

(1) Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, to those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ: May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

(3) 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. For certain people have crept in unnoticed --- who long ago were designated for this condemnation --- ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

(5) Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus --- who saved a people out of the land of Egypt --- afterward destroyed those who did not believe. And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, He has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day --- just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.

(8) Yet in like manner these people also --- relying on their dreams --- defile the flesh, reject authority, and blaspheme the glorious ones. But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you." But these people blaspheme all that they do not understand, and they are destroyed by all that they, like unreasoning animals, understand instinctively.

(11) Woe to them! For they walked in the way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error and perished in Korah's rebellion. These are hidden reefs (Gr., a blemish) at your love feasts, as they feast with you without fear, shepherds feeding themselves; waterless clouds, swept along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted; wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever.

### Think on These Things

**NOTES:** 1) Lesson from v.5: God saved the Israelites, and then put them to death for lack of faith. God saves us, too, and we must exercise faith to the very end! *Start well; End well!* 2) Lesson from v.6: Even angels have boundaries. Judgment awaits those angels who violate them.

- 1) V.7 recalls Genesis 13:11-13; 18:20-21; 19:1-11, 23-29, and 2 Peter 2:6-9. The great offense against God, the wickedness that bothered godly people, was sexual perversion (Genesis 19:5). God's judgment was to destroy a whole region of populated cities, (believed today to be somewhere near the south tip of the Dead Sea). Jude reports in v.7 that the people of the cities were given to fornication and sexual immorality, a much larger scope than just homosexuality. Basically, it was unrestrained sexual expression and experimentation, "try whatever you like with whomever you like..." even if they don't want to (Genesis 19:6-7). According to 2 Peter 2:6, what is the purpose of remembering this event? How does God view marriage and sex (see Genesis 2:20b-25, Matthew 19:3-6 and 1 Corinthians 7:1-5)?

Purpose? **What happened to Sodom & Gomorrah are examples of what will happen to the ungodly.**

God's View? **Marriage is between one man and one woman, who become "one" together in His eyes. Sex in marriage is a joy and...an obligation. Sex should be paused only for brief periods of time, purposefully for devoted prayer, and then resumed to avoid temptations.**

- 2) In v.8, what do we learn about these men in our fellowships? See also 2 Peter 2:10

**They defile the flesh (indulge in lustful passions), reject (despise) authority, and blaspheme spiritual beings they don't really know. They are 'deluded' dreamers.**

- 3) V.9 is again one of those stories not known from previous Bible passages. For Moses' death, see Deuteronomy 34:1-7. Who buried Moses, and where (though no one knows exactly)? What is the point of bringing up the archangel Michael and moving Moses' body (see 2 Peter 2:10-11)?

**God buried Moses Himself, in Moab, in the valley opposite Beth-peor. 2 Pet. - Angels, celestial beings, won't speak blasphemous judgments against other celestial beings.**

- 4) These men arrogantly blaspheme celestial beings and reject authority. Jude says it is part of their natures, which he likens to...? See also 2 Peter 2: 10-14.

**Unreasoning (irrational) animals, creatures of instinct, and instinctually brutish. Instead of acting like reasoning humans, they stoop to base, animal-like behaviors and passions.**

- 5) Use one or two words to describe these phrases about our internal enemies within the church:

- a. The Way of Cain (Genesis 4:1-7): Motivated by **jealous envy!**
- b. The Deception of Balaam (Numbers 22:16-17; 2 Peter 2:15-16): Motivated by **money!**
- c. The Rebellion of Korah (Numbers 16:1-3, 28-35, 49-50): Motivated by **power & position!**
- d. Do you see a parallel with 1 John 2:15-17? **Yes, this passage in 1 John speaks to human weakness and temptation to sin as "desires of the flesh, desires of the eyes, and the pride of life." (It seems mostly like the latter two struggles here in Jude.)**

- 6) Can you summarize a theme of the various phrases in verses 12-13? Take a look at John 15:1-6 and 2 Peter 2:17-22. Especially in 2 Peter 2:18-19, what are these men doing to those being saved from sin in our churches?

**The theme might be expecting fruit and helpful water, but everything turns out empty and lacking. (Things need to be pruned or replaced.) In John 15, Jesus clearly states that believers can do nothing for Him unless they are 'in Him' as branches attached to the vine.**

**2 Pet. – The evil men (as in Jude) prey upon new believers who are just learning God's ways. With their false teachings they lead new believers astray and into their corrupted lifestyles. They especially seek out those they can entrap in sensual pleasures.**

People and situations I want to pray for this week: