

(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

- 1) How does Jude introduce himself? Who is he related to (see also Mark 6:3)? Who does he say he is writing to?

- 2) In v.3 Jude urges his readers to "contend strenuously for the faith." He says we --- the saints --- have a common salvation. Who are we to "contend" with, and why (v.4)?

- 3) This is not the only mention of this specific “enemy.” See v.4 and 1 Timothy 1:3-8, 2 Timothy 3:1-6, and 2 Peter 2:1-3. What characteristics stand out to you about how these church people behave within the congregation?

NOTE: They have a form of godliness --- **they look like Christians** --- but no power to live like it! Actually, they “deny” having God’s power because they reject walking in obedience to and in harmony with the Holy Spirit. **They know the talk, but can’t do the walk!**

v.4 _____

1 Tim. - _____

2 Tim. - _____

2 Pet. - _____

- 4) Did you ever think that by coming to church you might meet your faith’s enemy? _____

- 5) V.5 – Read Numbers 14:20-25. What is the key point about the Israelites whom God delivered and left Egypt with Moses? What is its application to us Christians today?

- 6) V.6 – Read Genesis 6:1-8 and 2 Peter 2:4-5. This is a challenging story to fully grasp. The gist is that Satanic angels appear to have descended from heaven and began breeding with human women. The results were Nephilim – giants (remember Goliath?) --- who became regarded as heroes of old, men of renown. **This displeased God VERY much**, who had indicated His plan in Genesis 3:15 (a human heir to crush Satan). In 2 Peter we learn that God sent them to “hell.” Really? Hell already exists? What is the description we have of where these angels are today?

- 7) Does the information from Q6 help you understand 1 Peter 3:18-20a? This is not recorded in any of the Gospels, but describes an action of Jesus at the time of His resurrection. The word translated “preach”, *Knpussw* in Greek, first and foremost means to publish by a proclamation as a herald. Think of someone getting up on a table or stand among a large crowd and calling everyone to look at them so they can shout out a message to all. This is what Jesus did to the angels in prison. What do you think He was shouting about?

People and situations I want to pray for this week: