

# 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**

### 150 The Prophecy of Enoch Part 4

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WOSM Tuesday 06/03/08

Welcome again my beloved in Jesus Christ. We are continuing our verse by verse study of the **Epistle of Jude** and we have now come to a very fascinating place in Jude where we will examine the prophecy of Enoch. So, let's read **Jude 14 & 15** together:

**14 And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,**

**15 To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.**

Now these two verses show us in vivid detail of just how serious God is about judging those who bring in and teach false doctrine into the Church of Jesus Christ. I can only pray that we all begin to be as serious about this as God is. Now in verse 14, when Jude uses the word, "**these**", in connection with the terrible judgment of God- he is referring to the very *same* people that he has been talking about in this entire Book. Jude is not speaking here of the general judgment of those who are not saved. And Jude is not even talking here about sinners in general. No, Jude is speaking about God's wrath being poured out against a very specific group of people. Let's review what we have learned so far about just who these people are.

In verse 4, Jude introduces us to these people. He calls these people, "**certain men.**" Now this reference that Jude makes here to these "**certain men**" is so that we are aware about whom Jude is speaking. Jude tells us in verse 4:

**For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.**

So we can see that the people that Jude is talking about receiving eternal damnation from God are men who have “**crept in**”; men who have snuck in; men who have come into the Church under false pretenses and who have come into the Church- not to serve God; they have not come in so that they may become part of the Body of Jesus Christ- no, these men had an ulterior motive in mind- these men came into the Church to destroy it.

How did they plan to destroy the Christian Church? By an invading army? No,. By swords and spears? No. By bombs and tanks? No. These men crept into the Church like the snakes that they are so that they could poison the people of God with False Doctrine; detestable teachings and heresy so that they could deceive those in the Church of Jesus Christ.

All throughout verses 5- 13, Jude goes into great detail to describe not only what these men teach- but also gives us a clear picture of the internal corruption of these heretics. And I have spent the last 6 months going over these verses slowly, in great detail so that you can have a clear picture of what we are up against. If you missed any of these teachings- call or write to me and I will get you a copy.

The Holy Spirit inspired Jude to define this battle as a spiritual battle for the hearts and minds and souls of God’s people. It is battle that has been raging for well over 2,000 years and it is a battle that will continue to rage until Jesus returns. It is a long protracted war against the Truth. And only by being ever vigilant in this struggle will we maintain our Church.

As I have told you many, many times during these broadcasts, the reason that this battle for the Truth is difficult is because so many today in the Church are asleep at the wheel and are not even aware that we are in a gigantic struggle for the soul of the Church.

Because Sound Doctrine has been moved to the backburner in most people’s minds- we pay little attention to those who seek to pervert the right way of the Lord. And all of this is a sign that we are

living in the last days. Paul warned us that this time was coming to the Church in **2 Timothy 4:1-5**:

**1 I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;**

**2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.**

**3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;**

**4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.**

**5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.**

We live in that time today when more and more people want to be entertained; they want to engage in soft, shallow, easy conversation about earthly subjects which makes no demands on their lives. They do not enjoy deep, serious discussions of eternal matters because they are addicted to the pleasures of this world. Line upon line; precept upon precept Bible Studies are almost non-existent today as we are literally entertaining ourselves to death. Meanwhile- the Cults and the false religions are growing by leaps and bounds all around us.

As I speak to people all over the country their speech is the same. Today, to the average Church member- Doctrine is dry and dull and boring. They simply see no benefit in studying Scripture and uncovering inspired and infallible and inerrant Divine Truth. They will read a book about the Bible all day long- but not the Bible itself. They will be happy to watch Christian videos; go to concerts or other Church functions; but fewer and fewer people have any desire at all to learn objective propositional Truth from the pages of Scripture.

And this problem has been going on for so long now that very few Churches today even have any ministers on staff that know and understand Christian Doctrine and Christian thought and Christian History. So, the very same mistakes; the very same false teachings; the very same bad interpretations; the very same heresies that the

Church stumbled over and engaged in and fought and hashed out and won for over 1900 years has been lost to the current generation- so we are ill prepared to ward off the invasion of these “sleeper cells” of spiritual “terrorists” who are planted inside the Church right now.

A secular philosopher said something one time and although he wasn't a Christian- what he said is true. He said, “*Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it.*” We are doing that now.

Today we have over 2,700 different Protestant denominations- all competing against each other for the souls of men. What do you think is the difference between all these groups? Doctrine. They are divided over Doctrine.

Because of this mass confusion- some today are calling for a complete end to all Doctrine. They incorrectly reason among themselves that since Doctrine has divided people- Doctrine must be bad and therefore we don't need Doctrine. That is faulty logic, and it simply won't work.

Please hear me when I say this- Doctrine is not the problem with the modern Church- dear friends- *bad* Doctrine is the problem; *false* Doctrine; *man-made* Doctrine is the problem. Sound Biblical Doctrine is the answer to our shattered and splintered Church. It is precisely because men will not humble themselves to what the Bible actually says that has caused the division- not Divine Truth. It is precisely because Sound Biblical Truth has not been taught in many Churches for well over 100 years that we have all the shenanigans going on today in the Name of the Lord.

It is when people are unwilling to submit to the authority of Scripture that we run into divisions. If everyone would bow their knees to God's Truth- there would not be any divisions in the Church, but a growing number of people today refuse to accept Truth when it smacks them in the face.

So, in order to have *real* and *lasting* unity- we must clearly define; and correctly interpret what the Bible says and what the Bible teaches and then submit to *that*, and we would have wonderful and glorious unity. But we can't throw Doctrine away, dear friends, because Doctrine defines who we are and what we believe. Doctrine tells us Who Jesus is and how to be saved and What sin is and how to organize and set up the Church. Doctrine defines for us what the

qualifications are for leadership in the House of God and how to worship God and Who God is. So we cannot eliminate Doctrine- we just must make sure that our Doctrine is Scriptural.

So, in reality in the frivolous days that we are living in- we need *more* Doctrine- not less; we need more Divine Truth- not less. We just need to make sure that the Doctrine that we have is Sound and that it is Biblical and that it is accurate. So we need more Bible study; we need more teaching about how to correctly interpret Scripture and how to understand difficult passages; and how to comprehend language difficulties and how to put all the pieces together.

We need to look backward at 2,000 years of Church history and examine how the Church has fought and defended and struggled over issues of Doctrine and Theology so that we may learn from their mistakes and so that we may glean from their wisdom, and we may adopt what they did correctly.

But this is massive undertaking. It is a long, protracted struggle. It is a long war for the Truth if we are to rightly and fully understand what God has said in His Book. And the only way that we are going to be willing to invest the time and money and energy to do this is if we value Truth enough and if we see the attack against the Truth to be a real and a serious threat. If we do not love Truth; if Sound Doctrine is not important to us; If the Desire to see the Church strong and healthy and obedient to her Head- Jesus Christ is not present in our hearts and minds- then we will not do what it takes to be strong and healthy and vibrant.

We also will not expend the energy and the effort and the time and the money and we will not be willing to struggle about this if we do not perceive the attempts at changing the Gospel; altering the Gospel; whitewashing the Gospel to be a real and serious attack against Christianity itself.

When people become more interested in what Wal-Mart is selling than what God is saying in Scripture- then we have a problem, Houston. When people are more concerned about what some liberal is saying in Washington than what Jesus Christ is speaking from Heaven – then the Church is in trouble.

These social issues are important- please don't misunderstand me- but they are not more important than the integrity and the purity of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. But it is easier to join a movement than

it is to search the Scriptures. It is easier to vote for the right man than it is to study the Bible. It is easier to join the right organization or to promote the right federal judge than it is to make sure that what we believe is Scriptural. And it might be easier- but it isn't more important.

Jesus and Peter and Paul James and Jude all knew that Truth would come under attack and so it is. They all told us in no uncertain terms that as we evangelize, as we preach, and as we pray, and as we go about doing the business of the Lord- we must guard against these certain men who will creep into the Church to change Truth into a lie and alter the way we view everything that is right and good and holy and pure.

So, for over 1900 years, the Church did that- they waged war against heresy and against false teaching and against apostasy. But over the last 100 years or so- we seem to have become tired of the fight. We have become weary of well doing. And the result is that we have become ignorant of our historical battles, and we have become unwilling to say and do and teach things that are unpopular- even if they are true.

The Bible is filled with accounts of men of God who were very unpopular but who were faithful to God. They didn't have large crowds to listen to them- the people didn't want to hear what these men had to say- but they were right, and God was with them, and they were faithful. Their heart was broken over the sins of God's people; they wept; they were persecuted; they were laughed at; they were called mean spirited; they were called hard; they were rejected; they were cast out- but God was with them, and they remained faithful to the end.

I tell you that God is serious about this and in verses 14 & 15 of Jude we see an example of what is going to happen to those who try to change the Truth into something more appealing to the carnal flesh of man. It is a serious and somber thought and one that we should take to heart and make sure that what we believe and what we teach is not the invention of Man but is from the Mouth and Mind and Heart of Almighty God. And this is why we all need to earnestly contend for the Faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints. May God help us all.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.