

Survey Jude

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Introduction

1. Jude, the **author**, refers to himself as “bond-servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James” (v.1). The “James” he is referring to is most likely the writer of the epistle of James and the brother of Christ (Matt.13:55).

2. The **purpose** of this epistle expressed in v.3-4 is to alert the church to false teachers and heresies that have infiltrated the church and to encourage the saints to **stay strong in contending for the faith**. In this regard it is **much like 2Peter**—contending for the biblical faith because of the unbiblical false teachers that creep into churches.

False teachers typically talk about the **principles of man** as oppose to the **purchase of man** by God through Christ.

3. Since there is no mention of the destruction of Jerusalem, the time of the writing was **prior to AD 70**, probably about AD 67.

Outline

Introduction of Purpose (1-4)

The Fate of False Believers/Teachers (5-16)

The Faith of the Righteous (17-23)

Conclusion of Preservation (24-25)

Main Points and Application in Jude

1. What are the **characteristics of false teachers** who have come into the church or have risen up among the church (v.4-10)?

- Initially undetectable as unbelievers in the church (v.4)
- ungodly perverting the grace of God into sensuality (v.4)
- denial of Christ as Master (v.4)
- dreamers relying on dreams (v.8)
- defilers of the flesh (v.8)
- rejecters of authority (v.8)
- blaspheme the church and her angels (v.8-10),

2. The world of Angels: Jude is one of the few books that mention **the fall of angels (v.6; 2 Pet.2:4)**. He is most likely referring to the time when Satan led angels in rebellion against God. **Michael** is referred to as the **archangel** (v.9). He is also referred to as a **leader of angels (Rev.12:7)** and as a **“chief prince” (Dan.10:13, 21)**. The fact that he contends for the body of Moses gives us a glimpse into the spiritual realm of warfare and disputes between angels. The description of Moses’ burial mentions none of this (Deut.34:5-7). **Michael is used as an example against the sin of “railing against the devil.” What examples of this do we see today?**

3. How are we to **build ourselves up according to Jude 20-23?** We are to keep ourselves in God’s love, pray in the Spirit, build up our faith, look for God’s mercy, win souls for Christ and keep resting on God’s preserving power. Only God can keep us from falling and present us faultless before his throne (v.24). There is a clear trinitarian emphasis false teachers will tend to shy away from; not having a relationship with all three persons of the Godhead.

Contend for the Faith (v.3,4; 20,21)

Let’s consider what it means to contend for the faith—revealing and being built up in a “common salvation” (v.3,4) that involves the Holy Spirit, the Father and the Son (v.20,21).

THE SAVING WORK OF GOD THE FATHER (Gen.1:1,2,26)

At the creation of the world, what was God's position and what was man's (male and female) position? God is sovereign and man is subservient.

God reveals Himself as the Triune Creator God to whom all things owe their existence. God the Father planned and prepared his creation by his word (Gen.1:1-2; Isa.14:26-27; Heb.11:3); God the Son executed the creation (John 1:3; Eph.3:9; Col.1:15-17; Heb.1:2); and God the Holy Spirit superintended creation by His presence over it (Gen.1:2). This triune God made all that can now be seen out of nothing that was before visible. He owns, controls and has final say over all that is. He does not have to give an account to any superiors, for he alone reigns supreme.

God owns us all "lock, stock and barrel." It is in God that we live and move and have our existence (Acts 17:28). Therefore, all mankind is required to ultimately submit unto and be obedient unto him who has our lives in his hands.

Our first parents, Adam and Eve, the parents and representatives of us all before God, were not content with the subservient position. Instead of keeping God's requirements and pleasing him, they rebelled against God in an attempt to be independent from God (Genesis 3:11-24). The "tree of knowledge of good and evil" is a symbol of a source of information outside of God. Their rebellion destroyed their innocence and rendered them unable to be holy and pleasing to God. Thus, God threw them out of his presence and fellowship condemning them for their sin. That condemnation of death and separation from God fell upon all mankind by ordinary generation (Rom.5:18). As long as man remains condemned for sin, he is separated from fellowship with God that was once experienced in the Garden of Eden. God's requirement of fellowship with only that which is holy forbids him from allowing man back into his presence (Hab.1:13; 2Cor.6:14-18; 1Pet.1:15-16). God's plan is for a holy fellowship with his people (Psa.15:1-5).

SINNERS HAVE A THREE-FOLD PROBLEM OF SEPARATION FROM GOD

1. A Guilty Record—BAD RECORD (Rom.3:10-18,23; Jam.2:10)
2. A Rebellious Heart—BAD HEART (Rom.3:11,18; 5:10)
3. An Unholy Life—BAD LIFE (Romans 8:7,8; John 15:5)

Anyone who has sinned, has failed to keep the requirements of God and has committed an act of rebellion from the heart. This rebellion originates from our inherited nature. We inherited the bad record, heart and life of Adam—life outside fellowship with God. We can no longer mingle with God as Adam once did any more than could dirty oil and pure water. The gates of heaven are closed to us because of our rebellious heart, a guilty record and an unholy life. Would you let a rebellious, guilty, practicing criminal into your home to live with you and your family? Neither will God.

SINNERS ARE BORN INTO THE PREDICAMENT OF SIN

None of Adam and Eve's descendants were born in sweet fellowship with God because they were born in the fellowship of Adam and Eve who were out of fellowship with God. All are born in sin (**Gen.5:1-3; Psa.51:5; Rom.5:12,18; 6:23**). How can we be saved from this? The solution must be one that rids man of his rebellious heart, guilty record and unholy life. Without solution, this predicament is one of misery, many days and nights of sorrow and pain (Gen.3:16-19) as well as a certain eternal death with anguish in hell (Rom.6:23).

