

“Judgment Will Come”

November 24, 2024

Jude 1:14-19

I. Introduction

There is a saying that goes: *“To be forewarned is to be forearmed.”* And that is why Jude wrote his brief letter: *“False teachers are in your midst; be careful.”* His persistence in sticking to this one thought indicates the seriousness and dangerousness of these deceitful teachers in the church. Jude didn’t want any Christian Brother or Sister to stumble or fall through ignorance. He didn’t want any church to lose its witness because of these **“wolves in sheep’s clothing.”** And he certainly didn’t want any church to get a letter like those we find in the 1st 3 chapters of Revelation. For example, **turn to Revelation 2:12-17.**

Earlier in **verse 4** Jude wrote, **“For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men.”** But these false teachers, these godless men aren’t going to get away with their lies, judgment will come. The Old Testament prophets wrote about this judgment of false teachers; for example, **Isaiah 8:22** says, **“They will be thrust into utter darkness.”** The New Testament also has prophecies about the fate of false teachers; **2 Peter 2:3-6** says, **“In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping. For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment; if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly,”** then he will surely judge these ungodly men.

In today’s Scripture Jude repeated the destiny of the false teachers or apostates: **“the Lord is coming to convict the ungodly.”** Writing of the coming judgment, Jude quoted an ancient prophecy from **“Enoch, the seventh from Adam.”**

II. Enoch's Prophecy

A. Enoch walked with God. Perhaps before looking at his prophecy, it might be good to consider the man called Enoch. All we know about Enoch from Scripture is found in Genesis, Luke, Hebrews, and these 2 verses in Jude. The first reference about Enoch is in Genesis 5, [turn to Genesis 5:18-24](#). Cain, also, had a son by the name of Enoch ([Gen. 4:17](#)) but he wasn't *this* Enoch. Reading the earlier verses in Genesis 5 as well as [Luke 3:37](#), this particular Enoch was the 7th generation from Adam; **“the seventh from Adam.”** According to Genesis, Enoch lived in the time just before Noah and the flood. (He was Noah's great-grandfather.) During a time when people were living many hundreds of years before dying, Enoch only lived for 365 years. In spite of all the sin and ungodliness around him—which would lead to the Flood, Genesis says that **“Enoch walked with God; then he was no more.”** [Hebrews 11:5](#) summarizes it this way: **“By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God.”** God took Enoch to heaven without letting him die. But, it seems that before his ascension, Enoch made this prophecy about God's coming judgment on false teachers which Jude recorded in his letter.

B. Enoch's prophecy came from God. Biblical scholars write that this quotation of Enoch's prophecy is from an apocryphal book called *The Book of Enoch*. Enoch's message was probably passed down through oral tradition until it was finally recorded in what was called *1st Enoch*. Although this prophecy isn't recorded in the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit inspired Jude to use it in his letter. The fact that Jude quoted from this nonbiblical book doesn't mean the book is inspired or trustworthy, any more than Paul quoting from Greek poets, like he did in [Acts 17:28](#); [1 Cor. 15:33](#); [Titus 1:12](#), puts God's seal of approval on everything they wrote. Since Enoch's prophecy came from God, the Holy Spirit led Jude to use this quotation to further his argument. [Turn to 2 Peter 1:20-21](#). (Enoch's prophecy predated the words of Moses, Samuel, and the Hebrew prophets by many centuries.)

C. God is going to judge. Enoch may not have known the application of his prophecy, but Jude, under the direction of the Holy Spirit, recognized that God's judgment was **“about these men;”** the false teachers

Jude has been warning about. Enoch's prophesy was about the certainty of God's judgment on apostasy and the world in the end times.

This is the same judgment that Peter wrote about in [2 Peter 3](#). Peter wrote in [verse 3](#) “that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires.” He went on to write that the false teachers scoffed or mocked any prophesy of judgment—they argued then, as well as today, that Jesus Christ will never come back, and that God will never send judgment. They continually say, “Remember, He is a God of Love!” Today some even quote [2 Peter 3:9](#) which says, “The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” But they shouldn't stop at just verse 9, they should also read the next verse—[verse 10](#)—which says that “the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.” God's patience does have a limit. Judgment will come—in God's time. Enoch's prophesy gave some particulars about this judgment.

1. The Lord is coming to judge. “The Lord is coming ... to judge.” God isn't going to send a famine or a flood or some other calamity or even an angel to judge the world. He Himself will come. As [2 Peter 3:10](#) says, God is going to personally judge the world.

2. The Lord isn't coming alone. He will be accompanied by “thousands upon thousands of holy ones.” The Lord isn't coming alone; He's coming with “his holy ones.” **a. Holy ones could mean “Saints”**—those who belong to Christ. [1 Corinthians 6:2](#) says, “Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases?” [Revelation 2:26](#) says, “To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations.” Here and in other verses, those who belong to Christ—saints—will be given the right to rule in Christ's Millennial kingdom. **b. Holy ones could also mean angels.** For example, [Matthew 25:31](#) says, “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory.” Whether God is surrounded by saints or by angels or by both, the judgment scene is going to be immense.

3. The Lord will judge everyone. Enoch's prophesy said that "the Lord is coming ... to judge everyone." The Apostle John wrote about this judgment, [turn to Revelation 20:11-15](#). Anyone whose name is not found in the Book of Life will be thrown into the lake of fire, hell. As [Romans 10:9](#) says, those who haven't accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior will not be saved. Or as Peter said in [Acts 4:12](#), "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." This will be the fate of the ungodly—hell.

4. It will be a just judgment. Jude wrote that "God will convict them of their sins"—convict means to expose or to prove guilty. When the Lord returns, the sins of the ungodly will be exposed and the verdict rendered accordingly. As the righteous Judge, God will punish "these men"—these false teachers because of "all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him, i.e., against God Almighty." Enoch highlighted and emphasized their sinfulness by his use of the word "ungodly." Their punishment comes because of their ungodly actions and their ungodly speech; both their works and their words betray the wickedness of their hearts. [Hebrews 10:29](#) says, "How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?"

III. Characteristics of Apostates

Because of its importance, as Jude was coming to the end of his letter, he reminded the reader one more time what false teachers are like.

A. They are grumblers. Like the Israelites in the desert, the angels that fell from heaven, and those that lived in Sodom and Gomorrah, false teachers grumble against the truth. They murmur under their breath against God's Holy Law. Today—the enlightened 21st Century—they say things that start out with, "My God would never . . ." The trouble is that their god is not the God of the Bible.

B. They are faultfinders. This goes right along with grumbling. They continually find fault or blame someone else for everything that comes into their lives. They are continually unhappy and discontented with

their lives just like Cain, Korah, and Balaam. And like Cain, Korah, and Balaam they try to get other people to be dissatisfied with their lives and with God's plans and actions. They aren't afraid to speak evil of anyone or anything—even God. All they want is for everyone to join them in their rebellion against God and His Absolute Laws.

C. They are full of themselves. Jude wrote that “**They follow their own evil desires.**” They are self-centered and follow their own lusts and desires rather than God's Laws. They are full of themselves. To them, self-discipline and self-control are a nuisance; God's moral Law is a burden and something to be ignored. Their one value is pleasure, and their motivating force is their desire.

D. They are conceited and arrogant. With that in mind, Jude then wrote, “**They boast about themselves.**” They are conceited and arrogant. They work at impressing people with their vocabulary and elocution; they know without any doubt that they are superior to everyone else. They sound and act so religious and spiritual, but they don't really know the truth and can't act on it. They are just full of hot air.

E. Finally, they are flatterers. They use flattery and compliments to get what they want. They are good at telling people what they want to hear. They manipulate others for their own advantage and to get more power.

IV. Conclusion

Jude's list of characteristics could fit many people in our society today, but Jude wasn't writing about society in general, he was writing about false teachers—apostates. These are people that come into a church and look and talk like a Christian. But, as we've read so many times before, they are “*wolves masquerading in sheep's clothing.*” **Turn to Romans 16:17-18.**

Using great sounding words, faulty and dishonest reasoning, and flattery, false teachers will try to get a Christian—even a whole church to go along with them. Every Christian must be on guard. Regardless of who is speaking, every Christian must test what a person says with what the Bible says and what the Holy Spirit says in his heart. **1 John 4:1** says, “**Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.**” If the words or

actions don't agree with what the Bible says, don't listen to that false teacher—even if they are right much of the time. Don't be like those Paul wrote about in [2 Timothy 4:3-4](#), “For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.”

If you aren't going to be deceived by a false teacher, you must know what the Bible says. The only way to know what's there, is to study it—not just once in a while, but daily spend time in God's Word. As a child of God, you have the Holy Spirit living inside you. You need to listen to his guidance and direction. For this to happen you need to have the lines of communication open; there must not be anything in your life that puts up a barrier between you and God. [Psalm 68:18](#) says, “If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.”

When one joins the army, the recruit goes through boot camp. Here is he taught how to strip his rifle—to take it apart and put it back together again—not just in the classroom, but also in some very harsh conditions. He is taught how to work with other recruits as a team—supporting each other. To work together, there has to be communication between individual soldiers and headquarters. If none of these things are learned and followed, a soldier may be lost, even captured, or killed by the enemy.

As Christians, children of God, we are in a battle—a battle for the spiritual lives of others. If you are going to be victorious, you must know how to use your spiritual weapon—the Sword of the Lord—your Bible. If you are going to be able to use it effectively, you need to know what's inside—in so many words, you must be able to strip your Bible. You, also, need to be able to receive communications from headquarters—i.e., God—so that you know what you should do.

So, let me ask you: What kind of soldier are you? Do you know what is between the covers of this book? Are the lines of communication open between you and God? This morning as we close in prayer, take some time to inventory your readiness as a soldier of God and your ability to recognize and resist false teachers—part of the enemy's army.