

## Jude

1 – Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, to those made holy by Father God, called and kept in Jesus Christ<sup>1</sup>.

2 – Mercy to you, and peace and love be multiplied.

3 – Beloved, having made all haste to write to you concerning the common salvation, I have written to you out of an emergency to urge you to contend for the faith that was once and for all entrusted to the saints<sup>2</sup>.

4 – For certain men snuck in, whose condemnation was written about long ago – ungodly men who pervert the grace of our God into licensed immorality, and refuse<sup>3</sup> our only sovereign God and our Lord Jesus Christ<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Jesus is not only the Savior (Luke 2:11, John 4:42, Acts 5:31, 2 Timothy 1:10, 1 John 4:14) and Great High Priest (Hebrews 4:14, 9:11), but as our Shepherd He is the keeper of God's flock (Psalm 80:1, John 10:11, 14, Hebrews 13:20, 1 Peter 2:25). All that Father has given Him, He keeps – both as an intercessor and watchman (John 6:37, 39, 45, 10:28-29, 17:11, Hebrews 7:25).

<sup>2</sup> Jude's urgency to make a stand in defense of the Gospel, which is unchangeable and settled once and for all, is a valuable model for us today (Philippians 1:7, 17, 2 Timothy 4:16, 1 Peter 3:15). It seems that most would not step out to "rock the boat," but would rather treat with tolerance the most gross violations of the "faith that was once and for all entrusted to the saints" (1 Thessalonians 2:4, Jude 1:3). Jan Huss (1369-1415) famously said, "Seek the truth, listen to the truth, teach the truth, love the truth, abide by the truth, and defend the truth – unto death."

<sup>3</sup> We can derive the sense of this word as being something far less than to deny or reject Jesus Christ as the Savior. The Greek word ἀρνούμενοι ('arnoumenoi') can be understood as the act of rejecting or refusing to obey: refusing to allow Him to be Lord and Master, refusing to regard, much less obey, His commandments, refusing to pay attention, refusing the liberty that He has brought to us through the new birth (Galatians 5:1) and the freedom from all the works of the Devil that He has delivered us from (Psalm 78:10, Galatians 1:4, Hebrews 11:24-26). The Israelites did not deny Moses in the sense of refusing to recognize his existence or authority, they just refused to obey. We must understand that many today refuse to hear Him Who is now speaking from Heaven, just as the Israelites refused to obey Moses (Hebrews 12:25) – all while they claim to be His devout followers! Furthermore, it only stands to reason that the saints are not going to be influenced by someone who denies or rejects that Jesus Christ is Lord. These pastors/leaders that Jude is referring to are identified by the fact that they are not godly people walking in holiness and purity, but are, among other things, sexually immoral, and they claim that it is not sinful because of the provision of grace (Romans 1:29, 6:1) This kind of ungodly man causes divisions, and is worldly (1 Corinthians 3:3, Jude 1:19) They would adequately fit Paul's description, "They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient, and unfit for doing anything good" (Titus 1:16).

<sup>4</sup> Jude wrote under an urgency to warn the church of an emerging last days' manifestation of ministers and leaders who would come along and pervert the Gospel. These wolves twist the Scripture and lead the saints of God into sin and iniquity (Matthew 7:15, Acts 20:29, Romans 16:18, 2 Peter 2:1, 3:16). Their lies have always been along the lines of, "we are saved by grace, so it does not matter if we sin or how much we sin" (Romans 6:1-2, 15, Galatians 3:24, Ephesians 2:8). These liars and deceivers have used verses of Scripture to condone their lust and licentiousness like, "to the pure all things are pure" (Romans 14:20, 1 Corinthians 6:12, 10:23, Titus 1:15). They make ridiculous arguments like, "as long as your conscience doesn't bother you, then it is not sin" (Romans 14:20-23, 1 Corinthians 8:7-10, 10:25-30). Yet as Peter said, "While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought into bondage" (2 Peter 2:19). These wolves and enemies of the truth allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that had cleanly escaped from those who live in error (Romans 13:13, 2 Peter 2:18).

Recently, I was told a story by a pastor from Australia of a young man who had been saved and filled with the Holy Spirit. He had totally been set free from his addiction to alcohol and was enjoying the abundant life in Christ Jesus. He was invited to a youth conference, and on the way some of the leaders

5 – Now I desire to remind you: for you once knew that the Lord, Who saved the people from Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe<sup>5</sup>.

6 – Also, those angels who did not keep their proper place, but left their place of habitation, are eternally bound under a hold of darkness until the great day of judgment.

7 – As Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities in the same manner indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desires, which have set precedence, undergoing the judgment of eternal fire,

8 – indeed in the same way these dreamers also defile the flesh, reject authority, and slander the glorious [ones].

9 – But Michael the arch-angel, when contending with the Devil, having disputed about the body of Moses, did not dare bring a slanderous judgment, but said, “The Lord rebukes you!”

10 – But these slander the things that they do not understand, and like irrational animals do whatever their depraved instincts dictate – thereby bringing on their own destruction!

11 – Woe to them, for they have gone in the way of Cain, poured out themselves to Balaam’s error for gain, and perished in Korah’s rebellion<sup>6</sup>!

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decided to stop off at a pub and have a beer. At first the young man refused, but then after it was explained to him that his refusal to drink the beer was a manifestation of a religious spirit, he decided to partake – that was the end of this young man’s walk with God. Obviously, no one ever told these church leaders that to cast a stumbling block before a person would result in the most severe judgment (Matthew 18:6, Mark 9:42, Luke 17:2).

Ultimately, one compromise with sin leads to another until one is totally taken over by the deceptive power of Satan. Their heart grows cold, their ears dull, and their conscience seared (Isaiah 6:10, Matthew 13:15, 24:12, Acts 28:27, 1 Timothy 4:1-2). These people do not actually deny God and Christ Jesus verbally, since they believe that they are the ones who really understand the mercy and grace of God – but they deny Him with their works (Titus 1:16). They fail to realize that those things that they call “Christian liberties” are actually works of the demonic realm, and that they have no part or inheritance with Christ Jesus or His kingdom (Mark 7:22, Romans 13:13, 2 Corinthians 12:21, Galatians 5:19, Ephesians 4:19, 1 Peter 4:3, 2 Peter 2:18). These liars will go so far as to say that Jesus turned the water into an intoxicating beverage and make out a holy gathering to be a decadent Grecian party wherein everyone is drunk (John 2:1-11)! Such things did not exist in the community of the Jews that Jesus and His mother were associated with – then or even until this day. It is our prayer and cry that you will harken to voice of Lord and come and follow Jesus, Who has modeled for us how we are to live in all holiness and purity before the Lord (Luke 1:75, Romans 6:22, 2 Corinthians 7:1, Ephesians 4:24, 1 Thessalonians 3:13, 4:7, Hebrews 12:10, 12:14).

<sup>5</sup> We are warned not to follow after the same manner of unbelief or disobedience that was displayed by Israel, because if we do, we will likewise be destroyed (Hebrews 4:11). Why would we think that a just God, Who hates diverse weights and measures and partiality in judgment (Deuteronomy 10:17, 2 Chronicles 19:7, Proverbs 20:10, 23, Acts 10:34, Romans 2:11, Ephesians 6:9, James 2:9, 1 Peter 1:17), would condemn all disobedience and sin until the time comes to judge us? Can anyone think that they are somehow better than Israel or the angels that sinned – that God would judge them for their sins and they would experience the eternal judgment of Hell while others who walk in the same iniquity are somehow welcomed into the glorious and holy Kingdom of God? Be warned: God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34, Romans 2:11)! Do not let anyone deceive you – the unrighteous will not inherit the Kingdom of God (1 Corinthians 6:9-10, Galatians 5:19-21, Ephesians 5:5).

