

Text: Jude 14-16

Title: Future Judgment of the Ungodly

Truth: The judgment coming on the ungodly is justified by their evil conduct.

Date/Location: Sunday January 25, 2014 at FBC

Introduction

Here is where we are in the letter:

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As part of our Bible study skill of observation, we should notice that Jude is fond of triads—writing things in groups of three. He taught us about God’s judgment in the past with unbelieving Israel, the fallen angels, and Sodom and Gomorrah. He taught us that the ungodly who are trying to devastate the church defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of angelic beings. He wrote that they are just like Cain, Balaam, and Korah. This fact about “threes” helps you take careful note of what God has said, and can help you to remember it too.

I. About Enoch, v. 14a

- A. Jude says that Enoch was the seventh generation from Adam. This is confirmed in the genealogies of 1 Chronicles 1:1-3 and Genesis 5:1-18, starting with Adam as one generation. Enoch was born 622 years after the creation and was on the earth until 987 years after creation, long enough to see his grandson Lamech.
- B. According to Gen. 5:18-25, Enoch’s father was Jared. Enoch fathered Methuselah, the man with the longest recorded lifespan. Enoch lived 365 years and had other sons and daughters. His name means “dedicated” (cognate verb **קָדַשׁ** in Deut. 20:5, Prov. 22:6, as well as 1 Kings 8:65 // 2 Chronicles 7:5).
- C. God “took him” because “Enoch walked with God.” This phrase “walked with God” is used in verses 22 and 24 of Genesis 5 to describe Enoch. In the whole Bible, it describes only one other person, and that is Enoch’s great grandson Noah (Genesis 6:9). Hebrews 11:5 tells us that Enoch was translated directly into God’s presence because he had a life testimony that was pleasing to God. He lived his life in a manner that satisfied God and was well pleasing to Him.

D. Certainly other positive phrases are used in the Bible to describe some people's lives, and we must not downplay those. But to "walk with God" is a wonderful way of life as well as a privilege and blessing. It reminds us of the metaphor of "walking" that stands for "living" in the New Testament. For instance:

1. Colossians 1:10 - That you may **walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him**, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.
2. 1 Thessalonians 2:11-12 – As you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children, that you would **walk worthy of God** who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.
3. 1 Thessalonians 4:1 - we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought **to walk and to please God**.
4. Ephesians 4:1-3 - I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to **walk worthy** of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
5. Ephesians 4:17 – "This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you **should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk**, in the futility of their mind..." Verse 22 says that we were taught that Christianity means putting off your former way of life.
6. Ephesians 5:8 – **Walk as children of light**.
7. Colossians 2:6 – As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, **so walk in Him**, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

The normal, healthy state of the Christian life is that the believer *walks with God*, like Enoch did. Any other state is abnormal or "spiritually sick."

Additionally, we believe that an entire generation of Christians will be "translated" into Heaven, like Enoch was, at the event called the rapture. This is described in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and 1 Cor. 15:50-54. **May God find us walking with Him when He calls us up!**

II. Judgment Prophesied from at Least 5500 Years Ago, v. 14b-15

A. We have no other Biblical record of Enoch's words. Jude seems to have quoted them from the pseudepigraphal *Book of Enoch*. That book is *not* part of the Bible, and has not been considered a part by Christians or Jews. It has a number of questionable and outright wrong statements. For instance, in Enoch 10:2 it speaks to Noah, who was not born until 69 years after Enoch was translated to Heaven. It refers many times to named angels which are not spoken of in the Bible. It calls the chief of the evil angels Azazel, not Lucifer. Basically, it is a book of myths. But that doesn't mean that all of its content is bad. Consider Enoch 1:9:

And behold! He cometh with ten thousands of [His] holy ones
To execute judgment upon all,
And to destroy [all] the ungodly:
And to convict all flesh
Of all the works [of their ungodliness] which they have ungodly committed,
And of all the hard things which ungodly sinners [have spoken] against Him.¹

