

**Text:** Jude 5-7  
**Title:** God’s Judgment  
**Truth:** God has severely judged sin in the past; we shouldn’t expect anything less today.  
**Date/Location:** Sunday Morning January 4, 2015 at FBC

**Introduction: Where are we in Jude?**

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So far, we have seen that Jude is writing an urgent letter to exhort the believers to exert great effort on behalf of the faith. Such effort will keep the practice of the faith pure and expanding in an always hostile world that is full of ungodly people. Such people are licentious and rebellious.

These people are very dangerous to the Christian church (that is, the people!) because they are destined for condemnation, and they will bring with them to destruction everyone who has adopted their godless ways. As we will learn, God has a plan for such people, and He has the omnipotence to implement the plan. Three examples should be convincing.

**I. God’s Judgment on the Ungodly: The Exodus Unbelievers, v. 5**

A. Initially, God saved the nation of Israel out of the iron furnace of Egypt (Deuteronomy 4:20). This “salvation” was not a spiritual rescue from sin, but it was a physical deliverance from bondage. It is important to keep that in mind, because you could get confused if you think, “Wait a minute, God saved them...but then He destroyed them?” The physical deliverance is a different matter than their spiritual state. Most who came out of Egypt were idolaters and did not really believe in the true God.

- B. The readers needed a reminder about this. Just because you have experienced some good things from God doesn't mean that you are insulated from His hand of judgment! What is your true *spiritual* condition?
- C. A particular destruction is not identified, although most readers familiar with the Bible will probably think of the massive judgment of God on Israel during the wilderness wanderings, in which almost the entire generation died except Caleb and Joshua (Joshua 5:4). The death toll from this judgment numbered into the hundreds of thousands of people, perhaps up to a couple of million souls. But there were other instances of Divine judgment on those who did not believe, outlined below.
- D. Here are some examples of other judgments in the same time period:
1. Exodus 32:27-28: Destruction at the Golden Calf Incident. Death Toll: 3,000.
  2. Numbers 11:33-34: Destruction at the quail incident.
  3. Numbers 14:36-37: Destruction of the bad spies, and the people who decided to try to enter the land anyway (v. 44-45).
  4. Numbers 16:31, 35: Destruction of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram (16:3) and their cohorts. Death toll: About 275.
  5. Numbers 16:46: Destruction of those who complained about earlier judgment. Death toll: 14,700.
  6. Numbers 21:5-9: Destruction by fiery serpents because of a complaint about God's provision. Death Toll: Many.
  7. Numbers 25:9: Destruction because of Baal worship. Death toll: 24,000.
- E. Note that the key point is that the Israelites did not believe in God. Hebrews 3:19 and its surrounding context summarizes the situation the same way. See Matthew 13:58 in a similar vein. God does not do mighty things for people who do not believe. In fact, for those who do not believe, He judges them as they deserve, with eternal destruction.
- F. 1 Corinthians 10:5-6 reiterates the point, and adds the application that we should not lust after evil things like they did.

## **II. God's Judgment on the Ungodly: The Fallen Angels, v. 6**

- A. Angels are a company of finite spirit beings created directly by God in the opening moments of the first day of creation. Their purpose is to serve

God as “ministering spirits” in particular relation to those who are saved (Hebrews 1:14). Angels did not exist from eternity past—they were created (Col. 1:16, Romans 8:38—*created* things). They are called “sons of God” (Job 1:6), indicating that they were directly created by God. They do not propagate through reproduction (Matthew 22:30).

B. The angels who did not keep their proper domain and left their abode are what we call “fallen” angels or “demons.” The chief of these is Satan, the Devil. They sinned (2 Peter 2:4). Their proper domain was that of holiness in serving God, but they rejected that. They rebelled against the authority and holiness of God and went their own way.

1. This is similar to how humans rebelled against God because we all have gone astray as well. But it is different in the sense that angels who sinned cannot be saved. It is also different in that there is no imputation of the sin of one angel to another, as there is from Adam to all in the human race. There is also not, for angels, a shared nature passed down through procreation, as there is the sin nature in each human being that comes from parents.
2. There is a question about how these angels sinned. A very strange answer given by some is that a vast number of these angels cohabited with women in Genesis 6:2 and produced a race of angel-men called Nephilim. Those who hold this view suggest that the angels fell into a sin like the people of Sodom and Gomorrah (see v. 7’s ‘as’).
3. The next verse destroys that interpretation in that God refers to the situation as having to do with “humans.” Also, angels do not procreate, and they are not of the same “type” or “kind” as humans.
4. The answer as to how the angels sinned is more simple than a strange science-fiction scenario. The sin of the angels was to follow Satan in his rebellion against God through pride (1 Timothy 3:6).

C. A great number of fallen angels are imprisoned in chains, awaiting final judgment. Apparently not all of them are thus bound, because Satan himself prowls around like a roaring lion seeking people to devour (1 Peter 5:8). Demons possess certain people. But whether bound or free right now, all fallen angels will be judged by God and consigned to the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41).

### **III. God’s Judgment on the Ungodly: Sodom and Gomorrah, v. 7**

A. Their sin. The residents of the cities were fully involved in the perversion of homosexual behavior (19:4-5). This is called “sexual immorality” and

“going after strange flesh.” Such behavior is against the nature of how God created things to be (Romans 1:26) and is one of the deepest and most flagrant expressions of human sinfulness.

Yes, it is almost obligatory today to mention that all sin is bad and whether it is fornication or adultery or homosexuality it is worthy of God’s judgment. That is true. But it should not be taken to soften the condemnation of homosexuality. If anything it should be taken to strengthen the condemnation of those other so-called “more understandable” sins. But the fact is that some sins have different temporal consequences than others, and some sins more thoroughly demonstrate the extent of depravity than do others. The sin of Sodom and Gomorrah is of that sort.

B. Their judgment. God rained down fire and brimstone on these cities (Gen. 19:24). This was an example of how God punishes those who depart from His way. Obviously the sin had come to a point of being so bad and so ingrained that God had enough and it became necessary to wipe it out (Genesis 18:20).

Most of us don’t need to be reminded that our own nation may soon reach such a point because of its many and similar sins.

C. God set forth these cities as an example of how He does not appreciate deviation from His created order and holiness. The example is if you act like this, you also will suffer the punishment of eternal fire.

## **Conclusion**

Why go through all of this in such detail? To remind us that God is a God of judgment and destruction. He is a lot more than that, but this much reminds us that we need a good dose of respect and fear for the living God and what He calls us to be. We will face Him as our judge someday soon.

Christians will have Christ as their advocate, but I don’t take it that the judgment will be fun and games or a walk in the park.

Non Christians will have no advocate, and they will have no excuse for their behavior. It doesn’t “pay” to be ungodly. Actually, it does pay—the currency is judgment by fire. The wages of sin is death. The solution to this terrible problem is to receive the faith once delivered and trust in Christ for spiritual salvation.

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