proper sacrifice before Him.
  - The Lord mentions in verse 7 that the same opportunity to atone for his sins, is made available.
  - Check out verse 7:

**Genesis 4:7 If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it.”**

- Now, the English translation is a bit wordy here so here is a short breakdown in the original language.
  - The lamb of the sin offering is lying at the door.
  - Simply put, if Cain offers the sacrifice, the Lord would be Cain’s Master as well.
  - However, we see Cain’s unwillingness to submit to God based on his outward response towards Abel.
    - Cain ends up killing Abel and herein lies the way of Cain; rejecting the very person of Christ who is the very sacrifice for our sins.
    - False teachers reject the only means of atonement by which sin is forgiven for the sake of their own fleshly desires.
  - Jude continues in verse 11 by stating that false teachers “...have rushed headlong in the error of Balaam”
    - Here is yet another example of how rejection of authority and pursuit of personal desires truly displays the heart of a person.
  - Balaam was the son of Beor and he was known as a seer and was considered a pagan prophet who worshipped many gods for his personal gain.
    - He was chosen by King Balak of Moab to place a curse on Israel for a large monetary gift for his services.
    - This is documented in Numbers 22:7-8 check out what the text says:

**Numbers 22:7 So the elders of Moab and the elders of Midian left with the fees for divination in their hands; and they came to Balaam and repeated Balak’s words to him.**

**Numbers 22:8 And he said to them, “Spend the night here, and I will bring word back to you just as the Lord may speak to me.” And the leaders of Moab stayed with Balaam.**

- The Lord, later in Numbers 22, speaks to Balaam and instructs him not to go with these men to curse the Children of Israel.
  - Verse 8 reveals that Balaam has some knowledge or understanding of the true

God.

- However his deeds have no indication of a true relationship with the Lord God.
- Balaam’s inner motives are revealed by the Lord. Balaam had no love for God.
  - He was a counterfeit using the Lord as a means of financial gain.
  - Check out what God tells Balaam in Numbers 22:32

**Numbers 22:32** Then the angel of the Lord said to him, “Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out as an adversary, because your way was reckless and contrary to me.

- What is mind blowing about the text regarding Balaam is how God can use the wickedness of men and still prove His point!
  - God is sovereign and His purposes and plans can never be usurped. His word will never return to Him void.
  - There is nothing and no one that is out of reach for God.
    - Although Balaam did not see immediate judgement for his wickedness, God still had the final say.
    - Check out Joshua 13:22.

**Joshua 13:22** The sons of Israel also killed Balaam the son of Beor, the diviner, with the sword among the rest of their dead.

- ○ Don’t ever think that somehow God’s timing is delayed... He is always on time.
- Lastly, the 6th triad mentions “Korah’s rebellion”
  - Korah was the leader of an insurrection amongst Moses and Aaron.
  - Korah was of the tribe of Levi, and managed to recruit 250 people to stand against Moses and Aaron.
- The question on the table for us is, what caused the rebellion?
  - Number 16:3 records why Korah feels entitled to rebel against the leadership of the Israelites.
  - Check out what the text says:

**Numbers 16:3** They assembled together against Moses and Aaron, and said to them, “You have gone far enough! For all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the Lord is in their midst; so why do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the Lord?”

- Korah is challenging the very leadership that God has established.
  - Rather than submitting to God’s chosen leaders, Korah demands that the people rule themselves.
  - We must recognize what is really happening here.

- Korah is not just usurping just any kind of leadership, he is rejecting the very authority of God.
  - If there is anything that we are to see from this example, it is that God chooses those in whom He chooses.
- And when He establishes leadership in any arena of life it is His sole choosing.
  - Any usurping of God’s authority is a direct attack against the Lord.
  - But don’t just take my word for it, check out the text:

**Numbers 16:11** Therefore you and your whole group are the ones gathered together against the Lord; but as for Aaron, who is he, that you grumble against him?”

- I want us to understand why this rebellion took place.
  - It began with a perverse heart sowing seeds of subtle division amongst the Children of Israel.
  - “Hey guys, we’re holy too?” “Who is Moses and Aaron to tell us what we can and can not do?”
  - Ill-motive, within the heart of Korah, has now spread discontentment and division amongst others.
    - The text tells us that because of Korah’s rebellion these men, their households and goods would be swallowed by the earth.
    - This event is recorded in the Psalms, more specifically in Psalm 106:16-18. Check out what the text says

**Psalm 106:16** When they became envious of Moses in the camp,  
And of Aaron, the holy one of the Lord,

**Psalm 106:17** The earth opened and swallowed up Dathan,  
And engulfed the company of Abiram.

**Psalm 106:18** And a fire blazed up in their company;  
The flame consumed the wicked.

- So what does this triad reveal to us in using these Old Testament examples: It shows us the following:
  - It shows us that there is nothing new under the sun.
  - Let’s keep moving, verse 12 and 13.

**Jude 12** These are the men who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted;  
**Jude 13** wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam; wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever.

