



# JUDE

Review after our break  
for Thanksgiving study  
and Christmas studies.

Jude 1:1-3 Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, *and* called: Mercy unto you, and peace and love, be multiplied. Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort *you* that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

Things we have covered:

- Who Jude was. (Not Judas Iscariot or other Judas, but Jesus' brother.)
- To whom this letter was written (Believers)
- The mercy, peace, and love that God gives.
- What Jude planned to write about and his need to change his message.
- The steadfastness of the faith that had not changed and never will.
- Our call to contend for the faith.

# The Letter Jude Wrote

We looked at the chiastic structure of the letter. We'll talk about this more when we get to the midpoint (vs 11).

\*Assurance for the Christian vs 1-2

\*\*The Believer and the Faith vs 3

\*\*\*Apostates Described vs 4

\*\*\*\*Apostasy in OT History vs 5

\*\*\*\*\*Apostasy in the Supernatural Realm vs 9-10

—> Three Old Testament Apostates vs 11 <—

\*\*\*\*\*Apostasy in the Natural Realm vs 12-13

\*\*\*\*Apostasy in OT Prophecy vs 14-16

\*\*\*Apostasy Described vs 17-19

\*\*The Believer and the Faith vs 20-23

\*Assurance for the Christian vs 24-25

*Jude 1:4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.*

## **Jude Described Apostates in the Church**

They were in the church. They were not outsiders. They crept in — Greek word for crept (only used here) means stealthily.

Their behavior was lasciviousness and licentiousness.

While a believer can fall away/apostatize (Greek, apostasia) for a time, these men were apostates. A better term for a “fallen away” believer is “back-slider” to distinguish them from apostates who do not have the Spirit.

*“These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit” (Jude 1:19).*

Jude had a dual purpose in his letter:

1. To encourage Christians to live for Christ in true faith and to contend for God's truth.

Although Jude was compelled to write about false teachers, he was not discouraged.

His closing words of praise exude great joy in the Lord. (Jude 1:24-25)

2. To warn of false teachers/apostates and the dangers of being led astray.

Israel was always being led astray. God warned them of false teachers (Deut 13:1-5).

Christians can easily be led astray, so Jude warned of false teachers.

So also did Jesus...



*Acts 20:29-30 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.*

*Acts 20:31-32 Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears. And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.*

Why was Jude so compelled to warn believers? Because...

- Satan and his minions oppose all things that are in accordance with God's will and ways and all people who belong to Jesus. (1 Pet 5:8)
- False teachings, subtle distortions, and apathy are enemies of our souls. (2 Tim 4:3-4)
- False teachers:
  - oppose God's authority,
  - engage in immoral behavior, and
  - reject God's Word
- We need to be able to identify apostates/false teachers. (2 Pet 2:1-3)
- We need to rescue those who are in Christ and have been led astray (Jude 1:23)

We need to remember: God's day of judgment will come. (Luke 18:8)

But we are safe in Christ. On the Solid Rock, we stand.

Jude is like a wake-up call and a call to action. There's a spiritual battle waging! We are called to arise and to get in the battle (Eph 5:14-17).

- Know the truths of God and stand firm in faith.
- Fight against the evils of this world and contend and defend the faith.

We've been given the armor we need.

We have the Captain of the Lord's army to lead us.

We have strength within by the power of the Holy Spirit.

We must have the confidence that we can strong & be victorious.

# Are You in the Battle?

In 1709, Isaac Watts wrote a song and preached a sermon on 1 Cor. 16:13

*“Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, act like men, be strong.”*

This is the song he wrote and we sing:

Am I a soldier of the Cross, A follower of the Lamb?

And shall I fear to own His cause, Or blush to speak His name?

Must I be carried to the skies, On earthly flowery beds of ease?

While others fought to win the prize, And sailed through bloody seas?

Are there no foes for me to face? Must I not stem the flood?

Is this vile world a friend to grace, To help me on to God?

Sure I must fight if I would reign; Increase my courage, Lord;

I'll bear the toil, endure the pain, Supported by Thy Word.

Thy saints, in all this glorious war, Shall conquer, though they die;

They view the triumph from afar, And seize it with their eye.

When that illustrious day shall rise, And all Thy armies shine

In robes of vict'ry through the skies, The glory shall be Thine.

# Are You in the Battle?

- In 1865, Sabine Baring-Gould (an Anglican priest) wrote a popular hymn about the battle.
- The words were put to music in 1871.
- The hymn was popular in the 1900s (not so much today?)
- The hymn was adopted by the Salvation Army as their processional song.
- The theme of the hymn is based on NT references about being a soldier for Christ, e.g.  
*2 Tim 2:3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.*

The hymn?

Onward Christian Soldiers

# Onward Christian Soldiers - Popular in the early 1900s

- In August 1941, [Winston Churchill](#) and [Franklin Roosevelt](#) met on the battleship [HMS Prince of Wales](#) to agree to the [Atlantic Charter](#).
- A church service was held and Churchill chose the hymn "Onward, Christian Soldiers" to be sung.
- Afterwards Churchill explained his choice of the hymn:

*We sang "Onward, Christian Soldiers" indeed, and I felt that this was no vain presumption, but that we had the right to feel that we were serving a cause for the sake of which a trumpet has sounded from on high. When I looked upon that densely packed congregation of fighting men of the same language, of the same faith, of the same fundamental laws, of the same ideals ... it swept across me that here was the only hope, but also the sure hope, of saving the world from measureless degradation.*

The song has been sung at many funerals, including that of President [Dwight D. Eisenhower](#) (National Cathedral, Washington, D.C., March 1969).

The song is about our battle, a spiritual battle — a battle against sin, the devil, and the world.

# Onward Christian Soldiers - Diminished Popularity

Sometime during the mid to late 1900s, the song was “hi-jacked” and used by [protest groups](#) against the established order, e.g. it use in the [civil rights](#) movement.

In the 1980s, Methodist and Episcopal leadership attempted to remove "Onward, Christian Soldiers" from their hymnals, but it created such outrage among their congregants and they kept the song.

In the 1990 and 2013 hymnals of the [Presbyterian Church \(U.S.A.\)](#) the song was removed. Same for the [Australian Hymn Book](#) 1977 and its successor, [Together in Song](#) (1999), and the [Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's](#) 2006 hymnal.

In the hymnbook of the [Spiritualists' National Union](#) (a UK founded organization believing dead spirits [communicate with the living](#)) has a variation on the hymn, entitled "Onward, Comrades, Onward."

In some modern [Anglican](#) hymn books, "Onward, Christian Soldiers" is replaced with [Onward, Christian Pilgrims](#) set to the same tune.

## When's the last time you sang "Onward, Christian Soldiers?"

# Onward Christian Soldiers

1 Onward Christian soldiers!  
Marching as to war,  
With the cross of Jesus  
Going on before.  
Christ, the royal Master,  
Leads against the foe;  
Forward into battle,  
See, His banner go!

