

The Appointment of Apostates

Jude 14-16

We have spent several weeks dealing with the character, deception, and destruction of the apostates. Clearly they seek the promotion of their agenda regardless of the cost. They seem to enjoy disrupting the church and are committed to its demise.

Jude was well aware of their presence and the danger they presented to the church, but he was also aware that their deeds had not gone unnoticed and the Lord would not allow them to go unpunished. The apostates of Jude's day and all who follow their ungodly philosophy have an appointment with God where they will be judged for their sin. They will ultimately be separated from God in eternal torment and punishment in hell.

We live in a time where many have rejected the doctrine of divine judgment for those who deny and oppose the Lord. In large part, hell is no longer preached from the pulpits or believed in public. Consider the comments of John MacArthur on this passage. *"Hell is certainly not a popular concept in Western society. In an age of tolerance and acceptance, the topic of eternal punishment is taboo; the very mention of it is considered unloving. After all, postmodern culture believes that everyone is basically good and expects that life after death (if the afterlife even exists) includes heaven for all but the most evil people.*

Sadly, the political correctness and doctrinal ambiguity that characterizes the world has also permeated the church. Even among those who call themselves evangelicals, hell is regarded as a theological embarrassment. Passages that teach eternal destruction are often explained away, arbitrarily softened, or ignored altogether. As a result, society's erroneous views about God's judgment are only reinforced." ¹

The world, and even many evangelicals may choose to deny the reality of judgment in hell, but the Bible is very clear. Jude reveals that these have a date with destiny, as they stand before the Judge of all men. Let's consider the [facts](#) revealed here concerning: [The Appointment of Apostates](#).

I. The Prophecy Revealed (14) – [And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints.](#) Jude speaks of Enoch's prophecy concerning the apostates.

A. The Reference of Old – We find that Enoch, the 7th generation from Adam, spoke of the presence and judgment of apostates. Clearly they were present in Enoch's day. He lived prior to the flood. (The Bible doesn't record this prophecy, but it was an oral lesson passed down throughout the generations. Jude is referring to the uninspired book of 1 Enoch that was widely circulated among the Jews, common in history and Jewish tradition.)

- This inspired reference to Enoch (here in Jude) clarifies an important truth for us however. The apostates were active in Enoch's day, polluting the minds of men and leading them away from the ways of God. Their philosophy survived the flood, through the deceitful hearts of men, and remains today.

B. The Return of the Lord – The apostates were a present influence prior to the flood, but even then godly men were already looking for the coming of Christ in judgment to deal with their sinful deeds. It would be a couple thousand years before the First Advent and Enoch was already looking for the Second Advent as Christ comes to judge the earth.

- There is comfort and warning in the words of Enoch and Jude. The apostates are present and dangerous, but they will eventually be judged of the Lord. Christ will come again in power and great glory. The wicked will not rule the earth forever! All who have denied His mercy and salvation for the ways of sin will face His wrath. This is just one of the many prophecies concerning the second coming of the Lord. [Rev.1:7; 19:11-16.](#)

I. The Prophecy Revealed (14)

II. The Punishment Reserved (15) – [To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.](#) The Lord has a plan and a purpose when He returns to the earth. It is then that He will fully and finally deal with sin.

A. Judgment is Declared – Christ will come to [execute judgment upon all...that are ungodly.](#) This is a very sobering phrase. It has the idea of *“separating through a sentence of judgment in condemnation and punishment.”* The apostates have persisted through the generations, but their deeds will one day meet their just reward.

- God declares that sin must be atoned. Christ paid the sin debt for humanity, but those who deny Him stand accountable to God for their sin. It is a debt they cannot pay nor deny! [Jer.17:10 – I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings. Rev.20:12 – And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. Rev.22:12 – And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.](#)

B. Judgment is Defined – Christ will also [convince all that are ungodly.](#) The word *convince* means *“to prove wrong, expose, rebuke, and convict.”* The Lord has not been deceived by their deceptive ways. They have presented themselves as those having a desire for the things

of God, but have secretly sought to defeat and destroy the faith of many. When Christ comes, He will reveal them for what they truly are.