- Jude is going to draw 6 similarities using nature as a descriptor of the false teachers and their deeds in these 2 verses.
  - The seventh triad will include the first 3 similitudes while the last three similitudes will contain the eighth triad.
    - I will make sure to indicate the triad transition for those of you taking notes.
  - In verse 12, Jude mentions that the false teachers are “hidden reefs in your love feast that feast with you without fear”. Here is our first Similitude.
    - The first question that comes to mind is, what is a “hidden reef”?
    - The word “hidden reefs” in Greek is *spilas*. It is defined as a hidden danger. It can also mean a blemish or spot.
  - These hidden reefs are underneath the surface to remain hidden with the intent of causing shipwreck.
    - In the same way, false teachers cause the lives of believers to be shipwrecked.
    - Remember, that believers in Jesus Christ can not lose salvation;
    - However, men and women can fall away from the truth of the word of God, right living, and right knowing.
  - This similitude continues on with regards to a love feast and false teachers feasting with believers in these meals.
    - The next question becomes what does Jude mean by a “love feast”?
  - A love feast or agape feast is, as you would imagine, a gathering or a fellowship of believers and typically, the Lord’s Supper would follow.
    - It’s kind of like that family thanksgiving meal where we all gather together in unison and in harmony with one another.
    - There is commonality and common ground within the fellowship because everyone is on the same page.
    - So Jude is alluding to the fact that there is a blemish or hidden stones amongst this fellowship.
  - Clearly, these false teachers are blending into these gatherings or fellowships with the primary aim to bring about stumbling and destruction amongst the body.
    - 2 Peter 2:13 says it this way:

**2 Peter 2:13 suffering wrong as the wages of doing wrong. They count it a pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are stains and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions as they feast with you,**

- ◦ Jude follows up by saying, these men are fellowshiping with believers without fear.
  - He makes the effort to mention they do so “without fear, caring only for themselves”.
- To provide a clearer picture, I want to read Jude 12b from the NIV translation so we can see how this all fits together.
  - This is where we will see our 2nd similitude.

**Jude 12b (NIV) 12 These people are blemishes at your love feasts, eating with you without the slightest qualm—shepherds who feed only themselves.**

- Do you see it? Remember these false teachers creep into leadership and some, even as shepherds of the flock.
  - Some of these men, today, are bible teachers, pastors etc., so they appear to have this shepherding and compassionate heart for the body.
  - However, there is no concern for the spiritual life of the believer, only a means to use them for personal gain, not because of love for them.
  - There is no love demonstrated from these false teachers, only an external appeasement for the sake of closer proximity to bring destruction.
    - Isaiah 56:11 confirms this, check out the text:

**Isaiah 56:11 And the dogs are greedy, they are never satisfied. And they are shepherds who have no understanding; They have all turned to their own way, Each one to his unjust gain, without exception.**

- Let's move on to the third similitude, which mentions these false teachers as “waterless clouds, swept along by winds”
  - In essence these men bring about the appearance of providing refreshment of truth in the word of God.
  - They can talk a good talk but yet their words are empty and they bring no benefit to the people.
  - These men are here today and gone tomorrow.
- We will now transition into the 8th triad which will be composed of the last 3 similitudes.
  - The 4th similitude mentions that the false teachers are “fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted.”
    - It would typically be within late autumn that farmers would gather their harvest.
    - The fruit would be ready for picking and eating.
    - However Jude says these trees are fruitless, meaning that the trees are dead.
  - Jude reemphasizes the point that these false teachers are spiritually dead, and unregenerate therefore reaffirming these men are unbelievers.
    - Let's keep moving along to verse 13:

**Jude 13 wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam; wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever.**

- Verse 13 will contain our last two similitudes. We see wild waves of the sea and wandering stars reserved for darkness.

- In the fifth similitude, the imagery here is quite clear. Wild waves symbolize chaos and destruction.
  - These men have no peace and are untamed in all their deeds.
- If you have ever seen live feed from Galveston, Texas or other coastal cities like Corpus Cristi, Texas, during hurricane season you will notice no one is at the beach.
  - The reason being, because the waters are not calm or peaceful.
  - Those particular waves bring about devastating results.
  - Residue, debris, and destruction are the end result.
- This is why Jude mentions that the false teacher’s shame is casting up like foam.
  - Check out what Isaiah 57:20-21 says about their results:

**Isaiah 57:20 But the wicked are like the tossing sea,  
which cannot rest,  
whose waves cast up mire and mud.**

**Isaiah 57:21 “There is no peace,” says my God, “for the wicked.”**

- With restlessness and a lack of peace always follows pain and devastation.
  - Friends, these men’s deeds simply speak of the chaos that is within their hearts. You will see it and you will know it.
  - Now for our 6th similitude, “wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever.”
    - Wandering stars in the Greek is the word *planētēs*.
    - This word is derived from the Greek word *planaō*, which means “to go astray.” It is also where we get our English word planet.
  - We see this word within the Greek New Testament as it pertains to being deceived or that of an imposter or false teacher.
    - For example, in 2 Peter 2:15 we see the exact variation of the word. Check out what it says:

**2 Peter 2:15 forsaking the right way, they have gone astray, having followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;**

- The term gone astray is the greek word, *planaō*
  - So Jude’s use of this cosmic term is closely related to their understanding of the cosmos.
  - Clearly they did not have the Hubble telescope during that time so their understanding of planets and shooting stars were not fully grasped.
  - However, Jude does make the connection of wandering stars to that of fallen angels from Jude 6
  - Check out verse 6 really quickly.

**Jude 6** And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day,

- ○ Jude makes it known that the false teacher’s end will be judgement and eternal fire.
- We will now see how, in verses 14 and 15, Jude introduces us to yet another piece of apocryphal literature, the Book of Enoch.
  - Pick me up at verse 14 and 15.

