

MESSAGE for THESE LAST DAYS

The Message from Jude in These Last Days

This epistle is addressed to those sanctified by God, preserved in Jesus Christ, and called. Strong is this language that we must conform to the divine standard. Sanctified is not merely set apart but self-surrendered and wholly dedicated to Christ and conformed to the character of Jesus Christ.

Even after this experience, we must be preserved in Christ for there still is much to corrupt us. If we have not experienced this, the warnings of the rest of the chapter obviously follow in order, apostasy.

This epistle of Jude is very much like 2 Peter, for it is a message to the Church of the last days. **This message consists of four things – warnings, exhortations, promises and praise.** Its purpose is to guard the people of God from the dangers of the last times, and to strengthen and establish them in their most holy faith.

Jude introduces it by reminding them of contending for the faith once delivered to the saints. Then, he points out the sins of the great apostasy during the last times. Then, he proceeds to establish them in their most holy faith.

The epistle consists, then, of these diametrically opposite or opposing foes . . .

Jude 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.

Then the severe warning against apostasy in backsliding from the faith is addressed.

Jude 5-6:

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.

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.

Then, Jude turns to the precious subject and goes on to a fuller description of the apostates. He calls them filthy dreamers who defile the flesh; they despise government – dominion; and they speak evil of dignities. They are brute beasts who are gone the way of Cain . . . The HOLY GHOST selects these –

THREE GREAT REPRESENTATIONS OF EVIL

1. Cain – The First Representation of Evil: The spirit of unbelief

Jude 11a: Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain,

Cain is a believer in natural religion, which is so popular today – of salvation by works and human merit, law keepers. He believes in the Supreme Being, but desires to worship Him in His own way and does not look to the condition of his heart so long as the outward form is pleases him.

He rejects the way of the Blood salvation. He represents the people who take no place with a lost sinner, doomed for hell, crying to Christ for mercy and salvation through the Blood. Forms and ceremonies are all he wants – and a religion of convenience. This type of person leads a life of worldliness and pleasure loving, and is separated from God, going about to establish a righteousness of his own.

The Cains of earth are still bringing their beautiful offerings of floral gifts, sweet potatoes, whippoorwill peas, corn and cucumbers. They fight and hate those who are born-again by the Spirit of God, and are washed in the Blood of the Lamb. **Cain's is the way of human opinion - - refusing to come to God as a sinner.**

The hatred Cain showed was the same that nailed Jesus to the Cross. His is the way of willful disobedience - - willingly ignorant of:

2 Peter 3:5: For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the Word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:

Unwilling to confess his sins; no desire to repent - The way of Cain is hatred to righteous.

Genesis 4:11:

And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand;



John 3:17-21: For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.

¹⁸ He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the Name of the Only Begotten Son of God.

¹⁹ And this is the condemnation, that Light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

²⁰ For every one that doeth evil hateth the Light, neither cometh to the Light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.

²¹ But he that doeth truth cometh to the Light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

The last picture of Cain – he goes out and raises a family, and makes the world his paradise.

Genesis 4:16: And Cain went out from the Presence of the LORD, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden.

Sin separates us from God.

2. Second Representation of Evil – Greed

Jude 11b: ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward



They represent the spirit of pursuit of gain at the expense of sacrificing everything else that is righteous for its sake.

Supposing that gain is godliness, they covet after gold and err from the faith and pierce themselves through with man of sorrows. These are worse traitors to the cause of Christ than even Judas was – for such teach the people to sin by seducing them. He represents the temptations of the flesh.

3. The Third Representation of Evil – the Spirit of Lawlessness

Jude 11c: and perished in the gainsaying of Core.

This is the spirit of lawlessness. Core was a proud prince of Israel who would not submit himself to the authority of Moses and Aaron, and claimed an equal right to be a law unto him.

Today's impact: It is the spirit of this age. Men and women want to shake off all restraints, be a law unto themselves, have their own way to rule or ruin. **This spirit will increase more and more as the end draws near, until it will finally end up headed by the lawless one, the antichrist, who will be an embodiment of rebellion against God.** The doom of disobedience is clear in:

2 Thessalonians 1:8: In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12:

⁹ Even him [the antichrist], whose coming is after the working of satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

¹⁰ And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

¹¹ And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

¹² That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Christian Science, spiritualist, Theos, sensual, psychical - - they mean some finer quality of mind and life, but **this is a counterfeit imitation of the Holy Spirit, of satanic origin.**

Several characteristics of this age of apostasy - - wantonness, religion as a cloak to cover up self-indulgences, vices. Another characteristic is willfulness.

Jude 4-5:

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.

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.

Jude is terribly emphatic on judgment to the apostate as proven by fallen angels and saints – Israelites and sinners – Sodomites.

Because of their characteristics, they turn the grace of our God into lasciviousness – brute beasts, filthy dreamers who defile the flesh – sowing tares of satan.

Denying the Lord God and Jesus is satan’s chief place of attack.

Jude 16-19:

16 These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.

17 But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ;

18 How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.

19 These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.

The exhortation to steadfastness in the faith calls for contending and building. This is a war – a real pitch battle for the Gospel, the deity of Christ, the Blood, holiness, the baptism of the Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit.

We are living, right now, in those days of which the apostle is speaking.

The battle for fundamental truth of the faith once delivered to the saints is being blocked and fought by modernism, communism and atheism.

But those who contend for the faith will go up when Jesus comes. Then, the other crowd will take over and the antichrist will give them the kind of religion that will suit them all exactly.

We can contend without being contentious.

But the character of this day amongst the educated is a strong disfavor and dislike for straight truth. They like it toned down and diluted until it has little punch and power – so it hurts little or convicts fewer.

Jude 20: But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most Holy Faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,

But this is not so much an act of faith that is spoken of here as it is the fundamentals of our Christian life. We must know the truth that God lays down in the Word of God and live it and declare it. It is the attaining unto the fullness of Christ and the holiness of character.



Jesus is looking for this faith and will expect to see it when He comes.

For . . .

Luke 18:8b: when the Son of Man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?

2 Peter 1:5-7: We who are in Christ Jesus . . .

⁴ Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the Divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

⁵ And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

⁶ And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

⁷ And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

FUNDAMENTALS OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

Building by Prayer and Praying in the Holy Ghost

This is when the Holy Spirit is making intercession for the saints, according to the Holy Will of God. The Holy Spirit makes praying and prayer real. Prayer is not mere words, but God looks at the heart and the true Spirit behind the praying which determines the results.

The Holy Spirit teaches saints how to pray, to pray for what they ought.

HE helps our infirmities, corrects errors, and subdues self which are all hindrances to prayers being answered.

HE kindles fire of God to pray fervent prayers.



James 5:16b: The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man [and woman] availeth much.

Building on your Faith

Jude 20: But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,

Building by Love

Jude 21a: Keep yourselves in the love of God,

Faith gets the most, but love keeps the most and gives the most.

Building by Looking

Jude 21b: looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Keep looking for His Coming.



Building by Soul Winning

Jude 22-23:

²² And of some have compassion, making a difference:

²³ And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

Sin, like fire, brings death. As fire is unquenchable, so is sin, but FOR the grace of God and the power of the Gospel souls are pulled out of the fire. There are only two ways of saving: by pulling the object out, or putting out the fire.

God's judgment fire is unquenchable and there is no escape. The rescue work is dangerous and hazardous, but we must do it. Some mock and despise us in our labor of love – but this love drives us to rescue.

Building by Taking Courage and Believing the Promises of God

Jude 24: Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the Presence of His Glory with exceeding joy,

Give yourself wholly up to Jesus and He will keep you. He Who holds the oceans in the hollow of His hand can keep you from being overcome by all sin and the impetuous rush of unholy passions. HE, before Whom devils and demons stand paralyzed, is able to deliver you.

This tells us Jesus will do two things for us.

Keep us from falling, and then

Present us faultless at the end.

We are not able to keep ourselves from falling, for there is nothing more deceitful than a false estimate of our own strength.



Stay close to the Shepherd

and He will care for you.

Better still,

**HE will present you, faultless in righteousness,
before HIMSELF!**

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