- B. The words quoted by Jude are consistent with what we know about Jude himself. More importantly, the church has recognized that Jude's letter is canonical; we know that it was inspired in the original writing by God, so that no error was in it, no omission, and nothing extra. It was exactly what God wanted it to be.
- C. To the point of the text, Enoch prophesied, or *proclaimed a message from God*. He was a prophet, one in a long line of godly men used by God to proclaim His message of righteousness on the earth. Enoch's message was that God would come to the earth with a myriad of saints to judge the ungodly.
- D. We Christians do believe that the Lord will return to the earth a second time, in a different manner than He did the first time, but just as truly, physically, and historically as He did the first time. This second coming is for the unbeliever a fearful prospect, while for the believer it is at the same time somewhat fearful, and also a comfort and an incentive to godly living.
1. When the Lord comes, He will be accompanied by "ten thousands" of his holy ones. The numerical word is the one from which we get our word *myriad*. It is a multiple of 10,000, so at least 20,000. Probably here it refers to a number of multiplied thousands, much like we would use "tens of thousands" without trying to convey a number with five or more significant digits.
 2. The holy ones could be angels exclusively, but the group could include, if not consist entirely of, humans glorified in their heavenly bodies, as indicated in Revelation 19:14. Believers will be given places of judgment and governance and priesthood (1 Corinthians 6:2; 2 Timothy 2:12, Rev. 20:6).
- E. When the Lord comes, He will *execute judgment and convict*. Perhaps these words can be taken chronologically in the opposite order: God will convict the ungodly regarding their behavior, and then he will execute judgment on them. This is something like the legal system with which you are familiar—someone is charged and then convicted of a crime, then sentenced and punished.
1. There will be plenty of evidence to convict them, whether they plead guilty or not. They are ungodly and do ungodly deeds in an ungodly way. They also speak harsh things against God.

¹ *The Book of Enoch*, translated by R. H. Charles, D.Litt., D.D., with introduction by W. O. E. Oesterley, D.D., London, Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, 1917, available at <http://www.sacred-texts.com/bib/boe/boe004.htm>. Symbols [and] enclose text that differs between various manuscripts of *Book of Enoch*, also known as *1 Enoch*.

2. Some may “get convicted” about their sinful behavior, but it will be too late to “make amends” or repent at that point. But I have serious doubts as to whether most of them will actually feel any remorse at all in their own conscience. Sin is a strange thing: it causes people to be cold and seemingly without a conscience. They hate God, and that feeling doesn’t bother them. They could be proven wrong about their belief and conduct, but they will never agree with God.

IV. Re-Confirmation of Their Condemnable Conduct, v. 16

- A. “Grumblers and complainers” seems to convey a single idea of “complaining malcontents” who grouse about their lot. They are always discontented, maybe talking in a low tone of voice or behind-the-scenes about their pitiful situation.
- C. Living in lust, going around following their own evil desires. These people have chosen a wicked path in life, and then they are discontent about it to boot.
- D. Speech that is arrogant and full of flattery. Their mouths speak pompously or bombastically (see 2 Peter 2:18) about themselves and toward others. They will do just about anything to gain an advantage over someone.

Conclusion

Beware of the ungodly. The full displeasure of the infinite God rests upon them, and it is only a matter of time until they are convicted and sentenced to their eternal fate. You want to be able to recognize them and keep your walk at a good distance. Some you may discern are not as deep into wickedness as others, and some you may try to win to the Lord (verse 22-23). But have no fellowship with the works of darkness (Eph. 5:11)! MAP

How Jude Describes an Ungodly Person or False Teacher

Description	Verse	Description	Verse
Sneaky	4	Without fear of God	12
Ungodly	4,15	Devoid of spiritual life	12
Lewd, perverted	4	Wicked and shameful	13
Deny Christ	4	Aimless, unable to guide	13
Unbelieving	5	Speak against God	15
Unholy	6	Grumblers	16
Sexually immoral	7	Complainers	16
Defiled	8,23	Lustful	16,18
Rebellious	8,11	Arrogant	16
Speak evil of angelic beings	8	Flatterers	16
Behave according to instinct	10	Mockers	18
Disobedient, angry murderer	11	Sensual	19
Greedy false prophet	11	Divisive	19
Stains, or hidden dangers	12	Not having the Spirit	19
Care only for themselves	12	1 Cor. 6:9 – Do not be deceived...	