<sup>6</sup> There are three evil spirits that are still at work among the household of faith, which attempt to destroy the people of God and profane the glory of God that is in our midst: the spirits of Cain, Balaam, and Korah.

Cain killed his brother because His brother’s deeds were righteous (1 John 3:12). The witness of what was right and acceptable to God served only as a burning testimony against Cain’s evil deeds. Wherever there is light, it will reprove the darkness by its very existence (John 1:5), and even so in the church today there is the same murderous spirit that was in Cain. In many situations, when someone

12 – These are blemishes in your fellowship of love, while they feast with you, eating without fear – clouds without water, carried about by the winds, dry fruitless trees, twice dead, plucked up by the roots,

13 – wild waves of the sea, foaming with their shame, wandering stars for whom the deepest darkness has been reserved forever<sup>7</sup>.

14 – Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these [kinds of people] saying, “Behold, the Lord comes with multitudes of His saints

15 – to execute judgment on all, and to punish all the ungodly for all the ungodly deeds that they have ungodly committed, and concerning all the harsh things that the ungodly have spoken against Him.”

16 – These are murmurers and complainers, having gone according to their lusts, and their mouth speaks proud things, flattering others to gain an advantage.

17 – But you, beloved, remember the words spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ,

18 – for they said to you that in the last time there will be scoffers indulging their own ungodly desires<sup>8</sup>.

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passionate and anointed shows up in the ranks of the church, it only serves to show how dead and lukewarm everyone else really is. Instead of the impact being responded to with repentance, it is met with resentment. There is probably no better example than that of those who were at Nazareth when Jesus preached His first sermon there. After that radiant message and revelation of the glory of God, the people were so moved to hatred and envy that they grabbed ahold of Him in order to throw Him off of the cliff (Luke 4:29)!

The spirit of Balaam is a greedy spirit, that for gain will cast away the anointing that was given. Balaam was a prophet of God who served the Lord, but became more interested in bettering his life than obeying God (Numbers 22:7, 22, 32, 24:1). One compromise for money led to another, until he ultimately lost everything and became an example of an enemy of the God Who had anointed him.

The spirit that probably has more impact on the lack of power and pathetic state of the many churches today, especially in America, is the spirit of Korah. Korah was a Levite, and could be viewed as one of the cousins of Moses (Numbers 16). He was a man of great influence, and became both threatened and jealous of the authority that Moses had. Therefore, he pulled together 250 of the most influential men of Israel, and demanded that Moses also allow them to be involved in the leadership and decision-making. Their position was that they too were the people of God. Furthermore, they were successful and influential, and demanded to be heard. There is no need to guess how Father feels about such dissension, for the Earth opened up and swallowed those men and their families! They came with their censors of worship and praise, and like Nadab and Abihu (Leviticus 10:1-3), who refused to sanctify the Lord, they were cast out of the presence of the Lord and the company of God’s saints. The church is not a democracy, neither do the people rule. God rules – and He places the anointing and gifting to speak on His behalf on those whom He chooses. To attempt to subvert that authority and create divisions among the saints of God is likened unto the rebellious and treasonous acts of Satan when he first rebelled against God (Ezekiel 28:17-18).

<sup>7</sup> Be warned by these horrific judgements that have been described by Jude, who was the half-brother of Jesus. If you will not turn from sin for any other reason, then know this: there is a judgment of eternal fire with the deepest darkness that all the ungodly will be cast into (Isaiah 66:15-16, 2 Peter 3:7). These are the just judgments of God. God has made a way of escape, so flee from the wrath that is to come upon all the ungodly, and especially those who hold the truth of God in unrighteousness (Matthew 3:7, Luke 3:7, 1 Corinthians 10:13, Romans 1:18, 2:8, 2 Thessalonians 2:10, 12).

<sup>8</sup> Jude urgently addresses the issue of the kind of people that will sneak into the church “in the end of time” or “in the last time.” Of course, we should take special note of this, because we are living in more of the “last days” than they were. These scoffers are not identified as those who are outside of the church, but rather those who are in the church. They are discovered to be pretenders who are worldly and not born of the Spirit. It is through their worldliness and carnal thinking that divisions are created among those who otherwise would walk in unity and submission with each other. (1 Corinthians 3:3-4, Ephesians 4:3, 5:21, 1

19 – These are those who cause divisions<sup>9</sup>, carnal ones who do not have the Spirit.  
20 – But with your most holy faith, beloved, build yourselves up, praying<sup>10</sup> in the Holy Spirit.

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Peter 5:5). They are marked by both their indulgence in ungodliness and their rebellion to authority (Titus 2:2).

Jude reminds us in this letter that just because someone is in the company of the believers, and even rescued as Israel was rescued from Egypt, they may still die in their rebellion and sin (Numbers 14:35, 27:3, Ezekiel 3:20, 18:24, John 8:21, 24). Everyone will be judged for their sins (1 Samuel 2:25, 2 Corinthians 5:10, Romans 2:6, 1 Peter 1:17, Revelation 20:12), even as the angels who sinned were punished (2 Peter 2:4), unless they turn to God and submit to His ways. Whether it was Israel delivered from Egypt, or angels who were created in the splendor of God's glory, or Sodom and Gomorrah, or someone in the ranks of the church today, all will be judged and punished for their ungodly deeds unless they repent. Therefore, the scoffers who reject authority and slander the glory are equally marked with the judgment of God, and must also be marked by the household of faith (Jude 1:8).

The scoffers who mock authority, and through their rebellion refuse to be under submission to anyone, are more present now than they have ever been. These scoffers are like Cain, who destroy anyone who walks in righteousness (1 John 3:12), like Balaam, who are more interested in having money than doing the will of God, and like Korah, who rise up against God's anointed and attempt to be self-appointed leaders. Of course, the worst things about these people is that they lead others into their own mockery of the truth, and if left unchecked, could lead the whole company of saints away with their error. The foundation of God stands sure: let everyone who names the name of Jesus depart from iniquity (Proverbs 16:6, 1 Corinthians 3:11, 2 Timothy 2:19).

<sup>9</sup> When people are around the children of God, they should experience the love of God in our manner and behavior. (John 13:35) God said that there were six things that he hated, and a seventh that was an abomination to Him. The seventh thing that He spoke of was the one who sowed discord among the brethren (Proverbs 6:16-19). Discord comes in many forms, but the end is usually the same – it causes divisions. Problems, disagreements, and other similar issues must be dealt with between the ones involved, and not publicized (Matthew 18:15-17). We are commanded by Paul to mark those who cause divisions, and to avoid them (Romans 16:17). Anyone who operates with a divisive spirit is not functioning in the Spirit of God. You will never find the Holy Spirit accusing or defaming anyone – He is always rather interceding and supporting (Romans 8:26-27).

The way of the Lord is that we lay down our lives for the brethren and take up their defense (1 John 3:16). We are those who keep the unity of the brethren and pursue peace with all (Matthew 5:9, Ephesians 4:3, Hebrews 12:14). We keep our tongues from evil, and our lips from speaking guile (Psalm 34:13, 1 Peter 3:10). There are many people who have deceived themselves to think that just because they quote Scripture and go to church, that they are of the family of God. However, this is far from the truth. There are many who with their mouths profess to know Jesus, but with their deeds they deny Him (Matthew 7:21, 26, Galatians 6:8, Ephesians 5:6, Titus 1:16, James 1:22, 1 John 2:29, 3:7, 14). If a child of God, who is filled with the Spirit and nature of God, continues to function in the realm of the demonic (in enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, and factions), it is a testimony against them, not for them (Galatians 5:20). Every evil work emerges from this evil realm of strife and envy (James 3:16). The witness of the Spirit in our lives is a love that does nothing in strife or vainglory, but in lowliness of mind esteems others better than oneself (Philippians 2:3). We are those who recognize that we are called to lay down our lives for the brethren, even as Jesus showed us (1 John 3:16). The way that we stay in this love is by continually giving ourselves to the activity of the Holy Spirit, building ourselves up in the faith, praying in the Holy Spirit (Jude 1:20).

<sup>10</sup> The many different dimensions of prayer are attested to by the many Hebrew words used for prayer. The most common Hebrew words for prayer are 'tevilla' (תְּבִילָה), and the related verb 'palal' (פָּלַל).

The primary Greek word used for prayer, 'proseuchomai' (προσεύχομαι), may simply be regarded as "calling on God." Prayer is an act of reliance and dependence upon God, Whom we look to for help. It is an act of worship wherein we fall down and adore Him and proclaim all of His goodness. It is an intercession wherein we take up a plea for the needs of others.

Through the prayers of Job, those who had spoken all the defaming words against him were restored (Job 42:8, 10). When Israel lost their place of blessing and protection, they could be restored

21 – Keep yourselves in the love of God<sup>11</sup>, receiving the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

22 – Have mercy on some, having discernment –

23 – some save by fear, snatching them from the fire, hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

24 – Now to the One Who is able to keep you from stumbling and present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy<sup>12</sup>,

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through prayer and supplication (1 Kings 8:33-34, 2 Chronicles 7:14). Hezekiah prayed for deliverance from the Assyrian army and God intervened (2 Kings 19:15-19). Elijah prayed that it would not rain and it was so (1 Kings 17:1). Later, he prayed for it to rain again, God heard his prayer, and it rained (1 Kings 18:41-46, James 5:17-18). Prayer is something that Daniel did three times a day (Daniel 6:10). When Ezra prayed, he was broken before God and confessed, weeping and casting himself down before the house of God (Ezra 10:1). Many of the psalms are prayers, like Psalm 142. The life and authority of Jesus was marked by His life of prayer (Matthew 14:23, 26:36, Mark 6:46, Luke 3:21, 9:18, John 17). Through prayer, the New Testament saints are equipped to move in authority to cast out demons (Matthew 17:21, Mark 9:29). God will so honor prayer that whatever we ask Him in faith when we pray, he will do it (Matthew 18:19, 21:22, John 14:13-14, 15:7, 16:23-24).

God's house is a house of prayer, and when His saints pray it is like incense rising up into His presence (Isaiah 56:7, Matthew 21:13, Mark 11:17, Revelation 5:8, 8:3-4). Prayer is a petition to God – it is a cry and a plea. It is a conversation and a time of adoration. Prayer is an activity of the Holy Spirit making intercession for us and through us. (Romans 8:26) It is a fire burning on the inside for the will of God to be done and the Kingdom of God to be revealed (Matthew 6:10, Luke 11:2).

Above all things, we are to pray by the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:26, 1 Corinthians 14:14-15). This is more than just Holy-Spirit-directed prayer, because the precedence was set forth on the day of Pentecost – a prayer that is the utterance of the Holy Spirit Himself (Acts 2:4). Paul makes it very clear in instruction to the church, and perfectly explains the act of praying in the Spirit (1 Corinthians 14:2, 14).

<sup>11</sup> Above all other things, staying saturated with the love of God must be our aim (Ephesians 3:19, 2 Thessalonians 3:5). The love of God is poured into us by the Holy Spirit, and dominates our lives as we yield to Him (John 17:26, Romans 5:5, Galatians 5:22). Love was modeled for us by Jesus, our Savior, when He laid down His life for us. Living in this love is God's command (John 15:12, 17, 1 John 3:23, 5:2-3). Walking in love is how all men will know that we are His disciples and that He lives in us (Luke 6:35, John 13:34-35, 1 Peter 1:22, 1 John 4:7-8). Dwelling in love should be our delight, as it is the place where we dwell in God (1 John 4:16). Knowing this love is the key to the greater-works ministry, because in it we are filled with all the fullness of God (John 14:12-15, Ephesians 3:19, Colossians 2:2). Being directed by love in our behavior and conduct is being directed by the Holy Spirit, Who desires to lead us and guide us in this wonderful essence of God – Who is love (1 John 4:8)!

