

THE GENERAL EPISTLE OF

Jude

...ant of Jē'-sūs Christ, and
...imes, to them that are
...od the Father, and pre-
...rist, and called:
...and peace, and love, be
...gave all diligence to
...common salvation, it
...write unto you, and
...uld earnestly contend
...once delivered unto
...men creat
...of s...

when they feast with you, feeding themselves
without fear: clouds *they* are without water
carried about of winds; trees whose fruit
withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked
up by the roots;
13 Raging waves of the sea, foaming out
their own shame; wandering stars, to
is reserved the blackness of
ever.
14 And Ē'-nōch
Ād'-ām, pr
the

THE BOOK OF JUDE

THE ONLY BOOK IN THE BIBLE WHICH HAS
ONLY ONE SUBJECT!

APOSTASY!

THE EPISTLE OF JUDE

LESSON ONE - OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF JUDE

Jude 1:1A

- I. The Book of Jude is the Strangest Book in the Bible**
- A. I have never seen a Sunday School quarterly on the book of Jude.
 - B. The book has no Bible stories in its content.
 - C. The book has no accounts of men like Jonah, Moses, Noah or any other men.
 - D. The book has only “one” subject – **CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH** in the time of apostasy
 - 1. See Verse #3
 - E. The book is a “negative” book - (Not a bad thing).
 - 1. The Bible is at least 50% negative.
 - a. Eight of The Ten Commandments are negative: “Thou shall not...”
 - b. Psalms, chapter 1 begins with “three negatives.”
- II. The Location of the Book of Jude in the Scriptures is “Perfect.”**
- A. Many scholars think the book of Jude is “out of place.”
 - B. The book is perfectly placed in the Scriptures.
 - 1. Placed before Revelation: What it will be like in the end time. (7 years of Tribulation.)
 - 2. Jude: What it will be like “just before the end time.” (Pictured in Genesis 6.)
 - C. Pictured in Matthew 24:37-38; Luke 17:26.
 - D. The content in Jude was foretold in II Thessalonians 2:3.
 - 1. There will be a “falling away” - (Greek: *Apostasia*). (From truth.)
 - 2. Writers of the New Testament thought they were “in the last days” (I Thess. 4:17).
 - 3. Seeing that today – we will study in a later lesson and will give examples in writing.
- III. The People to Whom the Book was Written are “believers.”**
- A. Written specifically to the believing Jews.
 - 1. See Verse 5.
 - 2. Only the Jews could “remember” the judgments which Jude addressed.
 - a. Jewish children had grown up hearing of these around the table.
 - 3. The Gentiles had never heard these stories.
 - B. Applies to all “Believers” regardless of “time” periods.
 - 1. God so loved the world... (Different word) (*Agapos*).
 - 2. Jude 1:3: “Beloved....” Only Believers are called, “beloved.” (*Agapetos*)

THE "HUMAN PENMAN" OF THE BOOK

I. Who is this man named Jude?

NOTE: Keep in mind! THE HOLY SPIRIT AUTHORED THIS BOOK.

GOD in the person of the Spirit gave this STRONG admonition!

A. There are several men named Jude in the New Testament.

1. Jude was a very popular name in that day. People were proud of that name.
2. It came from the proper name "Judah."

B. There are eight men by that name in the New Testament:

1. Judas Iscariot, the betrayer of Jesus and one of the twelve apostles (Matthew 10:4).
2. Judas the brother of James, and one of the twelve apostles (Luke 6:16).
3. Judas, a half-brother of Jesus (Matthew 13:55).
4. Judas, Paul's host in Damascus (Acts 9:11).
5. Judas, called Barnabas, a leading Christian and companion of Paul (Acts 15:22).
6. Judas, a revolutionary leader (Acts 9:11).
7. Judah, an otherwise unknown person in the genealogy of Jesus (Luke 3:30).
8. Judah, a son of Jacob in the genealogy of Jesus, and an ancestor of an Israelite tribe (Matthew 1:2; Revelation 7:5) – Judas or Judah.

C. Two possibilities. Jude states he was the "brother of James." (Only two "James" in Scripture.)

1. James the apostle – Brother of John – Son of Zebedee (Matthew 10:2).
 - a. This is not likely.
 - b. This James was killed by Herod (Acts 12).
 - c. This was about 23-24 years before the book of Jude was written.
2. James the less (Mark 15:40).
 - a. Jude was the brother of James.
 - b. Same James as in Matthew 13:55 – Son of Mary and Joseph.
 1. This would make Jude the "half-brother" of Jesus Christ.
3. Little is known about Jude.
4. Only place where Jude has any part in recorded conversation: John 14:21-22
5. Jude was also listed with the apostles of Christ.

Note: Jude had three names in the Scriptures:

Jerome called Jude "Trinomious" which means "a man with three names."

- (1) In Mark 3:18 he is called Thaddeus.
- (2) In Matthew 10:3 he is called Lebbeus.
- (3) His surname was Thaddeus. In Luke 6:16 and Acts 1:13 he is called "Judas the brother of James."

D. Jude introduced himself as "Jude, a servant (Doulos-volunteer slave) of Jesus Christ."

(Same word Paul used in Romans 1:1 for servant.)

1. He was a very humble man.
2. He could have said: "You remember the man, Jesus, who fed the 5000?"
 - a. I'm am his half-brother!!! (He was the half brother of Christ.)
 - b. Some men today would use that to "be in the lime-light."
3. This is important as we study the book – Why?
 - a. There is no place in the ministry for pride - (Isaiah 2:12) – (Proverbs 16:18).

THE CONTENT OF THE BOOK

I. What is Apostasy?

- A. Apostasy DOES NOT apply to “non-believers.” (Lost people – never professed salvation.)
 - 1. Could be people who made false professions, claimed to believe – later departed.
 - 2. Could be people who were truly saved, claimed to believe – changed their mind.
 - a. To please people
 - b. To draw a crowd.

II. When did Apostasy begin?

- A. Apostasy dates back to the Old Testament (Nimrod, the Rebel) (Genesis 10:8-10)
- B. Apostasy began in the New Testament long before the Book of Jude was written.
 - 1. Jude 4:1: “...Who were before of old...”
- C. Apostasy was present during the time Christ was on Earth.
 - 1. Judas Iscariot is a prime example – One of the Apostles – Fell away....
 - 2. Had completely fooled all of the disciples.
- D. What about Apostasy today?
 - 1. Is apostasy present today? It abounds -
 - 2. Present in Paul’s Day: (II Timothy 4:3; Titus 1:9, 2:1, 10-15).

III. Who is an Apostate?

- A. An Apostate is a person who “claimed” to believe and stands for a certain truth.
 - 1. But, over time, he/she “changes” and now denies the truth he/she claims to believe:
 - a. A pastor - an evangelist – a missionary – a Bible college – a church.
 - b. False teachers on television.
 - c. They are - “...not of us would have continued!” (I John 2:19)
- B. Paul warned people of apostates in his day (II Timothy 4:1-7).
 - 1. Paul “finished his course.”
 - 2. This should be the “determined goal” of every Christian - to know the Word of God.
 - 3. Will Jesus find “true” faith to the Word of God when he comes?

THE OUTLINE OF THE BOOK

I. How Jude Presented His Case Against Apostasy - in Chronological Order

- A. Jude separated the message of Apostasy into at least “seven” sections.
- B. Each of the “seven” sections is presented in “outline” form.
 - 1. Each section is presented with “three points.”
 - 2. A conclusion is understood in each of the “seven” sections.
- C. A “TEN-FOLD” judgment of God is pronounced on Apostates in Jude 1:11-13.

