

JUDE'S WARNING FOR TODAY

BIBLE STUDY BY JAMIE MCNAB

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Written by Judas (Jude) a half-brother of Jesus. He felt this letter was very important but one he didn't want to write. But ... danger in The Church forced him to change the topic.

Jude was probably the youngest brother of Jesus.

This letter was not written to a city or area ... just addressed to the saints. It might have been written about 66-80 AD. Later in the New Testament era.

There was trouble in The Church. Just as there still is today. False prophets, false ministers, false doctrine.

The Church faces two problems (then and now) ... Persecution externally and internally ... deception and decay.

SECTION 1 DANGEROUS CORRUPTION ... VERSES 1-16

SECTION 2 DEALS WITH THE REST ... GENTLE CORRECTION

Let's look at Section 1. Divided into 4 parts.

1. Creed (belief)
2. Conduct
3. Character
4. Conversation

CREED Verses 1-4

Jude 1:1-4

Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ: Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you **exhorting you to contend earnestly (agonizomai ... agonise) for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.** For certain men have crept in unnoticed, (the creeps have crept in unaware) who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Acts 6:7

Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to **the faith.**

Acts 14:21-22

And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to **continue in the faith,** and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."

Colossians 2:6-7

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and **established in the faith,** as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

We have to earnestly contend for the creed ... the beliefs we were taught. The creeps have crept in who (1) turn the grace of our God into lewdness (a perverted Grace message) and (2) deny the only Lord (kurios) God and our Lord Jesus Christ. (denying authority!!) **THEY ARE A CANCER IN THE BODY!!**

Jude 1:4 NET

For certain men have **secretly slipped in among you** - men who long ago were marked out for the condemnation I am about to describe - ungodly men who have turned the grace of our God into a license for evil and who deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

Jude 1:4 HOLMAN CHRISTIAN STANDARD BIBLE

For some men, who were designated for this judgment long ago, **have come in by stealth;** they are ungodly, turning the grace of our God into promiscuity and denying Jesus Christ, our only Master and Lord.

Jude is saying The creed, the basic belief system is wrong ... leading to wrong conduct, wrong destination.

What about today? Some have given up on the Sabbath. What about the duration of the Sabbath? Some ministers teach that the Sabbath is from sunrise to sunset. The old WWCG now believes in The Trinity. What about Jesus? Some ministers now teach that Jesus was not God. His "inception" was about 3,4,5 BC. What about the calendar? Do we want to keep The Hebrew Calendar or one of the "new" calendars? What about divorce and re-marriage? It is said there are more divorces "in the church" than in the world. What about family? Mr Flurry from the PCG teaches that if you leave the PCG, members can't speak to their family. What about the leader of the church in Wadsworth, Ohio ... who "shakes down the members" for their money.

CONDUCT Verses 5-7

Jude 1:5-7

But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after

strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

Each of these groups had wrong beliefs that led to wrong conduct ... that brings judgment.

Israel in the Wilderness

They were sent towards the Promised Land. Only 2 out of 603,550 survived ... Joshua and Caleb ...603,548 didn't make it because they didn't believe God. What about wrong beliefs today? Christmas, Easter and other religious festivals. You can't do it. You believe wrong ... you act wrong ... you are judged.

The False Angels

Even personally hand-made angels that God created (individually) will be judged. These particular ones are chained away for judgment. Many people believe that they misled and corrupted mankind.

2 Peter 2:4

For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell (Tartarus) and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;

Sodom and Gomorrah

They had a wrong creed. They believed homosexual conduct was fine. God thought their lifestyle was an abomination.

Jude 1:7 NET

So also Sodom and Gomorrah and the neighbouring towns, since they indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire in a way similar to these angels, are now displayed as an example by suffering the punishment of eternal fire.

John Hagee said this week, "God must judge America or else God will have to apologise to Sodom and Gomorrah".

Nothing escapes God's righteous judgment!!

Character Verses 8-13

Jude 1:8-13

Likewise also these dreamers (who claim that God speaks to them) defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries. Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!" But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves. **Woe to them!** For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots; raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.

The way of Cain.

