

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

An Expository Study of the **Epistle of Jude**

Chapter 7- The Profile of the Heretics **Jude 5-7**

86. The Profile of the Heretics Part 2

WOSM Wednesday 03/05/08

Welcome again my brothers and sisters in Christ. We are continuing our verse by verse study of the Epistle of **Jude** and today I want to go into the next part of our study of the Epistle of Jude by looking at the profile of the heretics- so let's read verses 5-7 together:

5 Now I desire to remind you, though you know all things once for all, that the Lord, after saving a people out of the land of Egypt, subsequently destroyed those who did not believe.

6 And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day,

7 just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.

Now as we discussed on the last broadcast- here in verse 5- Jude wants to put us in remembrance of the Judgment of God against the heretics- although he says that we should already know it. Now here in verses 5-7, Jude gives us a profile of what the heretics look like by comparing them with three Old Testament groups:

- ✓ Apostate Israelites
- ✓ Apostate Angels
- ✓ Apostate Gentiles

In these three verses, Jude is confirming to us what the Apostle Peter said was coming to the Church. Let's read **2Peter 2:1-10**:

1 But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.

2 Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned;

3 and in *their* greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment;

5 and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;

6 and *if* He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing *them* to ashes, having made them an example to those who would live ungodly *lives* thereafter;

7 and *if* He rescued righteous Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men

8 (for by what he saw and heard *that* righteous man, while living among them, felt *his* righteous soul tormented day after day by *their* lawless deeds),

9 *then* the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment,

10 and especially those who indulge the flesh in *its* corrupt desires and despise authority. Daring, self-willed, they do not tremble when they revile angelic majesties,

Now these verses tell us a great deal about the heretics that creep into the Church to spread their false teachings. False prophets; false teachers; or heretics always view themselves as their own masters. Therefore, they refuse to honestly acknowledge the Sovereign Lordship of Jesus Christ. They will not submit to Jesus as Divine Master or Lord, nor will they give Him the honor and glory that He so richly deserves.

These apostates have no spiritual credibility from God because they do not teach or preach the Truth- so because of that- they must invent their *own* credibility through a series of fantastic claims of spiritual experiences that are designed to alter the way that people view them. So it is common among the false teachers for them to talk

about how they have a unique or a special insight into God that no one else has; or that God speaks to them personally; or that they see visions or have dreams; or that they are in regular communication with angels. They say these things in order to validate themselves in the hearts and minds of the people that they want to deceive.

False prophets claim special powers to bless or heal or bring financial well being to those who listen to that they teach. I recently received a brochure from one of these snake oil salesmen. This nationally known heretic promoted a special sale on the Power of the Holy Ghost. If I would send his ministry \$33.33, this man promises me that he will give me a special anointing from God. If I would send in \$66.66, he promises that I would have a “double anointing” and if I would really reach out by faith and quickly mail him \$99.99, he promises me that I will receive a “triple anointing” and that I would get a raise on my job and a new car- all within 12 months!

I tell you, it is enough to break your heart. I really don't understand how people like this can go to sleep at night- knowing that they have deceived the simple and have stolen from God's people. Every time someone thinks that I am blowing all of this out of proportion; or that I am too hard on these evil men- I show them this brochure.

For literally centuries- people have misused their position in the Lord to take advantage of others and Jude says that they are ungodly men. So what we need to know is that the more elaborate the ceremony; the more colorful the robes; the more intricate the rituals; the more difficult the ceremonies; the more involved the services; the more fantastic the promises; the more detailed the visions- the less *real* spiritual and the less genuine credibility these people have.

Those of us who minister in the Word have one single claim to any credibility and that one single claim is how accurate and how faithful and how consistent and how reliable we are to what the Word of God actually says. We have no other claim to any spiritual credibility than that. The personality of the preacher doesn't mean anything to God and shouldn't mean anything to the people. The way a person can scream and holler; the way he prances about; the way he can use words to sound alike; the way he projects his cadence; and his ability to manipulate people have nothing to do with whether or not he is the real deal. In fact, the more attention that is spent on *those*

things – the less likely that person is to be a real man of God.

Paul said in **2Corinthians 4:7** that we who preach the unsearchable riches of Christ are to be nothing but what he called, “earthen vessels”. Now one way to examine that phrase is to go back to the time before people had running water and had to use certain clay pots for what were called “privy pots”. Privy pots were vessels that people used the bathroom in. Paul said that those of us who preach the glorious Word of God are nothing in ourselves; we have no claim to any special anointing in and of ourselves; we have no hotline to heaven through our own status and our own abilities; we have nothing personally that would make us attractive to anyone at all. We are nothing but privy pots; we are bond slaves; we are the kind of slaves who go to the bottom of the ship and who anonymously grab an oar and begin to row without getting any credit and without making a big splash.

To be called into the ministry is to forsake the world and the glamour and the prestige and the fame and the fortune of this earthly life and to pick up the Word of God and proclaim its Truth without fear and without fail. Ministry is not designed to make the pastor or the teacher popular- no, historically, preachers and teachers of the Gospel are some of the most hated and despised men on earth. The ministry is a place where God calls men to help the people to be confronted with their own sinfulness.

To be in the ministry is the highest honor and privilege that anyone could ever have on this earth. The wife and children of the minister have also been called by God to support their husband and father in the honor of serving the inspired, infallible inerrant Word of the living God.

I completely disagree with the modern notion that says that the children of the pastor are the worst children in the Church. I totally disagree that the wife and children of the man of God are dysfunctional and need to be in therapy. I resent the teaching that says that preacher’s kids grow up so deprived and so neglected that they become unable to function in life due to their father being called into the ministry. What a reproach to the ministry! What a slam to the Gospel! What a staunch in the nostrils of God to say something like that.

The wives and children of preachers have a high honor that very few on earth will ever have. Their father and their husband has been called by God Almighty to minister the only Gospel that God gave to

man. That isn't being deprived- that is being blessed!

The ministry of Jesus Christ is not a showcase for dysfunctional people to become fat and rich and famous and to act like rock stars. The ministry of Jesus Christ is an unattractive place to the world where men go to die to self and they go to learn how to pour out of their broken hearts and their converted minds and through eyes filled with tears they bring forth the magnificence and infinitely valuable treasure of the Holy Bible.

True, spiritual credibility comes from a life time of faithful proclamation of God's Word- not our word; it comes from God who knows the heart and it comes from a God that cannot be fooled with superficial piety and nominal service.

Peter warned the Church in A.D 64 that these false teachers were coming. His use of the future tense in his words shows that the heretics had not yet come- but Peter warned that they were coming. In **2Peter 2:1**, The Apostle says, “**there will be false teachers among you**”. These heretics “**will secretly introduce destructive heresies**”, and Peter says that they “**bring[ing] swift destruction upon themselves**”.

In Verse 2, Peter says that many “**will follow their sensuality**”. And in just a few years after Peter wrote this, Jude wrote his Epistle and said, “*they're here!*” Peter warned the Church that these men were coming and Jude says that they are here. And within 20 years, John wrote **The Book of the Revelation** and 5 out of the seven Churches in Asia had already been completely overrun with false teaching and were controlled by false apostles and one of them was being controlled by the spirit of Jezebel. God called these Churches to repentance.

Now Peter compares the heretics to three groups just as Jude did- although they are slightly different. Peter said that the men who were going to come to the Church at some future date to bring in damnable heresies would be just like these three groups:

- ✓ Fallen Angels
- ✓ The People Who lived During the Flood
- ✓ The People of Sodom and Gomorrah

Jude compared the heretics with two of the three groups that Peter did; leaving out the people of the flood and bringing in the unbelieving Israelites.

In both Jude and Peter's letters, the reference is very brief because both Jude and Peter were writing to people who were very familiar with these groups. But due to the fact that people in our day are not familiar with these groups, I feel the need to go over these groups in detail with you. So Lord willing, over the next several broadcasts, we will go over the groups of people that both Jude and Peter said were likened unto those heretics who would bring in false teachings into the Church.

Let's look at the first group- the unbelieving Israelites:

Now I desire to remind you, though you know all things once for all, that the Lord, after saving a people out of the land of Egypt, subsequently destroyed those who did not believe.

Here in this verse- Jude was bringing in a group of people that all of his readers would have been intimately familiar with. Every Jew, from a child had the story of the Exodus read over and over to them. It was not only a part of their religious upbringing, but was also a part of their culture and heritage.

The first thing that Jude wanted his readers to understand was that those who try to deceive; those who try to preach false doctrine; those who teach heresy would meet up with God's divine judgment just like the unbelieving Jews had in the wilderness.

By Jude bringing this group into the discussion of heresy and heretics- he was making several points. First of all, all those who had a physical and blood heritage with Abraham were brought forth out of Egypt- yet not all of them who were physically in the family were believers and these unbelievers were manifested and allowed to all die out during the forty days of wandering in the desert.

Jude was saying that the same thing is true about heretics. They may very well *appear* to be spiritual. They may even at times *appear* to be *more* spiritual than the true believer- but just give them some time. As time goes on and the trials of this life come forth- they will be proven- and as they are examined; their fruit is checked; their lives are analyzed- their unbelief and their lies and their heresy will become visibly manifest and they will be identified as what they really are- unbelieving apostates who will not be able to get to the Promised Land.

I tell you that we all need to get into God's Word. Peter said the heretics were coming. Jude said that they were here. John said that they had taken over in many churches. But God is faithful; and He is building His Church; and the gates of hell will not prevail against it; and He is raising up men who value the Truth; and he is raising up men who will proclaim the Truth; and he is raising up men who will earnestly contend for the Faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints. Well, I'm out of time for today- 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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