NOTE: “Three” is the number of Deity (Organized by God).

“Seven” is the number of “completeness and perfection.” (The Case is Complete & Perfect.)

“Ten” is the number of “law” (Galatians 6:7-8).

Woe unto them!

1. Clouds without water.
2. Carried about by the winds (Unstable).
3. Fruit that withers.
4. Without fruit.
5. Twice dead.
6. Plucked up by the roots.
7. Like raging waves of the sea.
8. Foaming shame.
9. Like wandering stars.
10. Reserved unto darkness.

THE EPISTLE OF JUDE

LESSON TWO - OUTLINE

Jude 1:1b

ENCOURAGEMENT AND COMFORT FOR BELIEVERS

(These opening remarks made by Jude give us a tremendous picture of how God “loves” his children and how serious God is concerning His children having peace, comfort, and blessed assurance. God was preparing to say some very hard and harsh things concerning apostates. Before doing so, He wanted to make sure that His children DID NOT THINK they were facing these things. These young Jewish believers had been confused by “false letters” which some apostates had written to them, and signed Paul’s name. They were afraid! (See II Thessalonians 2: 1-3.)

I. Jude’s Opening Remarks to the Believers Concerning:

1. Contending for the Faith.

2. Facing Apostasy.

A. Jude knew he was going to be “hard & harsh” on Apostates. (Begins in Verse 3)

B. Jude began his case by reminding the believers of three existing conditions:

! The young Jewish believers were confused because of false letters.

1. They, as true believers, were “Sanctified.” (Jude 1:1)

2. They, as true believers, were “Preserved.” (Jude 1:1)

3. They, as true believers, were “Called.” (Jude 1:1)

C. Jude’s purpose was to assure the true believers that they were SAFE from God’s coming Judgment of Apostasy & Apostates.

D. They should have no fear.

THREE GREAT TRUTHS

We shall consider these three truths, in “reverse” order, to offer a clear understanding.

THEY ARE CALLED

Jude 1:1

I. The word “called” is used in three ways: (Two of those can be confusing.)

A. “Called” to the ministry – as used by pastors and missionaries.

Example: A missionary is being interviewed on a “radio program.” He is asked, “Why did you leave your home, job, and loved ones to go to Mexico?” The missionary responds, “God called me to go.” That is acceptable to you and me, and I have no problem with it. However, imagine what a “lost” truck driver, driving down the highway, would think when he heard that. “Called.” What did God do, holler at him? Did he hear God say, “I want you to go to Mexico?” Did this guy get a phone call or something???

It would be better if we “explained” why we left the United States and went to Mexico. We should explain how our hearts were burdened for “the lost” of that country and how we felt that God would have us go to that country and preach the Gospel to them, etc.

B. “Called” by “Irresistible Grace” - as used by Calvinists. -This has caused much confusion.

Example: They teach that “the call of God” for a person to trust Christ is “irresistible” and that people CANNOT RESIST that call, but it is “pre- determined” that “you will be saved.” This teaching confuses people and is totally “contrary to the Scriptures.”

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!” (Matthew 23:37) - (Luke 13:34). This makes it clear that “the call of God can be refused!”

C. “Called” as used by Jude in Jude 1:1 – The true meaning of “called:”

1. Acts 17:30 – Called to Repentance.

2. John 12:32 – Called to Salvation. – ALL are called.

3. II Peter 3:9 – Called to Holy living.

4. I Corinthians 1:2 – Called Saints (“to be” in italic and not in the original text.)

All the above are in “the past tense.”

Through salvation, believers are “made righteous” in Christ – not by our works.

Romans 4:1-7

D. The results of the above are found in Isaiah 32:17. **These are precious to a believer!**

“And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance forever!”

II. What Constitutes a “Call” to Salvation? – Four principles:

A. Number One: A person must hear the Gospel of Christ.

1. This does not mean “verbally,” or the deaf could not be saved.

2. It means they must hear, read, etc., and understand the Gospel message.

B. Number Two: A person must be receptive to the conviction of the Holy Spirit.

1. Some will attend church and hear the Gospel, leave and say, “I didn’t feel a thing.”

a. They will not be lying – their mind is closed, and their heart is hardened.

2. I have witnessed to people –

a. One will be TOTALLY unconcerned – as though they did not hear.

b. One will be GREATLY concerned, weep, receive Christ in their heart.

C. Number Three: A person must “believe the truth of which the Holy Spirit convicts them.

1. John 3:18

D. Number four: A person must “receive” Christ as his/her Savior (John 1:12)

NOTE: The “Bible Proof” of Salvation is found in II Corinthians 5:17.

THEY ARE SANCTIFIED

I. What is the meaning of “sanctified?”

A. A Calvinist has created a great deal of confusion about “Sanctification.”

1. There is no such doctrine in the Bible, as, “being sanctified.”
2. There is no such doctrine in the Bible as “a Second Blessing.”
3. There is no such doctrine in the Bible as “an unknown tongue.”
4. ALL OF THE ABOVE ARE “HERESY.”

a. We are not slowly sanctified until the world becomes perfect!

1. John 17:19 - Past tense!
2. I Timothy 4:4-5 - Past tense!
3. Hebrews 10:10 & 14 - Past tense!

5. The Bible DEMANDS that we separate from Heretics (Titus 3:10 – Romans 16:17)

B. Sanctified means that “something or some person” is “set aside for a special purpose.”

C. Jude told the believers that they were: “Set aside or consecrated to God.”

1. They had a SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.
2. They were called, “Beloved.”
 - a. God loved them in a very special way.

II. Two types of love in the Bible:

A. There is “Compassionate Love.”

1. Refer to the attached commentary for an example of “compassionate love.”

B. There is a “Complacent Love.”

1. True complacent love means that the person is, “Feeling pleasure, satisfied, gratified, is enjoying friendly comfort”
2. Again, refer to the attached commentary for an example.

THEY ARE PRESERVED

I. What is the meaning of “Preserved?”

A. First, there is a great deal of confusion that has been caused by the Calvinist crowd.

1. They teach that “the elect” will be preserved to the end – BECAUSE they are elected!
2. Their being “preserved” has NOTHING TO DO with the “keeping power of Christ.”

B. The Greek word for “preserved” is: “*Tereo*,” which means:

1. Protected from loss or injury.
2. Watched over.
3. Guarded.
4. “Kept” by a source outside themselves.
 - a. Acts 12:5 – Peter was “kept” (*tereo*) - in prison” – by a power outside himself.
 - b. Acts 25:21 – Paul was “kept” (*tereo*) – by a power outside of himself!
5. Both men were “kept” by the highest power on the earth in that day.
6. You are also “kept” by the highest power in the universe – Almighty God!

C. Jude ASSURED the Jewish believers that they “were kept safe” from the judgment of Apostasy.

Example of Compassionate Love.

I do not like cats! I would not own a cat as a pet - I do not want a cat in my house. I do not like cats! Period! However, if I saw a cat which belonged to one of our neighbors, lying in the street in our neighborhood, hurt, and crying for help, I would have compassion on the cat, pick it up, and take it to the neighbor's house. If no one was home I might even take the cat to the vet for treatment. I do not like cats, but I do not like seeing a cat hurt and suffering, so I would make an effort to help the cat. That is compassionate love.

This is the type of love described in John 3:16. *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* This is "compassionate love." God has compassion on lost sinners, but lost sinners do not have a special relationship with Him.

Example of Complacent Love.

