

“God’s Truth Under Attack”

Jude 1:1-11

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Teaching Aim: To illustrate the importance of each believer earnestly contending for the Christian faith. To examine some of the current spiritual attacks against our nation and our faith by the forces of darkness. To recognize how to identify a false teacher when they are in our midst. To encourage every Christian locked in this battle to take a stand for God and His Word no matter what the cost!

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (*BIBLE STUDY*)

Part I: Jude suddenly changes the topic of his epistle because of a crisis (Jude vv. 1-4)

1. Six men in the Bible are named “*Jude*,” only two are serious candidates to be the author of this epistle: 1) “*The Apostle Jude*” who is also known as “*Thaddaeus*” (**Matt. 10:3**); and 2) “*Jude, the half-brother of Jesus*” (**Matt. 13:55**). Who do most people think wrote this epistle according to the information revealed in **verse 1**. Why? What, if any, significance is there in Jude calling himself “*a bondservant of Jesus Christ?*” (See **John 7:1-5**) What major change took place in Jude’s life following the resurrection?

2. According to **verse 1b**, who did Jude write this short epistle to? Does the introduction include believers today? Notice God does the “*calling*,” God does the “*sanctifying*,” and it is God who has “*preserved*” us (past tense) when we are in Christ. Does it encourage you to know that God is so involved in your salvation? What can we learn about “*the perseverance of the saints*” (meaning the eternal security of true believers) from this passage and others? (See **John 6:37-44; 10:28-30; 17:11, 15; Rom. 8:31-39**) Note: Perhaps a better way of saying it would be, “*the preservation of the saints.*”

3. “*Mercy and peace*” were commonly used in Jewish greetings, but then Jude adds a word that is the glue that keeps the church together. What word symbolizes the glue? This greeting to the church preceded Jude’s warning about the apostates who are attacking the faith. Why are mercy, peace and love important when we are dealing with the welfare of any church?

4. How does Jude tenderly address his readers in **verse 3**? What doctrinal topic did Jude originally intend to write to his readers about? How did his plans change according to **verse 3b**?

5. What led to the change in Jude's plans (**vs. 4**)? Do we find this kind of attack still going on in churches today? How can we tell the difference between a true teacher of God's Word and a false teacher? Should we be more impressed with seminary degrees or the truth of God's Word? (See **Matt. 7:15-20**) How do some so-called Christians turn "*the grace of God*" into "*lewdness*" (**vs. 4**)? ("*Lewdness*" meaning sexual immorality.) Can you think of any religious figures who have injured the name of Christ through sexual immorality? Have you ever been guilty of hurting the name of Christ through something that you did?

Part II: Examples from history of God's intolerance towards sin (Jude vv. 5-7)

1. According to **verse 5a**, had the readers of Jude's letter received proper training in the Scriptures prior to this? What important nation did God deliver out of Egypt? (See **Exod. 14**) God did an incredible number of miracles before and during the Exodus. Did the masses believe and obey God, or did they grumble and disobey Him? (See **Heb. 3:7-12**) What occurred in the wilderness because of Israel's disobedience (**vs. 5**)?
2. What is the second group Jude chose to use as an example for those who will be punished for their disobedience (**vs. 6**)? What made these angels different from the rest? What was their "*proper domain*?" When do you think these angels fell? (See **Rev. 12:3-9**) According to **Matt. 25:41**, what punishment is reserved for the devil and his angels?
3. What is the third example Jude chose to use in illustrating judgment because of sin (**vs. 7**)? What is Jude referring to when he says the people of Sodom and Gomorrah have gone after "*strange flesh*?" Are people still going after strange flesh today? The government, the public school system, the secular media, Hollywood, and the gay community are doing everything in their power to brainwash our society into believing that the homosexual lifestyle is normal and right. If anyone holds an alternate opinion, these opponents are portrayed as homophobic radicals. In 1996, only 27% of Americans supported gay marriage. In 2013 that number had risen to 56%. Today 71% of Americans support gay marriage. What happened in just 26 years to cause this seismic shift in our country's morality? What does God have to say about the LGBTQIA+ lifestyle? (See **Gen. 2:24; 18 & 19; Lev. 8:22-29; 20:13; Deut. 22:5; 23:1; Rom. 1:24-32; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; 18-19; Jude 1:7**)

4. Should we as Christians surrender to public opinion or obey God? (See **Acts 4:16-20**) How should we respond to our government and media when they attempt to brainwash us into believing something is right that God's Word very clearly says is wrong? Who and what is the final authority when it comes to defining what is morally right and wrong?

