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*God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.*

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## Jude 1.

(2013)

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The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises

But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

***Teach it, don't demand it.***

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## Jude 1.

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**INTRODUCTION:** the letter of Jude warns against those who, having gained admission to the church, were perverting the grace of God and denying our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ (v4). Jude used Old Testament examples to warn of these blemishes on the church. He wrote multiple denunciations of these ungodly people who defile the flesh and reject authority (v8). In contrast, he urged Christians to continue in godliness and love toward those being deceived and influenced by these ungodly ministers and teachers convincing, rescuing and snatching some out of the fire (v22-23). Jude likely wrote in about A.D. 69.

**NOTE:** for information concerning people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

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### Topics.

- Perverting the grace of God and denying the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Angels that did not keep their first estate.
- Angels kept in everlasting chains unto the judgment of the great day.
- Sodom and Gomorrah and going after strange flesh.
- Michael the archangel, did not dispute about the body of Moses.
- Wandering stars, to who is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.
- Save with fear those who are being pulled into the fire.
- To him who is able present you faultless before God's exceeding glory.

### Jude is writing to those who God the Father Loves.

Jude 1:1-3 ----- <sup>1</sup>Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ: <sup>2</sup>May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you. <sup>3</sup>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.

Although Jude and James were not apostles and did not believe in Christ until after the resurrection both Matthew and Mark give good evidence for believing that they were half-brothers of the Lord (Matt. 13:55) (Mark 6:3).

Jude as did all who ministered for the Lord saw himself as a servant, a servant to Christ and a servant to the people he ministered to.

The words, "To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ" (v1) means that Jude is writing this letter to everyone who belongs to the family of Christ, they are referred to as "Being kept for Jesus Christ" (v1), because when Jesus returns as King of kings and Lord of lords they will be gathered to him to rule and reign as kings and priests with Christ to establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth.

The book of Revelation states: -

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that: -

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Rev. 5:9-10).

Jude had purposed to write about salvation and the Good News of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, but seeing that there were false teachers who were influencing believers away from the Lord Jesus Christ and God's grace (v4) he thought it more important to warn brothers and sisters of these deceivers and encourage them to contend for the faith they had received.

### **Perverting the Grace of God and Denying the Lord Jesus Christ.**

Jude 1:4 ----- <sup>4</sup>For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

**Sensuality:** (Pernicious in KJV) does not only refer to people who live a lifestyle of unlawful sex and such like things, but also embraces those who live to gratify self, ego and pride (the flesh) with excessive worldly wealth and riches and who indulge themselves in the opulent luxuries of this world.

This is because sensuality carries the idea of self-indulgence the idea behind the word sensuality can be applied to any lifestyle that lives life simply to gratify the cravings of the flesh (self, ego, pride and greed etc.) for the things of this world or to sexual indulgences i.e., selfishly using others to gratify one's own sensual passions.

### **Denying Christ and Perverting God's Grace.**

It seems unlikely the people Jude is referring to blatantly deny Christ since every faithful and true brother and sister in Christ would recognize them straight away as false teachers without the need for any warnings. It is more likely those who Jude refers to confess to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, but are perverting God's grace and the gospel in the following ways: -

- By continuing to live a lifestyle solely to gratify the pleasures of the senses.
- By teaching that we are saved by self-effort and the strict adherence to ceremonial rites, religious customs and practises.
- By denying Jesus came in the flesh (i.e., he was born of a woman).
- By denying Christ was the Son of God.
- By teaching the way to eternal life is by perfect doctrinal knowledge.
- By teaching doctrines that lead to ungodly lifestyles.
- By using their followers for their own gain and to achieve their own selfish ambition.
- By denying we are saved by grace apart from works.
- By twisting and distorting the Scripture to appeal to self, ego and pride, for the purpose of adding more people to their religious empire.

By these they are denying the Lord Jesus Christ in the following two ways: -

1. By distorting and twisting the Scriptures and the Gospel that leads to eternal life to suit and fit the lifestyle they desire to live and for their own gain and selfish ambition.
2. By their ungodly and corrupt lifestyle and twisted and distorted teachings they cause those outside the Kingdom of God to speak against the Christian faith.

## **Long ago were Designated for Condemnation.**

The words, "Who long ago were designated for this condemnation" (v4) does not mean these ungodly people existed long ago, but that before time began God in his eternal mind planned and purposed that those who deny Christ and pervert God's grace would be condemned. It is the judgment of condemnation that would fall on those who pervert God's grace and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in any age of history that was long ago designated.

## **Israel's Deliverance from Egypt.**

Jude 1:5 ----- 5I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not.

To caution those he is writing to Jude reminds them that even though the LORD delivered and saved all the people of Israel out of the captivity and bondage of Egypt by mighty miracles and wonders it did not protect them from God's judgment for their rebellion and corrupt behaviour. Jude is warning these corrupt teachers that; just because God saves by grace does not mean he will overlook men who pervert His grace to their own advantage and twist and distort Scriptures for their own gain and selfish ambition.

This is why Jude is shining a spotlight on the fact that God later destroyed the wilderness generation of Israel who would not believe the word of the LORD and rebelled against God by refusing to enter into the Promised Land. God left them dwelling in the wilderness until that unfaithful and rebellious generation died. Then God used Joshua to lead the new generation across the Jordan River and into the Promised Land.

## **Angels that did Not Keep their First Estate.**

Jude 1:6 ----- 6And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

Since there has been much confusion amongst religious scholars throughout the history of Christianity regarding these words of Jude we need to take a little time to examine the meaning of the word angel and its use throughout the Bible.

**Angel's from Strong's Concordance:** in the New Testament is the Greek word *aggelos* it is used every time in the New Testament (except for Luke chapter twenty). *aggelos* can refer to a messenger sent from God to bring tidings, an angel, an envoy or to one who is sent i.e., a human or supernatural angel. The same word *aggelos* is used all of the time in the New Testament for God's supernatural angels, but the same word also applies in many instances to human messengers.

**Angels can be human messengers:** both the Hebrew word *mal'ak* in the Old Testament and the Greek word *aggelos* in the New Testament are words that both mean messenger, both words have been translated in some verses as angel and in others as messenger. In the OT God and Jacob, Moses, Israel, Joshua, Gideon, Jephthah, Saul, David, Abner, Hiram, Joab, Elisha, Amaziah and Ahaz, are all spoken of as sending angels (*mal'ak*) who were human men.

A human called an angel (*mal'ak*) is spoken of as going to Micaiah, Elisha's elders and Jehu, Jezreel and Job. Haggai is called an angel (*mal'ak*) and the book of proverbs says a king's wrath, a wicked man and a cruel human can be an angel. The Bible speaks of human angels (*mal'ak*) of a nation and calls the LORD'S spiritually blind servants and the OT priest angels (*mal'ak*). It is clear that it was the common Hebrew language to call certain human beings an angel (*mal'ak*) and that many angels of the Bible are human men both good and bad.

**In the New Testament;** John the Baptist and Jesus are both spoken of as human angels (*mal'ak*) and it is stated that they both sent human angels (*mal'ak*). Titus is spoken of as an angel (*mal'ak*) of the church and Rahab is said to have received angels (*mal'ak*) referring to two human men thus it is clearly seen that in many instances the English word angels (*aggelos*) which means messenger or

representatives are often human men. It appears that the Bible translators have in most instances translated the Hebrew word mal'ak to the English word angels when they are identified with God or heaven and translated it to the word messengers when the identification is with man or the earth, thus when man sends a mal'ak (angels) the translators of the Bible have translated the Hebrew word mal'ak to messenger, but when God sends a mal'ak the translators of the Bible have translated the Hebrew word mal'ak to angel.

Throughout the Bible is very common language for human mal'ak's (angels) to be sent by prophets, Kings, rulers and Israel, therefore it is most likely angels in the context of this chapter refer to corrupt and self-serving human men who have great positions of authority, power and influence over both the religious world and the secular world.

**For further information see the title: -**

- Angels (Can be Human Messengers).
- In Angels (On Website Menu).