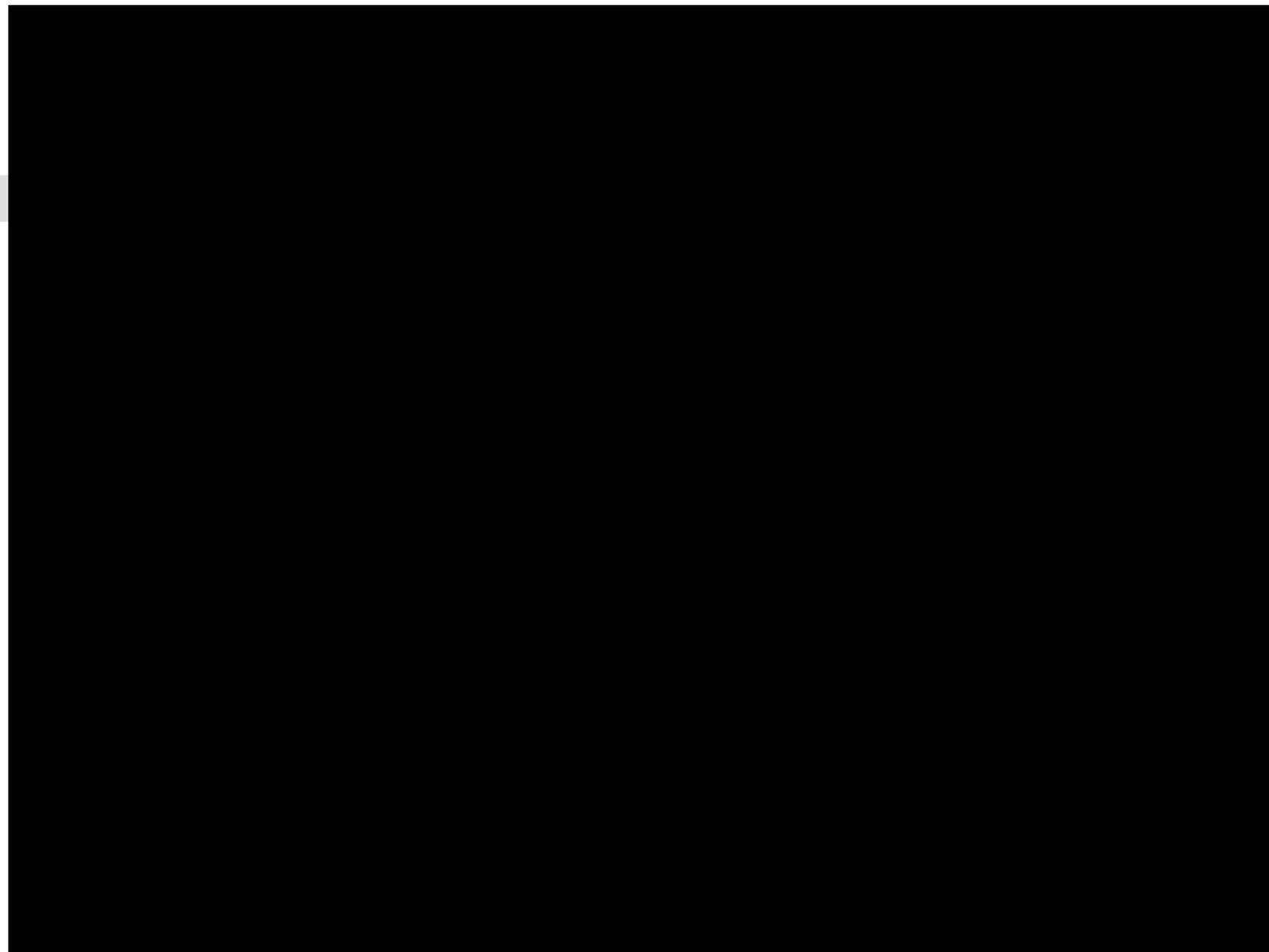
Refrain:  
Onward, Christian soldiers!  
Marching as to war,  
With the cross of Jesus,  
Going on before.

2 At the name of Jesus  
Satan's host doth flee;  
On then, Christian soldiers,  
On to victory!  
Hell's foundations quiver  
At the shout of praise:  
Brothers, lift your voices,  
Loud your anthems raise!

3 Like a mighty army  
Moves the Church of God:  
Brothers, we are treading  
Where the saints have trod;  
We are not divided,  
All one Body we—  
One in faith and Spirit,  
One eternally.

4 Crowns and thrones may perish,  
Kingdoms rise and wane;  
But the Church of Jesus  
Constant will remain.  
Gates of hell can never  
'Gainst the Church prevail;  
We have Christ's own promise,  
Which can never fail.

5 Onward, then, ye people!  
Join our happy throng;  
Blend with ours your voices  
In the triumph song.  
Glory, laud and honor  
Unto Christ, the King;  
This through countless ages  
Men and angels sing.



# Are You in the Battle?

## Onward Christian Soldiers —

*Mat 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

In Christian theology, the Church has been defined as existing in two states: **the Church Militant & the Church Triumphant.**

We are living in the **Church Militant.** This is defined as God's people on earth who are fighting a battle. We are soldiers in the Kingdom of God on earth, our Commander is Christ, and we fight against all things that oppose God, i.e. sin, the devil, and the world.

*Eph 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

The **Church Triumphant** consists of those who are residents in the Kingdom of Heaven. They have fought the good fight and received their reward.

# Are You in the Battle?

## Onward Christian Soldiers —

### The Church Militant & the Church Triumphant

The purpose of this doctrine of the church existing in two states simultaneously is to remind us that we are one Church. While their fight has ended, and ours continues, they are that “Great Cloud of Witnesses” who remain with us in their testimonies of faith and works in service to God.

*Heb 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a **cloud of witnesses**, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us. [and fight the battle that rages on]*

# The Letter Jude Wrote



**We now move into the section of warnings.**

Jude wrote of ten warnings in his letter.

1. Subtle imitation (vs 5)
2. Satanic invasion (vs 6)
3. Sexual perversion (vs 7)
4. Social upheaval (vs 8-10)
5. Spiritual distortion (vs 11a)
6. Semitic persecution (vs 11b)
7. Self expression (vs 11c)
8. Strong delusion (vs 12-13)
9. Secular humanism (vs 14-15)
10. Subversive criticism (vs 16)

# The Letter Jude Wrote



## Ten Warnings

1. **Subtle imitation (vs 5)**
2. Satanic invasion (vs 6)
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# The Letter Jude Wrote



*Jude 1:5 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.*

## **Subtle imitation (vs 5)**

We overcome false teachers and lies by renewing our minds in the truths of God.

Jude is not writing about salvation. He's writing to "put them" in remembrance" i.e. call to their minds the perils of apostasy.

He begins by calling to their minds Israel's history of unbelief.

Israel was miraculously delivered out of bondage (eg. Trapped between the Egyptian army and the Red Sea, God parted the waters. God drowned the Egyptians who pursued them).

Yet unbelief prevailed: Over a million were led out of Egypt and none returned. But only two Israelites over the age of 20 entered the promised land.

# The Letter Jude Wrote



*Jude 1:5 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.*

## **Subtle imitation (vs 5)**

We overcome false teachers by knowing God's truths and remembering them.

False teachers typically takes Scripture out of context and twist it just enough that even a mature Christian might not catch the error. Their view of the Scriptures is just true enough, just Biblically-based enough that it sounds like the Truth.

Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses do this.

We need to be Bereans. We need to compare every teaching we hear, read, or watch to God's innerrant, Hoy Spirit inspired, Word.

# The Letter Jude Wrote



*Jude 1:5 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.*

## **Subtle imitation (vs 5) – Some examples:**

Luke 12:32 - Used by Jehovah's Witnesses to say that 144,000 (Rev 7:9) will inherit the Kingdom

Amos 3:7 - Mormons use this to claim further revelation, especially of their founder Joseph Smith.

Mark 11:23-24 - Word of Faith preachers/teachers use this to claim you'll get what you want if your faith is strong enough.

1 Cor 8:5-6 The Mormons use this to claim that, although there are clearly many gods, Mormons only worship one God, "for to us there is but one God."

# The Letter Jude Wrote



*Jude 1:5 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.*

## **Subtle imitation (vs 5) – Some examples:**

Perhaps the worst offender of subtle imitation is the Jehovah's Witnesses. Although they come to your door with the King James Bible, in reality it is their own translation, The New World Bible, that they recognize as having authority.

John 1:1NWT In the beginning was the Word,+ and the Word was with God,+ and the Word was a god.\* \*(or, was divine).

John 1:3 NWT All things came into existence through him,+ and apart from him not even one thing came into existence.

John 1:10 NWT He was in the world, and the world came into existence through him, but the world did not know him.

John 1:14 So the Word became flesh and resided among us, and we had a view of his glory, a glory such as belongs to an only-begotten son from a father; and he was full of divine favor\* and truth. \*(Or "of undeserved kindness.")

# The Letter Jude Wrote



*Jude 1:5 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.*

**Subtle imitation (vs 5) — God warns of this:**

Psalm 56:5

Micah 3:9

2 Peter 3:16

# The Letter Jude Wrote



1. Subtle imitation (vs 5)
- 2. Satanic invasion (vs 6)**
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# The Letter Jude Wrote



*Jude 1:6 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.*

## **Satanic invasion (vs 6)**

- This is a reference to fallen angels that joined Satan and rebelled against God (Isa 14:12-17; Ezek 28:12-19. Rev 12:3-4). God judged them and sentenced them to chains of darkness and a yet-to-come final judgment.

Jude refers to these fallen angels as “wondering stars”

*Jude 1:13 Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.*

# The Letter Jude Wrote



## ***The Nature of Angels:***

- They can appear in human form (Gen 19:5,10,16)
- They spoke as men, took men by the hand, even ate men's food (Gen 18:8; 19:3,16)
- They are capable of administering God's justice — eg. death of the firstborn in Ex 12; Sodom and Gomorrah in Gen 19; and the 185,000 troops slaughtered in 2 Kgs 19:35
- Angels don't marry in heaven (Mt 22:30)
- Holy angels follow God

## ***The Fallen Angels:***

- One-third of the angels fell with Satan (Rev 12:4).
- Satan's goals (Rev 12:1-6) and his destiny (Mt 25:41; Mat 12:24-27)
- These fallen angels are bound in "chains under darkness." Satan is not yet bound.

# The Letter Jude Wrote



*Jude 1:6 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.*

*reserved in everlasting chains under darkness*

Peter wrote about this also:

*2 Pet 2:4 For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;*

- The word for hell here is not Hades. It is tartaroo (Tartarus).
- It is the deepest abyss of Hades, a place of incarceration in eternal torment.
- It is not the Abusso, the bottomless pit, of Rev 11:7. It is not Ghenna, the final and permanent abode of fallen angels and unregenerate men, in Mark 9:43, Luke 12:5, Matt 23:15.
- It is a separate place and holds the fallen angels in “everlasting chains under darkness” until they are judged and cast into Ghenna.

# The Letter Jude Wrote



## *Are Demons Fallen Angels?*

We don't know a lot about demons or fallen angels. But we do know they are different.

- The fallen angels of Jude 1:6,13, 2 Pet 2:4, Rev 12:4 are bound; demons are not.
- Demons tend to seek embodiment:
  - in people (the demoniac at Gedara: Mk 5:1-20; the servant girl at Philippi (Acts 16:16-18)
  - in animals (2,000 in the swine: Mt 8:28-34)
- They are aware of their destiny. (Mt 8:29)
- They are described as locusts in Rev 9:1-3, 7-11

The NT refers to demons as “sprit(s)” using the Greek word pneuma and an adjective (unclean, evil); pneuma is also used in the NT for the Spirit of God and the spirit of man.

Hebrew has specific words for “demon(s)” — shedim = “mighty ones” (Deut 32:17) & saiyr/satyr = shaggy (with he-goat's form), a devil (Isa 34:14). “Ruwach” is used for Spirit of God and spirit of man.

# The Letter Jude Wrote



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2. Satanic invasion (vs 6)
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# The Letter Jude Wrote



*Jude 1:7 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.*

## **Sexual perversion (vs 7)**

Sodom and Gomorrah are set forth as examples for instruction to the Church. The lesson is that they were destroyed by God because of their terrible wickedness and sexual sin. It was not simply pride as some try to claim based on Ezekiel's reference (Ezek 16:49).

This is prophetic of apostasy in Christendom in the last days:

- “turn the grace of our God into lasciviousness” v.4
- “going after strange flesh” v.7
- “defile the flesh” v.8
- “corrupt themselves as beasts” v.10
- “walk after their own lusts” v.16

# The Letter Jude Wrote



*Jude 1:7 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.*

Five cities existed in the area: Sodom, Gomorrah, Zoar, Admah, and Zeboim. These were very prosperous cities; over one million tombs discovered in this area.

## **Lot's Life and Walk**

- 1) “lifted up his eyes” (Genesis 13:10) moved by what he could see
- 2) “chose him all the plain of Jordan” and “separated himself” from Abram (Genesis 13:11)
- 3) “dwelt in the cities of the plain and pitched his tent toward Sodom” (Genesis 13:12)
- 4) Abram saved Lot (Genesis 14:11,12)
- 5) Lot “sat in the gate” (Genesis 19:1). Lot’s attempts at righteous life met with contempt (Genesis 19:9).
- 6) He lost his testimony completely (Genesis 19:14)
- 7) He lost his wife (Genesis 19:26)
- 8) The last mention of Lot is in a dark cave (Genesis 19:30) and his story ends very badly (Genesis 19:31-36).

# The Letter Jude Wrote



*Jude 1:7 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.*

The Last Days are to be “as the Days of Lot”

*Luke 17:28-30 Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed. (second coming)*

- “Remember Lot’s Wife” Lk 17:32 (cf. Heb 10:38,39; Lk 9:62).
- “Remember Sodom.” An example to us. (2 Pet 2:6)
- What was going on spiritually in Sodom and Gomorrah? (Rom 1:18-32).
- The heathen are accountable. They are “without excuse” (Rom 1:20).

# The Letter Jude Wrote



## Ten Warnings

1. Subtle imitation (vs 5)
2. Satanic invasion (vs 6)
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10. Subversive criticism (vs 16)

# The Letter Jude Wrote



*Jude 1:8 Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities.*

“Likewise” — Jude connected the “filthy dreamers” with the people of Sodom and Gomorrah in their *sensuality* (defile the flesh) and in their rejection of God’s authority (speak evil of dignities).

“filthy dreamers” — means that they were either unrealistic, out of touch with reality, or they justified their teachings by citing visions or delusions. (Judges 21:25)

“defile the flesh” — homosexuality, referenced in verse 7; also unbiblical heterosexual behavior.

