

We enjoy speaking about positive things, things for which we can praise God. That is a good thing. In fact, the Scriptures tell us to think and speak of things for which we can praise God. (Philippians 4:9) That is what Jude wanted to write about. He wanted to write about our common salvation. (1:3) That is what we would prefer to read as well. So as the description of the false teachers continues, we may not be anxious to hear more on the subject, and yet, as Jude said in the opening, it was necessary. If it was necessary then, it certainly is today when so called Christian churches deny Christ is Lord of all.

The last two weeks we went over some of the ways these false teachers draw people from the faith and the certainty of their impending judgment. Jude repeats almost every point two times in this short letter. That tells us how important it was to him to get these points across.

In today's passage he quotes a passage from an apocryphal book that is not found in our Bible, 1Enoch. <sup>14</sup> *It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his holy ones, <sup>15</sup> to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, (from 1Enoch 1:9) and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him."* (from 1Enoch 27:2) The inclusion of these quotes brings up the question of whether this book should be included in our Bible. It was a debate all the way back to the early church fathers. Some thought 1Enoch should be included because Jude quoted from it. Others thought Jude should be excluded for that reason. I shared with you what I thought was the most reasonable answer in last week's sermon. Paul quoted what he thought to be true from a Greek poet (Acts 17:28; Titus 1:12) but that does not mean we should include in our Bible all that the poet wrote. We can apply the same here. Jude believed these verses to be true and passed down from Enoch, but he does not say the book is Scripture (*graphe*).

I am pretty simple when it comes to Scripture. I believe that a loving all powerful God can direct the details of what ended up in this book we call the Bible. So I believe every word is inspired. (2Peter 1:21) It is the one book circulated to nearly every language on the planet. That makes perfect sense if it is God's revelation of himself to the world. That's why I don't question what is in it.

I've been asked how I can believe in every word in a book written by so many different people over such a long period of time. It's simple. I believe in a loving God who wants us to know His character and His will for our lives. If it was half true, like many today want to believe, then we would be arguing forever which half. The result would be the

**Commented [notes1]: Philippians 4:8 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup> Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

**Commented [notes2]: Jude 1:3 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup> Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.

**Commented [notes3]: Acts 17:28 (ESV)**

<sup>28</sup> for 'In him we live and move and have our being' as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we are indeed his offspring.'

**Commented [notes4]: Titus 1:12 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> One of the Cretans, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons."

**Commented [notes5]: 2 Peter 1:21 (ESV)**

<sup>21</sup> For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

cafeteria style belief of Thomas Jefferson. He took a pen knife and cut out all the miracles and pasted the remaining passages into a book. The god he believed in wasn't big enough to preserve the message he meant for mankind and so Jefferson thought he needed to help god out by making corrections. I should add that to his credit, when he made a treaty with an Indian nation, the treaty included sending Christian missionaries to them. He was one of only two of the 56 signers of the Constitution that may have not been what we'd call an evangelical.

Many Christians today would do the same kind of editing. (Revelation 22:19) When we refuse to obey a command, we are saying we don't accept the passage about divorce, or fornication, or regularly assembling with believers, or giving, or homosexuality, or whatever we want to ignore. I'd say the same thing about us that I said about Jefferson. When we do that we are declaring that we have a little god who is either unable to keep his word pure, or who doesn't know what is best for us. (Deuteronomy 10:13)

Do you really think God is affected by our culture? Do you really think that He can't move men to write what He wanted to convey of eternal truth that is good in every culture and for all time? Call me simple minded, but I believe He is Almighty. **The problems we have with the book are our problems not His inability to convey what He wanted to say to us!** There are parts that are hard to understand. It does take diligent study. When we take it as a whole and see the progressive revelation of God, and compare Scripture with Scripture, we understand God's message for mankind and for us as individuals.

Enoch was a fascinating person to the Jewish people because he did not see death but was instead translated into heaven. There are only a few verses about him in the Old Testament. In those few verses (Genesis 5:22-24) it is twice said that he walked with God. He fathered Methuselah and had other sons and daughters. The author simply says, "God took him." The author of Hebrews in the New Testament tells us that he pleased God and did not see death. (Hebrews 11:5) The next verse in Hebrews tells us that it is faith that pleases God. (Hebrews 11:6) Enoch must have been quite a man of faith.

The passage says he was the seventh generation of man. It tells us that he was a prophet, probably one of the first to tell of the Second Coming. Remember that because of the longevity of people at the time, the previous six generations would still be living. It would be almost a thousand years before the flood came. Early man knew through his prophecy that those who do evil would be judged. They could ask Adam about the gracious covering God made for him and have a hint of atonement. (Genesis 3:21) From the time of Adam's third son, Seth, Adam's descendants began to call on the name of the Lord (Genesis 4:26), and whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. (Romans 10:13)

Enoch's prophecy stated "he" is coming with ten thousands of his holy ones. Jude inserted Lord for the pronoun "he". This is not unusual. The Apostles saw Jesus as the

**Commented [notes6]: Revelation 22:19 (ESV)**  
<sup>19</sup> and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

**Commented [notes7]: Deuteronomy 10:13 (ESV)**  
<sup>13</sup> and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I am commanding you today for your good?

**Commented [notes8]: Genesis 5:22-24 (ESV)**  
<sup>22</sup> Enoch walked with God after he fathered Methuselah 300 years and had other sons and daughters.  
<sup>23</sup> Thus all the days of Enoch were 365 years.  
<sup>24</sup> Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.

**Commented [notes9]: Hebrews 11:5 (ESV)**  
<sup>5</sup> By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God.

**Commented [notes10]: Hebrews 11:6 (ESV)**  
<sup>6</sup> And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

**Commented [notes11]: Genesis 3:21 (ESV)**  
<sup>21</sup> And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

**Commented [notes12]: Genesis 4:26 (ESV)**  
<sup>26</sup> To Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. At that time people began to call upon the name of the LORD.

**Commented [notes13]: Romans 10:13 (ESV)**  
<sup>13</sup> For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Lord who was the coming Judge. Though the Old Testament refers to God as the Judge, they clearly saw Jesus as the One representing God on Judgment Day, which is another indication of the oneness of the Father and Son. (2Thessalonians 1:7; Revelation 22:12)

The holy ones are the angels, that is to say, messengers set apart for God's purposes. Jesus made it clear in Mark 8:38 and other passages that the angels would be coming with Him when He returned. <sup>38</sup> *For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.* Mark 8:38 (ESV) (cf. Matthew 25:31) The description of coming with ten thousands of angels is similar to Moses' description of receiving the Law on Sinai. (Deuteronomy 33:2) It will be a glorious and awesome spectacle. The purpose of this coming is stated in Jude 15, to execute judgment on all the ungodly. (2Peter 2:6)

The world makes up its own standards of right and wrong. They bend and flow with the tide of each culture, but God's righteousness is never changing. (Malachi 3:6) He will declare their sins before everyone, and on that day no one is going to say to Jesus in Almighty God's glory, "Well, that is a sin to you but I have a different standard." The righteousness of God will be revealed, and those who think themselves righteous without Christ will be ashamed. (Romans 3:19) They will be ashamed of their actions and of the harsh things they have said about God and His only Son, Jesus.

I have heard many stories of close calls where a person almost died or did clinically die and stood before a glorious light that showed them an instantaneous review of their life. Something similar to that happened to me when I was just 6 or 7 years of age. I was riding my bicycle when I was hit by a car. I turned and saw the car coming and suddenly time went very slowly. During that one or two seconds, things I had done and said flashed through my mind, scene after scene. It was as if time stood still while the review took place. There was no making excuses. The sin was just seen for what it was. I would imagine that something similar will happen to the world of ungodly people when they see Jesus coming in His glory with the angels. If one angel causes men to fall on their face trembling, how will they respond to ten thousands with the glorious Lord leading them? (Matthew 24:30)

They will not only be convicted of their actions but of the ungodly way they went about it. Some boast of their ungodly acts denying there is anything wrong with the action. Others boast about how ungodly they are. Some cars have a sticker on their back window that declares, "Wicked", as if they were proud of it. It is very sad to us who know the end of that road. Amazingly, some of those blatant sinners live under conviction and will surrender to Jesus when they hear the good news. They may be easier to lead to Christ than the person who justifies their sin. (Luke 18:13)

**Commented [notes14]: 2 Thessalonians 1:7 (ESV)**

<sup>7</sup> and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels

**Commented [notes15]: Revelation 22:12 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> "Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay everyone for what he has done.

**Commented [notes16]: Matthew 25:31 (ESV)**

<sup>31</sup> "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne.

**Commented [notes17]: Deuteronomy 33:2 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> He said, "The LORD came from Sinai and dawned from Seir upon us; he shone forth from Mount Paran; he came from the ten thousands of holy ones, with flaming fire at his right hand.

**Commented [notes18]: 2 Peter 2:6 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup> if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly;

**Commented [notes19]: Malachi 3:6 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup> "For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.

**Commented [notes20]: Romans 3:19 (ESV)**

<sup>19</sup> Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God.

**Commented [notes21]: Matthew 24:30 (ESV)**

<sup>30</sup> Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

**Commented [notes22]: Luke 18:13 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!"

Jude's is repeating a point he made earlier. There will be judgment upon the false teachers. They will have no excuse then. Their confident boasting and blasphemy of fallen angels will be the last thing on their minds. They will not even be able to stand up in His presence. (Psalm 1:5) Justice will be served.

*<sup>16</sup> These are grumblers, malcontents, following their own sinful desires; they are loud-mouthed boasters, showing favoritism to gain advantage.* Grumblers and malcontents point back to Jude's first illustration of the Jews that died in the wilderness. (Exodus 15:24) The account in the books of Moses returns again and again to them having some kind of complaint. Either God doesn't supply water fast enough, or the manna is getting boring, or the enemy looks too big, or Moses is on the mountain too long, or they want to be the High Priest and on and on.

They are never content for one reason. They have not found contentment in Jesus. He was the cloud that covered them from the heat of the sun by day. He was their fire that lit their way at night and stood between them and their pursuers. He was the rock from which their thirst was quenched. (1Corinthians 10:4) The manna was but a picture of Him. (John 6:32) But they refused to be satisfied with Him and wanted something more.

**The only real contentment is found when our life is focused on Jesus and His love for us.**

The false teachers are always dissatisfied and sow dissatisfaction. They can never be content with where God is leading the church through the elders because they are not satisfied in Christ. They don't see Jesus and His goodness in the body of Christ. They have not been born again and so they are looking for satisfaction from things or positions. The malcontents are blind to the dissatisfaction in their own hearts and so look for things outside themselves to complain about.

Instead of following God's leading, the leading of the Holy Spirit, they follow their sinful desires. They toot their own horn, and boast of their abilities and accomplishments. Instead of humbly serving, they want recognition to call the shots and they use favoritism to manipulate people into giving them authority. The godly person is recognized for their humble service and love of the Word, not their boasting and how highly they think of themselves. (Ephesians 4:2-3)

*<sup>17</sup> But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> They said to you, "In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions."* Jude again reminds us to stick with what we first received. There is no new thing under the sun. (Ecclesiastes 1:9) The Apostles told of Jesus' warnings about false prophets in the Last Days. (Matthew 24:11) We must remain on the foundation of the Gospels. What Jesus taught has been conveyed to us by those Jesus chose to pass on His life and teaching. They didn't misunderstand Him. They didn't have a problem translating it into Greek. It wasn't changed by Constantine. Those excuses are all teachings of the false teachers who didn't get from the church what they wanted and

**Commented [notes23]: Psalm 1:5 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

**Commented [notes24]: Exodus 15:24 (ESV)**

<sup>24</sup> And the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?"

**Commented [notes25]: 1 Corinthians 10:4 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.

**Commented [notes26]: John 6:32 (ESV)**

<sup>32</sup> Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven.

**Commented [notes27]: Ephesians 4:2-3 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,  
<sup>3</sup> eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

**Commented [notes28]: Ecclesiastes 1:9 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup> What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun.

**Commented [notes29]: Matthew 24:11 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup> And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray.

so in their discontentment made their own cafeteria style religion. A little of this and a helping of that as they reinterpret it the way they understand it, which is completely out of line with the historical church and Judaism of the first century. This is not just a difference in minor doctrines or interpretation. We will always have minor differences. These malcontents preach another gospel, one of compromise.

*<sup>19</sup> It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit.* If they are void of the Spirit then they have never been born again. (1Corinthians 2:14) In the history of this church there was a major division. Some did not like the faith delivered to us. They decided miracles were out of touch with reality. They no longer believed the Bible was God's word delivered to us from God. They formed the Church of the Red Rocks. Another division came more recently when an associate pastor who was under the teaching of a Dallas Theological graduate named Robert Theme. They drew away about half the congregation and started a new church which folded after a few years. Jude told it like it is, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. Next week we'll see how we should be merciful toward them.

Isn't it instructive that the problems they had back then are the same ones we have now? If anything, they are getting worse just as Jesus predicted. (Luke 18:8) So what are we to do about it? First, **be focused on the Christ of Scripture and be content in Him. Be filled with the Spirit.** (Ephesians 5:18) **See Him at work in your life and all around you.**

Secondly be aware when false teachers try to sneak in and bring division. Remember the main signs of sensuality, greed, pride, and secrecy. Remember that they sow discontentment, and remember why. Be on your guard. Grow in Christ and you will be equipped to discern what is good. We'll talk more next Sunday about the specifics of what we can do to be sure that we persevere. Let me close with a quote from Paul to the Philippians. *<sup>9</sup> And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, <sup>10</sup> so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup> filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.* Philippians 1:9-11 (ESV)

#### Questions

- 1 Why do we need to know about false teachers?
- 2 What are three solutions to Jude's use of 1 Enoch?
- 3 Is there a simple reason to believe the Bible is God's word to man?
- 4 What are we saying when we refuse to obey a Bible command?
- 5 What was Enoch's testimony?
- 6 Why did Jude change "he" to "Lord" in the prophecy?
- 7 How will the ungodly react at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming?
- 8 How do we find contentment?
- 9 What did the Apostles warn us of?
- 10 How can we be prepared for false teachers?

#### Commented [notes30]: 1 Corinthians 2:14 (ESV)

<sup>14</sup> The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

#### Commented [notes31]: Luke 18:8 (ESV)

<sup>8</sup> I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

#### Commented [notes32]: Ephesians 5:18 (ESV)

<sup>18</sup> And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,