Part III: God's warning against the apostates (Jude vv. 8-11)

1. According to John MacArthur, "*apostasy*" is "*defection from the true, biblical faith.*" What are these "*apostates*" likened to in **verse 8**? Are these dreamers living in reality or are they living in a make-believe world driven by their flesh? What three evils will these dreamers do?
2. What two powerful angelic beings are used in the Bible as examples to describe how careful we need to be with our mouths? The incident referred to in **verse 9** is the death of Moses on Mount Nebo in what is now modern-day Jordan. Moses was allowed to see the Promised Land but was not allowed to enter it while he was still alive. **Duet. 34:5-7** tells us that God buried Moses in the land of Moab and "*no one knows where his grave is.*" Why is that information not revealed? What additional information do we learn about this incident from reading **verse 9** in the Epistle of Jude? Because this information is quoted from the Jewish apocryphal book, "*The Assumption of Moses,*" some have argued Jude should not be included in the Scriptures. Should he have? Why or why not? ("*Apocryphal*" means: "*doubtful authenticity; not genuine*") Are there any other examples in Scripture of non-biblical writings being quoted? (See **Acts 17:28—Aratus; Tit. 1:12—Epimenides; Jude 1:14-15—Enoch**) Note: We do not have a complete copy of "*The Assumption of Moses*" today, but early church Father's quoted it.
3. Jude is making a very important point in **verse 9**, what is it? Who did "*Michael the Archangel*" call upon to rebuke the devil in **verse 9**? Why? How did "*the Angel of the LORD*" choose to rebuke Satan in **Zech. 3:1-5**? Have you ever heard people rebuking Satan in prayer? Is that a wise thing to do in light of these verses? Why did these powerful angels call upon the LORD to rebuke Satan? Are we more powerful than Michael the Archangel and the Angel of the LORD?
4. How reliable is the teaching of "*apostates*" according to **verse 10**? In what way are apostates similar to "*brute beasts*?" In this case, who are their victims?

5. Jude used the word “*woe*” as an oracle of judgment, a proclamation of upcoming doom to the apostates in **verse 11**. Why did he do this? What three Old Testament examples of apostates are used by Jude in **verse 11**? How does Cain picture the futility of “*salvation by works*” and ultimately the death that it leads to? (See **Gen. 4:1-15**) What was the error of Balaam? (See **Num. 22; 2 Pet. 2:15**) What did the rebellion of Korah and his associates illustrate? (See **Num. 16:1-7**) How do all three examples symbolize the effect apostates have on people today?

6. Make a list of at least four ways you can protect yourselves from being led astray by false teachers and evil governmental leaders who have defected from the true biblical faith?
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.

7. In **Rom. 13:1-2** the Apostle Paul writes, “*For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.*” What can we learn from **Rom. 13:1-2** and **1 Pet. 2:13-14,17** about the Christian’s relationship to government?

8. Do these verses mean that we should blindly obey government believers no matter what they tell us to do? If the civil authorities command us to do something God forbids or forbid us from doing something that God commands, should we obey them? Why or why not? What can we learn about this topic from **Acts 4:18-20** and **Acts 5:29**? Christians should be ideal citizens, yet we are ultimately to obey God over man. Can you think of any examples where Christians should disobey the civil authorities?

9. How do you see our nation’s history is being rewritten today and our rich Judeo-Christian heritage being stolen away from us? How do you think the Founding Fathers of the United States of America would react if they saw the current legislation and judicial changes in our country? What are some steps that we can take as Christians to stand against the current anti-God agenda that many of our leaders are pushing today?

10. What are some of the greatest blessings that Christians in America have received? There are people today changing the course of our country with the intent of effectively removing the influence of God and His Word from the State. What would Thomas Jefferson say if he were alive? What are some ways that we as Americans can counter these attacks against God, our constitution, and our way of life? Why is it important for every Christian to vote during each election cycle?

11. Have you received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord? If not, why not do so right now in prayer? If you have received Christ, why not take some time right now to pray for our nation and for the impact Christian churches can make on this land?

MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!*

- Every believer in Jesus is called to earnestly contend for the Christian faith.
- We need to carefully weigh what people tell us against what the Bible actually says.
- The Scriptures and the Scriptures alone are the authority for what we believe, not the government, popular opinion, or the media.
- True and false teachers will be revealed by the kind of fruit they produce. Jesus said, *"A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit...by their fruits you will know them."*
- We need to be careful not to take on Satan by ourselves; even *"Michael the Archangel"* and *"The Angel of the Lord"* said, *"The Lord rebuke you!"*
- America is now fighting *"a second Civil War,"* this one is much more deadly than the first; the battle today is for the mind and eternal souls of men, women, boys and girls.