“despise dominion and speak evil of dignities” — Both earthly and heavenly dominion and dignities. Refers to the lordship of Jesus, and the authorized work of God’s ministering angels (same word in 2 Peter 2:10); and the authority God has given to earthly leaders (Rom 13:1).

Dignities/Dignitaries: 1391. doxa, dox'-ah;—dignity, glory (-ious), honour, praise, worship.

Dignitaries are important or influential people, people of high rank or position. Dignities are a quality or state worthy of esteem and respect.

# The Letter Jude Wrote



*Jude 1:9 Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.*

Deuteronomy (34:5-6) only tells us that God buried Moses, nothing more.

Jude may have known about this dispute between the archangel Michael and Satan from an apocryphal book called the *Assumption of Moses*, of which only small portions survive.

From what Jude wrote, we can surmise that Satan either wanted to take Moses's body, or he made accusations about Moses's body. Scripture tells nothing more about this dispute, except that Michael did not address Satan, and instead called upon the Lord to rebuke him.

# The Letter Jude Wrote



*Jude 1:9 Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.*

## Who is Michael?

He is one of the chief princes (Dan 10:13).

He is the archangel (Jude 1:9) and is called by name (only two angels are named in the Bible).

He is an intercessor and the protector of God's people, Israel (Dan 12:1, Rev 12:7).

He is assigned to defeat Satan's purpose against God's people.

He understands accountability in his work.

He understands the powers of God and the levels of authority.

The example of Michael refusing to pronounce a curse upon Satan is a lesson to Christians about how to relate to demonic forces.

# The Letter Jude Wrote



*Jude 1:9 Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.*

How foolish of these “filthy dreamers” (vs 9) to “despise dominion and speak evil of dignities.” They had no respect for authority or for angels. But God’s archangel Michael did. Even he did not dare slander Satan, chief of the fallen angels.

As believers, we are not to address Satan or demons. If one as powerful as Michael called upon the Lord to deal with Satan, who are we to attempt to reproach, cast out, or command demons?

We are to call upon the Lord to intervene and rebuke Satan.

God hasn’t called us to judge the devil. That’s God’s job. Nor are we to mock, accuse, or rebuke him. That’s pointless. We are called to battle against him — always in the name of the Lord.

\*This verse proves that Michael is *not* Jesus, as some cults claim.

# The Letter Jude Wrote



*Jude 1:10 But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves.*

- What are the “things they know not?” (cf. Rev 13:6; 1 Pet 3:16; 2 Pet 2:12).
- Two words for “knowing”  
“oida” = deeper knowledge; “epistao” = perception by animal senses and faculties.
- Brute beasts have knowledge of the natural world, but have only a superficial understanding. Psa 111:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.

*Prov 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.*

*Prov 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

An apostate is always confident in his own beliefs and understanding and will not hesitate to speak out condemning matters that oppose his thoughts. An apostate limits himself to natural knowledge, rails at the truth, and ultimately corrupts himself.

# The Letter Jude Wrote

We've now reach the mid-point of Jude's letter.

\*Assurance for the Christian vs 1-2

\*\*The Believer and the Faith vs 3

\*\*\*Apostates Described vs 4

\*\*\*\*Apostasy in OT History vs 5

\*\*\*\*\*Apostasy in the Supernatural Realm vs 9-10

**—> Three Old Testament Apostates vs 11 <—**

Jude is going to give three specific examples that would have been well understood by the readers of his letter.

Before looking at verse 11, let's further examine the structure of the book of Jude that we have seen unfolding.

# The Letter Jude Wrote

Structure of the book:

Assurance & Faith/Apostasy/Three apostates/Apostasy/Faith & Assurance

\*Assurance for the Christian vs 1-2

\*\*The Believer and the Faith vs 3

\*\*\*Apostates Described vs 4

\*\*\*\*Apostasy in OT History vs 5

—> \*\*\*\*\*Apostasy in the Supernatural Realm vs 9-10 <—

Three Old Testament Apostates vs 11

—> \*\*\*\*\*Apostasy in the Natural Realm vs 12-13 <—

\*\*\*\*Apostasy in OT Prophecy vs 14-16

\*\*\*Apostasy Described vs 17-19

\*\*The Believer and the Faith vs 20-23

\*Assurance for the Christian vs 24-25

# The Letter Jude Wrote



We've noted the style in which Jude is written. It's called a chiasmus (also chiasm). The term is Latin from the the Greek χίασμα, "crossing," from the Greek χιάζω, chiázō (to shape like the letter X).