**Jude 14** It was also about these men that Enoch, in the seventh generation from Adam, prophesied, saying, “Behold, the Lord came with many thousands of His holy ones,

**Jude 15** to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”

- It is at verse 15 that we will arrive at our tenth triad.
  - Again, just as a reminder, extra-biblical material is not inspired.
    - Apocryphal literature was familiar writing that Jewish men and women were accustomed to and it contained some truth.
    - In this context we are introduced to a man named Enoch who is the seventh generation from Adam.
  - And the text mentions that Enoch prophesied something.
    - It mentions that Enoch prophesied that “the Lord was accompanied by thousands of His Holy ones to execute judgement on all the ungodly.”
  - Well with anything, the question we would need to seek is where is this information found to be true, and more specifically, where in scripture?
    - However, we come across a bit of a dilemma. We do not see, within the scriptures, Enoch prophesying anything.
    - Secondly, Enoch lived 700 years before the flood, so how would anyone during Jude’s time know what Enoch said for that matter.
    - With this in mind we must remember what we do know about scripture according to 2 Timothy 3:16. Paul states:

**2 Tim. 3:16** All Scripture is inspired by God and beneficial for teaching, for rebuke, for correction, for training in righteousness;

- So without a shadow of doubt we know that the fact that this extra-biblical source contains a quote from Enoch, shows that some truth is here obviously.
  - We simply need to find it.
  - What we can surmise is a particular detail from a Jewish historian named Josephus who reports that Enoch’s son Methuselah was an ancient historian.

- Josephus records that during Methuselah’s long lifespan that he wrote the history of the world since Adam, on two large obelisks.
  - Supposedly these obelisks stood on earth somewhere in Arabia during the time leading up to the flood.
  - Interestingly enough, Methuselah died in the year the flood came about.
  - So because of Methuselah’s long life, he was able to record all the events of Genesis 1-6.
- If what Josephus has documented is historically accurate, then this potentially can explain how Moses could have written Genesis during the desert wanderings.
  - It could be that the Lord led Moses to these writings to learn the story that would eventually lead to the documentation and preservation of the Torah.
  - Therefore Enoch’s prophecy would be preserved for Jude to eventually document them in his letter which is within the canon of scripture.
- What can be clear, whether Josephus’ recording are true or not, is that God is sovereign and in control of His word and there is no detail that He misses.
  - Before we move on to Jude mentioning Enoch being of the 7th generation of Adam, I would like to point out a contextual detail at the beginning of verse 14.
- If we notice at the beginning of verse 14, Jude is connecting the judgement of false teachers to that of Enoch’s prophecy.
  - What is Jude doing in connecting the previous verse to that of Enoch’s prophecy? How do they relate?
- In one way Jude is drawing on the judgement that the ungodly will experience from the previous verse.
  - Jude is going to connect that judgment of the false teachers to Enoch’s prophecies in the book of Enoch, which he directly quotes in verse 14 and 15.
  - What Jude is ultimately showing the reader, in a way, is that the judgment of the false teacher then versus now is all the same.
- But Jude is also drawing about another contrast of another biblical character who is also the 7th generation of Adam. His name is Lamech.
  - To see this connection more clearly, we will need to see the lineage from the seed line of Adam and understand how Enoch and Lamech differ.
- It is documented in Genesis 5:24 that “Enoch walked with God and he was not and God took him.”
  - Literally meaning that Enoch did not die, but rather the Lord took him up.
- Now remember, Jude makes an effort to mention that Enoch was the seventh in the seed line from Adam. (Put a pin right there, we are going to come back)
  - For those of you who have done the VBVM Revelation study, you know that the number 7 has much significance.
  - It means 100 percent, complete, the whole.
  - With that in mind, let’s put a pin here because we will come back to this detail a little later on.

- So, Enoch was considered to be righteous before the Lord.
  - And Jude is adamant to remind us that Enoch is the 7th generation from Adam.
  - So why would Jude fail to mention Lamech at all? Here's why...
- Lamech, too, is the 7th generation in the line of Cain.
  - However, Lamech exhibited great sinfulness, rebellion, and did not honor the Lord.
  - The scriptures even indicate that, in essence, he was seventy-seven-fold more ruthless than his forefather, Cain.
  - Check out Genesis 4:23

**Genesis 4:23 Lamech said to his wives,  
 “Adah and Zillah,  
 Listen to my voice,  
 You wives of Lamech,  
 Pay attention to my words,  
 For I have killed a man for wounding me;  
 And a boy for striking me!  
 Genesis 4:24 If Cain is avenged seven times,  
 Then Lamech seventy-seven times!”**

- What was Jude really doing here? What is he trying to draw the reader's attention to?
  - We clearly have a differentiation in lineage, spiritually.
  - Jude is ultimately showing us that Cain's line is the way of unbelief and rebellion, whereas the line of Seth is the line of the seed promise and faithfulness.
    - This clearly points us to the anticipated end of those who are men and women of unbelief and rebellion. They are in essence, of the “Way of Cain” which leads to destruction and judgment.
    - Jude is reminding these Jewish Christians that God's people will be separated from those who are unbelieving.
  - Two questions should come to mind at this point. First, How does the number 7 play a role in our understanding of Enoch's prophecy?
    - Secondly, what about the believers? What happens with us?
    - Here is where the exciting news comes about. Let's first start by addressing the number 7.
  - Enoch having walked with God and being 7th generation in the seed line and being taken up 700 years before the flood which was the judgement of sin in the world, paints a picture.
    - Enoch's removal from the earth before the flood is a picture of a future removal of God's people from the earth prior to death.
  - The future removal represents the resurrection, better known as the rapture of the church, which has not happened yet.

