

## **Contending for the Faith**

### **Enoch's Prophecy of Coming Destruction**

#### **Jude 14-16**

#### **Introduction**

"Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints," ([Jude 1:14 NKJV](#))

The Amplified Bible says, "It was of these people, that Enoch in the seventh generation from Adam prophesied when he said, Behold, the Lord comes with His myriads of holy ones."

Jude has already alluded to the judgment of false teachers several times. In verses 14-16, Jude finishes his theme of judgment on the apostates. Apostasy in Christianity is the rejection of Christ and the Christian faith by someone who formerly was a Christian. The Greek term for apostasy means defection, departure, revolt, or rebellion. It is described as a willful turning away from or rebellion against Christianity. That is what Jude means when he uses the word apostate or apostasy.

In verse 15, he strengthens his position against these apostates with an appeal to prophecy. Jude quotes from the apocryphal Book of Enoch a passage about the return of the Lord in judgment. Here is the original quotation in First Enoch 1:9, "And behold! He comes with ten thousands of His holy ones, To execute judgment upon all, And to destroy all the ungodly: And to convict all flesh Of all the works of their ungodliness which they have ungodly committed, And of all the hard things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."

Initially, the Canon of Scripture did not include Jude's letter because of this quotation from the book of Enoch. But by the 4th century, Jude's letter had become universally accepted as an inspired writing by the church. And, since Jude was writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the material he included was accurate.

Lawlessness climaxed during the time of Lamech, who was the seventh from Adam in the line of Cain. Godliness climaxed in the life of Enoch, who was the seventh from Adam in the line of Seth. Enoch knew Adam for a little over 300 years. He also lived alongside the other patriarchs listed in Genesis 5 all his life. Enoch was "raptured" about seventy years before Noah was born, making the "rapture" at the second coming of Christ a reality rather than a possibility.

Moses records the lineage of Enoch in Genesis Chapter 5, and in verse 23 says, "So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. And Enoch walked with God; and he *was* not, for God took him." ([Gen 5:23-24 NKJV](#))

Jude counts Adam as the first person even though Enoch is the sixth descendant from Adam (Adam, Seth, Enosh, Cainan, Mahalalel, Jared, Enoch).

Obviously, the second-century church was aware of the Book of Enoch, but then it was lost for several centuries except for a few fragments. However, in 1773, a complete copy was found in the Ethiopic Bible.

Jude's writing vindicates the ways of divine providence. He details the judgment reserved for sinners, and he reminds us that even this sinful world must one day answer to God. At the Flood, God sent rain, but in the final judgment, He will send His Son to judge the world by fire.

The Apostle Peter writes this about the Second Coming of Christ. He says, "Knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of creation." (2Pe 3:3-4 NKJV)

## **I. UNGODLY WORDS AND WORKS**

In verse 15, Jude explains the purpose of Christ's Second Coming, "to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him." (Jude 1:15 NKJV)

The Amplified Bible says, "To execute judgment upon all and to convict all the impious (unholy ones) of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed [in such an] ungodly [way], and of all the severe (abusive, jarring) things which ungodly sinners have spoken against God.

So what is Jude's purpose? - To warn the Church that God will execute judgment and justice upon all people. No one will be immune to Christ's judgment. Just as the Flood destroyed all those who were outside the Ark, those outside of Christ will perish in the final judgment. One question to ask yourself is, "Am I safe in the "Ark" of Christ? Or, will the judgment of God consume you. No one outside the "Ark" will escape God's final judgment! No escape! No second chances! No exceptions! The Apostle Paul says, "At one time, we were all ungodly and in danger of facing this judgment, but praise God while we were still helpless, at the right time, Christ died for the ungodly." (Romans 5:6)

In John 5, Jesus said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life." (John 5:24 NKJV)

Peter links ungodliness with judgment and gives two historical examples and one that is yet future. Historically he says, "(God) did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, *one of eight people*, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into

ashes, condemned *them* to destruction, making *them* an example to those who afterward would live ungodly;" (2Pe 2:5-6 NKJV)

Prophetically he writes, "But the heavens and the earth *which* are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men." (2Pe 3:7 NKJV)

When Jude uses the phrase "to convict," he means to bring to light, to reveal hidden things, to expose. To convict involves more than just submitting evidence; it also consists of refuting the arguments of the guilty. No one will have a rebuttal to the evidence presented by the Righteous Judge who will establish their guilt beyond all doubt, to their own shame.

According to Jude, the way you live does matter! Why?

## II. DIVINE JUDGMENT AND JUSTICE

Because God is a God of Justice and Judgment.

All those who are ungodly will soon face the Righteous Judge. The eternal sentencing will be handed down with no appeal process because there is no higher court than God's. God's judgment will be final and mean banishment forever from the presence of God for all sinners who refused God's grace.

For those who want nothing to do with God, will get their wish for eternity. Eternal separation from all that is good is the reward for all the ungodly. James writes that "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning." (Jas 1:17 NKJV)

Those who have turned their back on God have nothing but contempt for God and His holy ways. They manifest their irreverence and impiety by their sacrilegious words and works. Their ungodly deeds are the product of their distorted view of God. And there is nothing that restrains their irreverence. The Apostle Paul tells Timothy, "But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!" (2Ti 3:1-5 NKJV)

Malachi gives us an example of harsh things spoken against God. In Chapter 3, God says, "Your words have been harsh against Me," Says the LORD, Yet you say, 'What have we spoken against You?' You have said, 'It is useless to serve God; What profit *is it* that we have kept His ordinance, And that we have walked as mourners Before the LORD of hosts? So now we call the proud blessed, For those who do wickedness are raised up; They even tempt God and go free.'" (Mal 3:13-15 NKJV)

The Greek word for harsh doesn't mean hard to understand but hard to accept. William Barclay writes, "The disciples knew quite well that Jesus claimed to be the very life of God come down from heaven, and that no one could live this life or face eternity without submitting to him. This brings us to a truth that re-emerges in every age. Time and again, it is not the intellectual difficulty which keeps people from becoming Christians; it is the height of Christ's moral demand." The real difficulty in Christianity is two-fold. First, it demands an act of surrender to Christ and an acceptance of Jesus as the final authority; and secondly, it demands a moral standard of the highest level.

