

Jude Church Epistle

Primary Teaching Theme: *The distortion of Grace to justify excessive indulgences*

This is the second letter in the New Testament, written by a brother of Jesus (Matthew 13:55/ Mark 6:3); the other letter is the epistle of James. This letter was written specifically to Messianic Jews who faithfully continued their practice of Judaism. (1:12-13)

The premise of the Messianic faith was founded on the forgiveness of sin. Jews coming into faith had only known forgiveness through sacrificial offerings made by the temple High Priest. Understanding and accepting the concept of grace replacing the sin offerings was difficult and often still clouded with uncertainty. Messianic Jews were vulnerable to misguided assertions about grace. When corrupt, untrue theories began to arise, many Jews who converted to faith in the Messiah were confused and perhaps relieved to know that grace covered all sin, even allowing the indulgence of ungodly behavior to satisfy any desire of the flesh.

Contend for the Faith Cp 1

Jude writes urging believers who share a common salvation to contend for their faith, taking a stand and holding on as if competing for a reward. He signals an alarm that the faith delivered to them and the truth represented by that faith is under assault. (1:3)

Ungodly Men turning Grace into excessive indulgence Cp 1

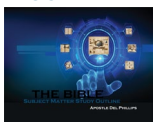
The concept of grace establishes the premise for God's forgiveness that makes salvation from sin possible. Forgiveness is the centerpiece of the gospel; without it, salvation is not possible. Grace is God's unmerited favor, granting humanity access to salvation (eternal life) that cannot be achieved through human effort.

Corrupt men have distorted the concept of grace, using it as a misguided justification for excessive indulgence to be tolerated within the Church. These corrupt, ungodly influencers entered the boundaries of the Church undetected, promoting immoral behavior that ultimately leads to denying the truth and virtue about God and Jesus Christ, the Lord and Messiah.

The spiritual force behind the corrupt men are ancient spirits, ordained – set in place to disrupt the work of God. The ancient spirits are illustrated as the demonic principalities that have jurisdiction to operate on the earth to deceive mankind and separate them from the Creator. (1:4)

Remember the fate of the Ancestors who turned against the Truth Cp 1

The half-brother of the Messiah challenges other Jewish believers to remember how God saved their ancestors from the incarceration of the Egyptians and destroyed Hebrews who desired to deny the true God and return to Egypt (Numbers 16:23-34).



The fate of those who turn against the truth is never favorable. Jude admonishes his brethren to consider the harsh history of their ancestors and not become vulnerable to repeating it. (1:5)

In the same manner that their Hebrew lost their assigned estate, God will also judge the ancient spirits that forfeited their Angelic estate to serve the Great Deceiver Lucifer. God has reserved their punishment for the day of judgment; they will not escape the consequence of their misdeeds, driving men away from God and from the truth. Imprisonment in everlasting darkness will be their final fate. (1:6)

Admonishment for speaking evil against people God assigns to positions of holiness Cp 1

The cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and others like them will be judged for their excessive indulgence in self-fulling pleasures (lasciviousness) and for their idolatrous worship offering strange flesh to idol gods. They will all be consumed by an eternal fire. (1:7)

The same fate awaits those who dream of indulgence and defilement, who despise order and speak evil against those dignities God has set apart to preserve and promote holiness. God did not permit Michael the archangel to speak evil against the Angelic Lucifer, who rebelled against God, because Lucifer was created by God and set apart to preserve and protect that which was holy. When disputing over the possession of the body of Moses after his death, resulting from the penalty against the patriarch that revoked his access to the promised land, the archangel Michael never brought a railing (blasphemous) accusation against him. Instead, he deferred to the authority of their Creator and said, “The Lord Rebuke you,” admonishing Lucifer to take his challenge directly to God. (1:8-9)

If God would not allow an archangel to speak a rightful charge of blasphemy against a rebellious angelic, he will undoubtedly condemn brute beasts, men who do not possess the quality of angelic to speak evil against men God has appointed to preserve and protect holiness and its practice in the earth. (1:10)

