

Sad, But Not Surprised  
Jude Series #2  
Jude v5-19  
November 13, 2022

### PreSermon Remarks

- Jude, Advent

### Introduction

- Football: the best offense is a good defense. All sports: Defense wins championships.
- Sun Tzu (attributed): Keep your friends close and your enemies closer
- Me: by nature future-oriented and optimistic. I don't always like defense.
- WE are engaged in a battle: spiritual warfare. Primarily a battle of ideas and beliefs

(big idea) Followers of Jesus need to be wise regarding the enemy's ways

### Reminders

- Jude begins by reminding his hearers that they are called, loved, and kept
- The whole point is that these followers of Jesus will reach the end (next week)

### A Sad Song

**Jude** <sup>5</sup> Now I want to remind you, although you came to know all these things once and for all, that Jesus saved a people out of Egypt and later destroyed those who did not believe; <sup>6</sup> and the angels who did not keep their own position but abandoned their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains in deep darkness for the judgment on the great day. <sup>7</sup> Likewise, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns committed sexual immorality and perversions, and serve as an example by undergoing the punishment of eternal fire. <sup>8</sup> In the same way these people—relying on their dreams—defile their flesh, reject authority, and slander glorious ones. <sup>9</sup> Yet when Michael the archangel was disputing with the devil in an argument about Moses's body, he did not dare utter a slanderous condemnation against him but said, "The Lord rebuke you!" <sup>10</sup> But these people blaspheme anything they do not understand. And what they do understand by instinct—like irrational animals—by these things they are destroyed. <sup>11</sup> Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain, have plunged into Balaam's error for profit, and have perished in Korah's rebellion.

### Bad Guys (These false teachers are like...)

1. Hardhearted Israel | Numbers 11
  - a. Grumbling about food, water, leadership, everything! **DISCONTENT**
2. Fallen angels | Genesis 6
  - a. Did not keep their position... | Supernatural worldview
  - b. Jewish tradition regarding the origin of demons / unclean spirits
3. Sodom and Gomorrah | Genesis 19
  - a. Sexual immorality is explicitly named

4. The devil and Michael | Assumption of Moses
  - a. Sinful speech, blaspheming spiritual beings - Michael had more sense!
  - b. **Tom Schreiner** Jude's reference to a noncanonical book is puzzling for many Christians today. Did he believe the account was historically accurate, or did he cite it to make a point? It is difficult to be certain, but it seems likely that Jude believed the story was rooted in history. He gave no indication elsewhere that the traditions cited were unhistorical. But does that lead to the conclusion that the canon of Scripture should be expanded, or did Jude think Assumption of Moses was inspired? These are vexing questions, but we should not draw the conclusion that the citation from a book means that the entire book is inspired. Paul cited Greek poets and sayings without suggesting that the entire work was authoritative Scripture (Acts 17:28; 1 Cor 15:33; Titus 1:12). Jude did not intend to put a canonical stamp on Assumption of Moses simply because he cited it. He viewed this story as true or helpful, or he believed it was an illustration of the truth he desired to teach.
5. Cain, Balaam, Korah | Genesis 4, Numbers 22, 16
  - a. Cain - violence
  - b. Balaam - greedy for profit
  - c. Korah - usurping authority

### **Bad Analogies**

<sup>12</sup>These people are dangerous reefs at your love feasts as they eat with you without reverence. They are shepherds who only look after themselves. They are waterless clouds carried along by winds; trees in late autumn—fruitless, twice dead and uprooted. <sup>13</sup>They are wild waves of the sea, foaming up their shameful deeds; wandering stars for whom the blackness of darkness is reserved forever.

1. Dangerous reefs - rocks just below the surface...hidden danger
2. Selfish shepherds - calls back to prophet Ezekiel...taking, not giving
3. Waterless clouds - promise a lot, but deliver nothing
4. Dead trees - late autumn, just keep waiting but...no fruit
5. Foaming waves - grimy, residue, defiles everything...defiling
6. Wandering stars - you can't trust their guidance

### **Not Surprised**

<sup>14</sup>It was about these that Enoch, in the seventh generation from Adam, prophesied: "Look! The Lord comes with tens of thousands of his holy ones <sup>15</sup>to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly concerning all the ungodly acts that they have done in an ungodly way, and concerning all the harsh things ungodly sinners have said against him." <sup>16</sup>These people are discontented grumblers, living according to their desires; their mouths utter arrogant words, flattering people for their own advantage. <sup>17</sup>But you, dear friends, remember what was predicted by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>They told you, "In the end time there will be scoffers living according to their own ungodly desires." <sup>19</sup>These people create divisions and are worldly, not having the Spirit.

### **Warning Signs | Because they're stealthy! (v4)**

- |                     |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Ungodly          | 7. Reject authority | 13. Led by desire   |
| 2. Sensual          | 8. Blasphemous      | 14. Arrogant speech |
| 3. Deny Jesus       | 9. Greedy           | 15. Flattery        |
| 4. Sexually immoral | 10. Irreverent      | 16. Scoffing        |
| 5. Rely on dreams   | 11. Fruitless       | 17. Divisive        |
| 6. Defile flesh     | 12. Grumbling       | 18. Worldly         |

*\*Remember: this is not people who need to grow, or who struggle with doubt (next week)*

**N.T. Wright** He is clear and explicit about the twin dangers the church now faces—dangers which we can hardly hear about without realizing that this letter is very contemporary. On the one hand, people are ‘transforming God’s grace into licentiousness’. On the other hand, they are ‘denying the one and only Master, our Lord Jesus the Messiah’. Find people who today are saying that God loves everyone exactly as they are, so everyone must stay exactly as they are, doing all the things they want to do, because God is so full of generosity that obviously he wants them to do that. Find such people, and you’ve found those of whom Judah is writing. Find people who today are saying that Jesus is one religious teacher among others, one way of salvation among others, that there might well be a variety of paths up the mountain of which Jesus’ path is only one, that it’s important not to make exclusive claims or we’ll become arrogant; find such people, and you’ve found those of whom Judah is writing.

### **Gospel**

**Jude** <sup>5</sup> Now I want to remind you...that Jesus saved a people out of Egypt and later destroyed those who did not believe...

1. Go read Exodus...no Jesus. But Jude is claiming that he was there all along
  - a. Redemptive historical reading - Jesus was there all along!
2. Lots of ways to frame the gospel: debt forgiveness, adoption, new birth
  - a. Gospel as battle victory, a king’s victory over an enemy
  - b. This victorious king is on his way: will you surrender?

We don’t do “fear tactics” at this church. Turn or burn stuff that can get phony. But there is a very real sense in which this message is “surrender or be destroyed!”

### **Be On Guard**

\*Much of the application for this is next week.

1. Learn the warning signs | scoffing, worldly, sensual, etc.
2. Take false teaching seriously | spiritual carbon monoxide...stealthy
3. Learn how to rank beliefs
  - a. Next week: have mercy on those who doubt
  - b. Not everything is a top-tier gospel issue | Hardcore, fundamentalist
  - c. But some things really are | Squishy, progressive

4. Honor Jesus as Lord
  - a. Yes savior. Yes friend. Yes brother. Yes husband.
  - b. But king and lord.
  - c. The Lord is a warrior, we tear down every lofty idea

Read aloud together:

**Exodus 15** <sup>3</sup> The LORD is a warrior; the LORD is his name.

**2 Corinthians 10** <sup>3</sup> For although we live in the flesh, we do not wage war according to the flesh, <sup>4</sup> since the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but are powerful through God for the demolition of strongholds. We demolish arguments <sup>5</sup> and every proud thing that is raised up against the knowledge of God, and we take every thought captive to obey Christ.

### **Scripture Reading**

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