

“Book of Jude – Old Testament Apostates”

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Scripture

Jude 5-7

“Now I want to remind you, though you know everything once and for all, that the Lord, after saving a people out of the land of Egypt, **subsequently destroyed those who did not believe.**

And angels who did not keep their own domain but abandoned their proper dwelling place, these He has kept in eternal restraints under darkness for the judgment of the great day,

just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these angels indulged in sexual perversion and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.”

Recap from Jude 1-4

Jude 4

“For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, **those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation**, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ”

Apostasy is Coming; Apostasy is Here

Apostasy is:

- 1) knowing the truth
- 2) living in contrast to that truth, and
- 3) then leading others astray into error.

We spoke last week about how apostates get into the church by “creeping in” somewhat unnoticed.

They start off looking good, saying the right things, doing the right things, but slowly change the narrative

Messages they teach and living in a way unbecoming of a saint.

It’s the “unnoticed” that should scare us and make us more aware of what we’re hearing and seeing in those whom we associate and respect as leaders and teachers of truth.

Apostasy has been predicted long ago so we want to pick up with that phrase “**long ago were designated for this condemnation**” and ask ourselves this question:

“Were these individuals destined for condemnation and Hell before they were even born?”

“Long ago” is *palai* meaning “of old” signifying a long time in the past. The writer of Hebrews uses this phrase in the first verse to describe how God spoke in the Old Testament (Hebrews 1:1 – “after He spoke long ago to the fathers”) so we have some idea that it’s many years in the past, at least 500 years from the last prophet Malachi to the writing of Hebrews.

“Were designated” is *progegrammenoi* which literally means to be “pre-written”. It is used only 4 times in the Bible including this passage in Jude. Most notably it is used to describe Christ at His crucifixion in Galatians 3:1. It is otherwise translated as “marked out” or “ordained”.

“Condemnation” is *krima*, the general word for **judgment** or decision. In this case, obviously Jude is referring to a negative decision for them, as if a criminal sentenced to death.

What do we do with those words?

It “seems” as if these individuals were ordained to be judged and consigned to Hell.

Jude could be writing about:

- 1) the individuals long written beforehand for judgment, as in the individuals by name OR
- 2) he could be writing about the nature of apostates as a class, in general.

Some were long written of in the past as those who would, empowered by Satan, attack the faith and the faithful.

Which do you think it is? Individuals? Or a Class of people?

I believe it is the latter, just as Judas was indwelt by Satan at the proper moment, so these individuals are infiltrated at a chosen moment in time and are led astray.

I am a sovereigntist. I believe that God pre-ordained His called and chosen well ahead of time and stand on the promises of Ephesians 1:5 (“He predestined us”) among other Bible passages to affirm that belief.

In this case, **the original language** seems to lead us to a class of types rather than individuals by name

Another passage where this is “pre-written judgment”:

2 Peter 2:1-3

“False prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; and in their greed they will exploit you with false words; **their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.**”

So, we should expect them to come.

Peter said they would be coming

Jude says that they are here in the fellowship

Jude's Jewish audience needs some examples from the past

Old Testament Apostate Examples

Jude 5

"Now I want to remind you, though you know everything once and for all, that the Lord, after saving a people out of the land of Egypt, **subsequently destroyed those who did not believe.**"

Jude then wants to remind his mostly Jewish audience about past evidence of apostates on the earth

These are moments when God judged sin and those who committed them.

Wilderness

First, Jude reminds us of people that the Lord saved out of Egypt but "subsequently destroyed."

What group of people was this?

We just call them "the Israelites" and those who were rescued from Egypt to come to the Promised Land.

God sends His deliverance, and the people leave with all sorts of goodies.

He drowns the Egyptian army in the Red Sea. **Salvation!**

Within weeks, His rescued people are complaining about not having Egyptian food, not having water, they don't like the leadership of Moses and Aaron.

Moses goes up on Mount Sinai to speak with God and what happens when he returns to the people?

They're **making golden calves and worshipping idols.** **Idolatry!**

They go to the brink of the Promised Land, and they see GIANTS! They can't possibly beat those big guys.

They are fearful and think that God has abandoned them. **No Faith!**

God had enough and caused them to walk around for forty years until most adult members who left Egypt were dead and buried.

Hebrews 3:17-19 gives more description on this group who perished because "they did not believe God."

"For who provoked Him when they had heard? Indeed, **did not all those who came out of Egypt led by Moses?** And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? and to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient? So, we see that **they were not able to enter because of unbelief.**"

These apostates were "destroyed" by God for their unfaithfulness and idolatry.

The Flood

Jude 6

“And angels who did not keep their own domain but abandoned their proper dwelling place, these He has kept in eternal restraints under darkness for the judgment of the great day.”

A certain group of angels “who did not keep their own domain but abandoned their proper dwelling place.”

Who was this group of angels?

There are three common views of these angels.

- 1) These are a group of angels where there is no information about the circumstances of their apostasy.
- 2) This is a group of angels in revolt against God by Satan and they are called demons.
- 3) This is a group of angels that came to the earth early after the earth’s creation that were judged by God for their extreme sin.

