

McCoy Memorial Baptist Church

Date: **April 19, 2023**

Study: "Meet the Apostates!"

Fall Study: Standing Fast in the Last Days: A Study of 2 Peter, 2 & 3 John, and Jude

### REASON FOR WRITING (Verses 3, 4)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ purpose (3a)  
"Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, . . ."
2. \_\_\_\_\_ purpose (3b)  
"I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints."
3. Reason: \_\_\_\_\_ have \_\_\_\_\_ the church (4)
  - A. They were \_\_\_\_\_ men.
  - B. They were \_\_\_\_\_: "secretly slipped in among you"
  - C. They distorted God's \_\_\_\_\_.
  - D. They denied \_\_\_\_\_ (i.e., somehow they diminished His person & work).
  - E. Their "*condemnation was written about long ago*" (cp. Enoch's prophecy; verses 14-15).
4. How, then, should the church respond to the presence of this insidious enemy?  
The church must ... "contend for (NASB & NKJV "contend earnestly"; Gk: *ἐπαγωνίζομαι epagōnizomai*) the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints." [TM: "I have to write insisting - begging! - that you fight with everything you have in you for this faith entrusted to us as a gift to guard and cherish."]

### EXAMPLES OF \_\_\_\_\_ APOSTATES (Verses 5-7)

Like the apostle Peter, Jude reached back into O.T. history and gave three examples of God's victory over those who had \_\_\_\_\_ his authority and turned from the \_\_\_\_\_. Peter referred to fallen angels, Noah, and Lot (2 Pet. 2:4-9) and followed the historical order. 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 (and is) 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.

1. Unbelieving \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 5). See Numbers 13 & 14.
2. Rebellious \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 6). See 2 Peter 2:4, 9; Genesis 6:1-4.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Sodom and Gomorrah (vs. 7). See Genesis 19.

### DENUNCIATION OF \_\_\_\_\_ APOSTATES (Verses 8-16)

All that Jude wrote about the apostates in these verses may be summarized in three statements.

1. They \_\_\_\_\_ Divine Authority (vss. 8-11)  
Authority comes from the throne of God, whether it's authority in the home, the church, or in the state. Those who exercise authority must first be **under** authority, accountable to God. But the false teachers reject divine authority and set themselves up as their own authority.

Note the \_\_\_\_\_ of these false teachers:

In verse 11, Jude says: "Woe unto them!" Jude cited three examples from the Old Testament too illustrate the enormity of their sins; three men who rebelled against God's authority and who suffered for it.

- A. “They have *taken the way of Cain*” (or, “*traveled on the road of Cain*”).  
Cain rebelled against God’s way of \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen. 4; 1 John 3:11-12).
- B. “They have *rushed for profit into* (or, *gave themselves over to*) Balaam’s error.”  
The “way of Balaam” is merchandising one’s gifts & ministry just for the purpose of making money.  
The false teachers were greedy for material gain and, like Balaam, would do anything for money.
- C. “They *have been destroyed* (or, *perished*) in Korah’s rebellion (see Numbers 16).  
Korah & his followers resented the leadership of Moses and dared God to do nothing about their rebellion. In speaking against Moses, they were speaking against the Lord.

2. They Resort to Deliberate \_\_\_\_\_ (vss. 12-13, 16)

*Verses 12 & 13 present six vivid pictures/metaphors of the false teachers and help explain why they are dangerous to the church.*

- A. \_\_\_\_\_ at your love feasts.
- B. Shepherds who feed \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. \_\_\_\_\_ without \_\_\_\_\_.
- D. \_\_\_\_\_ trees. They are *fruitless* and *rootless*—twice dead.
- E. Wild (raging) \_\_\_\_\_ (cp. Isaiah 57:20).
- F. \_\_\_\_\_ stars. “Wandering” translates the adjective: **πλανήτης** *planētes*.

*Verse 16 explains their approach.*

- A. They are grumblers and faultfinders.
- B. They follow their own evil desires.
- C. They boast about themselves (or, use “great swelling words”).
- D. They also use \_\_\_\_\_ to manipulate their listeners.

3. They Receive their Due \_\_\_\_\_ (vss. 14-15).

All we know about Enoch fr. Scripture is found in Gen. 5:18-24; Heb. 11:5; & these two verses in Jude. Enoch “walked with God” and served as a prophet in a society that was rapidly being polluted and destroyed by sin.

- A. It is possible that he was also referring to the coming judgment of the \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. However, the final application of this prophecy is to the world in the end times, the very judgment Peter wrote about in 2 Peter 3; namely, the “Day of the LORD”.
- C. What does Enoch’s prophecy say about the coming judgment?
  - 1) It will be a \_\_\_\_\_ judgment: God Himself will come to judge the world.
  - 2) It will be a \_\_\_\_\_ judgment: Note “everyone” and “all” (3x).
  - 3) It will be a \_\_\_\_\_ judgment. The entire procedure will be just, for the righteous Son of God will be in charge. See John 5:22-23; Rev. 16:4-7 (cp. 6:9-11).
  - 4) God has a perfect record of “\_\_\_\_\_” their ungodly \_\_\_\_\_ and their harsh \_\_\_\_\_.