- The Lord will remove the righteous (those who have faith in Christ) before He brings about judgement on earth
- This picture is a whole, complete picture of what God is doing in separating believers from unbelievers.
- If Enoch is a picture of all believers in Jesus who will be raised up in the rapture before judgment on the earth takes place
  - Then Cain is a picture of all unbelievers who will experience the wrath of God and His Just Judgement.
- We can further confirm this separation of believers versus unbelievers within Enoch’s prophecy where he mentions “the Lord came with many thousands of His holy ones,”
  - It is clear that Enoch, long ago, understood that the Lord would come back a second time.
  - But it also mentions that Christ will not be coming back by Himself.
  - So the question is who are the “holy ones” that will accompany our Lord and Master?
- Well friends when you look at the word “holy ones” in the Greek, it means set apart, dedicated, saints.
  - To make it a bit more clearly, pick me up in 1 Thessalonians 3:13. Here’s what it reads:

**1 Thess. 3:13 so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.**

- ○ Friends, you and I will be accompanying Christ at His Second coming.
- We now arrive at our last verse for this session of Jude, verse 16.
  - Here is what it says:

**Jude 16 These are grumblers, finding fault, following after their own lusts; they speak arrogantly, flattering people for the sake of gaining an advantage.**

- Here is where we find our tenth triad.
  - Jude wraps up these false teachers as the following 3 words: grumblers, fault finders, and arrogant talkers.
    - Let’s address each of these really quickly:
  - Jude first mentions that these false teachers are grumblers (murmurers).
    - For the reader of this letter, the imagery or connection for this audience should go directly to that of the Children of Israel.
    - The Old Testament documents well how grumbling, in essence, was the people’s lack of faith in the Lord especially in Israel’s wilderness wandering.
    - After the Lord had rescued them from Egypt, they insisted that where they were in captivity was somehow better than God’s provision.

- Next, we see that Jude mentions these false teachers are fault-finders.
  - This word in the Greek is interesting because it is not found anywhere else in the New Testament.
  - It is the word which eventually became a synonym to that of grumblers or murmurers.
  - This complaint from the false teachers regarded how they felt that Christ's demand for our lives in holiness was somehow too cumbersome.
  - There was not enough freedom. There was a feeling from the false teachers that the teachings of Christ were too restrictive.
- It is interesting that the false teachers of today tend to expand their own belief systems in order to accommodate their itching ears and passions.
  - These men, just like the way of Cain and Balaam, seek their own desires above that of the only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.
- Lastly, Jude mentions these men are arrogant talkers.
  - That word arrogant in the Greek is *hyperonkos* which simply means swelled or pompous.
  - Meaning these false teachers can talk the talk, and rally the troops ultimately resulting in getting what they want or desire.
  - This is ultimately what we witnessed with Korah's rebellion, a rallying up of men of known stature to usurp authority for the sake of personal gain.
- And from these three examples, Jude not only shows the end of these men, but he shows through illustration that the behaviors of these men do not change.
  - These types of men will not only be held accountable for what they say but they will also be held accountable for what they do.
  - And the woe that Jude proclaims about these men are certainly fitting.
- So how should we as believers govern ourselves accordingly?
  - You must know who you are dealing with and handle them accordingly by not giving them the time of day.
  - It's like my mom used to tell my sister and I, because you know better you gotta do better.
- We will see in our next teaching of Jude that we as believers in Christ must stand firmly on the truth that we know and hold dear to.
  - We will also witness how we must deal with believers in Christ who have found themselves under false teaching.
  - And how, by mercy and the power of the Spirit of God, we can help others come to the truth of the only Gospel that stands.
  - And that is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- I pray you will join us in that teaching next time.
  - Let's Pray.



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# Jude - Lesson 5

## Jude 17-25

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- Today, we arrive at our last session in our study of the book of Jude.
  - Over the course of this study we discussed several things. We discussed:
    - The immense love of the Father in choosing and loving us in His election of us.
    - The Spirit calling us to the very family of God by means of regeneration.
    - And the keeping power of God in the caring hands and arms of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Master.
  - After the outpouring of love and the use of this identifying and possessive language, Jude moved to the purpose of this letter.
    - What began as a focus on our common salvation, shifted to a message of knowing well what we believe.
    - That primary message for believers was to “contend for the faith”.
    - That believers in Christ must wrestle well with what they believe and know doctrinally and theologically.
  - We witnessed Jude’s abrupt directional change in this letter was due to the Holy Spirit’s leading.
    - With false teachers creeping into the church unnoticed, Jude’s desire was that believers in Jesus not be fooled or waver in what had been taught.
    - He used several Old testament examples to illustrate for the reader how false teachers behaved then and even now.
  - Ultimately, we surmised that false teachers are wicked men who are unbelievers and are unregenerate in their hearts.
    - It’s clear that there is a distinct separation between believers and unbelievers.
    - And Jude makes it known from these men’s characteristics to their deeds, just how far from God these false teachers are.
  - This morning we will see in verses 17-25 that Jude will now give these groups of believers, and us today, a message of endurance.
    - This will be a declaration of such, to believers, that we must preserve and persevere in the teachings of the apostles and of Christ.
    - And we will see that the only means by which this message and this doctrine can be kept is by God himself.
  - If I were to put a tag to the text this morning it would be this, “Now Unto Him”.
    - With that being said, let's read verses 17-25 together.

**Jude 17** But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
**Jude 18** that they were saying to you, “In the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts.”  
**Jude 19** These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit. **Jude 20** But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,  
**Jude 21** keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.

**Jude 22** And have mercy on some, who are doubting;

**Jude 23** save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh.

**Jude 24** Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy,

**Jude 25** to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

- Let's pray.
- As a parent, one of our greatest joys is the beautiful gift of our children.
  - From the moment of birth throughout the entirety of their lives, our children are able to distinctly know our voices.
    - I recall a time in my childhood, where I had wandered off from my mom in the store.
    - The moment I realized she was gone and I was lost was the moment that heat began to overwhelm my body and panic took the lead.
  - I'm searching through every aisle in the store to find my mom.
    - After looking through every aisle I could find, I realized there was only one more option.
    - So as loud as I could I called out to my mom, "Momma, Mamma!"
  - It was at that moment that, amongst the chatter and the music playing in the store, that I could hear my mother calling out to me.
    - As I got closer, her voice became more and more prominent.
    - As my mother's eyes locked with mine, I immediately ran towards her knowing that her presence was where her protection and provision was.
  - Needless to say, from there on out, I stayed right by her side because I knew what not remaining with her, in her presence, looked like.
- As followers of Christ, we have this tendency to wander from our Heavenly Father at times.
  - Jude in these last few verses will show us this morning that it is in fact the Lord who eternally keeps us in His love, protection and graces.
    - Even when we get in our own way and begin to go astray.
    - Because we are His, we will never be lost.
  - To further explore how Jude will express this biblical truth, pick me up at verses 17 and 18.

