

(14) It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, “Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His holy ones, 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, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.” These are grumblers, malcontents, following their own sinful desires; they are loud-mouthed boasters, showing favoritism to gain advantage.

(17) But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. They said to you, “In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions.” It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit.

(20) But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. And have mercy on those who doubt; save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garments stained by the flesh.

(24) Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of His glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

NOTE: The “Book of Enoch,” also known as 1 Enoch, was an apocalyptic Jewish book attributed to Enoch in Genesis. It was likely written much later in 5 major sections. There are no Hebrew manuscripts, but Aramaic copies were found in the Dead Sea Scrolls, plus Greek & Latin fragments elsewhere, to support the earliest Ethiopian versions in the Ge’ez language.

It is quoted by many early New Testament Fathers, but was never accepted as scripture either by the Jews or the Christians, though it was by an Ethiopian Jewish sect. It focuses on NT themes such as the Son of Man, a Messianic Kingdom, resurrection, fallen angels and Nephilim, and eschatology (the end times), very similar to Revelation.

Think on These Things

- 1) Enoch’s story in the Bible is rather brief. Read Genesis 5:18-24. What was the one unusual bit of information shared about him?

Enoch didn’t die. God took him to heaven.

- 2) There are two main charges cited in Enoch’s prophesy as to why God was coming to judge the godless sinners. What are the two charges? From verse 16, how does God see these people? What is the purpose of their boastfulness?

Two Charges: **God will judge them because of their deeds of ungodliness & their verbal assaults against Him.**

God’s View of these People? **God views them as grumblers and malcontents (complainers) because He opposes their impure lusts (they don’t want to live life by God’s rules).**

Purpose of Boastfulness? **They are loud-mouthed boasters who show favoritism in order to take advantage of people (they are working angles).**

3) Let's gather some information on these men who infiltrate our churches as false teachers from verses 16-19:

- a. They are devoted to their **impure lusts and physical desires**.
- b. They speak **boastfully**.
- c. They flatter people in order to **gain an advantage over them**.
- d. They are _____ **scoffers** _____ following their own impure desires.
- e. They cause [church] **divisions**.
- f. Because they don't have the Holy Spirit within, they are **'worldly' minded**.

4) What are Christians to do as a way of life until we die or God returns (see v.20)

We are to build up our faith by 1) praying in the Holy Spirit, 2) remaining in God's love, and 3) waiting on God's mercy for our eternal life.

5) Because of God's great mercy, our sins are forgiven and we are saved. To whom are we to show mercy? Can you think of someone in your life who, if God's intervention reached them, would be like snatching them from the very fires of hell? Perhaps God intends to use you to help save them!

We must be merciful to those believers troubled by doubting in our congregations and families.

Personal answers for individuals God could "snatch from the fires of hell." Some of these folks could be added to the class prayer list. Also encourage conversation of ways to reach them beyond personal prayers.

6) Why are we to "show mercy with fear" to some folks, the last group cited in v.23?

Everybody is human. When we reach out to folks engaged in their sinning (clothing stained by the flesh), we are subject to the same temptations to sin as they are. So, if we deal with sinful folks, we must be shielded by a healthy, godly (reverential) fear of God to remain strong in our faith and in our witness.

7) Who is able to keep you from stumbling in your faith walk?

God, through Jesus Christ.

People and situations I want to pray for this week: