

A Sober Reminder

Jude 5-8

As we continue our study this evening, let us keep in mind the passion and commitment for the church that Jude has. Clearly he is concerned about the well being of the church and would have loved to have written a letter dealing primarily with the exhortation of the saints and evangelization of the sinner. However, he was keenly aware of the dangers of apostasy facing the church. After a brief introduction to his concern, Jude now writes in detail regarding the danger and character of the apostates.

Jude was very thorough in dealing with this present danger. He reminds the church, and all who read this letter, that this form of heresy and rebellion has existed throughout the ages. This was not a danger that had just begun among the church, but it was a hindrance that had plagued humanity for centuries. Jude speaks of several different and distinct accounts of apostasy and rebellion that are being imitated by those who had infiltrated the church in that day. We need to be reminded that the adversary has spent thousands of years perfecting his tactics and they remain the same today as they were in the days of Jude, and even in the days of Moses.

Before we get into the message tonight, I want to tell you up front that this type of preaching is not popular in our day. Very few are close enough to the Lord and honest enough about our current situation to confront the difficult topics that are no longer “politically correct” in our modern society. I am convinced that much of the turmoil we face today can be traced back to the pulpits of America. Pastors are more concerned with pleasing people than they are in preaching truth. We need men of God who will preach the whole counsel of God and deal with the tough issues of our day.

So with all of this in mind, let's continue our study as we seek to discover the eternal truths revealed in God's Word. I want to preach on the thought: [A Sober Reminder](#). Notice with me first of all:

I. The Danger of Social Corruption (5) – Here Jude refers to the rebellion of Israel as they journeyed from Egypt to the Promised Land. What likely began in the hearts of a few, quickly spread until it consumed the majority. Sin and rebellion will spread like a cancer if it isn't identified, dealt with, and abandoned. These dangers remain in our day as well.

A. Their Delusion – I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not. Before Jude gets into the details of Israel's rebellion he addressed the church. Apparently they had a “selective memory.” The rebellion in the wilderness was commonly known among the Jews and I'm sure that it was taught among the early believers. Jude knew

that they had disregarded fundamental truth. For some reason, they decided to “forget” the struggles of the wilderness.

- I fear that many today choose to forget or overlook certain teaching and doctrine when it doesn't suit their lifestyle or way of thinking.

B. Their Deliverance – Jude reminds them of the mercy of God unto the people of Israel in their bondage. He delivered them from their suffering, setting them free, and desired to lead them into a land of abundance. God did that because He loved them, not because they deserved it.

- Rather than worshipping and remaining committed to God, they chose to rebel and serve idols. Rather than being thankful they grumbled and complained. They turned their backs on the One who redeemed them.
- We too have been delivered, but rather than being thankful many times we grumble and complain. Often we give our best to pleasures of life rather than the Lord, setting pleasure up as an idol.

C. Their Destruction – [afterward destroyed them that believed not](#). God was merciful to them in their deliverance, but He was also just in their rebellion. God would not condone sin and allow it to go unpunished. We know that, with the exception of Joshua and Caleb, all who were twenty years of age and older perished in the wilderness. It is estimated that 40 per day died in the wilderness.

- This is a sober reminder that God will not turn a deaf ear or a blind eye to sin and rebellion. He didn't with Israel and He won't within the church.

I. The Danger of Social Corruption (5)

II. The Defiance of Spiritual Rebellion (6) – Here Jude deals with the fall of Satan and his angels, those beings created of God who rebelled.

A. Their Position – [And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day](#). Lucifer and all the fallen angels were privileged to be in the presence of God in heaven. They were continually around the throne of God in an atmosphere of worship. Somehow Satan was filled with pride and greed, desiring to assume the place of God.

- How many do we know in our day that have known and even embraced truth and yet turned away from it? Some of the wickedest people I've met once held places of prominence in the church.
- Often trouble arises in the church when people know truth, but will not submit to that truth. Many problems stem from man's desire to do as he pleases rather than live and worship according to God's will and Word.

B. Their Expulsion – but left their own habitation. We have little information concerning the fall of Satan, but we do know that he was cast out of heaven. God may have provided opportunity to repent, and even if He did, Satan refused the offer and chose expulsion rather than submission.

- I am convinced that churches across our land have those who chose expulsion rather than submission. They may still attend faithfully, but they have been expelled from God's presence. They attend the service, but there is no worship, no presence of God in their lives, and no desire to live for the Lord or benefit the church. It is dangerous to live outside of God's habitation, wherever that may be.

