

Series: The Gift of the Holy Spirit

Jude Part One

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Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.



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What's going on in the visible church? Is what's happening today all that new? Should we then be surprised or should we be discerning and wise about the difference between unbelievers and believers? To be forewarned is to be forearmed.

The scene was bad. A group of licentious people with erroneous dogma had crept into the visible church. They were corrupting folks by their teachings and practice. So Jude speaks out under the superintending influence of the Holy Spirit with an appeal and warnings.

NKJ Jude 1:1-4

¹ Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ:

² Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

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.

Jude is the half-brother of Jesus. He describes himself as a bondservant of Jesus Christ, referring to an overarching abstract idea of one who gives himself up to another's **will**, one who is devoted to the interests of another, one having a relative disregard of one's own interests, one whose service is used by Christ in extending and advancing His cause among men. Implied is self-sacrifice.

Jude writes "To the ones who were not only once but continue to be the objects of love by God the Father and to the ones who continue to be kept safe from harm by Jesus Christ-'called ones;'" (Rev. Jim Craig)

"We are blessed ones who before the beginning of creation, were God-loved and continued to be so, moreover He provided us with a Mediator who also in a continuous and positive way- guards over us, watches over us, pays attention to us, and maintains us in that wonderful blessed state to which He called us, in terms of relationship to God, to which we have been brought in Christ "by" the love of our Father.

Then at the very end of the sentence, the whole big idea of this is summarized into a single profound term that serves to identify us, and that echoes its blessing throughout time eternal: we are "called ones," and we are among the number of those who were the intended readers of this epistle written by Jude." (Rev. Jim Craig)

Jude had a strong compulsion to write to those holding a common salvation with him and sends to his intended hearers mercy, or compassion; peace, and agape love as he strongly exhorts them to contend for the faith. Jude wants them to struggle and exert

great effort on behalf of something very close to them, their salvation. He wants them to be courageous.

It's necessary, Jude says, because he's talking about "**the holy faith**, specifically referring to the body of truth from God handed over to faithful ones, the Christian apostolic tradition that is normative for the true people of God." (Rev. Jim Craig)

Certain (unnamed) men had slipped in alongside of others, unnoticed, ones about whom it has been written in God's book of judgment long beforehand, and about whom we have presently come to have knowledge of, for the purpose of entering into the condemnation, the ones who are distorting the grace of our God into indecent sensuality, even the one Master God and Lord of us Jesus Christ, while to their own detriment- denying.

The Holy Spirit, remember, is the Paraclete, who comes alongside guiding us into truth, guarding us, and granting us all things necessary for life in Christ. So we're talking about a counterfeit, another wisdom, sensual and earthy and demonic. Cf. James 3:15. These influencers who were into whoredoms and error distorted the grace of God, encouraged perversions, lewdness, and denial of the truth. They bring condemnation upon themselves as they seek to upend the Holy Spirit as Change Agent.

Jude 1:5-7

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;

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.

Just like the runaway angels, these doing evil were giving themselves over to indulge in excessive sexual immorality and determined to go after flesh of an unnatural kind (against the course of nature). This behavior is growing in the world today, unfettered and promoted. What used to be a crime is today a "civil right." We see how subjective truth is out to void objective truth.

Three Historical Witnesses

[Entities 1] Rebellious of Israel	[Witness 1] parceled punishment, sword, plague, swallowing pit, consuming fire
[Entities 2] Rebellious of angels	[Witness 2] parceled punishment reserved for eternal fire
[Entities 3] Rebellious inhabitants of cities	[Witness 3] consumed by fire, smoking, empty ruins

All three witnesses in Jude agree word for word; three warning examples, three contrasting comparisons of membership of the saved people with the membership of the condemned, putting the one teaching in three short parabolic sayings and illustrations in this manner is very powerful and impressive device used by Jude. (Rev. Jim Craig)

NKJ Jude 1:8

Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries.

These dreamers [and dream sellers] defile the flesh, an ungodly deed. They reject authority, an ungodly attitude, or manner. They speak evil of dignitaries, ungodly speech.

The apostle appeals by way of warning to terrible instances of judgment recorded in Scripture. He brings it up again in Jude 1:14, 15:

NKJ Jude 1:14-15

Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, "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."

Let's listen to Rev. Jim Craig's comments here.

Dreamers- One possibility is that they relied on their dreams, and by trusting in them for guidance, they were easily led astray.

This is the same as following subjective experiences that have not been tested whether from God or otherwise. Failing to make such tests often leads many into disobeying God's written Word.

Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries.

Of dignitaries- The implication that this is a reference to leaders in the church or community needs to be taken up a notch or a hundred.

The Greek word is "glorious ones," and refers in this context to angelic beings in the abstract; that is, glorious entities in heaven in general, including angels, the Godhead Trinity, and God's heavenly consul.

According to a highly capable commentator on this Epistle, Joseph Mayor, the immediate reference is to angelic beings, whom these false teachers had been blaspheming directly; and by doing so were blaspheming God indirectly; because they had been perpetrating the false doctrine that the angels had created the world, and that, in opposition to the will of the true God.

The following verses then point out the brazenness of these blaspheming spiritual spies who were active at both defiling the physical and the spiritual authority of God's consecrated order on earth.

So, here is a comprehensive translation of Jude verse 8.

COMPREHENSIVE **Jude 1:8**

In the same manner [CH-amazingly], in spite of the common knowledge that they knew about the fate of the three groups just mentioned, these dreaming-like characters acting in their own self-interest [middle], seemingly oblivious to God's truth, on one hand, are continually defiling flesh in the abstract and in its various forms, and on the other hand, they habitually despise lordship authority in the abstract and in its various forms, and furthermore they press on in their blasphemy, speaking evil things about angelic beings in the abstract, including glorious entities of heaven and the glory of the true God.

NKJ Jude 1:9: Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses [ref.], dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!" Cf. Deuteronomy 34:5, 6; Zechariah 3:1, 2.

NKJ Jude 1:10, 11

But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves. Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

Here we have another three-fold witness to unrighteousness, that of greed. Greed is the unifying motivational factor among these three biblical examples used by Jude in verse 11.

In a biblical sense, greed is defined by or characterized by one's dissatisfaction with the place they occupied, and so they each engaged in rebellion against God in their individual ways, greedily seeking selfish gain at any cost.

The war-cry of the greedy might be, "Hey, that's not fair!" or "That should be mine instead?" (Rev. Jim Craig)

Jude 1:12-13

These are

(1) spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving *only* themselves.

They are

(2) clouds without water, carried about by the winds;

(3) late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots;

(4) raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame;

(5) wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever, readily seeking selfish gain at any cost.

May we take heed of what Jude is telling us through the superintending influence of the Holy Spirit and live accordingly by the power of the Holy Spirit with the mind of Christ in order to do the will of the Father. Amen.

Doxology

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior,

through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time. [or before any age], and now and forever. Amen. Jude 24, 25 ESV

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