The Fate of Evil Judgement Cp 1

Those who have chosen to speak evil of persons God has assigned as holy are compared to Cain. The first son of creation killed his brother Abel, who was assigned to present a holy offering unto God. (Genesis 4:2-8) Those that follow his pattern are like the greedy prophet of Balaam who chased an opportunity to speak against the Hebrews, God’s people set apart as holy unto Him. Against God’s instruction, he initiated a journey to curse the Hebrews because of the remuneration he was promised to receive (Numbers 22:12-23). (1:11)

An offering presented during the festivals cannot be considered holy or acceptable when submitted by someone who has spoken evil against those God has ordained as holy. God considers such people as blemishes and spots during the feast offerings and holy days. They surround themselves with others who honor God, celebrating with them without fear, but they are like empty clouds, unable to produce water; they are unfruitful because their inner nature is



corrupt and dishonest. Like empty clouds, they are carried by the wind, the ancient voices of evil spirits that influence their thoughts and the words they speak.

God considers them dead, lifeless, as withered trees without fruit. They should be uprooted and removed, having no place in the Church. They are raging waves of the sea, constantly ranting and crashing against the truth. Like wandering stars without a place or foundation, they will be lost in the Black Hole (dying star) and be consumed forever.

The reference to feast offerings confirms that Jews who became believers in the Messiah continued to practice Judaism, specifically regarding temple prayers and feast offerings as they were required. (1:12-13)

The Fate of the Ungodly Cp 1

The prophesy of Enoch was likely a familiar reference within Jewish folklore. This assumption is made because Jude makes the reference without explaining its origin, although there is no biblical account for it in scripture.

The prophesy is a forecast of God's judgment upon the ungodly. Jude uses the prophecy to remind the Jews about the impending judgment at the end of time, which will evaluate the deeds of all the ungodly. The lofty voices of men confident to speak against the God of creation will account for their murmurs and complaints they hurled against the Creator. Those who misled others with their persuasive speeches, living to satisfy their desires and seeking the admiration of others, will face judgment. (1:14-16)

Forewarning from the first Apostles Cp 1

Jude calls his Jewish brethren to remember the warnings spoken in the days when his brother Jesus and the Apostles walked together. They were told in advance about the end of days and how there would be false distortions of truth (mockers) spoken by those walking after the ungodly lust of the flesh. This would create a separate movement offering an intuitive experience (sensual; Greek: "psuche") to satisfy the depths of the soul, but without the spirit of God. (1:17-19)

Praying in the Holy Ghost Cp 1

Jude calls his Jewish brethren to pray. Prayer was a daily practice among the Jews, performed three times a day. The call to pray was intended to help believers in the Messiah build up and strengthen their faith. The faith of believers was under attack, and Jude challenged believers to contend, take a stand, and hold fast to their belief in the Messiah against all adversity and assaults.

They were instructed to pray "*in the Holy Ghost*," meaning to pray in the power provided by the Spirit of God. The Apostle Paul indicates in his letter to the Church at Corinth that prayer can be exercised with natural understanding or in the Spirit (I Corinthians 14: 13-15. To pray with



understanding is using the power and observation of human comprehension to address an issue or need. To pray with or in with the Spirit is to use the power and observation of the Spirit of God to address a need or issue. (Romans 8:26-27)

To overcome apprehension about holding fast to continue in the faith, Jude advises believers to pray using the power and observation of the Spirit of God to strengthen and embolden the faith of believers. (1:20)

Closing Admonition/ Benediction Cp 1

Jude concludes the letter with an admonition for believers to preserve themselves in the love of God, knowing that His mercy will lead them into eternal life. They should have the same love and compassion for others (non-believing Jews) that have not come to faith in the Messiah. The loving witnesses of a believer, as opposed to judgment and condemnation, could convert their brethren to faith in the Messiah. In extreme cases, Jude believed, when necessary, a life could be salvaged from the grips of damnation. If compassion for the lost soul was genuine, They could be rescued from the fire wearing a garment stained and spotted with sin. In the end, just as all who are saved by God's grace, they will be saved from falling and presented faultless in His glorious presence, with exceeding joy for overcoming the death curse of sin.

All because of the only wise God, the savior of humanity, unto Him be glory, majesty, dominion, and power now and forever – Amen! (1:21-25)