We have all talked about someone and remarked, "that person is complacent" or "he is in a state of complacency." We always think of complacency as meaning the person has gotten comfortable and has lost his motivation, or something of that nature. The true meaning of "complacent" or "complacency" is:

"A feeling of quiet pleasure, satisfaction, gratification, a cause of pleasure or joy - comfort, friendly." It embraces all of those feelings. It means: THEY DO NOT HAVE A WORRY IN THE WORLD!

Some people like cats. Some people actually love cats! I cannot understand that, but they do. Their cat crawls up in their lap, turns around a couple of times, finds a place to sit down in their lap and be comfortable - the cat cuddles up and is content. The person in whose lap the cat is sitting is just as content and comfortable. They like the cat being in their lap. Occasionally the cat will purr, get up, rub against the person's face or neck and even lick the person on the cheek. The cat is "complacent." The person loves for the cat to rub against him/her and loves for the cat to lick his/her face. Such people certainly love their cat! That's complacent love – for both parties.

This is precisely what Jude was pointing out to these Jewish believers. They were "sanctified". They were "set apart for a special relationship with God the Father." - They were His "beloved." God enjoys them coming up close to Him. He enjoys watching them showing expressions of their love for Him. God enjoys having a special relationship with his "beloved."

God wants us, "His beloved children," to have a "complacent love" for Him. He wants us to trust in His love and to "not have a worry in the world." He does not want "His beloved" to fret about anything, but wants us to "rest complacently" in His loving care.

Jude was assuring the Jewish believer that what he was going to warn them of concerning apostasy was not regarding them - but about men who had crept into their ranks - "unawares." It will profit us to heed Jude's warning as we have far more of those types of men in the church of today than the Jewish believers had in their day. The warning was: God hates apostasy and God will judge apostasy! God judges apostates! That is the message in the book of Jude for the church of the 21st century!

THE EPISTLE OF JUDE

LESSON THREE - OUTLINE CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH IN TIMES OF APOSTASY

I. The Desire of Jude's Heart (Jude 1:3):

- A. The "Common Salvation" was a delightful subject on which to write.
 - 1. A number of writers had written on the subject of "Salvation."
 - 2. Matthew, Mark, Luke & John all wrote concerning the "common Salvation."
- B. Jude basically said, "I am eager and excited to write to you about Salvation."
- C. There is no "confrontation" in preaching, teaching, or writing about Salvation.

II. The "Re-Direction" of the Holy Spirit (Jude 1:3):

- A. Why did Jude change his Mind?
 - 1. I am sure that Jude did not want to write on such a confrontational subject.
 - 2. I am sure other men did not encourage him to write about apostasy.
 - a. That would have been mentioned if such had occurred.
 - 3. I am sure the people did not say, "Please preach to us about apostasy."
 - a. People DO NOT like to hear messages on apostasy.
 - b. People DO NOT like to be challenged about "Contending."
- B. It had to be the Holy Spirit of God who "**constrained**" Jude to write on this subject.
(Greek word: "*Anagke*" – Strong word! Today better understood by "constrained."
(**EXAMPLE:** Acts 16:6-11 – Vitally important for us to be sensitive in today's world.)
- C. Jude wrote to his Jewish Christian associates because of his love for them and he wanted to protect them from the dangers of apostasy and apostate teachers.
 - 1. Jude knew the dangers.
 - 2. Jude knew the results. – (Will be revealed in a later lesson.)
- D. We should do the same today for others whom we love:
 - 1. We should "keep ourselves" (Jude 1:20-21.)
 - 2. We should "warn others" (Jude 1:22-23.)

III. The "Difficulties" of Preaching Against CONTENDING for the faith in times of apostasy:

- A. Preachers prefer to preach about anything other than this topic.
 - 1. Nevertheless, we are commanded to preach "the whole counsel" of God.
- B. Being a pastor is the hardest job in the world!
 - 1. When they preach the truth:
 - a. They are criticized.
 - b. They are lied about.
 - c. They are called hateful.
 - d. They are called "mean spirited."
 - 2. People should be VERY careful regarding the above.
 - a. I Chronicles 16:22 - Psalms 105:15
- C. However, it is needful. - - Why is it needful?
 - 1. Our country is in a mess.

2. Our churches are in a mess.
3. Our families are in a mess.
 - a. Because preachers have not preached on “contending for the faith.”

FOUR WAYS WE CAN CONTEND FOR THE FAITH

I. By strengthening the hands of those who study, prepare, pray, teach, preach, lead, and stand for the truth.

A. They receive letters – generally unsigned – letters criticizing them.

1. WRITE them a personal letter which:
 - a. Commends them for standing.
 - b. Thanks them for standing.
 - c. Encourages them to continue standing.
 - d. Lets them know you “stand with them.”
 - e. Assures them that "you are praying."
 - f. Support them publicly.

II. By standing for the faith among friends, loved ones, family members, and church members.

A. Stand for the truth of God’s Word – be kind, be gracious, but firm! Make no apology!

1. **Be prepared:**
 - a. If you stand – they will accuse you. (Revelation 12:10)
 - b. If you stand - they will attack you. (Job 1:8-11)

III. By withholding ALL encouragement and ALL financial support from men (and/or ministries) who compromise and deny any doctrine or any principle in the Word of God. Apostasy begins with “just a little harmless compromise.” (I Corinthians 5:6 & Galatians 5:9) “A little leaven...”

NOTE: The major place where churches, in years past, began encouraging apostasy is by sending financial support to missionaries or ministries which are "just a little off" doctrinally from the Word of God. (If they are “a little off” today – in a short time they will be “away off.”)

- A. Do not encourage them by words (II John 1:10-11).
1. This includes such false teachers as Mormons & Jehovah Witnesses.
 2. It also includes “Baptists” who hold any position contrary to the Word of God.

- B. Do not study, read, or recommend any books written by:
1. An Apostate (Romans 16:14)
 2. A Heretic (Titus 3:10)
- (Some have “A LOT” of good things – but mixed with “A LITTLE” leaven.)
RESULTS: “...Leaven the WHOLE lump.”

IV. By speaking up for truth against people and ministries who deny the clear truths of the Word of God.

A. Warn people of apostates. – Name Apostates. – If not, how will people know?

- B. Call them by name.
1. Paul called compromisers and apostates by name (I Timothy 1:20).

THE EPISTLE OF JUDE

LESSON FOUR

RECOGNIZING AN APOSTATE

Jude 1:4

- Intro:**
- I. In Verse 3, Jude exhorts us to; “Earnestly Contend for the Faith.”
 - II. In Verse 4 Jude explains; “Why we should Earnestly Contend.”
 - III. Jude continues to use “sets of three” truths to present his case.

THREE CHARACTERISTICS OF AN APOSTATE

- I. **They are “known” men – Jude used the term “certain” men (Jude 1:4).**
 - A. An apostate should be “pointed out.” – “made known” to others
 1. Paul said, “...mark them.” (Romans 16:17) “*skopeo*” “...take aim at them.”
 - B. BE PREPARED: Men who “mark them” or “identify them” today – **will be criticized!**
 1. Called hateful and unchristian.
 - C. The Apostle Paul “Marked them and named them.”
 1. I Timothy 1:20
 2. II Timothy 2:17-18
 - a. Why? Because apostates had overthrown the faith of some!
 3. II Timothy 3:8
 4. II Timothy 4:14
 5. II Peter 2:15
 6. III John 1:9
 - D. Paul – John – Peter – **Three of the most spiritual men in the Bible** – called names!
 - E. Old Testament – Moses – the second most named man in the Bible -(Numbers 16:1-3).
 1. Moses “pointed them out” (Numbers 16:26-27) – to the entire congregation.

