

# Contend Earnestly For the Faith Which Was Once For All Handed Down to the Saints

## An Expositional Study of the **Epistle of Jude**

### Chapter 13- The Prophecy of Enoch **Jude 14-15**

### 153 The Prophecy of Enoch Part 7

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WOSM Friday 06/06/08

Welcome again my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the **Epistle of Jude** and today I want to continue to look at what Jude taught about "The Prophecy of Enoch" So let's open our Bibles and read **Jude 14 & 15** again together:

**14** *It was also about these men that Enoch, in the seventh generation from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord came with many thousands of His holy ones,*

**15** *to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."*

Now as we read these verses, we think about our own faults and failures, and we tremble- knowing that each one of us deserves the wrath of God to be poured out from heaven against our sinfulness. But thanks be to God, Who has not given us what we deserve, but has marvelously redeemed us by a Sovereign act of His own Grace and Mercy. Therefore- those of us who are saved- we rejoice- having full assurance that the wrath that Jude speaks about in these verses is for the ungodly- those who have not repented; those who have not been washed and born again; and those who have not experienced the miracle of the new birth.

And we also rejoice because although we are sinners saved by this Grace- we desire the Truth; we do not desire to pervert the right way of the Lord; that although we fail many times- we have within us the new nature that is created in righteousness and true holiness, and we have been marvelously transformed and we desire to do God's Will in the earth.

The heretics are not so. They rush headlong into error on top of error, and they do what they do and then seek God to approve it. But God will not play their game and so here in verse 15, Jude describes for us the ultimate end of the heretics. We try to reason with them- but they will not repent. Jude tells us in verse 4 that these ungodly men were ordained to this condemnation. So here, Jude gives us the sad and terrifying ultimate end for all heresy and all heretics.

The ultimate end of all lies and all those who spread them is eternal death. The ultimate end of all apostates and the false teachings that they spread is eternal death. This is the ultimate end of those certain men whom Jude says creep into the Church to deceive the simple and the unsaved.

I want you to notice certain things about Enoch's prophecy here. First of all, the eternal damnation of the deceivers is an ancient judgment. Enoch prophesied about it. Noah preached about it. Even the sentence of death in the Garden of Eden foretold it and all of the faithful ministers of the Lord have always spoken about it's terror for 6,000 years of recorded history.

Many, many passages from Moses' writings are concerned with this time of eternal damnation such as **Deuteronomy 32**. King David also spoke often about this frightening day. Look at **Psalms 50:22**:

**Now consider this, you who forget God, Or I will tear *you* in pieces, and there will be none to deliver.**

In a similar way, Solomon says in **Ecclesiastes 11:9**:

**Rejoice, young man, during your childhood, and let your heart be pleasant during the days of young manhood. And follow the impulses of your heart and the desires of your eyes. Yet know that God will bring you to judgment for all these things.**

It is unnecessary to do this, but I could give many, many more examples about the certainty of eternal damnation of the lost in Daniel, Job, Malachi, the Gospels, and the inspired writings of Paul, Peter and the beloved disciple- John.

The ancient judgments of flooding the world and the annihilation of Sodom were types and forerunners of this judgment that Jude describes here in verse 15. And so, the reality of the

assurance of God's wrath and indignation being poured out from heaven against all sin especially in those who purposely try to deceive is without question. You would think that this issue would be settled forever in our hearts and minds.

Yet today, we have a very serious controversy raging about whether salvation actually means that we change and bear fruit or does it simply mean a change in heart with no transformation of behavior.

Today, many live carelessly in riotous living which is clearly condemned in Scripture- yet because they prayed a prayer at one point in their life; because they walked an aisle; because they shook hands with the preacher; because they were baptized; they feel as though somehow they are exempt from this frightening day of God's judgment- even though they continue to live in unrepented sin.

How did we get so confused about something so clear? Bad Doctrine. How could we possibly be unaware of the certainty of eternal damnation that is so clearly pictured here in verse 15 of Jude and many other places? False teaching. How could the Church of Jesus Christ ever get to a place where the preaching of God's wrath against the ungodly would be deemed to be hard; mean spirited; unloving; and even unchristian? Because we live in the day that Paul prophesied about and few people can endure Sound Doctrine, but they want to be told that everything is okay even if it isn't okay and they want to believe a lie even when it is so clear that it is a lie.

What is the answer? To push past the barriers that tell you to stop and go ahead and dare to preach the Truth- the unvarnished; unpopular Gospel truth that God is going to pour out eternal wrath and judgment against all the ungodly for all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed and of all the hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against the Lord.

Only by proclaiming Truth can those who have an ear ever hope to hear and only by hearing Truth can those who have been chosen ever hope to repent and only by repenting can those who have been predestinated ever hope to be saved. So, the holding back of Truth because it is unpopular is to damn souls to hell. If we really love the lost- we will tell them that they are lost so that they will never be deceived into thinking that sin doesn't matter to God or that the

transformation that occurs when a person gets saved is no different than changing your socks.

