

Book of Jude Sermon Notes

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Introductory remarks and prayer.

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" = praised." Pronounced – eeoo-dus' (Judas).
- He was the brother of Jesus. Matt 13:55, Mark 6:3
- He was neither the apostle Jude, nor Judas Iscariot. Luke 6:16, Acts 1:13, Matt 27:3-5
- Jude, like his brothers James, Joseph and Simon, did not believe in Christ until after His resurrection. John 7:1-5, Acts 1:14

2 May mercy and peace and love be multiplied to you. 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 which was once for all handed down to the saints.

- Jude's original intent was to write about Salvation, but the Holy Spirit directed him to write about false teachers, false teaching and false doctrine.

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.

- This begins the description of false teachers.
- "certain men crept in unawares" - to take advantage of the church for their personal gain. Where do we see this today? Discuss. So-called Christian television. 2Timothy 3:6-7
- "those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons" - This is not a description of born-again believers, who merely have errors in their doctrine. These are unbelievers, frauds, wolves in sheep's' clothing. Matthew 7:15
- "grace" = lovingkindness, unmerited favor.
- "licentiousness" = outrageousness, shamelessness.
- "deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ" - denying His deity and His positions as the Messiah of the Jews and Savior of the World. Although, they may not have outwardly professed these beliefs, so as to not be readily recognizable among the congregation. Thus, it follows that Jude was impressed to write his epistle.

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. 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,

- "angels who did not keep their own domain" - Who are these angels? Are they demons? Discuss. (Answer: demons). Isaiah 14:12-14, Ezekiel 28:12-19, 2Peter 2:4, Revelation 12:4-12
- "abandoned their proper abode" - They followed Satan in his rebellion and gave up their positions in the "heavenly host" (Gr. stratia = army). They were evicted from God's heavenly army. Luke 2:13, Psalm 148:2-5
- "eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment" - They are under the sentence of eternal condemnation and punishment. They have no opportunity for repentance: 2Peter 2:4
- First, because the Gospel is not available to them (they cannot comprehend it). They were not created in God's image or for fellowship with Him (thus, there is no need for reconciliation), but rather were created exclusively to serve and glorify Him. 1Peter 1:12, Hebrews 1:6, Luke 2:13-14, Revelation 5:11-14
- Second, because repentance requires an act of the Holy Spirit to bring conviction, repentance, faith, and regeneration. Yet, Hell is "away from the presence of the Lord and the glory of His power" Matthew 25:41, 2Thessalonians 1:9, Revelation 20

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

- "defile the flesh, and reject authority" - examples given in the previous two verses. Jude 1:6-7
- "revile angelic majesties" - example given in the following verse. Jude 1:9
- "defile the flesh" - False teachers indulge themselves in gross immorality. Defiling the flesh is sexual sin - fornication, adultery, homosexuality, other aberrant sexual behaviors. 2Peter 2:10, Galatians 5:19-20
- "reject authority" (see KJV) - pride (as Satan rejected God's authority over him). False teachers reject authority which refers to God, the Scriptures, the ecclesiastical structure of the local churches, and men.
- "revile angelic majesties" - (Gr. – blasphemeo = blaspheme) the blasphemous and sharp or severe rebuking, chiding, slandering, reproaching, binding, judging, admonishing, reviling, antagonizing, ridiculing, provoking, condemning, demeaning, or otherwise verbally abusing or speaking evil, etc., of principalities and powers, namely, Satan and his demons/minions.

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

- This passage does not directly regard spiritual warfare between believers and evil spirits in the form of intercessory prayer, nor the casting out of demons nor the authority of believers over demonic forces. Rather, this is an argument of comparison which contrasts the behavior of false teachers against the behavior of Michael the Archangel.
- The application, then, is that believers should avoid these same types of behaviors (reviling angelic majesties) for if such behavior is not fit for God's Archangel it can hardly be fit for his elect.
- Moreover, believers should not hold in arrogant high regard their own power to control Satan but that they should humbly turn to God in the face of Satanic forces, relying upon God to supply all their needs and beseeching Him to do battle on their behalf (see Job and the Psalms as two examples).
- "The Lord rebuke you!" - Michael has been given the direct command from the Lord to rebuke Satan on the Lord's behalf. Angels are messengers dispatched as deputies with only the authority expressly given by their Sovereign.
- Jude clearly means to say that this sort of sharp or severe rebuking, chiding, slandering, reproaching, binding, judging, admonishing, reviling, antagonizing, ridiculing, provoking, condemning, demeaning, or otherwise verbally abusing or speaking evil, etc., of principalities and powers, namely, Satan and his demons/minions is reserved exclusively for the pleasure of the Lord Himself alone. Zechariah 3:2, Matthew 16:18-19, 18:15-20
- How do we fall into this trap today? Discuss. What are the dangers of tempting, threatening and engaging demonic forces? Discuss. Possession and destruction (for unbelievers), oppression and attack (for believers). Jude 1:10
- "Michael the archangel ... disputed with the devil ... about the body of Moses' - Why did this happen? Discuss. Perhaps, Satan wished to either a). prevent Moses from his future missions or, b). use them as objects of worship for Israel as they had worshipped the bronze serpent. Deuteronomy 34:5-6, Matt 17:3-4, Mark 9:4-5, Luke 9:30-33, Revelation 11:1-14, Numbers 21:8-9, 2Kings 18:4

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. 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.

- "the way of Cain" - who was a murderer relying upon his own righteousness. Genesis 4:1-12
- "error of Balaam" - greedy and covetous of the money to which false teachers are addicted. For pay (filthy lucre), he tickled Balak's ears (told him what he wanted to hear) by making curses against Israel (which turned out to be blessings). Greed is *the* primary motivating factor for false teachers. Where do we see this today (people teaching false doctrine as a means to get money)? Discuss. TBN, elsewhere. Numbers 22:1-24:25, 31:8, Deuteronomy 23:4-5, 2Peter 2:15, Revelation 2:14

- "rebellion of Korah" - the pride of rebellion against authority. Numbers 16:1-33

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;

- "hidden reefs in your love feasts" - When the church came together to share the Lord's Supper (love feasts), like deadly coral reefs hidden just under the surface of the ocean, false teachers cause mortal damage to those in attendance, like passing ships on otherwise calm seas. 1Corinthians 11:17-34
- "clouds without water" - Water is an idiom for the Holy Spirit. False teachers are those without (devoid of) the Holy Spirit; they are unbelievers. Jude 1:19, John 4:10-11, 7:38, 2Peter 2:17, James 3:11-12
- "autumn trees without fruit" – In autumn, fruit is expected on fruit trees, for it is the time for harvest. Fig trees in autumn produce leaves before they bear fruit. If leaves are present, one expects fruit, especially in autumn. Leaves are the outward appearance of fruit-bearing. But close inspection determines if fruit has been produced. Jesus cursed the leaf-bearing fig tree He saw from a distance because it gave the outward appearance of bearing fruit (leaves), but on close inspection was fruitless: no fruit of the spirit in the religious leaders, and no spiritual fruit in Israel, of whom they had been given spiritual charge. Mark 11:12-14, 21
- In the same way, the Pharisees of Christ's day had the appearance of righteousness on the outside (their leaves were their outward righteousness - public prayers, phylacteries, tithing to be seen, etc.), but their ministries were fruitless. Their bodies were merely whitewashed tombs with dead men's bones on the inside. They appeared fruitful from a distance, but on close inspection were revealed to be imposters. Matthew 23:27, 21:33-46
- "doubly dead, uprooted" - the goats, the chaff, the unregenerate lost. Dead in two ways (doubly) - physical and spiritual. They will die physical deaths and are already spiritually dead. Revelation 2:11, 20:14, 21:8, Matthew 15:13, 25:32-34, 3:12, Luke 3:17

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

- "wild waves" - Through their pride they are loud and bold in their proclamations, ungovernable in their vanity.
- "wandering stars" - Like shooting stars who blaze for a moment and then are extinguished. Contrast this against the planets who are fixed in their orbits and are reflectors and beneficiaries of light. Satan was one such star. Isaiah 14:12
- "black darkness has been reserved forever" - Again, these false teachers are not true believers. Matthew 8:12, 22:13, 25:30

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,

- "Enoch" = in Hebrew means dedicated, teaching, train up. He was a prophet of God. Gen 5:18-24, Zechariah 14:5

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

- Additional descriptors of false teachers.

17 But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ, 18 that they were saying to you, "In the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts." 19 These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit.

- "ones who cause divisions" - They are divisive in the Church, splitting congregations, turning people against each other because some follow their false teaching while others reject it.
- "worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit" - Two further marks of non-regenerate unbelievers. The Holy Spirit transforms and renews the mind in conversion (regeneration) and indwells the soul. The unconverted are still of the world and without the Spirit of God. Romans 12:2, Titus 3:4-5

20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life. 22 And have mercy on some, who are doubting;

- Doubting the truths of Scripture and perhaps siding with the false teachers. 2Timothy 3:16, 4:2

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

- "save others, snatching them out of the fire" - exhort with the truth of the Gospel. 2Timothy 4:2
- "on some have mercy with fear" - reprove them in their sin, bringing them to salvation. Avoid being tainted by sin, avoid even the appearance of it. 2Timothy 4:2
- "hating even the garment polluted by the flesh" - a reference to spiritual uncleanness. Leviticus 13:52-57, 15:4-17, 21:11, Numbers 6:6, 9:6, 19:11, 15:4,10,17

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, 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.

- This is perhaps the most important clause in this book. It regards the eternal security of the believer and his position with respect to righteous works. Righteous works can only be performed by Christ on behalf of the believer, rather than by the believer as a means to his own salvation.
- "Him who is able to keep you from stumbling" - Since we are born again and indwelt with the Spirit of Christ, we cannot stumble in sin so as to fall from God's grace. Jesus protects us as His possession and by His presence. Romans 8:9-11
- "Him who is able to ... make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless" - Christ made us blameless through regeneration, forgiveness, justification, and the impartation of His righteousness. This process cannot be undone or reversed because Christ wills it. It is Christ who will make us stand blameless before Him on Judgment Day. It is not up to us to make ourselves blameless or to cause ourselves to continue in blamelessness. We have not the power to do anything of the sort. Ephesians 5:25-27

Closing remarks.