

Wheelersburg Baptist Church 1/12/92  
Jude 14-16 "An Unpopular Message"

**Intro:** Some things are not popular to say.  
Eg--

Tonight we return to an unpopular book--Jude (after a 5 week break).

The book of Jude is a book of warning. Jude, the half-brother of Jesus, and leader in the early church, saw in his day the threat of apostasy. Their presence threatened his Christian friends. So inspired by the Spirit, Jude wrote. We are indebted to his brief, yet powerful letter.

Jude is a critical book for us.

Jude never intended to write this letter (3). It was not a pleasant project, not a particularly enjoyable task. Why did he do it?

v 3 "it was needful for me to write. . ."

Q: What is true of Apostates?

A: V 4 Jude gives us 6 characteristics of the apostates that plagued the church.  
Transp:

Q: What happens to apostates?

A: Jude 5-7 Three dreadful examples from the past

1. The Unbelieving Israelites
2. The Fallen Angels
3. The Immoral Cities of the Plain

Q: What are apostates like on the contemporary scene?

A: Jude describes them in vv 8-16.

1. Jude describes their Crime (8-13).
2. Jude describes their Condemnation (14-16).

Condemnation is not a popular topic. People don't like to talk about or hear about Judgment (unless they're talking about someone else, someone they dislike). Nevertheless, Jude talked about it. And so must we. Why?

see vv 22-23 {it ought to affect the way we view lost people}

**Proposition: Jude teaches us 3 truths about Condemnation in Jude 14-16.**

I. The Prediction (14)

- A. The Lord will return.
- B. The Lord will return with His Saints.

II. The Purpose (15)

- A. He will execute Judgment upon all people.
- B. He will convict the Ungodly.

III. The People (16)

- A. Murmurers
- B. Complainers
- C. Sensual
- D. Smooth Talkers
- E. Status Conscious

Context: V 11 A Pronouncement of "Woe"!

### I. The Prediction (14)

Listen to the prediction.

V 14 "And Enoch also. . ."

Q: Who was Enoch?

Q: What do we know of Enoch? Enoch is mentioned in the following passages:

1. The Enoch who was the son of Cain

GEN 4:17 And Cain knew his wife; and she conceived, and bare Enoch: and he builded a city, and called the name of the city, after the name of his son, Enoch.

GEN 4:18 And unto Enoch was born Irad: and Irad begat Mehujael: and Mehujael begat Methusael: and Methusael begat Lamech.

2. The Enoch who walked with God

GEN 5:18 And Jared lived an hundred sixty and two years, and he begat Enoch:

GEN 5:19 And Jared lived after he begat Enoch eight hundred years, and begat sons and daughters:

GEN 5:21 And Enoch lived sixty and five years, and begat Methuselah:

GEN 5:22 And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters:

GEN 5:23 And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years:

GEN 5:24 And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.

LUK 3:37 Which was the son of Mathusala, which was the son of Enoch, which was the son of Jared, which was the son of Maleleel, which was the son of Cainan,

HEB 11:5 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

Enoch was some man of God! He walked with God. He never died because God took him home. And notice what Jude tells us about Enoch in v 14:

--"the seventh from Adam" (7 generations)

That put Enoch BEFORE the flood in Noah's day.

--"prophesied of these (apostates) saying, Behold the Lord cometh. . ."

Did you notice something? In which passage did you hear Enoch prophecy?

In none of them! Nowhere in the Bible does Enoch say what Jude attributed to him. Does that mean he didn't say it? Certainly not. God's Word is inspired. The question is this: How did Jude find out about Enoch's prophecy?

2 Choices:

1. Direct Revelation--God told Jude.
2. Jude is quoting from a non-biblical book.

Quote: BKC--Since Jude's statement is similar to a passage in the apocryphal Book of Enoch (1:9)\_written prior to 110 b.c. and thus probably known by the early Christians\_many assume that Jude is quoting from that book. Others suggest that the difference between Jude's words and the Book of Enoch indicate that Jude received the information about Enoch directly from God, or that under divine inspiration he recorded an oral tradition. None of these views affects the doctrine of inspiration adversely. If Jude quoted the apocryphal book, he was affirming only the truth of that prophecy and not endorsing the book in its entirety (cf. Paul's quotation of the Cretan poet Epimenides, in Titus 1:12).

Illust:

Q: What did Enoch prophesy? Notice the prediction.

A: The Lord is coming!

#### A. The Lord will return.

Look carefully. This is the first prophecy in the history of man regarding the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. True, God told Adam and Eve in Gen 3:15 about the bruising of the serpent's head. That referred to Christ's first coming, and his victory over Satan. But that announcement came directly from God. The message God revealed through Enoch looked to the end of time. Listen. From the very beginning of time, God wanted men to know that Judgment was coming, and they'd better be ready.

v 14 "Behold the Lord cometh" (lit. "cometh" is past tense "came")

When the Bible reveals that something is absolutely certain, it's going to happen, it speaks of it as if it's already taken place (eg Rom 8 "we are glorified")

Illust:

Enoch's prediction reveals something else in v 14. . .

Who will accompany the Lord when He returns? He won't be by Himself!

#### B. The Lord will return with His Saints.

"with ten thousands of His saints"--

"ten thousands" = greek word for a myriad; "saints" = holy ones

What a great scene that will be! Who will join the processional?

- a. The Lord will return with the Angels.

Mt 24:30-31

Mt 25:31

- b. The Lord will return with His People.

Col 3:4 "When Christ shall appear, then ye also shall appear"

Note: II Thes 1:7, 10 Passage showing both the angels and the People  
Illust:

Tran: Truth #1 Jude gives us--The Prediction. The Lord is coming. Why is He coming? What will He do when He comes? Truth #2. . .

