

Book of Jude

I am honored and pleased to be here today, by the request of Dr. Jackson. We will be members of FRC for a year in several weeks. I have continually been overwhelmed by this church and its members. I have been a Christian for many years, and a Bible teacher for over 40 years. This church is so different, in positive ways, from “normal” churches. FRC is the exact opposite of the churches mentioned in our lesson today.

Here at FRC we focus on the Bible, Discipleship, and Evangelism. Pastor Jeff and Dr. Jackson always want to concentrate on Bible Literacy, Loving the Word, and living in its promises and protection. We are all blessed to be here.

I had several ideas for lessons planned for today including:

- Signs of the Times;
- Discussion about Biblical Truth;
- How to know what people believe by knowing what their view of the Bible is;
- and doing a Bible Study of the Book of Jude.

I chose the Book of Jude because this little book is seldom preached or taught, and it is very timely for us today.

Like Pastor Jeff, I am a recovering Electrical Engineer with degrees in EE and Masters in Physics and Marketing. Strange I know.

I worked in industry until about 10 years ago but have been in the Word since Vicki and I were young marrieds. Our first foray into deep Bible study came in Beaumont Texas, while we were in a Young-Marrieds class, on a Sunday night, a woman Bible teacher told us about Jesus Coming again, the Rapture, and the End Times. It was when Hal Lindsey’s book “The Late Great Planet Earth” has just been published. We were excited and shocked since we had never been taught this in our home churches. It began a time for seeking after God’s Word.

After I retired, Bible study became more focused for us and we took a deep dive into Prophecy. We listened, we read, we prayed for guidance and wisdom, and a whole new understanding of God’s Word and God’s Plan began to unfold. We watch Israel, Jerusalem, the Temple Mount, and World events as they slowly move the set, and stage, into place for the final acts of history. We believe God has called us to be “**Watchmen on the Wall**” to see and warn fellow believers. This gives us urgency and passion for His work. There will be a flavor of this in our study, so let’s get started.

The book of Jude, as I mentioned earlier, is a neglected book in the Bible in my opinion. Several verses are often used as sermon points, but the power and majesty of this book is ignored. Like 2 Peter, this book was not accepted in the early Canon of the Bible. The primary reason for this is that in this book, several references are made to non-scriptural books. Jude refers to the “Assumption of Moses” and the “Book of Enoch “. These two books are Jewish writings from

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about 100 BC and are part of Jewish History. These books are not in the canon of Jewish Scripture (OT) either. Several other of these type books are included in what is known as the Apocrypha, which is in some Bibles between the testaments. It is viewed differently by Catholics, Orthodox, and Protestant Churches. We view these books as Jewish History ...not inspired by the Holy Spirit but the church leaders included Jude as part of the Canon and the use of these references are like Pastors today who use historical or contemporary references in sermons.

It was written about 65 AD by a man named Jude (Hebrew- Judah, Greek- Judas) who is the brother of James. Although Judah was a common name in Israel at the time, most scholars believe this is Jesus' half-brother. His reference to James as his brother shows his humility and reverence for Jesus. He was not an important NT church figure, but we are blessed he wrote this book for us.

Interesting bookends on the book of Jude...Judas was the first apostate of the new movement being a follower of Jesus who "fell away". Jude is a follower of Jesus who calls us back and warns us of apostasy.

Jude New International Version (NIV) **If you have your Bibles...**

¹ Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James,

To those who have been called (**or are *the* called**), who are loved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ:

² Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance.

So, Jude is writing to those who have been called. This word for called, means those who have been called and responded to God

- Army – Conscripted versus Volunteer – Called up means something quite different

...His people... Acts 1:8, we are all soldiers/witnesses of GOD, but are we loyal soldiers?

...who are "**loved in God, the Father, and kept** (protected, shielded) by Jesus Christ. **Mercy** (undeserved Grace), Peace (Shalom-full meaning) and Love (agape) be yours in abundance. Jude is speaking to those who have been called out, protected by and for Jesus Christ, and are showered with abundant mercy, peace, and love. He is speaking to born again Christians for the ages...**to us**.

We are called **by** God to be set apart **for** God, so that we might enjoy love **with** God

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The Sin and Doom of Ungodly People

³Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to **contend** for the faith that was **once for all** entrusted to God's holy people. (some translations read "the Saints")

Have you ever planned something and prepared to do it, but God had a different idea and the Spirit communicated it to you? Paul – Macedonian call is good example, but I have had this experience many times, and I'm sure some of you have also. Jude wanted to write about salvation, but God wanted something else. Luke wrote about the early church and the book is called the "Acts of the Apostles". John MacArthur says the Book of Jude could be called the "**Acts of the Apostates**".

I felt compelled to write and urge you to **contend for the faith that was once for all** entrusted to God's holy people.

Contending for the faith...sermons are often use this phrase...but what does it mean? It means you and I are asked to take the Faith we have received, once for all, and fight the good fight to declare the Gospel and aggressively defend it against all comers. If we are a true Christian, we have full sum of faith given to us when we believe, and we are to use it. (not like some as Pentecostals – 2nd blessing). How are we doing?

Paul tells us in EPHESIANS 6:14-18 about the Armor of GOD. The first piece of Armor is the belt of Truth. For us, this is the Word of God. All the armor goes on the front of us so that God's armor protects as we stand, face, and contend with the naysayers.

There are more against us now than with us. In a recent Barna survey almost half of Christian millennials believe Evangelism is wrong. Christians should not try and evangelize others. What does this say about our churches and our priorities? Are we creating social Christians, but not real ones? Those who have the appearance of Christians, but not a relationship with Jesus Christ?