Those who love Truth love to speak of God's Mercy and God's Love and God's tenderness and the wonder of God's forgiveness. Those who love Truth love to speak of God's ability to save to the uttermost and God's power in changing the human heart and blessing His own people. Those who love Truth spend much time in discussion about wonderful things; glorious things and things that are thrilling and beautiful and that bring forth Life. But those who love Truth do not stop there. Those who really love Truth also speak about this. They speak about God's eternal wrath and God's judgment and God's eternal vengeance that is sure to come to those who do not repent.

That is what is meant by the term, "The Whole Counsel of God." We cannot choose the good things about God; the pleasant things; the happy and lovely things and never talk about this. That makes us unbalanced and unfaithful to Scripture. Because we are human, we must constantly remind ourselves of how serious God is about this issue.

Because we tend to forget; because we are like the children of Israel who only took ten days to build a golden calf after being set free from 400 years of slavery- because we too have hearts like that- we have a great need to be reminded of this issue, and Jude does that here and all good ministers do it often.

So, we need to welcome this teaching with open arms. Why? Can a man understand the details of God's punishment of the ungodly and then go wallow in sin? Not likely. God designed eternal judgment in such a way that it troubles all of us so profoundly- that it modifies our behavior. That is because our actions are the best expressions of our hearts. Jesus said in **Matthew 15:18** that what comes out of our mouths are a reflection of what is in our hearts and how we live tells us how much we believe the Truth about eternal damnation.

The Apostle Peter said in **2Peter 3:3** that in the last days, there will be scoffers who would mock the teaching of the second coming with the wrath of God. The word, "scoff," comes from the Hebrew word, *qalac*, which means: *to deride or to make fun or light of*. When anyone is making fun of the fear of eternal damnation- that person is foolish. And when anyone mocks the teaching of hell as though it is no longer important; or no longer relevant; or that it no longer applies;

or that it makes people sad; or that it is the wrong approach to use in preaching to our modern culture- these people are second guessing God and they are trying to change the way the Bible instructs us to preach the Gospel and they are scoffing at the historical method of presenting Salvation to the lost.

Not only has the absence of the concept of hell in our modern Church, caused us to under appreciate Grace and Mercy—but it also give sinners the wrong view about their lostness and about how serious God is about judging sin.

This wrong approach to eternity has devalued things like repentance and self sacrifice that certainly cannot buy our salvation- but which are valid expectations that God has of those who are already saved by Grace.

There may be some atheists in our modern culture- but there are no atheists in hell. Everyone who burns in the lake of fire is a believer. They believe that Jesus is the Son of God; they believe that sin is real bad; they believe that Heaven is marvelous; they believe the Bible is true and that satan is a liar and that deception is horrible. These souls believe with all their heart that every preacher and teacher should talk about the terror of eternal damnation much more than we do.

Jude tells us that Enoch prophesied of the last day judgment. He walked with God and pleased God and saw eternal wrath against the ungodly afar off. From this truth, we can discern that the people who have the closest communion with God understand His Mind the best. If a person walks humbly and closely with God- he is near not only to the Root of all Life- but also, he is nearest to the Fountain of true Light.

David said in **Psalms 25:14:**

**The secret of the LORD is for those who fear Him, And He will make them know His covenant.**

Pure souls, humble souls; tender hearted souls are the easiest to enlighten. What makes the souls of man tender? What causes the hardness of man to become pliable? What brings forth humility from arrogance and pride? The fear of the Lord. The fear of the Lord about what? The knowledge that since God is Sovereign and since God is holy and since He is holy and Sovereign and Righteous all the time

and since we are wicked in our hearts- God would be perfectly just in condemning every soul on earth to an eternal hell right now and yet in His Mercy and by His Grace through the vehicle of Faith alone- without any human involvement or works- we have been delivered out of darkness and into His marvelous Light and we have been spared what we so deserved and we have been set free from an eternity in hell- that knowledge of our helpless estate; that understanding of how easy it would have been for God to have chosen a rock instead of us; the comprehension of how deserving we were of going to hell and how sure and certain and terrible hell is- that fear; that holy fear; that reverential fear breaks the staff of our pride and humbles the hardest man and causes us to be tender and kind and merciful and oh so grateful.

That fear keeps us- it even motivates us to speak to every man about his soul. That fear moves us to walk circumspectly before our God and to obey His Word and to keep His commandments and to love the brethren and to forgive so easy- because this fear brings to our remembrance how much God has forgiven us. And this wonderful fear makes us appreciate and correctly value the truth and this is why we all need to earnestly contend for the faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints. Well, I've got to stop right here. But please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our Journey through the Epistle of **Jude**. May God help us all.

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