C. Their Condemnation (6b) – he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day. This speaks of the great Day of Judgment where God will bind Satan and cast him into the eternal lake of fire. Rebellion came at a high price for Satan. He may have enjoyed several thousand years as the ruler of this world, but that will not even be a drop in the bucket compared to eternity in torment and separation.

- I want to remind us of the seriousness of serving the Lord. This is not something that we can be neutral or careless about. All who rebel against God and refuse His salvation will find themselves bound in the everlasting chains of darkness. The apostates have rejected the mercies of God for their own sinful desires and seek to corrupt the Gospel.

I. The Danger of Social Corruption (5)

II. The Defiance of Spiritual Rebellion (6)

III. The Depravity of Sexual Perversion (7) – Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. We all know of the depravity and perversion of Sodom and Gomorrha. This destructive lifestyle continues to bring devastation today.

A. The Magnitude – This depravity wasn't confined to Sodom and Gomorrha alone; it spread to the cities around it. The lusts of the flesh weren't confined to a small area.

- We see it expanding at an alarming rate in our day as well. Consider where we've come in the last 10-15 years. It was never spoken of when I was a child, but now it is even promoted and encouraged in mainstream society. This dreadful blight will continue to grow and expand.

B. The Motivation – [giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh](#). I don't have to be explicit; we all know of the sins of Sodom. They lusted after those of their own sex and gave themselves over to their sinful desires. Their sin had become so extensive, they couldn't contain it.

- We are seeing this sinful lifestyle increase and worsen in our day. The world wants to embrace it and condemn those who stand against it, but God declares that sodomy is an abomination. ([Lev.18:22](#); [Rom.1:27](#); [1 Cor.6:9](#).)

C. The Message – [are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire](#). It had been thousands of years since God destroyed Sodom, but the memory of his judgment remained. Their destruction was recorded as an example of the consequences of sin and the wrath of God.

- Congress may legalize it, churches and society may embrace it, but God has not changed his mind. Apparently the church in Jude's day faced this ungodly influence and we do as well. Jude warned them of its danger and the call needs to be sounded today as well. God will judge America for its support and promotion of ideals and actions that are contrary to His Word. The homosexual issue seems to be the one that everyone wants to promote and defend in our day. May God help us to stand for truth!

I. The Danger of Social Corruption (5)

II. The Defiance of Spiritual Rebellion (6)

III. The Depravity of Sexual Perversion (7)

IV. The Decay of Immoral Imagination (8) – [Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities](#). Here John turns his attention to the apostates of his day. They share the same character and promote the same agenda as previous generations had. He ties them to the previous verses with "[Likewise](#)." Notice:

A. Their Defilement – They were filled with [filthy dreams that defiled the flesh](#). Apparently anything that they could conceive in their minds, they acted out in their flesh. There was no restraint or remorse. ([Gen.6:5](#))

- We live in an age where anything goes. Humanity continues to sink to lower depths of depravity. There are no limits or restraint. There seems to be no conscious when it comes to sin.
- This philosophy has made its way into the church. The standards have been lowered and many want to accept people regardless of their lifestyle.

B. Their Disobedience – These also [despise dominion](#). This has the idea of “*power, authority, or lordship.*” The apostate refuses to submit to the authority of another, even the Lord Himself.

- Would you not agree that we are seeing a rebellion in our day against authority, especially among the younger generation? Even in the church there is rebellion. This can be linked to ones relationship with Christ. If He is not the Master of your life, you will not be willing to submit to Him. We are seeing those who have abandoned the truth of God’s Word because it isn’t popular today. This is nothing more than rebellion against authority!

C. Their Distortion – Lastly Jude declares that they [speak evil of dignities](#), quite literally the Lord Himself. They refuse the absolute deity of Christ. They refuse to admit that they are accountable to God. They refuse the Word of God and will not accept its infallibility. They stand opposed and slander all who are opposed to their sinful ways, including God.

- I have never seen this more prevalent than it is today. Hollywood can’t make a film without taking the Lord’s name in vain. Christians in our schools and society are mocked and ridiculed because of their faith. The world has developed a hatred of Christ our blessed Lord.
- Remember that actions speak louder than words. One really doesn’t have to say a word to be guilty of rebellion toward God. If you have a problem with God’s Word and His will for your life, then you are in essence living as the apostates do. We need to humble ourselves before the Lord and seek to serve Him in complete obedience.

These have been difficult verses to discuss, but I am convinced that they are needful in our day. Church we need to be vigilant and watchful against the attack of the enemy. He would like nothing more than to create division among us. He would like to invade our ranks and sow seeds of apostasy. Why not come and seek the Lord for strength to overcome in this evil day?