

Jude 5-7

Warnings From History

Jude 1-4

- Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James,
- To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ:
- May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.
- Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord Jesus Christ.

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Jude 5

- Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus, who saved a people out of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.
 - The “Pre-incarnate Christ.”
 - But here it talks about Jesus--the name given to the God-man after his birth.
 - **Salvation: Exodus 13:18a, 21-22** But God led the people around by the way of the wilderness toward the Red Sea.... And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night. The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from the before the people.

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- Destruction: Numbers 14:20-23
- Following the report of the spies from the Promised Land that the Israelites would not be able to conquer it as God had promised.
- Then the LORD said, “I have pardoned, according to your word. But truly as I live, and as all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD, none of the men who have seen my glory and my signs that I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and yet have put me to the test these ten times and have not obeyed my voice, shall see the land that I swore to give to their fathers. And none of those who despised me shall see it.”

Jude 6

- And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day--
 - Without getting into too much “Angelology,” the point here is that if the disobedient/ unbelieving of Old Testament Israel--the very people God rescued from Egypt, who saw his glory on Sinai-- were punished with failing to reach the Promised Land
 - And even angels--the heavenly host-- are punished eternally.
 - Concerning the judgment of angels: I Corinthians 6:2-3--Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases? Do you not know that we are to judge angels?
 - With that being said, how much more is the possibility of punishment for anonymous Christians who give in to those who “pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.”

Jude 7

- --just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.
 - The “Four Views of Hell.”
 - Literal fire.
 - Figurative for punishment.
 - Annihilation.
 - Purgatory.
 - The “sexual immorality” practiced by Sodom and Gomorrah was homosexual in nature.
 - Homosexual practice is used in Romans as proof that humans act in unnatural ways when they forget God.

Romans 1:18-27

- For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteous men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.
- Paul is teaching that even non-Jews are required, by God's "Natural Revelation" to adhere to ethical and moral standards, and a level of faith that acknowledges him as the all-powerful creator.
- What you do NOT get in "Natural Revelation" is God's grace or the Gospel of Christ.
- Obedience to the "Natural Revelation" is not enough to save; disobedience to "Natural Revelation" is enough to condemn.

Romans 1:18-27

- For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.
- The downward spiral begins with idol worship.
- Or, more accurately, worship of the various elements of the creation instead of the creator.

Romans 1:18-27

- Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.
- God did not step in to intervene.
- Idolatry (vertical relationship) spills over into relationships with other people (horizontal).
- Paul reminds us: the bad behavior stems from having a bad God.

Romans 1:18-27

- For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.
 - Homosexual practice and desire is the natural outcome of idolatry.
 - So what about Christians who struggle with same-sex attraction?

Romans 1:28-31

- And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not be done.
 - God does not step in.
 - And the downward spiral continues...
- They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless.

Jude 3

- Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.
 - God has broken in to stop the “downward spiral.”
 - The Gospel!
 - We have good news for people who are trapped in the downward spiral of sin (which Paul goes on to say is everybody).
- 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 and now and forever. Amen.