⁴For certain individuals whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are **ungodly people**, who **pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality** and **deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord**.

Common analogy – Frog and boiling water. In our universal church life, the water is getting hotter degree by degree and we adjust to it.

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Ungodly people – Look like real Christians, talk the talk but underneath they are hiding a real ungodliness.

Pervert the Grace of our God...license for immorality. Popular today is the blessing of Homosexual pastors, leaders and Priests. Add pedophilia, and fornication, and adultery and we have seen it moved from hidden to open, and denominations confirming, so the person does not have to stop. They continue in their “ministry”. Do they accept it as sin? Do they know they must repent and stop? Do they flaunt it to the people of God and the World?

They say “God has forgiven all my sin...past...present...and future so He knows who I am, so I am free to do these things, and God will provide more Grace to me.

“and **deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.**”

Who is the leader of the church? Some would say the Pastor, others the Elders, or Deacons, but Jesus Christ is the Head of the church. Pastors and others may be under-shepherds, but they serve at the pleasure of Christ.

I have been in churches where the Pastor controlled all aspects of the church, from its finances, its teaching, what it promoted and restricted what people were allowed to serve. ‘I can do anything I want...’

Is Jesus a good man, a prophet of God, someone worth reading about, or is He the Son of God who came to live, die, and resurrect to provide a way for us to be redeemed? Is salvation from the Lord, or do we have to add works to be saved- Jesus Plus something else? (tradition, elders, book of Mormon, specific works)

Denying the sovereignty and the deity of Jesus is rampant today.

God is our Sovereign, and our Lord

⁵Though you already know all this, I want to remind you that the Lord at one time delivered his people out of Egypt, but later destroyed those who did not believe.⁶And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their proper dwelling—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day. ⁷In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. **They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire.**

⁸In the very same way, on the strength of their dreams (*notions*) these ungodly people pollute their own bodies, reject authority and heap abuse on celestial beings (*by denying their importance or roles*). ⁹But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil

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about the body of Moses, did not himself dare to condemn him for slander but said, “The Lord rebuke you!”¹⁰ Yet these people slander whatever they do not understand, and the very things they do understand by instinct—as irrational animals do—will destroy them.

¹¹ **Woe to them!** They have taken the **way of Cain**; they have **rushed for profit into Balaam’s error**; they have been **destroyed in Korah’s rebellion**.

Way of Cain – First murderer. Those who do not fear God’s judgment. Murderers act out evil directly opposed to God’s Word and will. (NY Abortion law, 60 M babies murdered, do they fear God’s judgment? Anti-Semites, those who want to destroy Israel and God’s people...Is God happy about that? Those who reject Jesus Christ...what will they say to God when they appear before the GWT judgment?)

Balaam’s Error – Balaam taught Israel to sin, used his power and position and sold his “guidance” for money because following God just doesn’t matter. Do we know people who will do anything for money? Of course, we do, and some of them profess to be Christians.

Korah’s Rebellion – Korah was a member of Moses staff who rebelled against him. He would not accept any authority. This term represent those who reject authority...Parents, Society, Governmental, God, Teachers or Pastors...they are anarchists at heart. Today???

¹² These people are blemishes (Hidden Rocks in the stream) at your love feasts, eating with you without the slightest qualm—***shepherds who feed only themselves***. They are clouds without rain, blown along by the wind; autumn trees, without fruit and uprooted—twice dead. ¹³ They are wild waves of the sea, foaming up their shame; wandering stars, for whom blackest darkness has been reserved forever. (shooting stars that blaze for a moment and disappear)

They look like one thing, but are wearing a mask, there is no usable fruit

¹⁴ Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about them: “**See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones (2nd coming)** ¹⁵ to judge everyone, and to convict all of them of all the ungodly acts they have committed in their ungodliness, and of all the defiant words ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”¹⁶ These people are **grumblers and faultfinders; they follow their own evil desires; they boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage. (Pride, Deception, Bad Shepherds, Schemers)**

How easy is it for them to get a following among those who are weak in the faith and understanding of God’s Word? Don’t make yourself vulnerable by being a complainer.

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(Book of Enoch, as I mentioned before) Don't we all know people like this...deceivers, false/bad shepherds who care only for themselves, will do anything for money or fame, and do not fear the judgment of the Lord?

A Call to Persevere (So what are we to do?)

¹⁷But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold.¹⁸They said to you, **“In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires.”** ¹⁹**These are the people who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit.**

²⁰But you, dear friends, by

- **building yourselves up in your most holy faith** and
- **praying in the Holy Spirit,**
- ²¹**keep yourselves in God's love** as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

²²**Be merciful to those who doubt;** ²³**save others by snatching them from the fire;**

to others **show mercy, mixed with fear (of the Lord)—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.**

- Keep building yourself up...Study the Word
- Pray...Pray...Pray. Seek the power of the Holy Spirit
- Be merciful to those who doubt, (Seek out & be a mentor to those younger in the faith, and be cautious that you don't fall into sin).
- Spread the Gospel to save others and snatch them from the fire
- Do not back away, love the sinner and hate the sin...even the clothes stained by sin.
- Don't be discouraged by scoffers, there will be many.

Doxology

²⁴To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy— ²⁵to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

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Jude is a perfect book to have before Revelation. It sets the scene for us about what we will see and experience, gives us urgency for us to witness, tells us of the doom for those in the past and presently who do not really know the Lord.

Other letters, John 1/2/3 and 1&2 Peter tell us the Apostasy is coming. Jude tells us it is here. Certainly, we see it all around us today. The time is growing short now.

The Book of the **Revelation of Christ** lays out the things that are to come.

Thankfully we will be raptured and not here.

To that I can only say AMEN

Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus!!