**Jude 17** But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ,

**Jude 18** that they were saying to you, "In the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts."

- Before we can dive into these next two verses, we can't be so quick to move past the

first 3 words, “But you, beloved”.

- If you recall from the beginning of this letter, Jude starts the letter out in the same warm and loving tone as in verse 17.
  - Notice, first that he begins this sentence with the word “But”.
  - As we all know, what comes after the but is much greater than what came before the but.
- It is clear, from our last session, that verse 16 was concluding not only the characteristics of these false teachers, but it summarized their end.
  - We also see a similar summary of their end found in the prophecy of Enoch, according to the apocryphal literature, the Book of Enoch.
  - Just to jog your memory, check out verse 15 with me once again, from Enoch’s prophecy:

**Jude 15 to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”**

- It’s clear from the use of the word ungodly mentioned four times in the text that judgment is reserved for the unbelievers who have rejected Jesus.
  - Jude now begins to show contrast once again as he moves from addressing the deeds and destination of unbelieving men to that of believers.
- Again, Jude states in verse 17, “But you beloved”. Notice, Jude’s focus is now set upon the body of believers.
  - And yet again he wants them to know that they are fully loved in Christ and set aside as children of God.
- Jude continues in that same verse by mentioning that believers in Christ “ought to remember what the apostles of Christ spoke concerning the false teacher.”
  - The phrase “ought to remember” here is one word in the Greek.
  - It is the word *mimnēskomai* which means to recall and is a passive imperative.
- I mention this detail because a passive imperative is a command that is directed to you, in which you are not the active doer but rather you are the cooperator or recipient of someone else’s doing.
  - However at the very same time you still retain responsibility.
  - C.E.B Cranfield I believe, best explains the meaning of what an active passive imperative is, check out what he says using Romans 12:2.

**The use of the passive imperative *μεταμορφουῖσθε* [be transformed] is consonant with the truth that, while this transformation is not the Christians’ own doing but the work of the Holy Spirit, they nevertheless have a real responsibility in the matter—to let themselves be transformed, to respond to the leading and pressure of God’s Spirit... The transformation is not something which is brought about in an instant, it has to be continually repeated, or, rather, it is a process which has to go on all the time the**

## Christian is in this life.

- Here is what Jude is showing us: That believers in Jesus Christ, should constantly be being reminded of the warnings the apostles gave regarding false teachers.
  - If the Holy Spirit brings about guidance and teaching for the believer in Christ, then the believer should actively be sensitive to the Spirit's leading.
    - Meaning that as followers of Christ, we must be discerning based upon the truth of God's word that we know and should be living it out.
    - In other words we should both remember and respond.
  - Here is what Paul tells young Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:1

## **1 Timothy 4:1 But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,**

- We must be committed to what the scriptures teach so that we may conform to the truth of the text and not the whims of this world.
  - Again, the reality of these false teachers and false teachings creeping into the church is not new news.
    - Here is some food for thought: Who will you allow to be the loudest voice in your life, that of the Spirit or that of the flesh?
    - Let's keep moving on to verse 19, which contains our eleventh triad.

## **Jude 19 These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit.**

- Jude, in verse 19, categorizes these false teachers in 3 ways. These 3 distinctions will totally sum up the very nature of false teachers and their teachings.
  - Jude states that these men:
    - Cause divisions
    - They are worldly-minded
    - They are devoid of the spirit.
  - Let's look at the first category: They cause division.
    - Simply put, these false teachers' primary aim in coming in unnoticed is to cause separation within the body of Christ.
    - These types of men are motivated when disruption and confusion arise.
    - If they can cause a shipwreck to your spiritual life, or sow seeds of doubt for what you believe, they consider it a win.
  - The second category is: They are worldly minded.
    - This word literally means “merely natural”. Natural in the sense that these men are carnal and instinctive in their behaviors.
    - Whatever drives them is not from any spiritual motivation but from their

natural sinful desires.

- These men crave for their own appeasement.
- Paul mentions this idea of being worldly-minded in this way:

**1 Corinthians 2:14** But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

- And lastly, the third category that Jude mentions regarding the false teacher is: They are devoid of the spirit.
  - Jude restates what he has mentioned throughout the majority of this letter; these men are unregenerate.
  - The ability to move from spiritual death to spiritual life is only a work that God Himself, by His Spirit, can accomplish.
- This outworking of God’s power within the life of a spiritually dead man or woman is just that! An inside to outside transformation
  - Something that is dead cannot make itself alive unless that thing is made alive!
    - Friends, in order for anyone to be saved they must be born-again! And this work is not done by the hands of men, but by the hands of our Sovereign God!
- I find it beautifully orchestrated in how Jude ends verse 19 talking about false teachers being devoid of the Spirit, but juxtaposes with the phrase “But you, Beloved” at the beginning of verse 20.
  - Have you ever, for a moment or time, in your life sat and thought, God chose me?
  - I mean really think about it for a moment. God had you in mind as your name was being recorded in the lamb’s book of life in eternity past.
  - What a grace that is to know that God, who is rich in mercy and grace, looked down through the corridors of time and said, “He’s mine, she’s mine!”
  - Friends, may we never lose sight in the beauty of the message of the rebirth!
    - Let’s keep moving on, verse 20-21 where we will see the twelfth triad.