- There will be no argument or defense. The Lord will expose their sinful ways and then pronounce judgment. Num.32:23b – be sure your sin will find you out. Eccles.12:14 – For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil. Lu.12:2 – For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known.

C. Judgment is Deserved (15) – To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him. I want to remind us that we serve One who is just and right in all His ways. These will face the wrath of God, but it is not without merit. (Really if any of us got what we deserved, we would all be in hell.) These have rejected the Lord and His ways and now they must face their just reward. Here we find why their judgment is deserved.

1. Their Sinful Occupation – He speaks of their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed. Their deeds speak of their “*business or employment; actions or deeds.*” These had one desire and that was to live sumptuously and promote ungodliness. They stood opposed to all righteousness and their lives were consumed with their sinful lusts.

- Is our world not filled with those of the same occupation? We live in the midst of a society that will stop at nothing to satisfy the flesh!

2. Their Staunch Opposition – He also spoke of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him. This reveals a troubling and yet very real scenario. The apostate is not content to reject the mercies and call of God himself. He stands in defiant opposition to all that is holy and godly. He uses his influence to create disbelief and rebellion among those whom he has contact with. His words are words of hate and rebellion toward the Lord Jesus Christ.

- Is that attitude and propaganda not prevalent in our society today? There are those who stand adamantly opposed to the Lord and His church, but they are not content with rejecting Him themselves. They seek to spew their poison and hate to all that will hear. Christ came as the sacrifice for all men, and yet many blaspheme and reject His holy name.

I. The Prophecy Revealed (14)

II. The Punishment Reserved (15)

III. The Philosophy Reproved (16) – These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage. The Scripture describes the destructive philosophy of the apostates. They are known by the fruit they bear. Notice:

A. Their Attitude – They are described as **murmurers and complainers**. They are those who “*discontentedly complain against God; complaining of their lot in life.*” They refuse to rejoice in the blessing and goodness of God, always feeling as if they have been neglected or abandoned. There never seems to be enough. Things are never pleasing. They never find real contentment or joy. They despise the righteous demands of God.

- Have you ever been around someone that could never be pleased or happy? It seems as if things are never good enough. We would have to admit that God has been good to each of us. If He never offered another blessing, we would have to agree that we have been blessed!

B. Their Activity – **walking after their own lusts**. There is little or no concern for what is right and holy. These have determined to satisfy the flesh above all else and at all costs. They are not concerned with the good or wellbeing of others, only their personal wishes.

- This is clearly prevalent in our day. Most people are determined to satisfy themselves at all costs. There are no limits or restraints today. They have the idea that if it feels good, do it.

- Sadly this philosophy is even found within the church. Few are willing to lay aside their personal wants for the ways of God or the good of His church.

C. Their Arrogance – **and their mouth speaketh great swelling words**. This speaks of their arrogant and hypocritical ways. They boasted proud, swelling words in an effort to promote themselves as spiritual and committed to the Lord, but within they were cold and void of truth. Their lives were merely for show, but there was no depth or substance.

- I had a lot rather hear a common, uneducated man who knew the Lord speak as one who had the highest of education but knew nothing of the Lord. A right relationship with the Lord will provide wisdom and peace that is not found in books or taught in the classroom.

D. Their Agenda – **having men's persons in admiration because of advantage**. Literally telling others what they wanted to hear in order to manipulate them for their own personal gain. The apostate is a master of deception. He is never what he appears. His motives are rarely pure. They seek to manipulate others for their own benefit.

- If you ever run across someone who has an “all about me” mentality, you might better proceed with caution. We are not here to receive what the church can offer us, we are here to offer what we can of ourselves for the Lord and His church. That philosophy is completely foreign to apostates.

These are poignant and profound verses. They reveal much about the apostates and their motives. They also reveal what they will face as the Lord returns in judgment.

We are seeing many similarities in our world today. The problems that Enoch and Jude faced transcend time. Every generation has faced opposition and adversity. We need the strength and wisdom of God to overcome. If you have a need, why not bring it before the Lord?

¹ The MacArthur New Testament Commentary – 2 Peter & Jude.