Many people live under the assumption that because they are basically "pretty good people," when they die, they will go to heaven and into fellowship with God. NOT God's assumption at all. What would you say if God was to ask you to prove how your "pretty good life" had removed your rebellious heart, your guilty record and unholy life? Entrance to heaven is not gained without a new heart—regeneration, John 3:3,5; without removal of our guilty record—justification, Luke 13:3,5; and without holiness—sanctification, Heb.12:14).

The Bad News is we cannot remove our rebellious, guilty, unholy nature. We have nothing to exchange it with. The Good News is, God is mercifully disposed to save some sinners through a substitute.

GOD THE FATHER PLANNED TO SAVE MANY (Eph.1:3,4; Ezek.36:25-27; John7:38-39)

Before the foundations of the world, God's plan was to sovereignly rule over his creation providing fellowship for some. His plan was to supply the substitutionary work of Christ: a new nature/heart, blameless record and holy life.

"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life" (John3:16). Only in Jesus Christ, the Son of God does man find the provisions needed for reconciliation with our holy God. Only Jesus satisfies man's three-fold problem:

GOD THE SON PROVIDES SALVATION BY BEING OUR SUBSTITUTE

1. *Christ provides a submissive heart (Eph.2:5; Rom.6:6,11).*

Christ does not take our old heart and mend its broken parts. Giving your heart to Jesus is not enough. Jesus does not want our hearts for repair. Jesus came to kill and crucify our rebellious hearts and then lovingly give us a new heart with a new appetite submissive to all God's commands.

2. *Christ provides a blameless record (Isa.53:10-12; 2Cor.5:21).*

Though our record is tarnished with sin which is permanently imbedded, Christ provides for a wonderful exchange with us. He trades accounts with us, giving his perfect and righteous record in exchange for our guilty record. Such love can nowhere else be found!

3. *Christ provides a holy life (Phil.4:13; John15:5; Eph.1:3).*

Without Christ we have no ability to please God. When we are united to Christ, Christ provides us with the ability to live a life of holiness, pleasing to God.

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT REGENERATES SINNERS—PLANTS SALVATION IN MANY

One might ask, how is God the Father's plan to save sinners and God the Son's provision to save sinners implemented or applied to sinners? It all takes place through the work of the Holy Spirit.

1. The Holy Spirit implants a new submissive heart in the sinner through the sinner's conviction and hearing of the Word of God (John 3:3,5; Titus 3:5, 1Peter 1:23, 25). Many people hear the Word of God who obviously have not experienced the new birth by the Holy Spirit. The evidence that a person has effectually heard the word of God and received a new heart through the Spirit of God is repentance from sin (Luke 13:3,5; Acts 11:18), faith in Christ (Acts 2:38; Eph.2:8,9) and a sincere calling on Jesus for salvation (Rom.10:13; Acts 2:21).
2. When this new birth takes place, the sinner is forgiven by God and brought into fellowship with God. In fellowship with God, the Holy Spirit seals to the believer a new blameless record (Eph.1:13,14; 1Cor.6:11) and implants a holy life (2Cor.5:14-17; Rom.8:1-17).
3. Though the Christian faces opponents to living the holy life: indwelling sin (Rom.7:18) and temptation (James1:12-15), nevertheless the Christian overcomes these things for the Spirit, in him, guarantees a hunger and thirst for the word of God (Psa.119:11; 1Pet.2:2), prayer (Luke18:1-7) and Christian fellowship (Heb.10:24,25).

THE DEATH LINE

Before one dies, he needs to decide which side of the fellowship line he is on. What side are you on? At death your eternal destiny is fixed in heaven or hell. How you respond to the word of God counts forever. If you respond to the truth about your sinful condition with repentance, faith and pleading with Jesus for salvation mercy then you will experience at death the glories of heaven which are abundant fellowship, mercy, physical joy and spiritual joy (Dan.12:2; Matt.25:46; Rev.7:9-17; 21:1-22:5). If you do not receive mercy from God through the work of the Holy Spirit then you will spend eternity in hell which includes an existence of no fellowship, no mercy, physical misery, and spiritual misery (Dan.12:2; Rev.20:14,15; Mark9:49; Luke16:119-31; Matt.8:12; 2Thess.1:7-9).

SOME CONCLUSIONS ABOUT MAN'S ETERNAL SALVATION

1. God is sovereign over his creation. He does not need to be invited to be lord of our lives; he is Lord of all and not passive.
 - (A) Man is totally depraved of all ability to save himself. Therefore, regeneration must precede conversion.
 - (B) God's salvation of man is not based on any meritorious condition in man.
 - (C) God does in fact save particular individuals by his grace. He does not merely make salvation possible.
 - (D) Man has no power that can thwart the determined grace of God.
 - (E) All that God saves he keeps through his Spirit in a constant pursuit of righteous perfection.
2. God acts with absolute justice whether man goes to heaven or hell.
3. Death is not the result of actual sin but of original sin (Rom.5:13-14).
4. Rebellious, guilty, unholy sinners are required to turn from sin and turn to God (repentance), believe in the provisions of Christ by faith and call upon Christ for salvation mercy.
5. All who are saved by Christ are required to live holy lives as evidence of their salvation. This requirement is guaranteed to be fulfilled through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in all who are saved.