In literature, it is a device in which the message is presented and then repeated in reverse order. It is a reversal of the grammatical structure or pattern of ideas but not necessarily with the same words.

The style produces a type of "mirror" effect in that the ideas are "reflected" back in a passage. *This style is another indication of the elegance and complexity of God's Words and reveals the inspiration of the Holy Spirit given to the human writers.*

It is an effective style in that it repeats the information producing greater understanding. And it is purposeful in that it begins and ends with the most important theme of the writing.

\*Assurance for the Christian vs 1-2

\*\*The Believer and the Faith vs 3

\*\*\*Apostates Described vs 4

—> \*\*\*\*Apostasy in OT History vs 5 <—

\*\*\*\*\*Apostasy in the Supernatural Realm vs 9-10

Three Old Testament Apostates vs 11

\*\*\*\*\*Apostasy in the Natural Realm vs 12-13

—> \*\*\*\*Apostasy in OT Prophecy vs 14-16 <—

\*\*\*Apostasy Described vs 17-19

\*\*The Believer and the Faith vs 20-23

\*Assurance for the Christian vs 24-25

# The Letter Jude Wrote



Chiastic structure typically features two ideas, A and B introduced and variants b and a then presented: A, B, b, a.

Chiastic structures that involve more ideas are sometimes called "ring structures" or "ring compositions" (even "onion-ring compositions" in lengthy chiastic structure). The structure can be thought of as circular, or full circle, with the content being consistent to the main idea at beginning and end.

The symmetrical patterns of chiastic structure are commonly found in ancient literature such as the Iliad and the Odyssey, in writings of ancient historians such as the Histories of Herodotus, and in ancient religious writings, including the Bible and the Quaran.

Hebrew literature can be thought of as beginning (A), middle, then ending (A) producing a structure of ABCD.../...dcba)

\*Assurance for the Christian vs 1-2

\*\*The Believer and the Faith vs 3

\*\*\*Apostates Described vs 4

—> \*\*\*\*Apostasy in OT History vs 5 <—

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\*\*The Believer and the Faith vs 20-23

\*Assurance for the Christian vs 24-25

# The Letter Jude Wrote



## Ten Warnings

1. Subtle imitation (vs 5)
2. Satanic invasion (vs 6)
3. Sexual perversion (vs 7)
4. Social upheaval (vs 8-10)
5. **Spiritual distortion (vs 11a)**
6. **Semitic persecution (vs 11b)**
7. **Self expression (vs 11c)**
8. Strong delusion (vs 12-13)
9. Secular humanism (vs 14-15)
10. Subversive criticism (vs 16)

# The Letter Jude Wrote



*Jude 1:11 Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.*

This verse is like a parenthetical — inserted in the middle of Jude’s letter. It stands between illustrations from the supernatural realm (v. 9) and from the natural realm (vv. 12,13). The verse is preceded by apostasy in history, and is followed by apostasy in prophecy. The verse follows corporate examples and is about individual examples.

Jude need only mention these three examples because their stories were well known.

The three represent a downward acceleration of apostasy and serve as examples for both those to whom Jude was writing and for us!

The verse is a pivot point in Jude’s letter. Remember the chiastic structure of the letter.

\*Assurance for the Christian vs 1-2

\*\*The Believer and the Faith vs 3

\*\*\*Apostates Described vs 4

—> \*\*\*\*Apostasy in OT History vs 5 <—

\*\*\*\*\*Apostasy in the Supernatural Realm vs 9-10

Three Old Testament Apostates vs 11

\*\*\*\*\*Apostasy in the Natural Realm vs 12-13

—> \*\*\*\*Apostasy in OT Prophecy vs 14-16 <—

\*\*\*Apostasy Described vs 17-19

\*\*The Believer and the Faith vs 20-23

\*Assurance for the Christian vs 24-25

# The Letter Jude Wrote



*Jude 1:11 Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.*

The proclamation of a “woe” in the Bible is significant

It’s used 106 times in 98 verses.

“Woe” was used significantly by God, Jesus, and God’s messenger angels to proclaim judgment.

It was also used by God’s people in despairing and desperate situations, and in this case, to proclaim judgment of the apostates’ deeds by comparing them to Cain (Gen 4); Balaam (Num 22-25, Num 31, esp Num 25:1-8); and Core (also spelled Korah, Num 16).