EXAMPLE

Individual

Billy Graham (See attached documentation)

One day, about 15 years ago, I was talking with Adrian Rogers. He shared that Billy Graham came to Memphis a number of years ago and spent the night with him (Rogers). His purpose in visiting was to talk Adrian Rogers into going with him to visit the Pope in Rome. Rogers said he told Graham that he would not go and he did not want him (Graham) to go either. He quickly said that he knew that Billy would go anyway, because “Nobody tells Billy Graham what to do.” He told me that the next morning, he said to Billy Graham, “Billy, I think when all is said and done we will find out that you have done far more harm to the cause of Christ than you have ever done good!” I responded, “Adrian, you did not really tell Billy Graham that, did you?” He answered, “I did – It was hard to do, as Billy is a friend of mine, but I believe that it is true!”

EXAMPLE
Church
First Baptist Church – Memphis, Tennessee

Under the leadership of Rev. David Breckenridge, Senior pastor since 2008, the church "...approved a resolution that would allow gay marriage and ordination." The church had already baptized two Sodomite men in 2001. In 2014, the church voted overwhelmingly to ordain its first gay deacons. The church began ordaining women as deacons in the late 1990s. At that time, First Baptist Church was a member of the SBC but was excluded from its membership for approving and endorsing homosexual behavior.

II. They are people who have "Crept in Unawares" – crept into the congregation!

A. "Crept" in secretly – Deceitfully! (II Peter 2:1)

1. They did not inform the church/people as to what they really believed.

B. A good example of this is in Genesis 3:4-5.

1. The serpent was an attractive animal at that time.

2. The serpent "looked" good and deceived Eve.

a. Apostates ALWAYS LOOK GOOD AND LOOK SPIRITUAL.

b. Judas Iscariot "looked good" among the disciples.

c. Judas Iscariot "deceived" everyone except Jesus Christ!

3. The serpent convinced Eve to believe a "false doctrine."

C. Apostates "creep" around among the congregation.

1. Because they look spiritual – people are attracted to them.

a. They appear to have great wisdom and understanding of Scriptures.

2. One of their main tactics is to "begin home Bible studies" in THEIR home, without approval of the pastor.

III. They are people who are "Condemned of Old."

A Their actions were not "ordained by God."

B. "Ordained" (Greek – *Prographo* appears only four times in the New Testament.)

1. Romans 15:4 - "...written aforetime..."

2. Galatians 3:1 - " been evidently set forth..."

3. Ephesians 3:3 - "...I wrote before..."

4. Jude 1:4 - "...before ordained..."

C. **Meaning:** It was written beforehand - posted beforehand – announced as a future event.

D. Judgment: (1) Israel: (2) Rebel angels: (3) Sodom – AWAITS THEM.

THREE TRUTHS ABOUT AN APOSTATE

I. **They are ungodly Men** (Jude 1:4). **Build a following - sow discord – cause problems.**

A. Jude continues to explain what Apostates - really are like.

B. First, allow me to explain what is not intended in the passage.

1. Does not mean: Drunks – “down and out” - vile - adulterers – immoral men.

C. Apostates appear to be good citizens – family men – do not drink – well mannered.

1. Well behaved – well dressed – make good first impressions.

D. Apostates are guilty of far worse sin than being drunk or immoral:

1. No fear of God.

2. No respect for God and His Word.

3. They read God’s Word – and say, “I know what it says, **but**, let me explain...”

4. They prey on young converts.

5. Generally, never approach older, mature, grounded Christians.

6. They are “ungodly” – they are “wicked.”

MARTIN LUTHER: “Those who boldly stand for truth will not long remain on friendly terms with teachers of error. Unity with them would be an unmistakable sign that we have lost the true doctrine. To receive evil workers, as Paul calls them (Philippians 3:2), requires that we call “evil good and good evil” (Isaiah 5:20). To do this is to plunge into confusion from which there can be no recovery until truth and righteousness are again defined and honored in Biblical terms.” (If there is anything God hates, it is a mixture (Ephesians 5:11).

II. **They are men who turn the grace of God into lasciviousness** (Jude 1:4).

A. “Turning – changing sides – exchanging – twisting”

EXAMPLE: The New American Standard Version

In my opinion, the translators who “turned and twisted” the Word of God (King James Bible) and “changed it” into something which is NOT the Word of God, are apostates. This, as with all corrupt versions of the Bible, in my opinion, was done for the purpose of “marketing” their product as, “easier to read – easier to understand.” Their goal was “to make money.”

A. “...turned - into ‘Lasciviousness’”

1. Changed the grace of God into “other vile sins.”

2. Antinomianism (See attachment)

3. Romans 6:1-2: They teach that we have a license to sin – and that allows grace to abound!

III. **They are men who deny the Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ** (Jude 1:4).

A. They apparently did not deny “Jesus as Lord” in conversation.

1. Would have ruined their plan of deception.

B. They denied “the true doctrines” of the “true God.”

First Baptist Church of Memphis votes to OK gay marriage ...

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Members of historic First Baptist Church of Memphis approved a resolution Sunday that would allow gay marriage and ordination.

The vote, taken Sunday after the worship service, was not a big surprise. The church at Poplar and East Parkway baptized an openly gay man in 2001. Two years ago, the congregation voted overwhelmingly to ordain its first gay deacons.

"This morning continues the tradition at FBC Memphis of applying our theology and faith to the issues and needs of our times as a church where all are welcome," said Rev. David Breckenridge, senior pastor since 2008.

"Our church has a long history of being a progressive congregation where matters of social equality and justice are concerned."

The 175-year-old congregation was among the first historically Southern Baptist churches to welcome African-Americans in the 1970s.

The congregation began ordaining women as deacons and ministers in the late 1990s.

First Baptist was among the first and largest Baptist churches in the region to part ways with the Southern Baptist Convention, and the local Shelby Baptist Association, and affiliate with the more moderate Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

The SBC excludes from its fellowship churches that "act to affirm, approve or endorse homosexual behavior." The CBF hasn't taken an official position on gay marriage or ordination, but it bans the hiring of gay staff members and missionaries.

"Historically, the CBF has allowed individual congregations to make up their own minds about these matters, and I don't expect that to change," Breckenridge said.

About 70 percent of the 133 who voted Sunday favored the motion, which had been approved by the church's board of deacons in November.

"This isn't a vote about the kind of church we want to be in the future, it's a vote about who we are now," said David Richardson, deacon board president and a fourth-generation member.

The motion reads:

"As Christ's church, First Baptist Memphis is called to minister equally to all persons, extending to them the privileges afforded to any follower of Christ, including, but not limited to, baptism, membership, leadership, ordination, and marriage and will not discriminate based on race, gender, age, marital status, or sexual orientation."

THE EPISTLE OF JUDE

LESSON FIVE – OUTLINE

Jude 1:5-7

THREE HISTORICAL JUDGMENTS ON APOSTASY

Intro: I. Jude continues to follow his method of writing and presenting truth.

- A. Presents material in a clear, orderly manner.
- B. Well organized.
- C. Simple.

I. Jude contains 25 verses - EVERY verse is filled with the thought of “Fighting for Truth.”

A. A “good” Christian must be a “fighting” Christian.

B. Paul (II Timothy 4:7-10)

- 1. The crowd is “small” who are “earnestly contending for the faith!”
- 2. But, it was “a big religious crowd” that crucified our Lord!
- 3. I do not like “the religious crowd!”

II. I will “THEREFORE” - always see what it is “there for.”

A. “THEREFORE” is a “doorstep.”

- 1. Jude described an “apostasy and apostate men.”

B. Now, he “illustrates” the seriousness of apostasy.

- 1. Proves how much God HATES apostasy!
- 2. Proves God has/will judge apostasy!

C. Apostasy should be clearly understood by Christians today – illustrations of the past.

- 1. Today’s apostasy is equal to Israel’s apostasy.
- 2. Today’s apostasy is equal to fallen angel’s activity – demons are active in every way.
- 3. Today’s apostasy is equal to Sodom and Gomorrah – “Same-sex marriage.”

D. TV evangelists proclaim that America is on the brink of great revival!

- 1. HOW INSANE CAN YOU GET!
 - a. Can we have revival? – Yes!
 - b. Will we have revival? – Extremely doubtful.
- 2. Revival comes in this manner (II Chronicles 7:14):
 - a. Christians must “humble themselves.”
 - b. Christians must “pray.”
 - c. Christians must “Seek God’s face.” (MUST OBEY GOD’S WORD.)
 - d. Christians must “turn.”
- 3. The Haystack – 1806 – Last Great Prayer meeting!

THE FIRST JUDGMENT

The Judgment of Israel

Jude 1:5

- I. **Jewish people admonished to “remember.” - - - they remembered:**
 - A. The blood on the door post.
 - B. The Red Sea – drowning of Pharaoh and the Egyptian army.
 - C. God’s leading them to Kedesh-barnea.
 - D. God’s instructing them to “possess the land.”
 - E. God’s promising to “fight for them.”

- II. **These are not what Jude wanted them to remember – He wanted them to remember:**
 - A. They believed not! (Deuteronomy. 1:29-32)
 - B. Numbers 14:29
 - C. Numbers 32:11 – “not fully – not totally – not consecrated”)
 - D. Remember how seriously God considers “Apostasy.”
 - 1. Israel “claimed” to believe God (Exodus 19:8).
 - E. Remember that their fathers had: “sinned against God” in unbelief.
 - F. Remember that “God always judges unbelief!”

- III. **These verses are not discussing “Salvation” or “Losing one’s salvation.”**
 - A. Verse 5 clearly refers to “being saved physically.”
 - 1. See I Corinthians 3:16-17 – God destroyed people physically!
 - 2. They had been in captivity for 400 years – God brought them out.
 - a. The judgment was “...God physically destroyed them...”
 - b. No mention of an eternal judgment.
 - 3. Pictured in I Timothy 1:19 – Ship-wrecked!
 - B. Verses 6 & 7 clearly refer to the judgment of God as being the result of “sin.”
 - 1. Verse 6 “...they kept not – they left...”
 - a. Judgment is pictured as “darkness.”
 - 2. Verse 7 “...giving themselves over to fornication...”
 - b. Judgment is pictured as “eternal fire.”

THE SECOND JUDGMENT
The Judgment of Fallen Angels
Jude 1:6

Intro: This is a subject of much debate and presents many questions.

- A. There is no certain passage to which Jude's illustration can be traced.
- B. We are sure this happened, as Jude said to the Jewish people:
 *"...therefore put you in remembrance, though you once knew this,
 how that the Lord..." (Verse 5)*

I. The Debate over the passage centers around Genesis 6:1-4. (Only place in Old Testament.)

THE POSSIBILITY:

- "The sons of God" were from the line of Seth.
- "The daughters of men" were from the line of Cain.

- A. Many pictures today depict "angels" as young, blond-headed women.
 - 1. There is no place in the Bible that angels are identified as "female."
 - 2. They are always identified as "male."
 - a. Genesis 18:2 & Genesis 19:2-3 ("...behold now my lords..." - men)
 - b. Acts 1:10
- B. It is reasonable to think that Genesis 6 could be "angels" who took on the form of men, as pictured in other Scriptures!

1. This cannot be proved! **Please do not be dogmatic!**

C. REGARDLESS: this judgment happened!

- 1. Whatever it was – the Jews were aware of it.

THE THIRD JUDGMENT
The Judgment of Sodom and Gomorrah
Jude 1:7

I. The Cities of Sodom and Gomorrah:

- A. These were both major cities. Cities of great importance.
 - 1. They apparently affected "other cities" (Jude 1:7).
- B. They were known as wicked cities – Sin Cities – "The Capital of Sin Cities."
 - 1. They had legalized sin.
 - 2. Reputation: Known as cities where people could go and indulge in gross sin.

II. The Seriousness of the "un-natural sin" of homosexuality.

- A. Romans 1:26 & 28 states: "God gave them up – God gave them over."
 - 1. Greek Word: "*Paradidomi*" (God abandoned them.)
- B. *Paradidomi* is translated in several different ways in the New Testament:
 - 1. Matthew 17:22 "Betrayed"
 - 2. John 19:30 "Gave up the ghost" **This rings of finality!**
 - 3. Acts 8:3 "Committed"

4. I Corinthians 13:3 "Give my body to be burned" Again, finality!

5. II Peter 2:4 "Delivered"

All signify: Finality – No Hope - Finished

III. **The Sin of homosexuality today**

A. When a person has "Made his/her choice:"

1. They are "abandoned."

(These are not my words – they are God's Words!) (Romans 1:24, 26)

B. Gave them up or gave them over – **Not used in reference to any other sin in the Bible.**

C. The United States Government and Courts are "active partners."

1. Ezekiel 16:49-52 ("...justified their sisters..." tolerated their sin of Sodomy.)

2. The United States Government has "tolerated and legalized" the sin!

D. Subject to the "SAME type of judgment!

II Peter 2:6

"And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly."

THE EPISTLE OF JUDE

LESSON SIX

Jude 1:14-15

THE CAUSE AND JUDGMENT OF THE FIRST CIVILIZATION

Intro: The lesson reveals what the condition of the first civilization was when judgment fell.

1. The Bible gives us very little information concerning the first civilization.
2. This study dates to the time before the flood.
3. Referred to as “The days of Noah” (Luke 17:26-30).

I. **The characteristics of the first civilization before the flood** - Genesis 4:17-22.

A. The first civilization, before the flood was doing four things (Luke 17:27-28):

1. They were building great cities (Genesis 4:17).
 - a. They were tired of the “laid-back” slow, comfortable living.
2. They had great ranches of “cattle” (Genesis 4:20).
 - a. They were apparently living a “luxurious lifestyle” (Luke 12:16-20).
3. They were addicted to the “fine arts” (Genesis 4:21).
 - a. Especially in music.
4. They had a strong emphasis on education (Genesis 4:22).
 - a. They were “strong” on manufacturing.
 - b. They were instructed “In every artificer in brass and iron...” (to make money).

II. **The failure of the first civilization before the flood** (Genesis 6:5).

A. The first civilization was totally involved in a wicked, sinful lifestyle (Genesis 6:5).

1. Wickedness was great.
2. The imagination & thoughts of men’s hearts were only evil – CONTINUALLY.

B. Wicked people try to use every means to improve society.

1. Building of great cities – progress.
2. Emphasized environment and lifestyle.
3. Provide entertainment.
4. Increase education opportunities.

C. None of the above solved the sin problem.

1. Sin continued to grow worse.
2. World problems to increase.
 - a. Today: increase and appropriate money for education – education gets worse!

D. Their plans....

1. Did not stop sin.
2. Did not change their behavior.
3. Did not better the world.
4. Did not benefit their children.
5. Did not hinder the judgment of God.

- E. Jude, in preparing the people of his generation to fight apostasy and contend:
1. Pointed back to the first judgment of God.
 2. Referred back to about 2000 plus years.
 3. Used the first civilization to warn the people against conforming.
 4. Jude said, "LOOK WHAT HAPPENED!"
 - a. Jude used "THE LAW OF FIRST MENTION."