Which is the correct interpretation?

The problem with group #1 is that Jude is reminding his audience of something they already know so their apostasy would have well known and taught among the audience.

The problem with group #2, is that we have evidence in the Bible of Satan’s and other demonic activities in the New Testament so when Jude says, “these He has kept in eternal restraints under darkness for the judgment of the great day.” it cannot be a group of angels that have been kept in “eternal restraints.”

So, we are left with group #3, a group of angels that **came to earth sometime in the past** who acted in such a way that caused God to bind them for eternity.

It stands to reason that the Bible would record such an event if it were known and taught to the people of Israel such that Jude’s message would only be a reminder.

We find that group of angels back in Genesis:

Genesis 6:1-7

“Now it came about, when men began to multiply on the face of the land, and daughters were born to them, that **the sons of God** saw that the daughters of men were beautiful; and they *took wives for themselves, whomever they chose.* Then the LORD said, “My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; nevertheless his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.” **The Nephilim** were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came into the daughters of men, and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown. **Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.** The LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. The LORD said, “I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky; for I am sorry that I have made them.”

So, what did God do to this race of creatures? -> You have heard that God flooded the earth.

Why did God flood the earth?

120 years later, the earth was turned into a flood zone with only Noah and his family of eight saved.

God down the whole race of these apostates, a demonic people that was half angel, and half human.

Jude writes that these angels “did not keep their own domain” and “abandoned their proper dwelling place.”

“Domain” is the Greek word *arche* which means “an origin or beginning.”

It is usually translated a domain, rule, or principality.

The best usage here might be “rule” because **angels were created for and have a specific function.**

These angels may have been charged with watching over this race of humans on the earth.

Instead of fulfilling their function, they saw that “the daughters of men were beautiful” and they took them as wives and had offspring.

The result of that union was a group of large individuals called Nephilim.

That name is used a few times in Scripture, but most often associated with the inhabitants of the Promised Land when the Israelites first scoped the land. “These guys are HUGE,” the spies said. **Nephilim!**

The created demon race had only evil intent so much that the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth.

He would blot out that race in a great flood and start over.

Those angels who sinned and cohabitated with humanity were not going to be allowed to do that again.

God determined to restrain them until an appointed time where **He will judge them in the great day of judgment to come on the earth.**

As for now, they are in “darkness”.

Peter also speaks of this group of angels:

2 Peter 2:4-5

“For if God did not spare angels when they sinned but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment; and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when **He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly.**”

Peter also speaks to what God did after these events, bringing the Great Flood upon “the world of the ungodly.”

1 Peter 3:18-20

“For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit; in which also **He went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison**, who once were disobedient, **when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah**, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water.”

Moses writes about them in Genesis, Peter writes about them in his letter

Now Jude is writing about these same group of angels.

A further clarification of this apostasy comes in the next verse

Jude references Sodom and Gomorrah

Sodom and Gomorrah

Jude 7

“Just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they **in the same way as these angels indulged in sexual perversion and went after strange flesh**, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.”

A third reminder Jude gives his audience is events in Sodom and Gomorrah.

We all probably remember those events recorded in **Genesis 19**.

Two angels came down to visit Lot in Sodom. Lot understood who they were, and respected them, took them inside for refuge.

The men of Sodom, on the other hand, surrounded the house and demanded that Lot send his angelic visitors outside so that they could have sexual relations with them.

The angels eventually blinded the entire group of these men, and they still were clamoring to have sex with them.

The angels told Lot they had come down to destroy Sodom altogether.

A poignant reminder for God’s people:

Sodom and Gomorrah are referred to 23 times in the Bible

Jude’s reminder was that these men **“in the same way as these angels indulged in sexual perversion and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.”**

“in the same way” ties the activity of the angels in Genesis 6 with the men of Sodom, giving support that the perversion crossed races from angelic to human.

These events in Genesis 6 were the first true “interracial relationships” where men went after “strange flesh,” an example of the angels undergoing that punishment of eternal fire.

The Tie to Apostasy

“What do these interesting Old Testament facts **have to do with the present day in which Jude is living?**”

Jude is making the point that apostasy has been around for a while, and it has many forms.

We have to remember that apostasy is:

- 1) knowing the truth
- 2) living in contrast to that truth, and
- 3) then leading others astray into error.

False prophets attempting to lead Jude’s audience astray were just as bad

- 1) as those Israelites that rebelled in the Wilderness
- 2) the angels who contaminated the earth in Genesis 6 so that it had to be flooded
- 3) and the men of Sodom and Gomorrah

God’s judgment and the result to these creatures for all of these actions were destruction and an eternal punishment in the pits of darkness and Hell.

Why would we think that false teachers would be treated any differently than other actions?

We are taught that no ONE SIN is worse than any other sin, correct?

Hebrews 6:4-6

“For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, **it is impossible to renew them again to repentance**, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame.”

Once they have crossed into an outright apostasy, it becomes even MORE important to confront them in it since there is little hope for their return to the truth.

Prayer

Benediction