

Contend for the Faith – Jude Series

Apostates Remembered

Text: Jude 1:5-7

Introduction

1. Brief review of previous lesson
2. Review of Structure/Outline of the Book
 - A. Part 1 – Apostates De Masked (Vs. 1-19)
 - B. Part 2 – Believers Exhorted (Vs. 20-25)
3. This lesson: Three historical examples of apostates. Two great themes run through these examples. 1. God will judge apostates; 2. Apostates, whether past or present, possess the same ungodly characteristics.
4. The first part of verse 5 contains a gentle rebuke; he implies that the believers have been forgetful of what they had learned previously.

I. Unbelieving Israelites (Vs. 5)

- A. God's judgment came upon Israel after they left Egypt for a number of reasons such as:
 1. Complaining (Num 11)
 2. Greed & Discontent (Num 11)
 3. False worship (Ex 32)
- B. God's judgment on their unbelief at Kadesh-Barnea (Num 13 & 14)
 1. This example is repeated often in Scripture (E.g. Psalm 95; I. Cor 10; Heb 3)
 2. 'unbelief' - the opposite of faith. Relying upon human understanding rather than exercising obedience to the Word of God. Faith steps out in confidence upon the Revelation of God. This was the error of the Israelites at Kadesh-Barnea. They looked at the conquest of Canaan through the lens of the natural man and rebelled against the command of God. Numbers 14:11 says, "*And the LORD said unto Moses, How long will this people provoke me? and how long will it be ere they believe me, for all the signs which I have shewed among them.*"
 3. Unbelief is a sinful choice we must avoid. Hebrews 3:12 "*Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.*"

II. Rebellious Angels (Vs. 6)

- A. Their Identity – 2 main possibilities
 1. The angels from the original fall. The problem with this interpretation is that the verse makes it clear that these are a group of angels distinct from those still free and active in the world.
 2. The angels from the time of Noah's flood (Gen 6:1-6; II. Peter 2)

Contend for the Faith – Jude Series

- B. Their Iniquity (6a)
 - 1. Passively – *“kept not their first estate”*
 - a. ‘kept’ = to guard or keep
 - b. “first estate” = beginning, dominion, position
 - c. They failed to protect the position God had ordained for them.
 - 2. Actively – *“left their own habitation”*
 - a. ‘left’ = to leave, depart or forsake
 - b. ‘habitation’ = place of dwelling, home or house.
- C. Their Judgment (6b)
 - 1. Current – *“everlasting chains under darkness”*
 - a. Vs 13 – Jude speaks of “the blackness of darkness forever” as the judgment upon the apostates.
 - b. The Lord Jesus Christ often spoke of hell being a place of “outer darkness” (Matt. 8:12; 22:13 & 25:30). It is interesting to note that men in this life love darkness rather than light. What they love in this life becomes a part of God’s fearful judgment in the next.
 - 2. Future – *“judgment of the great day”*
 - a. The Great White Throne Judgment of Revelation 20
 - b. The lake of fire for eternity

III. Perverted Cities (Vs. 7)

- A. Their identity (7a)
 - 1. Sodom
 - 2. Gomorrha
 - 3. Surrounding cities (e.g. Admah and Zeboiim)
- B. Their Sin (7b)

There were two main sins that these cities were known for:

- 1. Pleasure (hedonism)
 - a. Ez 16:49 *“Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fullness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.”*
 - b. ‘hedonism’ = the doctrine that pleasure or happiness is the highest good.
- 2. Perversity
 - a. A selling of themselves to unbridled immorality – “giving themselves over to fornication”
 - i. This is not an occasional indulgence of sexual sin. It is a complete sell out of the whole person to commit immorality. They sold themselves to commit wickedness.

Contend for the Faith – Jude Series

- ii. 'fornication' = a broad term encompassing all forms of unlawful intercourse. The root word is 'harlot' so more specifically it had to do with indulging in conjugal activity outside of the bonds of marriage. It is also the word from which we get our modern word 'pornography'.
- iii. I. Cor 6:18 *"Flee **fornication**. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body."*
- iv. Eph 5:3 *"But **fornication**, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;"*
- v. I. Cor 6:9-10 *"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither **fornicators**, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God."*
- b. A pursuit of vile perversity – "going after strange flesh"
 - i. Refer Genesis 19
 - ii. 'strange' = foreign, a different kind
 - iii. Romans 1:18-32
- C. Their judgment (7c)
 - 1. "set forth" = to display in public view
 - 2. 'suffering' = present, continuous
 - 3. "eternal fire" = unending fire. The flames that engulfed them on that fateful day were but the beginning of an eternal punishment.

Summary/Conclusion:

- I. Lessons
 - A. There is a progression to be seen in the examples given: Unbelief – Rebellion – Immorality
 - B. God hasn't changed. The God of the O.T. is the same God we serve in the N.T. and He will judge sinful apostasy.
 - C. Apostates haven't changed. The same evil traits that characterized the apostates of old are the same as the ones we observe in apostates of our day. Note the beginning of verse 8.
- II. Challenges
 - A. Unsaved: Are you born again or are you heading for judgment?
 - B. Saved: Is there unbelief in your heart towards the Lord? Are you walking by faith or is your life governed by human wisdom?
 - C. Saved: Is there rebellion in your heart towards God's divine will?
 - D. Saved: Are you indulging in unbridled lust? E.g. pornography?