THE PICTURE OF NEW TESTAMENT TRUTH FROM THE DAYS OF ENOCH

I. A Picture of Bible Dispensations (Verse 14):

A. Enoch was "the seventh" from Adam (Genesis 5:5-19) - Completion and Perfection:

1. Adam
2. Seth
3. Enos
4. Cainan
5. Mahalech
6. Jared
7. Enoch

B. For six generations men sinned and died! Men sinned and died! Men sinned and died!.....

1. The seventh generation – the generation of Enoch.
 - a. Enoch was a godly man - who lived a godly life.
 - b. Enoch did not die. He was "caught up to Heaven" by God (Genesis. 5:24).

C. Six Dispensations have passed

1. Men have sinned and died.....
2. The seventh dispensation is coming – The Millennial Reign of Christ.
3. Christ will rule in righteousness (Revelation 2:27, 12:5, 19:15) "With a ROD OF IRON"
 - a. Righteousness will prevail.
 - b. No death.

II. A Picture of the Prophecy of Enoch (Jude 1:14):

A. There is no record in the Old Testament of Enoch prophesying!

1. The Catholic Church has "added" the Book of Enoch.
2. The Book of Enoch is not inspired by God and is not part of the Scriptures.
 - a. It is "another book" just as commentaries are.
3. This text did not come from the "Book of Enoch."

B. Enoch preached "through his son" (Genesis 5:21). – HOW?

C. Enoch named his son, "Methuselah" (Who would name a child that!)

1. Imagine the boy going to school and saying, "My name is Methuselah Jones!"

D. Methuselah comes from two Hebrew words:

1. Meth - "Man of a spear."
2. Shalac – "When he dies - it will come."

EXPLANATION: There are three meanings to the name “Methuselah”: The third (more concrete) meaning for “Methuselah” is used here and in context. We’re referring to the actual root meaning behind the name, which is: “When he is dead - it shall be sent.” JUDGMENT!

So, what we have here is a Divine prophecy concerning the actual flood of Noah, and it is hidden within this man’s name. How do we know for certain that this statement is true? The flood of Noah took place the very same year of Methuselah’s death.

The sinful world (at the time) was safe from God’s impending judgment as long as Methuselah was alive. However, Methuselah died, and things drastically changed for the rebellious people on the earth. Upon Methuselah’s death, God’s plan was to send forth (like a spear) the flood of Noah upon an unrepentant sinful world - DEATH. So, herein, is revealed a perfect illustrative type (or example) of the Lord’s promised judgment regarding sin and rebellion. And this illustrative type (and prophecy) is perfectly contained within the Hebrew name “Methuselah.”

E. Methuselah lived for 969 years (Genesis 5:27).

1. The same year Methuselah died – the flood of God’s Judgment came.
2. Enoch “Walked with God.”
 - a. He knew God was going to judge sin.
 - b. That affected the way Enoch lived.
3. Knowing the judgment of God should affect our “walk with God.”
 - a. “every man that hath this hope ... purifieth himself” (I John 3:3).

F. Pictures two things, neither of which affected the people:

1. Enoch did not die – but was translated. (Pictures the Rapture.)
2. Behind Enoch, Noah “preached against sin and called for repentance.”

The people were so desperately wicked – they refused to repent!
3. The Rapture will not change the wickedness of the world in which we live!
4. The preaching will not cause most of the people to repent.

NOTE: See Revelation Chapters 6 – 19

III. **Jude’s final warning (Jude 1:14b-15)**

A. Jude presented “FOUR FACTS” to close his message:

1. The Lord’s coming is sure (Jude 1:14).
 - a. People before the flood did not believe that judgment was coming.
 - b. People today doubt (II Peter 3:4-9).
2. The Saints will accompany Him in the Rapture (Jude 1:14).
 - a. Zechariah 14:5
 - b. The saints will “judge” with Christ (I Corinthians 6:3).
3. The promised judgement “will be executed” (Jude 1:15).
 - a. People in Noah’s day laughed and made fun of Noah.
 1. People today laugh and mock Christians (II Peter 3:4).
 - b. In our day, people laugh and make fun of being warned that the Lord is coming!
 - c. Judgment has been promised. Christ is coming to “execute” judgment.
4. The ungodly will be convinced of their sin before their sentence to Hell (Jude 1:15).

(Convince: only place the word is used in Bible: “exelegcho-convict and convince.”)

- a. The ungodly will be convinced & convicted of ALL their ungodly deeds.
- b. The ungodly will be convinced & convicted that the judgment is just.
- c. The ungodly will be convinced & convicted that their judgment is deserved.
- d. The ungodly will be convinced & convicted and will make “no comment.”
- e. The ungodly will be convinced & convicted and will not deny or argue.
- f. The ungodly will be convinced & convicted and will know that they deserve to spend eternity in Hell!

At the “Great White Throne” of Judgment, Hell will be emptied, small and great, and all will stand before God. Every person will be “convinced” of the above and “convicted” that they should spend eternity in the Lake of Fire!

THE EPISTLE OF JUDE

LESSON SEVEN - OUTLINE

Jude 1:20-25

BUILDING BLOCKS

Intro: Jude has warned us that apostate men – dreamers – will creep in among us. They will look like “Angels of Light.” They will be well dressed and give great speeches. They will be influential. They will fool many. They are deceivers.

Jude tells us that they are “dreamers – vile men – despise authority – speak evil” (Verse 8). They project great truths but mix it with error. They deceive many. Jude tells us “how to prepare and stand” against Apostates.

He has told us how to identify them. He has ILLUSTRATED HOW SERIOUSLY God hates apostasy, which is revealed by the judgments God sends upon apostasy in Verses 5, 6, 7, 14 & 15.

Now, Jude gives us exercises that will protect us from apostasy which will also strengthen true believers to help others who are caught up in apostasy, or in the process of being deceived. He gives us “four words.”

I. **Building “Courage to Contend”** (Verse 20) –

A. The Architect is God the Father

B. The Foreman is the Holy Spirit (Verse 20)

C. The builder is you! (Verses 20 & 21) - - - “...build up “yourselves.”

1. The “builder” NEVER changes the plan of the Architect!

D. Build up yourself “after the plan:”

1. Read the Word of God – (II Timothy 2:15 – Revelation 1:3)
2. Memorize the Word of God – (Psalms 119:11)
3. Meditate in the Word of God – (Joshua 1:8)
4. Apply the Word of God - (James 1:22)
5. Obey the Word of God - (I Samuel 15:22)

II. **Praying with a “Heart to Help”** (Verse 20).

A. The Architect of our prayer-life is the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:26).

1. Think like God thinks (I Corinthians 2:16).

2. Feel as God wants us to feel:

- a. Christ wept - (Luke 13:34; 19:41)
- b. Paul wept - (Acts 9:20 & 31 - Romans 9:1-3)

3. Desire what God desires (James 4:3)

a. This is the ONLY effective praying.

B. Romans 8:26 – Holy Spirit guides us in the will of God.

1. John 14:26
2. John 16:13

- C. Praying in the Holy Ghost protects us from falling into temptation (Luke 22:31-46).
 1. You could not have convinced Peter that he would curse and deny the Lord.
 2. He chose to sleep when the Lord had admonished him to pray (Luke 22:40).
 3. Peter slept AFTER he was warned (Luke 22:46).
 4. Peter denied the Lord – and used bad language! (Mark 14:71).

III. Keep the “Honey in the Honeymoon” (Verse 21).

- A. Second time we are told to do something ourselves “Keep yourselves...”
 1. This is NOT about God’s love for us; speaks of **our love for Him**.
 - a. God’s love for us is “Established Forever” (John 13:1).
 - b. Greek word “Telos” – The end “*the conclusion of all things.*”
 2. God’s love cannot – will not fail (Hebrews 13:5).
 3. God admonishes us to “keep ourselves in the love of God.”
 1. He knows that we can fail! Revelation 3: 1-5 (Verse 4)
 2. First love = Honeymoon love. (Explain)

IV. Looking for Our Lord! (Verse 21)

- A. The Tabernacle: ALWAYS set up facing the east – the direction from which the Lord will return.
- B. Believers are to start EVERY morning “looking” (hoping for) His return TODAY.
 1. (I John 3:3) “...And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as He is pure.”
 2. It will “change” the way you and I live,” if we are “looking” for Him today!

EXAMPLE: If your spouse has to leave for a while and told you he/she would be returning at a certain time, shouldn’t each of us be looking for his/her return? As I traveled for 35 years, I was always excited to return home, knowing that my wife was waiting for me and would meet me at the door to welcome me home! Absolutely! How much more does Christ want us to be “looking for Him?”

**THROW OUT THE LIFE-LINE
RESCUE THOSE WHO ARE PERISHING**

(Jude 1:22-23)

There are two types of people God would have us help.
There are two different ways of helping each type.

I. Help those people who are “being” deceived by apostates (Jude 1:22).

- A. These are people who are being “courted” by apostates and are “in confusion.”
 1. These are “seeking for the truth” – not sure which is which.
 2. They are not fully ground in the faith.
 3. These have not yet believed and have not fallen for dangerous errors.

B. This is to be done by older Christians – who have “built up themselves.”

C. By “having compassion.” (Broken heart for these people.)

(This is not to imply that we should not have compassion on ALL men regarding their salvation or their being deceived by false teachers.)

1. These people are more likely to be influenced by kind and gentle words.
2. These people will sit and listen as older Christians explain the Scripture.
 - a. Refute the errors they are being taught.
 - b. Show them from the Bible the truth concerning...

MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

II. Help people who have “been” deceived by apostates (Jude 1:23).

A. These are people who, either by others who have been deceived, or, have been “self deceived.”

1. Reading Scripture – taking it out of context.

B. These people have “embraced the deception” and claim to believe it.

C. They have already been deceived and have “fallen away from the faith.”

1. Help them by “showing” them the truth from the Bible.
2. Help them by “showing” them the judgments of God on apostasy.
 - a. Jude gave three judgments in Verses 5, 6 & 7.
 - b. Jude gave a fourth judgment of “the first civilization.”
3. Help them by “putting fear” into their hearts of God’s coming judgment.

AMENDMENT AND COMPARISONS

(ATTACHMENT TO LESSON FIVE)

THE LIKENESS OF SODOM AND GOMORRAH TO AMERICA

At this point, I should like for us to look at three practices which were prevalent in "that day" and compare them to what is widespread today. We might term them, "three likenesses."

As a country, the United States, not only permits the practice of sodomy, but it is promoted as an acceptable lifestyle. Today, the United States now has passed laws to "protect" sodomites and the lifestyle they practice, even to the extent that our country allows them to enter legally into a relationship that is referred to as "same sex marriage." When a country passes laws to permit and protect people who practice sodomy - that country becomes an active partner in the promotion and practice of the foul sins of those who practice sodomy and, therefore, they become included in the judgment of God!

Let's compare the "light" or understanding of right and wrong, which Sodom and Gomorrah had about 1898 BC, with the "light" that America has today. Sodom and Gomorrah had "spiritual light" and understanding concerning what was right and what was wrong. Without doubt, when Sodom was practicing her perverted lifestyle she KNEW that it was wrong! She knew that it was forbidden by God! She knew that God had condemned the sin of sodomy! Sodom did not practice this foul lifestyle in ignorance! She KNEW she was practicing a vile sin that was contrary to God's will. Apart from any additional light that its citizens had, the Bible clearly states that they had the "light" of creation. That truth is stated in Romans 1:18-23.

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things."

They also had the "light" of "conscience." That is stated in Romans 2:14-15.

"For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;"

However, I believe the people of Sodom had even clearer light. When I use the word "light," I am referring to a clear understanding concerning "right and wrong." I cannot prove this, but I believe this. I believe this because of God's faithfulness. I believe there was a man living at the time that Sodom was practicing her open lifestyle of vile, foul, perverted sin who knew as much or more about the judgment of God upon sin as any man who has ever lived. That man's name is Shem. Shem was the son of Noah.

If Usher's date book is correct, the flood took place about 2353 BC. Shem was a young man. The destruction of Sodom was about 1898 BC, a difference of about 450 years. According to Genesis, Chapter 11, and Verses 10-11, Shem lived to be 600 years old. This would have put Shem alive at the time that Sodom was practicing her sinful lifestyle and also, when God destroyed the cities.

Shem was one of eight people who entered into the ark. Shem watched as God sent down the "Waters of Judgment" upon the entire earth! Shem knew and had seen the judgment of God regarding wickedness. He had seen the people of his day practice wickedness! He had heard his father, Noah, preach the message of righteousness prior to entering the Ark. If there was ever a man who knew about judgment - and if there was ever a man who would have cried out and warned the people of a coming judgment, it was Shem! I believe that by the mouth of Shem the people of Sodom KNEW that their sin was wrong! I believe they had heard and recognized that God judges wickedness - particularly the perverted, vile, foul, unthinkable sin of sodomy! I believe they had "spiritual light" concerning their sin and concerning God's judgment! They were not ignorant!

Today America has light! Churches in America have light. Christians in America have light. Every person in America has light. Almost every person in America knows that the sin of sodomy is condemned in the Bible, and that sodomy is not "normal lust." Almost every person in America knows that sodomy is an extreme, perverted form of lust and sin. Almost every person knows this! It is sad that churches in America will not stand up and condemn it. It is sad that Christians will not stand up and condemn it! It is sad that our government will not stand up and condemn it! We are a nation that once KNEW what was right and PRACTICED what was right, but we have turned from that "God given light" and tolerate it as an "alternative lifestyle." We take the attitude, "If that's what they want to do - it's okay with us. After all, it's their business." No! It's OUR business! Noah was a preacher of righteousness! Today, America's greatest need is: preachers of righteousness!

You ask, "Why and How?" Because the sin of sodomy that is openly practiced, approved, promoted, permitted, and protected in America is the result of a condition far more serious. The practice of vile, base, perverted sin never just happens! People do not know and practice that which is right one day and then turn to the practice of vile, perverted sin the next. It never happens that way! The breakdown of morality is ALWAYS preceded by apostasy! Apostasy ALWAYS comes first. When there is no apostasy - no "falling away from truth," there is never a break down of morals in a country - not in any country! However, where there is apostasy, a "falling away from truth," that country will - sooner or later - ALWAYS end in a total failure of morals! However, watch now! A total failure of morals is not the NEXT step following apostasy - that is the ultimate end. But there is a process before reaching the end. First there is a "falling away from truth." Generally, the first visual manifestation is a drop in standards. It begins with several contributing factors. It begins with a moving away from traditional music to contemporary music. At the same time, the "walls of separation" begin to have cracks and churches are more inclusive. Churches begin to have liberal or compromising men speak in their services. Concurrently, the dress standards are lowered. This comes about because of the failure to preach, teach, and require proper dress in the church and at church functions. When all of the above occur, morals begin to be lowered and become less respected. This simply put, means, "There is no reverence for God and for His Word!" Then, BOOM! Somewhere - following the "falling away," the end result will be a total failure of morals! It is a slow process; but a country, where apostasy sets in and runs its course, will become totally corrupt. If you don't believe this - look at America today! We are there! The cure for the problem in America is not in "changing our moral standards." This will not happen! The cure for the problem in American is for us to confess our national sins, and "return to the truth" from which we have

departed and fallen away! This is true in the lives of Christians; it is true in churches, and it is true in our government!

