

# 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

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### 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)
- Jude’s reference to the fall of the angels provides some insight
  - The angels did not keep their “beginning/rule” – they had it, they did not go on keeping it.
  - They left their “own dwelling/position” behind
  - God has kept and is keeping (emphatic contrast: the angels did not keep...God is keeping)
- More insight--**Read:** 2 Peter 2:4,9; John 8:44, Matthew 25:41
- *When* did the angels fall? Sometime between the end of creation and Satan’s appearance to Eve.

**Jude's message:** Contend for the faith<sup>v.3</sup> because certain people have crept in who pervert the grace of God and deny Christ.<sup>v.4</sup> I want to remind you, God did not spare even the angels when they rebelled against Him.<sup>v.6</sup> (same message as with first example, now reinforced)

### Example 3: Sodom and Gomorrah

*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. (v. 7 ESV)*

**The history behind the example:** Genesis 13:10-13; 14:12; 18:16-22; 19:1-29

- Not just two great cities destroyed, but the entire metro area (surrounding cities, though Zoar was spared)
- Indulged (intensive verb, excessive indulgence)
- Unnatural desire, lit. "other flesh" (**Read:** Romans 1:26-27)

**Sodom as Example:** Deuteronomy 29:22-29, Isaiah 1:9-11; Matthew 10:15; 2 Peter 2:6-10

**Jude's message:** Contend for the faith<sup>v.3</sup> because certain people have crept in who pervert the grace of God and deny Christ.<sup>v.4</sup> I want to remind you, when the Israelites turned from God they were judged by God and died in the wilderness,<sup>v.5</sup> when angels rebelled against God they were cast from Heaven and are reserved for eternal death in Hell,<sup>v.6</sup> when Sodom and Gomorrah were completely destroyed because of their sin.<sup>v.7</sup> Remember the danger of what's happening. Remember the consequence of not remembering. Remember your Lord and salvation (the faith).

### Consider & Discuss

1. What happens if any of these examples are watered down in their severity.
2. What are the reasons God chose these particular examples for Jude to record?
3. Is there a progression of thought in the examples—from one to the other, or are there three examples for emphasis?