**Jude 20** But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,

**Jude 21** keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.

- It should be clear now at this point, who Jude is referring to once again. He is referring to the believer in Jesus, one who is filled with the Spirit of God.
  - Jude, now, moves the hearer and the reader of this letter to some action that the believer in Christ must do in order to contend well for the faith.
    - Over our past few sessions we understood why we needed to contend, but now Jude gives us instructions on how the believer should accomplish it.
  - Jude gives 4 steps for contending, but remember, he is giving us the how.

- Before he gives us the four steps, he uses the term “building yourselves up”.
  - Why doesn’t he just use the word “build yourself up” instead of “building yourself up”.
  - The answer to this question comes down to language and sentence structure.
  - When Jude used the word building, we must recognize he used it in the present, active tense. This word is also a participle.
- So Jude, before he even gets to the 4 ways in how we must contend for the faith, he makes it known that we should continually, always be doing these things.
  - This list that Jude is about to share is not a one and done type of thing.
  - Contending is a forever present doing and requires constant diligence and building up.
- So let's keep moving forward so that we can see what the believer must continually be doing. Jude mentions we must do the following:
  - Build ourselves up in our most Holy Faith
  - Pray in the Holy Spirit
  - Keep ourselves in the love of God
  - Wait anxiously for the mercy of our God
- Jude first mentions that the believer in Christ should be “building ourselves up on our most holy faith”
  - Jude expresses here as he has mentioned from the beginning of this letter, that we must be growing in what we know.
  - Remember, faith, here in the text, is not referring to belief or believing. This is understood based upon the writer's audience.
  - So we can surmise, once again, that this faith means a trust of belief upon what we know, which is our doctrine.
- As one theologian stated, “Doctrine is the content of what is believed”. That what we have been earnestly taught by the apostles’ teachings on Christ over the years, is what must be constantly built upon.
- In light of this reality, being built up presupposes that there is already a foundation laid.
  - The foundation that the apostles have laid down for the body of Christ is what Paul delivered to us which is of first importance.
  - Check out 1 Corinthians 15:1-4:

**1 Corinthians 15:1** Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand,

**1 Corinthians 15:2** By which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.

**1 Corinthians 15:3** For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

**1 Corinthians 15:4** and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

- Christ is the foundation that has been laid for us to know and to grow in grace.
  - If Christ is not the foundation to our faith, everything else ceases to be.
  - Friends, all other ground, apart from Christ, is sinking sand.
- The question then becomes, how do I build myself in the most Holy faith?
  - Jude mentions how in the very same line: You do this by praying in the Holy Spirit.
- To understand this fully, we must first clear up a typical misunderstanding from this part of the text that many charismatic denominations get wrong.
  - To pray in the Holy Spirit is not a matter of speaking in tongues.
- Speaking in different languages has nothing to do with the topic in which Jude is discussing.
  - The word “in” in the Greek is *en*. It means according to or in union with.
  - So when we read this second point that Jude makes, he is literally saying we must pray according to the Holy Spirit or in union with the Holy Spirit.
- This changes things, friends! It also begs another question: How do we get in union with the Holy Spirit?
  - We know that the Holy Spirit’s role is to teach us, guide us, convict us of sin, but also to conform us into the very image of Christ.
  - This happens through a process we call, sanctification.
- That as we seek more of the word of God and as we grow in our understanding of the scriptures and obey the Lord’s instruction, we begin to become more and more like Christ.
  - Sanctification is when God, by His Spirit, is actively transforming our hearts and minds into the very image of Christ and moves us to actively participate in obedience to His word!
  - The outworkings of sanctification can only be fully realized when you get off the bench and get in the game.
- So, practically, what does that look like:
  - Being effectual doers of the word.
  - Meditating upon the word of God day and night.
  - Putting feet to your faith; not simply hearing the word and yet doing nothing with it.
- Building a foundation actually requires work, and Jude leaves no room here for the believer in Christ to be lazy.
  - My question for us is this: Are you yielding to the inward workings of the Holy Spirit in your life?
    - Next, Jude says the believer should “Keep themselves in the love of God.”
- Naturally, as you spend more time with the word of God and more time in prayer to see the word of God transform you, you begin to develop a deeper love for God.
  - You may be familiar with this quote by John Wimber where he says:
  - “Show me where you spend your time, money, and energy and I’ll tell you what you worship...”

- The same holds true regarding keeping ourselves in the love of God.
  - The phrase “keep themselves” is in the active imperative here, meaning that there is a command to be accomplished.
  - Jude is not merely suggesting to think about staying in the love of the Lord, but he is commanding the believers to stay in and be constantly in Christ.
- The phrase “keeping themselves” in Greek is the word *tēreō*. It means to keep or to observe.
  - What is it that should be kept or observed?
  - It is what the author of Psalm 1 says we should be meditating on day and night.
  - Check out Psalm 1:1-3

**Psalm 1:1** How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!

**Psalm 1:2** But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night.

**Psalm 1:3** He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers.

- Scripture reveals to us that we stay in the love of God by staying in the word of God!
  - It is His word that we must delight in.
  - It is in His word that we find fullness of joy.
  - It is in His word that there is peace.
  - It is in His word that there is everlasting love.
- Jude, in a few short words, is telling the hearers of this letter that we must abide in Him.
  - John 15:9 makes it plain for us to see in the text, check it out with me:

**John 15:9** “Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love.

- May I put my feet on your coffee table and lean into this a bit and ask the question: When was the last time that you abided with Jesus?
  - When have you spent enough time with His word that you lost track of time and by the time you finish, an hour or two has passed?
  - I can hear some say, “I work 10-12 hrs a day”, “I have the kids all day”, etc, etc.
  - Hear me, I am not saying get fired from the job because you’d rather read your bible all day.
- What I am alluding to is this: We must divorce ourselves from the idea that the bible is somehow a “checklist activity”.
  - The more time you spend abiding with Christ the greater your love for Him will be

because it moves from just lip service to feet service.

- Lastly, in verse 21, Jude says “waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life”
- After Jude hits us with the first three emphatic imperatives, he puts the icing on the cake.
  - Many scholars have discussed how this last phrase, potentially, throws off the triplet movement of Jude’s writing here.
  - I, personally, believe that this is a fourth imperative that could easily be connected with keeping ourselves in the love of God.
- The reason why I say this is because when you look at the word “waiting” here in the text, the Greek suggests there is something to be received.
  - Literally, that there is this waiting with anticipation for a particular eschatological event.
  - This mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life is what Jude mentioned in our last session.
- Not only is this anticipation upon the rapture, the Lord taking us with Him in the clouds to escape the tribulation, but it is also that of His Second coming!
  - Friends, the mercy here that Jude is speaking to, is the ability to escape what we know we rightfully deserve.
  - The fact that our hearts have been regenerated and we have moved from spiritual death to spiritual life is a reason to rejoice.
- This is all possible because of God, it is all sustained by God, and it all brings glory to God!
  - Recognize that although these are imperatives that Jude gives the believers in Christ to do, we are able to do them because of what God has graciously and mercifully done and is doing for us.
  - Let’s keep moving on.
- In our last Jude session, I mentioned that Jude would give us a method by which we could put into practice on how to contend for the faith, right?
  - Well in verse 22-23 we will see just that, let’s see what Jude shows us here.
  - This is what it says:

**Jude 22 And have mercy on some, who are doubting;**

**Jude 23 save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh.**

- Verse 22-23 contains our 13th Triad.
  - As we approach these 2 verses, we must approach it understanding that at this point of the letter, who is Jude addressing?
    - He is not addressing those who are unbelievers, he is addressing those who are in Christ – those who are saved.
    - Some scholars have approached this part of the text to believe that somehow,

Jude is talking about believers and unbelievers alike in this section.

- However, if we read it in its proper context, it is clear that Jude is referring to believers that are in three distinct categories.
- Let's explore them together.
- The three groups that are indicated are believers engaging with other believers who are struggling with their faith. The groups are as follows:
  - Those who doubt
  - Others needing to be snatched out of the fire
  - Others showing mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.
- Let's examine the first group: Jude mentions that believers must have mercy on those believers who are doubting.
  - That word doubt here in the Greek simply means to waver.
  - In other words, this person is saved, but has heard some false teaching and is confused as to what teaching is correct.
  - They could potentially see no difference between the two teachings doctrinally. This could be a new believer that is truly on fire for God and His word but comes across a false teacher that sounds good and comes under the guise of Christianity.
- Jude mentions that with brothers and sisters in Christ who fall under this category, have mercy on them.
- Show them compassion as you lead them in a loving way back to the truth of the word of God.
- Paul mentions a similar approach in 2 Corinthians 2:7 where he says:

**2 Corinthians 2:7 so that on the contrary you should rather forgive and comfort him, otherwise such a one might be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow.**

- Jude, in verse 22 is alluding to a key piece in discipleship regarding believers who are new to the faith:
  - Have compassion and patience towards them just as Christ who is rich in mercy has shown you much grace and compassion.
  - As believers in Christ who have walked with Jesus for long periods of time we can tend to come across as “snooty”, as if we have been saved all of our lives.
  - Don't forget that God's mercy met you in the muck and mire.
  - Be compassionate yet without compromising the truth for the sake of the saints.
- Secondly, Jude says “Save others by snatching them out of the fire”
  - Here is where some scholars have gotten this wrong and it is my prayer by the leading of the Spirit that we get this right.
  - When the average reader reads verse 23 and they see the word fire, they connect this to eternal fire or hell.
    - However, this is not the meaning nor the intent of the writer. Remember these

are believers we are talking about.

- Because these are believers, we can trust without a shadow of a doubt that salvation is not in question here.
  - We are eternally kept and secure in the Father and sealed by the Spirit of God, kept for Jesus Christ.
  - We can rest on the finished work of Christ, for sure, Hallelujah!
- What this does for the reader is it moves us to ask the question, what is the “fire” and being snatched from it mean for the believer?
  - Jude here is speaking about believers that have bought into this false teaching and are moving into being disciplined by these men.
  - Friends, if I can pause here to say, this is why knowing our bibles is so important.
  - This is why the big C church has to move beyond simple 3 point messages and should teach the whole counsel of God. Young people are leaving the church by the thousands because pastors are not teaching the bible and we are not equipping the saints for ministry work.
  - Discipleship in the church is not a means to gather socially on occasion.
  - It must be a fervent commitment to build each other up in the most holy faith, holding each other accountable and remaining in the love of God.
  - Check out what Peter states in 1 Peter 3:15:

**1 Peter 3:15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, but with gentleness and respect;**

- Jude’s desire for believers falling into apostasy is to avoid sin and abstain from ruining the witness of Christ with stains on their garments.
  - This leads us to the last part of this triad.
- Jude completes this triad by saying “and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh”
  - If you notice in the text, Jude mentions mercy once again, however this time he mentions mercy with fear.
  - How do we show mercy to others with fear?
- Jude connects this need to be fearful while still having mercy in the second half of this verse.
  - He uses this illustration of “hating even the garment polluted by the flesh.”
- This becomes a clear and confirming relationship to our triad in this verse.
  - Jude is not speaking about the believer going to hell here, he is speaking about their deeds, or behaviors.
    - That as we are trying to bring other believers who have fallen away from the truth, we must be careful, ourselves, not to fall into sin.
  - Revelation 3:3 makes mention of this distinction between filthy garments and remaining in Christ and being cleansed by the Lord.

