

The Epistle of Jude

Lesson 5

Verse 1: Identifies writer and readers

Verse 3: Purpose of Letter – Contend for the Faith

Verse 2: Greeting/Blessing

Verse 4: Two false teachings identified

Verses 5-7 (past judgment of false teachers and others who reject the true God)

Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it,

- In the examples Jude is about to share, there is nothing new to his readers. They knew the Old Testament scriptures and these events from history—nothing new, but excellent examples in this context, and a reminder from biblical history to underscore the seriousness of Jude’s urging in this letter.

Example 1: Children of Israel

that Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward (lit. “the second time”) destroyed those who did not believe. (v. 5 ESV)

- *Jesus* in the Old Testament? *Jesus* delivering the people out of Egypt? Yes! (cf. *Lord* in other translations – an example of textual difference with no negative impact on the truth)
- **Deliverance:** Exodus 1-17 – ten plagues, Red Sea, water at Marah and later from a rock, Manna . . . and that is just getting them to Mt. Sinai. God’s deliverance from Egypt continued as He preserved them in the wilderness.

Consider this evidence of what God’s disposition and actions were toward His people and then evaluate the people’s words at the Red Sea (and elsewhere). **Read** Exodus 14:10-12

- **Destruction:** **Read** Numbers 13:25-14:38

First God delivered and then He destroyed His people?

What kind of God does that?!

- This is the way the people of Israel were viewing God when they suggested God took them out of Egypt to destroy them.
- This is the same kind of argument/objection against God that is raised today by skeptics, those that want to undermine the true God and draw false conclusions from a false, non-contextual, and superficial reading of Scripture.
- This is the objection that leads to being mystified that grace and justice can co-exist in the same holy and righteous God.

- The key to understanding this is to observe *whom* God destroyed and *why*: “those who did not believe.” Then place this in the context of the two false doctrines which Jude is addressing and his urgent warning to his readers.

Read: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 (cf. Exodus 32, Numbers 25, Numbers 21, Numbers 14-16); Hebrews 3:7-19

God told Adam and Eve: In the day you eat of it, dying you will die...

Satan told Eve: ...You will not surely die.

God said at Mt. Sinai: I the Lord your God am a jealous God visiting the iniquities of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing mercy to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

Example 2: The angels

*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— (v.6 ESV)*

- There is no record of this event in the historical books to which we can turn.
 - God does not record the creation of the angels, but they were created by God within the six days of Creation and they were all good. **Read:** *Colossians 1:16, Exodus 20:11, Genesis 1:31*
 - Who/What are the angels?
 - They are *not* what they most typically appear to be in common portrayal
 - *angelos* = “messenger” **How many examples of angels serving as messengers can you recall?** (note the purpose and significance of each message)
 - **Read:** Hebrews 1:14, Psalm 103:20, Psalm 91:11-12, Matthew 18:10, (Protector angel passages: 2 Kings 6:8-17, Daniel 6:16-23), Luke 15:10, 1 Peter 1:12 (3-12)