

## How To Live Until Jesus Comes Jude 17-24

Jude is the half-brother of Jesus:

- 1 – He is the brother of James. 1:1
- 2 – Jesus had a brother named Judas (who undoubtedly shortened it to escape association with 'Judas.' Matthew 13:55)

Like James, who wrote his own epistle, Jude doesn't claim this relationship in his book because:

- 1 – It is well-known
- 2 – He wants what he says to bear its own weight
- 3 – His other relationship to Jesus (1:1 – 'servant') is the more eternal

Like James, Jude did not place his faith in Jesus as Savior while Jesus was still alive. But, 1 Cor 9:5 informs us that Jesus's brothers did come to faith and also served Christ, along with their wives. (See also, John 7:5; Acts 1:14).

Jude wanted to write simply to encourage believers (1:3) but changed his mind for two reasons:

- 1 – False teachers had infiltrated Christianity and needed to be rebuked. 1:4
- 2 – Christians needed to be reminded how to live in the midst of such a world. 1:17-22

(Note: 1:1b – *"to those who are called, beloved in God..."* Note the order. He calls and loves us. There is nothing loveable in us that makes God call us. God doesn't call the lovely, but he loves the called. This takes the pressure off us to be constantly loveable. Instead, we rest in God's love.).

### **First: A Description of Nonbelievers. 12-13 & 16**

- a) Hidden reefs at your love feasts – "blemishes" / a coral reef to sink a ship – no purpose
- b) Shepherds who feed themselves – no sincerity
- c) Waterless clouds, swept along with winds – no rain
- d) Fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted – no food
- e) Wild waves of the sea, casting up a foam of their own shame – no power
- f) Wandering stars, for whom the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever - no place
- g) Grumblers
- h) Complainers
- i) Following their own sinful desires
- j) Loud
- k) Flatterers

17 – “But...” we were warned about this

20 – “But...” you are called to this

## **Second: A Call to Live Godly. 20-23**

a) Inward

1 Building. 20a – You are responsible for your spiritual growth

(Hold onto that phrase *“in your most holy faith...”* We will come back to it at the very end)

2 Praying. 20b – For your own godliness

Matthew 6:13 – *And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*

3 Keep. 21a – (unlike the following list of people)

a) Israel – 5 – Disobedience – Numbers 14 & Psalm 95:10-11 (Kadesh-Barnea)

God miraculously saved Israel from Egypt twice (Passover and Red Sea) but Israel refused to go into the Promised Land

b) Angels – 6 – Pride

The Bible speaks to the rebellion of angels in three places: Gen 6:1-2; Isaiah 14:12-14; Revelation 12:4.

6 - Because they did not keep their “proper dwelling” they are not “kept in eternal chains”

c) Sodom and Gomorrah – 7 – Sexual sin - Genesis 19

d) Satan – 9 – Pride - Isaiah 14

e) Cain – 11a – Religion – Genesis 4

f) Balaam – 11b – Not persecution but pleasure – Numbers 22

g) Korah – 11c – An discontented Levite – Numbers 16

In contrast to them, *“keep yourselves in the love of God”*

ILL – A diamond reflects different colored light at each angle.

#### 4 Waiting. 21b

- a) Practically - Heaven is not just a destination. It is a motivation.
- b) Theologically - If time determines reality, then Heaven is more real than this world.
- c) Philosophically – Some people may long for pink unicorns but all people, everywhere, long for something more, beyond, and the question must be asked, ‘Why?’

We are, *anthropos* = GR/human = *Ano-throskon* = *to tilt, to look up* (as opposed to animals) God made us naturally, ‘looking up.’ This is why we long for something more, beyond. And as Christians, it ought to be the posture of our lives.

#### b) Outward

- 1 Have. 22 – “mercy” = “compassion” with a purpose – “not doubting”
- 2 Snatching. 23a – “fire” = personal fire and eschatological fire
- 3 Show. 23b – “with fear” = a) humility & b) fear of the fire and the stained garment
- 4 Hating. 23c – Don’t play with sin.

Building, praying, keeping, waiting, having, snatching, showing, hating... This is how you live until Jesus comes.

#### **Third: A Final Word. 24**

All the while, remember that you do these things because you love God and yourself, but not to save yourself or keep yourself saved.

1:1b – *“To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ.”*

1 Samuel 12:22 - For the LORD will not forsake his people, *for his great name’s sake*, because it has pleased the Lord to make you a people for himself.

Psalms 23:3b – *He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake*

Psalms 25:11 – *For your name’s sake, O Lord, pardon my guilt, for it is great*

Isaiah 48:9,11 – *For my name’s sake I defer my anger, for the sake of my praise I restrain it for you, that I may not cut you off...For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it...*

But not to obtain or maintain your salvation – 24 - He is *“able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy...”*

#### Fourth: **A Word about Words**

Do you struggle with these words?

- V 4 – designated for condemnation
- V 5 – destroyed those who did not believe
- V 6 – kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgement
- V 7 – a punishment of eternal fire
- V 10 – they are destroyed
- V 11 – perished
- V 13 – the gloom of outer darkness has been reserved forever
- V 15 – to execute judgement

- 1 – To love someone is to hate what hurts them
- 2 – God has promised to permanently separate us from what harms us
- 3 – it is never kind to tell someone an untruth – judgement is coming
  - Ignoring it or lying about it doesn't change it
- 4 – it is kind of God to warn us about impending judgement

#### **Fifth: Application.**

There is one thing all these fallen and false people have in common – they had their own faith.

*3 - Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.*

In the book *Habits of the Heart*, Robert Bellah and his colleagues wrote about an interview with a young nurse named Sheila Larson, whom they described as representing America's religious. Speaking about her own faith and how it operated in her life, she said: "*I believe in God. I'm not a religious fanatic. I can't remember the last time I went to church. My faith has carried me a long way. It is 'Sheilaism.'*" Just my own little voice."

That "little voice" is what destroyed Satan, angels, Cain, Sodom and Gomorrah, Balaam and Korah.

Standing in contrast to 'doing your own thing' is Michael,

*8-9 - Yet in like manner these people also, relying on their dreams, defile the flesh, reject authority, and blaspheme the glorious ones. <sup>9</sup> But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you."*

The Baptist Faith and Message 2000.

## 1. Scriptures.

*The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation.*

### **Community Groups:**

- 1 – What did Jude intend to write about? V 3
- 2 – Why did he change his subject matter? V 4
- 3 – What are some of Jude's descriptions of nonbelievers? Vs 12-13 & 16
- 4 – Work through the list and describe why Jude might use these terms?
- 5 – List the "inward" imperatives (commands) that Jude gives his readers in vs 21.
- 6 – How do you employ these disciplines in your life?
- 7 – How did Israel and angels not "keep themselves in the love of God?"
- 8 – List the "outward" imperatives (commands) in vs 22-23.
- 9 – How do you employ these disciplines in your life?
- 10 – Are there specific people whom you are reaching like this?
- 11 – Why does Jude use such "harsh" words about unbelievers?
- 12 – Do you know people who operate on their "own little voice?"
- 13 – What is wrong with operating on "Sheilaism?"
- 14 – How is Michael different from those "reject authority?" Vs 8-9