Cain appeared religious. He brought an offering to God. Cain had no faith. He was very **angry** ... and full of venom.

Genesis 4:5

but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

1 John 3:10-12

In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does

not love his brother. For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous.

The error of Balaam

Avarice ... greed. Guess what? They are after the money. How many churches set out to manipulate members for more money. They are motivated by money ... what they can get from the sheep. Balaam wanted the money and was willing to do anything to get it.

Numbers 22:5-35

Then he sent messengers to Balaam the son of Beor at Pethor, which is near the River in the land of the sons of his people, to call him, saying: "Look, a people has come from Egypt. See, they cover the face of the earth, and are settling next to me! Therefore please come at once, curse this people for me, for they are too mighty for me. Perhaps I shall be able to defeat them and drive them out of the land, for I know that he whom you bless is blessed, and he whom you curse is cursed."

So the elders of Moab and the elders of Midian departed with the diviner's fee in their hand, and they came to Balaam and spoke to him the words of Balak. And he said to them, "Lodge here tonight, and I will bring back word to you, as the Lord speaks to me." So the princes of Moab stayed with Balaam.

Then God came to Balaam and said, "Who are these men with you?"

So Balaam said to God, "Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, has sent to me, saying, 'Look, a people has come out of Egypt, and they cover the face of the earth. Come now, curse them for me; perhaps I shall be able to overpower them and drive them out.' "

And God said to Balaam, "You shall not go with them; you shall not curse the people, for they are blessed."

So Balaam rose in the morning and said to the princes of Balak, "Go back to your land, for the Lord has refused to give me permission to go with you."

And the princes of Moab rose and went to Balak, and said, "Balaam refuses to come with us."

Then Balak again sent princes, more numerous and more honorable than they. And they came to Balaam and said to him, "Thus says Balak the son of Zippor: 'Please let nothing hinder you from coming to me; for I will certainly honor you greatly, and I will do whatever you say to me.

Therefore please come, curse this people for me.' "

Then Balaam answered and said to the servants of Balak, "Though Balak were to give me his house full of silver and gold, I could not go beyond the word of the Lord my God, to do less or more. Now therefore, please, you also stay here tonight, that I may know what more the Lord will say to me."

And God came to Balaam at night and said to him, "If the men come to call you, rise and go with them; but only the word which I speak to you—that you shall do." So Balaam rose in the morning, saddled his donkey, and went with the princes of Moab.

Balaam, the Donkey, and the Angel

Then God's anger was aroused because he went, and the Angel of the Lord took His stand in the way as an adversary against him. And he was riding on his donkey, and his two servants were with him. Now the donkey saw the Angel of the Lord standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand, and the donkey turned aside out of the way and went into the field. So Balaam struck the donkey to turn her back onto the road. Then the Angel of the Lord stood in a narrow path between the vineyards, with a wall on this side and a wall on that side. And when the donkey saw the Angel of the Lord, she pushed herself against the wall and crushed Balaam's foot against the wall; so he struck her again. Then the Angel of the Lord went further, and stood in a narrow place where there was no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left. And when the donkey saw the Angel of the Lord, she lay down under Balaam; so Balaam's anger was aroused, and he struck the donkey with his staff.

Then the Lord opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?"

And Balaam said to the donkey, "Because you have abused me. I wish there were a sword in my hand, for now I would kill you!"

So the donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your donkey on which you have ridden, ever since I became yours, to this day? Was I ever disposed to do this to you?"

And he said, "No."

Then the Lord opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the Angel of the Lord standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand; and he bowed his head and fell flat on his face. And the Angel of the Lord said to him, "Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out to stand against you, because your way is perverse before Me. The donkey saw Me and turned aside from Me these three times. If she had not turned aside from Me, surely I would also have killed you by now, and let her live."

And Balaam said to the Angel of the Lord, "I have sinned, for I did not know You stood in the way against me. Now therefore, if it displeases You, I will turn back."

Then the Angel of the Lord said to Balaam, "Go with the men, but only the word that I speak to you, that you shall speak." So Balaam went with the princes of Balak.

The same can be said of ministers today. After your money for their "vanity projects" ... and they will do anything to get it.

We will look at the Rebellion of Korah next week.