

CALL TO ARMS

Jude 1-7



EVERY

Member | Event | Time

NEW MERCIES CHRISTIAN CHURCH | JOHN 4: 28-30

Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, vol. 2
(Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 548–553.

The Enemy

Jude 3–4 (NKJV)

3 Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

4 For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

- They Were Ungodly
- They Were Deceitful
- They Were Enemies Of God's Grace
- They Denied God's Truth
- They Were Ordained To Judgment

The Victory

Jude 5–7

Jude 5–7 (NKJV)

5 But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.

6 And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;

The Victory

Jude 5–7

7 as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

God's Victory

- Like the Apostle Peter, Jude reached back into Old Testament history and gave three examples of God's victory over those who had resisted his authority and turned from the truth.
- Peter referred to the fallen angels, Noah, and Lot and followed the historical order.

2 Peter 2:4–9 (NKJV)

4 For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;

5 and 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;

6 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;

7 and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked **8** (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)—**9** then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,

- He also emphasized God's deliverance of the righteous as well as His judgment of the ungodly.
- Jude, however, did not mention Noah and the Flood, but instead used the nation Israel as his example.
- The point Jude was making is that God judges apostates. Therefore, the false teachers who had crept into the church would also one day be judged.
- Their seeming success would not last; God would have the last word.

Israel

v. 5

- Paul (*1 Cor. 10*) and the author of Hebrews (*Heb. 3–4*) used the experiences of Israel to illustrate important spiritual truths.
- The nation was delivered from Egypt by the power of God and brought to the border of the Promised Land.

Israel

v. 5

- But the people were afraid and did not have the faith to enter in and possess the land (*see Num. 13–14*).
- Moses, Joshua, and Caleb tried to encourage the people to obey God by faith, but the people refused. In fact, the leaders of the tribes even wanted to organize and go back to Egypt, the place of bondage!

- This was rebellion against the will and the Word of God, and God cannot tolerate rebellion.
- As a result, everybody in the camp twenty years and older was destined to die at some time in the next forty years.
- Their unbelief led to their extermination.

- Keep in mind that Jude was using a historical event as an illustration, and we must not press every detail.
- The entire nation was delivered from Egypt, but that does not mean that each individual was personally saved through faith in the Lord.
- The main point of the account is that privileges bring responsibilities, and God cannot lightly pass over the sins of His people.

- If any of Jude's readers dared to follow the false teachers, they too would face the discipline of God.

1 Corinthians 10:12 (NKJV)

Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

The Fallen Angels

v. 6

- We studied this illustration in 2 Peter 2:4, but Jude seems to add a new dimension to it by associating the fall of the angels with the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (*Jude 7, “even as ... in like manner”*).
- Some believe that Jude was teaching not only a revolt of the angels against God, but also an invasion of earth by these fallen angels.

The Fallen Angels

v. 6

- They point to Genesis 6:1–4 and claim that “the sons of God” were fallen angels who assumed human bodies, cohabited with the daughters of men, and produced a race of giants on the earth.
- This was one reason that God sent the Flood.

- The phrases “even as” and “in like manner” in Genesis 6:7 need not be interpreted to say that the angels did what the Sodomites did, namely, “going after strange flesh.”
- Notice the grammatical connections in the verse, and you will get the message: “Even as Sodom and Gomorrah ... in like manner ... are set forth for an example.”

- The angels are an example of God's judgment and so are Sodom and Gomorrah.
- Peter and Jude state clearly that these rebellious angels are chained in darkness and reserved for judgment.

Sodom and Gomorrah

v. 7

Jude 7 (NKJV)

as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

- Both Peter and Jude state that God made these cities an example to warn the ungodly that God does indeed judge sin (*see 2 Peter 2:6*).

2 Peter 2:6 (NKJV)

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;

- When you combine their descriptions, you discover that the citizens of Sodom and Gomorrah (and the other cities involved) were: ungodly, filthy, wicked, unlawful, unjust, and given over to fornication. They did not *occasionally* commit unnatural sexual sins; they indulged in them and gave themselves over to the pursuit of lust.
- The Greek verb is intensive: “to indulge in excessive immorality.” This was their way of life—and death!

- *Strange flesh* means “different flesh.” The bent of their life was constantly downward, indulging in unnatural acts (see Rom. 1:24–27).

Romans 1:24–27 (NKJV)

24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,

25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

26 For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.

27 Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

- These cities were *set forth* by God as an example and warning to ungodly people today.
- The verb *set forth* means “to expose openly to public view.” (*Interestingly enough, the word was used to describe a corpse lying in state!*)
- But the cities of the plain are not *today* in public view. It is generally agreed among archeologists that Sodom and Gomorrah are buried under the southern end of the Dead Sea.
- How, then, do they serve as an example? *In the pages of the Word of God.*

- No one can read Genesis 18–19 without clearly seeing God’s hatred for sin and, at the same time, His patience and willingness to postpone judgment.
- This certainly ties in with Peter’s explanation for God’s seeming delay in fulfilling the promise of Christ’s return.

2 Peter 3:8 (NKJV)

But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

- The sin of Israel was rebellious unbelief.

Hebrews 3:12 (NKJV)

Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God;

- The sin of the angels was rebellion against the throne of God.
- The sin of Sodom and Gomorrah was indulging in unnatural lust.

Unbelief, rebellion against authority, and sensual indulgence were sins characteristic of the false teachers.

- The conclusion is obvious: the apostates will be judged.
- God's soldiers must stay on duty and see to it that these false teachers do not creep into the ranks and start to lead people astray.

1 Timothy 4:16 (NKJV)

Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

We Must Oppose The Enemy

- What can we do practically to oppose the enemy and maintain the purity and unity of the church?
- First, for one thing, we must know the Word of God and have the courage to defend it.
- Every local church ought to be a Bible institute, and every Christian ought to be a Bible student.
- The pulpit needs to declare positive truth as well as denounce error.

Watch and Pray

- Second, we must “watch and pray.”
- The enemy is already here and we dare not go to sleep!
- Spiritual leaders in local congregations need to be alert as people come for baptism and church membership.

Watch and Pray

- The pastor and leaders need to seek the mind of Christ as they appoint people such as Sunday School teachers, Youth Pastors and Workers, and other Church Leaders.
- The congregations must exercise discernment as they select officers.

- Third, congregations and members must be careful where they send their money. “Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the Lord?”

2 Chronicles 19:2 (NKJV)

And Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him, and said to King Jehoshaphat, “Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the LORD? Therefore the wrath of the LORD is upon you.

Maintain A Position Of Biblical Separation

- Finally, we must have the courage to maintain a position of biblical separation from those who deny Christ and the fundamental doctrines of the Word.

Romans 16:17–20 (NKJV)

17 Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.

18 For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.

19 For your obedience has become known to all. Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil.

20 And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

2 Timothy 2:15 (NKJV)

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2 John 6–11 (NKJV)

6 This is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it.

7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

8 Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward.

9 Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.

10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him;

11 for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.

- This does not mean that we separate from fellow believers over minor doctrinal differences, or that we practice “guilt by association.”
- God’s true army needs to stand together in the battle for truth.
- Have you **HEEDED** the call to arms?

- This does not mean that we separate from fellow believers over minor doctrinal differences, or that we practice “guilt by association.”
- God’s true army needs to stand together in the battle for truth.
- Have you **ANSWERED** the call to arms?



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