People refuse to become Christians not because Christianity doesn't make sense, but because accepting Jesus means you must change the way you live! Proverbs 28:14 says, "Happy *is* the man who is always reverent, But he who hardens his heart will fall into calamity. (Pro 28:14 NKJV)

A truly ungodly person lacks any interest in the things of God and lives with an irreverent attitude and lifestyle. The ungodly choose to live as if God does not exist, which they feel justifies having no regard for Him. They can be impious, sinful, immoral, or even downright wicked. William MacDonald says, "These people are ungodly, their deeds are ungodly, the manner in which they perform these deeds is ungodly, and they further manifest their ungodliness by their blasphemies against the Lord."

Sinners continually miss the mark and live in opposition to God's good and acceptable and perfect will. But apostates pervert the ways of God, and they intend to damage the faith of believers. However, God regards those who speak against His people, as speaking against Himself.

What we do with Christ now - determines what He will do with us later.

### **III. GRUMBLERS AND FLATTERERS**

Verse 16 says, "These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling *words*, flattering people to gain an advantage." (Jude 1:16 NKJV)

Those who reject Christ are grumblers or flatterers, while those who are authentic believers are hopeful and joyful. The Living Bible says that false teachers are constant grippers, never satisfied, doing whatever evil they feel like; they are loudmouthed "show-offs," and when they show respect for others, it is only to get something from them in return.

These grumblers always complain about God and blame Him for every disappointment in their life. Nothing ever satisfies them. Spurgeon says, "There is no way to please them. They will pick holes in every preacher's coat, and if the great High Priest himself were here, they would find fault with the color of the stones of his breastplate."

Jude indicates that false teachers are dissatisfied with anything and everything that is not according to their liking. One writer says, "Whenever a person gets out of touch with God, they are likely to begin complaining about something." And when you're out of step with God, you eventually become dissatisfied with everything around you. Before long, you begin to complain about everything. You don't want what you have, and you long for what you don't have. If it's winter, you wish it were summer, and if it's summer, you wish it were winter.

The goal of the ungodly is to turn you into someone like them, a person who complains about everything in life. Ungodly teachers are happy to blame their discontent on God and then resent Him for the moral restrictions He has imposed upon them and upon all humanity. And yet, they still follow after their own lusts. They spend their whole journey through life trying to fulfill their own passionate cravings. Their goal in life is to gratify their own desires. And the tragedy is they only end their life's journey in disaster. They don't even realize that following after their own lusts is the real cause of their discontent. Their lives are ordered by their own sinful desires and cravings, not by the Word of God. The inevitable result is dissatisfaction with what life brings them.

They don't know the meaning of the word "contented." Their lusts are insatiable, drawing them deeper and deeper into perverted and unrestrained behavior that originates from their corrupted, fallen, anti-God sin nature.

James says, "Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren." ([Jas 1:13-16 NKJV](#))

Jude says that these apostates brag loudly about themselves and flatter others to get what they want. The arrogance and great swelling words they use are like getting a supersized meal from a Fast Food Restaurant. Their arrogance is oversized, and their speech is pompous and condescending. The Apostle Peter says, "For when they speak great swelling *words* of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error." ([2Pe 2:18 NKJV](#))

The speech of the false teachers described by Peter and Jude is full of high-sounding words without substance. They hope to ensnare the unwary with immorality as the bait on their hook.

## **Conclusion**

In contrast, God wants you to grow in faith and develop a positive attitude, even in this sinful world. He wants you to keep yourself in the love of Jesus. But Satan knows that if you are a believer, you can make a significant difference in the lives of other people.

Sadly there are accomplished orators who can hold audiences spellbound by their grandiose rhetoric these days. Their developed sound bites and vocabulary attract undiscerning people. What their sermons lack in content, they make up for in a dogmatic, forceful presentation. But when all is said and done, they have said nothing.

False teachers use smooth, flattering words to get attention, but they treat God's honor with contempt. Their speeches are persuasive and seductive. They show warm interest in others, not to help them but to exploit them. They refuse to submit to God or His Word but will endorse teaching that contradicts scripture. Peter conveys the same idea when he says that in their greed, they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep. (2 Pe 2:3)

These false teachers are vocally discontent, sinfully self-centered, extravagantly egotistical, and deceptively flattering. Jude calls his readers to action against these ungodly men and their practices and warns us about those who speak "great swelling words" (Jude 1:16).

People are often moved more by style than by content. According to Paul, the time will come when people will turn away from the truth of sound doctrine and tolerate only those who entertain and make people feel good (2Ti 4:3-4).

We must carefully analyze what we hear in light of the Scriptures. Don't let "idle talkers and deceivers" confuse you. Eloquence is never a substitute for truth. Beware of those who distort and twist God's Word; They entertain and motivate, but call the truth absurd.

The best way to recognize Satan's lies is to focus on God's truth.