## II. The Purpose (15)

The Lord is coming with a purpose.

What is that? Twofold purpose:

### A. He will execute Judgment upon all people.

V 15 "To execute judgment. . ."

Please realize this. When Christ comes to Judge, there will be NO exceptions.

"all. . .all. . .all. . .all" (4 times in v 15)

All of us will stand before the Lord. Every man, woman, boy, and girl.

Heb 9:27 "It is appointed unto man. . . the judgment"

### B. He will convict the Ungodly.

V 15 "and to convict all that are ungodly"

"convict" = expose, reprove

note: "ungodly. . . ungodly. . . ungodly. . . ungodly" (4 times in v 15)

What does it mean to be ungodly?

The word means "irreverent." It's not that they're not religious. In fact, the apostates to which Jude is referring were very religious. They went to church. They even taught. They were involved in the church. But they were ungodly. They were irreverent. They lived w/o a God-conscienciousness. They denied the Lordship of Christ by the way they lived. If you confronted them about their lifestyle, and asked them if they were doing what pleased the Lord, they would answer, "I don't care. I do what I want." The Lord has no practical impact on the life of an "ungodly" person.

Illust:

Jude described the people in v 15. There he revealed 2 reasons the Lord would convict them.

1. Their Ungodly Works--"of all their ungodly deeds. . ."

2. Their Ungodly Words--"and of all their hard speeches. . ."

Catch this. God holds us responsible and accountable for the use of our tongues.

When I slander someone, who am I hurting? Obviously the other person. And the Lord. But I'm also hurting myself. How's that? God will judge slanderers.

Mt 12:36-37 "But I say. . . that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account of it in the day of judgment. For by their words. . . justified. . . condemned."

Illust:

When the Lord comes, His purpose is clear. Enoch announced it. Jude affirmed it. The Lord will convict the ungodly.

Tran: We've seen the Prediction, and the Purpose. What kind of people is Jude talking about? Are they around today? Thirdly. . .

### III. The People (16)

Listen to Jude's description of the people plaguing the church.  
V 16 "These are murmurers. . ."

Jude gives us 5 characteristics of the people who'd better look out on Judgment Day.

1. Murmurers--greek word "gongustai"; the word describes the discontented voices of people who are dissatisfied; its very sound reveals the low mutter of resentful discontent which erupt from the hearts of rebellious people

eg--word used for the "murmurings" of the Israelites in the wilderness  
(Ex 15:24; 17:3; Num 14:29)

Murmurers are people who are not content with God. Nor with people.  
And that leads to. . .

#### 2. Complainers

This is an interesting greek word. A compound word made up of the words meaning "to blame" and "fate." A complainer is a person who blames God and other people for his lot in life.

Murmuring is something a person does under his/her breath, over in the corner, out of the public eye. Complainers are loud murmurers. They constantly grumble about their life situation. They're always finding fault. They don't know how to practice I Tim 6:6, "godliness with contentment."

Jude has already given us illustrations of complainers (MacArthur). In v 5, the Israelites were not content in the wilderness. In v 6, the fallen angels were not satisfied with their estate. In v 11, Cain was dissatisfied with God's plan for sacrifices. In the same verse, Balaam wasn't content and tried to sidestep God's will to make a buck. Also Korah was dissatisfied with the leadership God established.

Warning: Whenever a person gets out of fellowship with God, he's likely to begin complaining about something. To grumble and moan is one of the most common characteristics of a person who's not right with God.

In Jude's day, the problem people in the church probably grumbled and complained about God--they weren't satisfied with what He was doing in their life. They also complained about the church leaders--they weren't doing a good job.

If that's you, what do you need to do? Confess your attitude to God. God holds us just as accountable for our attitudes as our actions.

Practical reason: Nobody likes to be around a grumbler and complainer. Perhaps you're wondering, "Why don't I have any friends? Why don't people call me to do things?" I need to ask, Are you a grumbler and complainer?

Quote: William Barclay, "There are few people more unpopular than chronic grumblers."

## Prov 17

### 3. Sensual

V 16 "walking after their own lusts"

Self is all that matters. Life revolves around me. The driving force in life is not what God wants, but what I want. That's Sensual.

Illust:

### 4. Smooth Talkers

V 16 "their own mouth speaketh great swelling words"

"swelling" = puffed up; swollen (used only here and II Pt 2:18)

They love to talk about themselves. They love to brag. With anyone who's willing to listen (or even not willing but cornered!).

### 5. Status Conscious

V 16 "having men's persons in admiration. . ."

Jude is describing people who look at other people for what they can get out of them. They are egotistical. And they know how to flatter. They'll butter you up with smooth words, to get what they want.

Apostates are like that. They tell you what they know you want to hear. For their own advantage.

I agree with a comment I read by MacArthur. "One of the things that makes teaching the Word of God difficult is that you have to say things that you know people aren't going to like. It is inevitable that people will be offended about some of the statements in the Bible. But I dare not neglect to teach those passages that are confrontive. . . I'd rather stand before God and hear Him say, 'You said the truth MacArthur,' than to hear Him say, 'You made everybody happy, but you didn't tell the truth.'" (78).

Condemnation is not popular. But Jude preached about it. We've seen the Prediction, the Purpose, and the People.

What's Jude's point?

1. Jude is warning the church. Don't tolerate people like those described in vv 15-16. Why not? They'll destroy the church!

2. Jude is exhorting us to contend for the faith (3).

Let the church BE the church. Let everyone of us focus on Christ, not self.