If you will set your heart on the love of God and give yourself to it, then you will find that the Holy Spirit will fill you to overflowing. Many have set out on long fasts and given themselves to great efforts of prayer that they might touch the deeper realms of the glory of God. All of this is good, but we will always be brought back to the question of love. Will we love God (Deuteronomy 6:5, 11:1, 13, 22, 19:9, 30:6, 16, 20, Joshua 22:5, 23:11, Matthew 22:37, Mark 12:30, Luke 10:27)? Will we love those that love us? Will we love the brethren (1 Peter 2:17, 1 John 4:7, 4:11, 20-21, 5:1)? Will we love our enemies (Matthew 5:44, Luke 6:27, 35)? Devote yourselves today to being rooted and grounded in love. Surrender fully to knowing the deeper realms and the higher heights of the fullness of God, by giving yourself to the knowledge of the love of Christ (Ephesians 3:17, 19). I believe that on that day of accountability we will be brought into question on how well we loved (Ephesians 1:3-4, 1 John 2:5, 3:11, 14, 16, 4:17). Let us all love well, from this day forward.

<sup>12</sup> God is the maker of our salvation. It is Jesus Who is the author and finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:2). All we have to do is to be willing, for should we only be hungry and thirsty, He will fill us. (Matthew 5:6, Luke 6:21) If our hearts leap, like the priest Zachariah's did at the announcement of the Savior, knowing that now we can live without fear, in holiness and righteousness all the days of our lives, then we will discover that God will both do and will of His good pleasure in us. (Luke 1:74-75).

25 – to the only wise God our Savior, [be] glory and majesty, power and authority, both now and throughout all eternity. Amen.

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We must learn to depend upon Him, and to receive all that He supplies. Once we have been born of the Spirit, then we can receive all of those things that are freely supplied to us by the Spirit (Romans 8:32, 1 Corinthians 2:12). When we consider that His grace supplies us with those things that reach beyond what we are able to think or ask, according to the power that works within us, we should be able to be confident of His perfecting power in our lives (Ephesians 3:20). Jude says that He will keep us from stumbling. Although there are many translations that use the word ‘falling,’ the difference between the two words are demonstrated for us in Romans 11:11 – He will not only keep us from falling, but will also keep us from stumbling, so that we may be faultless. Peter also revealed this truth to us and made it clear that if we would give ourselves to the things of the Spirit that he named in 2 Peter 1:5-10, then we would never stumble.

The one transition that seems hard for many to make is the transition from human effort and discipline, to relational dependency upon Jesus. We will never be able in our own ability to walk so perfectly before our God, but there is One Who will work in us by His power, and will keep us from stumbling (Psalm 119:165). All we must be willing to do is to learn how to be led. If we are going to learn how to be led by the Spirit, then we must learn how to yield to Him (Romans 6:13, 16, 19). Jesus made it very clear that without Him we can do nothing, but if we dwell in Him, then we can do all things through the strengthening power of Christ Jesus (John 15:5, Philippians 4:13). How do we learn to yield to Him and rely on Him? – through a love relationship where we, as the redeemed, adore the Redeemer. It is here that we discover the very meaning of our lives, and the exceeding greatness of His power that is at work in us (Ephesians 1:19, Colossians 1:29, Philippians 1:11, 2:13). It is through this relationship that we receive from Heaven, and learn to yield to the Holy Spirit, Who teaches us all things and shows us how to make the transition from human dependence and self-reliance to a dependence upon Him.