

# A FAITH WORTH FIGHTING FOR

## Know the Enemy

TEXT: Jude 5-11

INTRODUCTION: When Jude began writing his short but powerful letter to his fellow believers, he said in essence, “I really wanted to write you a letter about the salvation we share in Christ, but an urgent necessity has come upon me that makes me write asking you to join me in fighting to defend the faith that has been given us through the Holy Scriptures.”

He continued to explain the reason for his urgency. “Certain ungodly men have crept into the church and are now perverting the gospel and denying even what Christ Himself has taught us.”

Next, Jude begins to describe these men who are denying the Word of God and who therefore are perverting the Gospel of Christ and attempting to lead the church to disobey her Head. But what he gives us is more than just an interesting, historical description. Inspired by the Spirit of God, Who knew that Jude’s writing was destined by the Almighty to be a portion of God’s flawless Word, he gives us a description that serves to us as an identifier so that we may more easily recognize those who are wolves in sheep’s clothing. He tells us how to know the enemy.

Jude 5-11 <sup>5</sup> But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. <sup>6</sup> And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; <sup>7</sup> as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

<sup>8</sup> Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries. <sup>9</sup> Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, “The Lord rebuke you!” <sup>10</sup> But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves. <sup>11</sup> Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

First he tells us

## **I. THE CHARACTER OF THE ENEMY**

Jude gives us three pictures of what the enemy is like. Why do we need these vivid depictions? Because, the enemy looks just like us. The enemy often sounds like one of us. In some ways, they act like one of us. We will not often recognize those who deny the Word of God, pervert the gospel, and undermine the Lordship of Christ just by their outward appearance.

So the Holy Spirit through Jude tells us about their character.

### **A. They are like the faithless Israelites who refused to enter the Promised Land.**

**Jude 5** But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.

- 1. Saved from bondage in Egypt.**
- 2. Brought into covenant with God at Sinai.**
- 3. But would not enter the Promised Land**
  - a. For fear of the opposition.**
  - b. For fear of the obstacles – giants.**
  - c. For fear that God wouldn't come through.**
- 4. Sometimes the enemies of God's truth**

**the enemies of the gospel**

**the enemies of the Lordship of Christ**

**are saved people!**

What a tragedy! What a travesty! But what a truth!

Do not believe everything you hear, even from a believer. I urge you to test everything I tell you by the written Word of God. And if at any point, I tell you something at variance with this perfect Book, you believe the book and not me!

**B. The enemies of God’s Word are like the angels who sinned in the day of Noah and are now in the bottomless pit.**

Jude 6 And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;

**1. These are the same fallen angels mentioned by Peter in**

1 Peter 3:19–20 ... the spirits in prison,<sup>20</sup> who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while *the* ark was being prepared....

**2. These are angels described in Genesis 6** who took possession of the bodies of wicked men so they could cohabit with beautiful women, and thus produced physically abnormal and spiritually perverse offspring who furthered the decline and rebellion of mankind against his Maker.

**3. These are the angels willing to follow Lucifer.**

- a. Who wanted to exalt his throne beside or above God’s throne.**
- b. Who led others to question the veracity, the truthfulness, of the Word of God by saying to Eve**

“Did God really say ...?” (Gen. 3:1)

- c. Who expressly denied what God had declared**

“You will not surely die.” (Gen. 3:4)

- d. When somebody declares that what is written in the Bible, the Word of God, is not true,**

**When somebody tries to get others to question what God has clearly spoken,**

**When somebody attempts, for whatever reason, to persuade others to deny what is written in the Scriptures,**

**They are the ungodly men Jude is warning us about.**

**They are the ones who pervert the gospel and deny the Lordship of Christ.**

**C. They are like the people of Sodom and Gomorrah who cast off the restraints placed upon them by their Holy Creator God.**

Jude 7 as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

- 1. Most of the people of Sodom were practicing homosexuals. It is from the wicked residents of this city that we get the words sodomy and sodomite.**
- 2. The men of the city wanted to have sexual relations with the two angels who came to visit the city because they thought they were two men.**
- 3. Folks, the government can declare that homosexuality is not a sin until it is blue in the face, but God says,**

Rom. 1:26-27 <sup>26</sup> For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.

<sup>27</sup> Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

And would you please take note that this word from the Lord is from Romans in the New Testament, not from Leviticus in the Old; although we might be interested to see that they express the same truth. But this is Romans! If there is a chief book of New Testament Christian doctrine, it is the Book of Romans.

- a. Now, **remember** what I told you last week. **Our battle is not with government.** Government is controlled by lost men and women. Lost men, as Isaiah said,

Isaiah 5:20 ... call evil good, and good evil;

Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness;

Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

- b. We cannot expect men and women without God to have godly values.
- c. **The enemy is someone in the church, who speaks as one of us who is born again, who supposedly loves the Lord, who seemingly strives for the Kingdom of Christ ...**

**When he or she**

- **Faithlessly refuses to obey the command of the Lord**
- **Denies the truthfulness of what God has declared**
- **Tries to get the people of God to set aside the standards of God**

**That person is the enemy. Fight against them on behalf of the faith, once for all delivered to the saints!** Don't let them lead you, your family, your church, your Christian institutions, or your denomination away from God's precious Word.

## **II. THE PRACTICE OF THE ENEMY**

**Jude 8** Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries.

- A. **They consider their own dreams and thoughts to be of greater value than the Word of God.**
- B. **They reject authority over themselves because they elevate themselves to authority.**
- C. **They speak evil of unseen heavenly things and accept as true only what can be seen by the natural (unsaved) person.**

**Jude 10** But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves.

## **III. THE FATE OF THE ENEMY**

Already, while giving the description, Jude reminds us of the fate of those he used as an example of the character of the enemy who comes against the Word of God.

- **The unbelieving Israelites all died wandering in the wilderness** and never knew the abundant life God offered them in the Promised Land.
- **The angels who** had already been kicked out of heaven, yet could have remained free to roam the heavenlies until the final judgment, because they **rejected the Word of the Lord**, the command of God **and grievously led others to do so, were** instead **confined to** the prison house called Tartarus, **the bottomless pit** in the center of the earth, where they are confined in chains to this day.
- **The original Sodomites perished when God sent down fire and brimstone upon them and upon their city** and upon their neighboring cities who had been beguiled to join them in their wickedness.

But now he speaks specifically about what will happen to those ungodly men and women who try to lead the church of the Lord Jesus Christ astray in similar ways by tempting them to put aside the Holy Scriptures.

**Jude 11 Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.**

- A. They are like Cain in insisting their way is right although it is contrary to God’s declared way, and they suffer the punishment of Cain who was vanquished by God away from the presence of the Lord.**
- B. They are like Balaam who rejected the Word of the Lord that he might profit and satisfy his greed, but in the end he perished because of it.**
- C. They are like Korah who rebelled against Moses, but God caused the earth to open and he fell down alive into the flames of hell.**

CONCLUSION: You may be asking, Bro. Mike, what do you want me to do with this?

I will tell you what I want, but I do so with the conviction that this is what God wants of each of us, you and me alike.

### **God wants us**

- 1. To set a conviction in our soul, like a pillar of granite that cannot be moved, that the Bible is absolute truth. As Jesus said “Thy Word is truth.”**

- 2. To establish as the pattern of our lives to learn more completely the Word of God that has been delivered into our care and keeping.**
- 3. To set ourselves to guard the church, the household of faith, that we may not only forever believe, but forever practice the teachings and admonitions of God's precious, holy Word. This is what Jesus prayed for us, "Sanctify them in Thy truth. Thy Word is truth."**