- Check out the text:

**Revelation 3:3** ‘But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.

- It's like when you are on an airplane and the flight attendants are going through their routine safety check.
  - If you are familiar with this process, you know that they get to the part in their instructions where they discuss the oxygen mask.
  - They tell you if the plane descends and cabin pressure drops, the oxygen mask will deploy for safety purposes.
- They then present to you a clear instruction: Once the oxygen mask comes down, we must put our oxygen mask on ourselves first before the child next to us.
  - At first, you think, how is that being compassionate to the other person?
    - But the reality is, how can you be of any service to that person if you, first, are not equipped to assist them.
- Here's what Jude is saying: The fear of God should instruct our cautious dealings with the believer, because if you are not well equipped, you will become stained yourself.
  - Understand that this particular believer must be someone that is spiritually mature and yet still cautious in their approach to this believer that is deep in false doctrine and filthy deeds.
- What I pray that you do not miss here is the fact that if the believer is not abiding in the Lord by reading and meditating upon the word, they can become prone to wander.
  - The goal for the believer therefore, is to abide in Christ and remain in His love, through praying in accordance with the Holy Spirit.
  - And by having this healthy, reverential fear of God, you can be cautious not to give way to sin.
- The sobering question that should come to mind is, how is all of this accomplished if, in my broken humanity, I am naturally prone to wander and sin?
  - Here is where we should rejoice and be overwhelmed by the goodness of God. Check out the last two verses.

**Jude 24** Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy,  
**Jude 25** to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

- Jude wraps up his letter to these Jewish believers in Christ by concluding with this beautiful doxology.
  - The word *doxa* in the Greek simply means glory or glorious. Doxa in connection to God deals with His reputation, his very presence, and holiness.
    - So what Jude does is he expresses in this conclusion God's Glory and reputation in such a way that showcases God's holiness and Power.

- He does this by first pointing to the fact that God is omnipotent based upon the first few words of verse 24.
  - “Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling”.
- Notice here in the text, who is the one able to keep you from stumbling. It’s not us.
  - That although God has given us His word and His Spirit to persevere through the troubles of this life, recognize it is God who is keeping us.
  - It is God Himself who has the power to keep the sincere believer in Christ from falling into apostasy.
  - I love this reality because it shows us that we as believers in Christ MUST be ever-dependent upon God in all that we do. The only way in which the believer in Jesus Christ can overcome apostasy is if the believer is in Christ.
- Jude continues on by mentioning that it is “God who is able to make us stand in the presence of His Glory blameless with great joy”
  - If we have a proper Christology, we recognize that the only reason that we are able to even stand righteous before our Holy God is because of Christ.
  - Colossians 1:22, Paul states this present reality in this way:

**Colossians 1:22 yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach**

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- Friends, it is Christ who has made the blameworthy, blameless.
  - It is Christ who has justified us.
  - It is Christ who has reconciled us.
  - It is Christ who became the propitiation for our sins.
- What should bring us to our knees in worship everyday is the fact that Christ knew what He came to do and that it brought Him great joy.
  - If you don’t believe me, check the text for yourself in Hebrews 12:2, the author of Hebrews states:

**Hebrews 12:2 looking only at Jesus, the originator and perfecter of the faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.**

- Not only is this joy demonstrated through the crucified Christ, but it should produce joy within the hearts of believers in Christ.
  - Friends, there should be an unexplainable joy because we realize what we have been saved from and who we have been saved to.
  - We have been saved from the very wrath of God and an eternity in hell.
- Peter helps us understand this joy a bit more in 1 Peter 1:8 where he says:

**1 Peter 1:8 and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do**

**not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,**

- Joy is the effectual response of every born-again believer.
- And here we arrive to our last verse, verse 25.

**Jude 25 to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.**

- Not only does Jude demonstrate the fact that Christ is our God and Savior, but he mentions that Jesus is our Lord.
  - Christ is our Master and Savior, for He alone has the power to save, and because of that:
    - He is the one that we submit to!
    - He is the one that we are to obey!
  - Jude continues on by pointing to the supremacy and excellencies of our Great God by stating, “to Christ be Glory, Majesty, dominion and authority,”
- In other words, Christ is the holder and sustainer of all things.
- Paul makes mention of the glory and splendor of God in this way. Check out Romans 11:36 with me:

**Romans 11:36 For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.**

- Christ always has, always will, and will continually remain to be exalted in Heaven and in the earth.
  - Christ, friends, is all in all! He is the author and finisher of our faith.
  - He has made salvation available for all in whom the Father has foreknown.
- This points us to a clear Christological point: Jesus is God
  - If for some reason the believers in Christ doubted the very person of Christ due to false teaching of that time, Jude makes it clear.
  - Christ has always been with the Father.
  - There has never been a moment where the Son was not intimately known by the Father.
- I find it interesting that although the Holy Spirit moved the direction of the meat of the message to contend for the faith, it still concludes in matters of soteriology.
  - This simply goes to say that to understand matters of doctrine and right behavior, requires that you evidently see a proper Christ.
    - Jesus’ incarnation embodies the very means of theology and doctrine dwelling among us!
    - His life was seen. His teaching was heard. His life is on display for all to see.

- His death to pay a debt we didn't deserve.
- His resurrection, a receipt to show that death has no sting and victory is in Him alone.
- This is the joy that Jude says we as believers in Christ share. This is our common faith.
  - And because we share this faith, we must contend well for it!
- Jude ends this letter by saying, “Amen”.
  - Amen, simply means in the greek, “So be it or let it be so”
- And together, in the fellowship of truth, we as believers stand in agreement in the words of Jude here, as we end this study, and we say, Amen and Amen.
  - Let's Pray.