America is now a land much like Sodom or Gomorrah. Sodom had a king! His name was "Bera king of Sodom" (Genesis 14:2). The induction of the history of the doom of Sodom shows that the city had a government. They had an authority! The vile vices that were taking place in Sodom were given "legal sanction" which not only provided protection, but promoted bold, public display of their sin! What about America? The courts of America have struck down laws passed by a vote of the people that forbids "same-sex" marriage. The Sodomite community has been "issued" permits by Washington, D.C, to have parades down Pennsylvania Avenue in our nation's capital. They dress for those parades in a perverted manner! They illustrate their vile lifestyle in open public. A special day has been set aside by our government as "Gay Pride Day" to promote the lifestyle of Sodom. Its purpose is to promote "same sex marriage." You can be arrested if you voice any critical remarks against a "sodomite." They call it a "hate crime." You can serve time in jail! Sodom of 1918 BC is a "blue-print" of America in 2020 AD!

Not only have the courts overturned laws that prevent moral failure, but the following appeared in the Newspaper in Warsaw Poland on June 28, 2014.

"President Barack Obama has taken the U.S. gay rights revolution global, using the American embassy across the world to promote a cause that still divides his own country."

THE COMPARISON OF LOT TO MEN IN AMERICA

Second, let's consider Lot. Let us compare Lot to the men of America today. Lot was Abraham's nephew. Before they separated by virtue of choice of lands - Abraham and his family, and Lot and his family lived in Canaan. When the dispute arose between the herdman of Abraham and the herdman of Lot, Abraham said in (Genesis 13:8-10):

"...let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdman and thy herdman; for we be brethren. Is not the whole land before thee? Separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left. And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar."

Lot "lifted up his eyes and looked." That is the worse mistake a person can make - LOOKING! The Scriptures declare, *"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world"* (1 John 2:16). Note what followed in Lot's life: (1) He looked. (2) He chose. (3) He pitched his tent "toward" Sodom. (4) He sat in the gate! He took his family down this same flight of stairs with him. He exposed his wife to "bad company." He exposed his young daughters to "bad company." Lot's failure as a husband and as a father affected his wife and daughters!

Stop a minute and think about just how vile and possessed the men of Sodom were. After the two angels arrived in Sodom, Lot, knowing they were angels, invited them into his home and prepared a meal for them. Quickly the word spread throughout Sodom that two "strange" men had come to visit Lot. The vile, wicked men of Sodom then came to Lot's house and demanded that Lot bring the two men out, saying *"bring them out unto us, that we may know them"* (Genesis 19:5). The Scripture uses the

phase, "...that we may know them," which means that these men wanted to have an immoral sexual experience with them. God forbid! Verse Eleven states that the angels pulled Lot back into his house, closed the door and "smote the men that were at the door of the house with blindness." WATCH! EVEN AFTER BEING STRUCK WITH BLINDNESS the men were so obsessed and controlled by lust, they "wearied themselves to find the door."

Let's return in our study to the separation by the choice of land of Abraham and Lot. Lot "looked" and chose the well watered plains of Jordan. After looking, Lot moved west - away from Abraham - toward the Jordan River. He pitched his tent "toward" Sodom. He moved very close to the "border" of Cannan, which was next to the land of Sodom and Gomorrah. Lot became a "borderline believer." Our generation would term him a "borderline Christian." Today, our churches are filled with "modern day Lots - borderline Christians." They want to see "how close" they can get to the world without actually getting "into" the world. Christians should be studying "how far away" they can get from the world instead of how close they can get to the world. Occasionally, young people will ask if they may talk with me about a certain matter. Generally, it is about some questionable activity. They always begin by saying, "Don't you think it's okay to go to" Or, "Don't you think it is being too strict to tell young people they can't wear ...?"

I generally answer them by saying, "You know what I think? I don't think what you are talking about is a problem at all! I think there is another problem. They brighten up! I think the problem is within your heart - You have a heart problem. You want to be like the world. You want to go where the world goes, you want to dress like the world dresses; you want to do what the world does, but still, you want to be a Christian." I never convince them, but THAT IS the problem - it's a heart problem!

Lot had a heart problem. The angels of God delivered Lot and his family from the judgment of God on Sodom, but they could not deliver Lot and his family from the "lust of the flesh" that had built up in their hearts while living in Sodom. Lot's wife apparently liked her life in Sodom. While being led away from Sodom, she looked back, longing for what she was leaving behind, and was turned into a pillar of salt. His two daughters, who had never known a man, gave their father wine to drink, got him drunk where upon the first night the older went in to Lot and had a sexual relationship with her father. On the second night, they repeated their plan and the younger daughter went in to Lot and had sexual relations with her father (Genesis 19:33-38). The last mention of Lot in the Old Testament is of him being in a cave in the mountains outside the city of Zoar, passed out - drunk and lying with his virgin daughters! (Genesis 19:38). All of these episodes happened as the result of a bad choice by Lot.

THE COMPARISON OF ABRAHAM TO THE CHURCH IN AMERICA

Abraham was an intercessor. When judgment was pronounced upon Sodom because their sin was "very grievous," the Scripture records the account of this intercession during which "Abraham stood before the Lord" in an effort to save the city. In Genesis 18:23-33, we read:

"And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked? Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city: wilt thou also destroy and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that are therein? That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right? And the LORD said, If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes. And Abraham answered and said, Behold now, I have taken upon

me to speak unto the Lord, which am but dust and ashes: Peradventure there shall lack five of the fifty righteous: wilt thou destroy all the city for lack of five? And he said, If I find there forty and five, I will not destroy it. And he spake unto him yet again, and said, Peradventure there shall be forty found there. And he said, I will not do it for forty's sake. And he said unto him, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak: Peradventure there shall thirty be found there. And he said, I will not do it, if I find thirty there. And he said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord: Peradventure there shall be twenty found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for twenty's sake. And he said, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak yet but this once: Peradventure ten shall be found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for ten's sake. And the LORD went his way, as soon as he had left communing with Abraham: and Abraham returned unto his place."

Abraham made intercession six different times. He continued to make intercession until he reached the number "ten." I imagine that Abraham thought that Lot had surely influenced at least six people besides himself, his wife, and his two daughters. But - you know the story. God destroyed Sodom because He did not find ten righteous people in the city of Sodom. The Scripture records its epilogue:

"And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when he overthrew the cities in the which Lot dwelt" (Genesis 19:29).

What did God remember? God remembered the intercessory prayer of his friend, Abraham. And all of God's people said, "Amen!" The prayer of Abraham delivered Lot and his family from the judgment of God. Today, America needs to be delivered from liberalism, compromise, and apostasy! This can be done by "intercessory prayer" - and only by intercessory prayer. Americans need to do four things: (1) Humble ourselves! (2) Pray! (3) Seek God's face! (4) Turn from our wicked ways! If Christians and churches in America will do this, revival will come to our nation! (II Chronicles 7:14). It worked for Abraham - it will work for us! The problem in the churches in America is that we know more about the "principles" of intercessory prayer than we know about the "practice" of real praying. We "decorate" all of our services with an "opening prayer" and a "closing prayer." We truly know very little about "fervent, intercessory prayer!" Very little!

If this study does not motivate you, then you have studied in vain.