# The Letter Jude Wrote



*Jude 1:11 Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of **Cain**, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.*

## **Spiritual distortion (vs 11a)**

- Cain was the firstborn of Adam and Eve.
- He was a tiller of the soil. (Genesis 4).
- He gave an offering of his hand (Gen 4:1-2).
- When his offering was not accepted, he murdered his brother (Gen 4:5-8).
- He was sent away, he married, and had a son, Enoch (Gen 4:17).
- He built a city and named it after his son (Gen 4:17).

# The Letter Jude Wrote



*Jude 1:11 Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of **Balaam** for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.*

## **Semitic persecution (vs 11b)**

- Balaam a prophet of the true God. (Numbers 22-25, 31:16)
- He was a very influential sorcerer and made his services available to King Balak of Moab
- King Balak hired Balaam to curse Israel and stop the people from entering the promised land.
- When Baalam was unable to curse Israel, he told Balak how to bring Israel under a curse. He should lead the men into fornication with pagan woman so they would worship Moabite idols and engage in Baal worship.
- Balaam sold out to the world and worldliness made Balaam the enemy of God.

# The Letter Jude Wrote



*Jude 1:11 Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of **Core**.*

## Self expression (vs 11c)

- Core (spelled Korah in Hebrew) was a prince in Israel. (Numbers 16)
- Num 16:1-3 tells that Korah was a great-grandson of Levi and a younger contemporary of Moses.
- Korah introduced strange offering into the fire of burnt offering presented to God. “Strange offering” means it was not what God instructed.
- He attempted a revolt against the authority of Moses and Aaron (Levites) and was joined in the revolt by Dathan, Abiram, and On (all Reubenites) and by 250 representatives of the tribes of Israel.
- They charged that Moses and Aaron took too much authority, claiming that all the people of the congregation of Israel were holy. Though true (cf. Ex. 19:6), they failed to recognize that Moses and Aaron were God’s appointed leaders.

# The Letter Jude Wrote



*Jude 1:11 Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of **Cain**, and ran greedily after the error of **Balaam** for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of **Core**.*

In these three examples, Jude illustrated the works of false teachers.

- False teachers:

- Cain opposed God's authority (His offering was not what God required),

- Baalam encouraged immoral behavior (intermarriage with pagans)

- Korah rejected God's Word (God gave authority to the sons of Aaron, not of Korah)

- All were judged:

- Cain was sent out of the land and away from the presence of the Lord (Gen 4:16)

- Baalam was killed at the hands of the Israelites (Josh 13:22)

- Korah and his sons were swallowed up in the earth (Num 16:32)

# The Letter Jude Wrote



*Jude 1:11 Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of **Cain**, and ran greedily after the error of **Balaam** for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of **Core**.*

Individually, each speaks of a particular aspect of what it means to fall away from the truth; collectively, they present a complete process:

- First, they enter upon a wrong path
- Then, they run riotously down that path
- Finally, they perish at the path's end.

There is no hope for apostates to be found in all of Jude. Their doom is sure. To them is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.

Like the swine of 2 Peter 2:20-22, they were never the true sheep of the Good Shepherd

Like the swine of Mark 5:13, they run violently down a steep place into God's wrath

# The Letter Jude Wrote



*Jude 1:11 Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of **Cain**, and ran greedily after the error of **Balaam** for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of **Core**.*

Once they come under the power of the “doctrine of demons” (1 Tim 4:1), they turn from the truth (Jn 14:6).

They knowingly choose

(1) the way of Cain, rather than the way of Christ

(2) the error of Balaam, rather than the truth of Christ

(3) the perishing of Korah, rather than the life of Christ.

- In the way of Cain, they walked away from Christ.
- In the error of Balaam, they denied His truth.
- And in the perishing of Korah, they lost their life in Christ.

# The Letter Jude Wrote

*Jude 1:11 **Woe unto them!** for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.*

Redemption is God's greater work. There's more space in Bible allocated to redemption than creation, Creation has a few chapters in Genesis and mentions elsewhere. Redemption is most of Genesis, Exodus, Ruth, the Gospels, the whole NT and Revelation.

Which work cost the most? Creation or Redemption?

God spoke the universe into existence. Redemption cost Him his Son.

- The Creation is seen and it's under the curse.
- Redemption is revealed supernaturally by His Word and it is freedom.