Thus the angels in the context of this chapter refers to mighty men of authority sent or positioned by God, or those that have the potential to bring great glory to God as representatives of His name. It refers to those that have the potential to greatly influence multitudes of people for God's glory, but who instead use their privileged and exalted positions for their own gain, their own advantage and their own selfish ambition.

**Kept not their first estate:** carries the idea that they did not keep their chief position or the ministry that they were called to.

**Left their own habitation:** carries the idea that they deserted God and perverted the ministry they were called to and betrayed their own people.

#### **Angels Kept in Everlasting Chains unto the Judgment of the Great Day.**

The words, "God has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness" (v6) refers to false teachers who pervert the Gospel of the Lord who have died. The phrase "Kept in everlasting chains" is in contrast to the faithful in Christ who are spoken of as "Sleeping in Christ." No dead person (or angel) has actual steel chains wrapped around their dead body.

The words "Reserved in everlasting chains under darkness" (v6) is biblical lofty language that not only depicts the absolute disdain God has toward false prophets and teachers who pervert the Gospel and use those seeking Christ for their own selfish gain and ambition, but also illustrates that they will be judged accordingly.

It is in contrast to the warming and endearing words, "Sleeping in Christ" the Bible writers use when referring to the faithful who have died in Christ. This phrase "Sleeping in Christ" depicts God's favour being on the faithful who have died in faith and shows that they are being kept for eternal glory and will be welcomed with joy at the resurrection.

Those who have died in Christ are referred to as sleeping because their death is only temporary since they will be resurrected to eternal life and everlasting glory to rule and reign as Kings and priests with Christ in his Kingdom when he returns as King of kings and Lord of lords to establish God's righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth.

In contrast to those sleeping in Christ the dead who have died without Christ are being kept in the grave for the Day of Judgment and the Second Death when God descends to earth on a Great White Throne (a symbol of pure judgment and justice) and death and Hades, and the sea give up all the dead who are in them and each one is judged according to what they had done. According to what is written in the books some are counted worthy others are cast into the Lake of Fire (the Second Death) which means eternal death (i.e., total extinction) (Revelation 20:11-15).

**For further information see the following titles:-**

- Hell and Gehenna in, Death (ON WESITE MENU).
- Death (What happens when we Die) in, Death (ON WESITE MENU).

### **The Judgment of the Great Day.**

The punishment of false prophets and teachers is being kept in store for them until the Day of Judgment. Their punishment is the Second Death where they will be cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal death (i.e. total extinction).

For further information see the following title:-

- Resurrection (Second or White Throne Judgment).
- In, Resurrection (ON WESITE MENU).

### **Sodom and Gomorrah and Going after Strange Flesh.**

Jude 7 ----- <sup>7</sup>Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

**Flesh:** in this context refers to human nature with its frailties and passions (physical or moral) and embraces, self, ego pride, lust and greed, etc., it is that nature that says, "Me first" in contrast to the Spirit of Christ, which says, "Others first." It is often used as a symbol of external sinful behaviour.

**NOTE:** the phrase the flesh always refers to humans and never to some kind of evil supernatural angelic being.

**Strange flesh:** the people of Israel were called to be a separate people and as such they were forbidden to marry women from surrounding countries or become worshippers of pagan gods so in this context the phrase strange flesh refers to mixed marriages (i.e., those who believed in the God of Israel marrying those who believed in pagan gods).

**Defiling the flesh:** in this context refers to things like unlawful sex, sexual orgies, brutal and forced sex (i.e., rape) like that of Sodom and Gomorrah, marrying woman who worship pagan gods and the worship of their gods. Peter is warning anyone who twists and distorts the Scriptures and uses the glorious Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and those who belong to God's Kingdom as merchandise for their own selfish gain that they will not escape God's Judgment. He does this by shinning a spotlight on the fact that: -

- God destroyed the entire world Lot lived amongst and saved only Lot and his family.

### **Despise Dominion and Speak Evil of Dignities.**

Jude 8 ----- <sup>8</sup>Likewise also these *filthy* dreamers defile the flesh despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities.

Jude states that vengeance of eternal fire (v7) is being kept until the Day of Judgment for those who despise and speak evil of those in authority and against dignities (i.e., royalties, king's nobilities and governments). Since God's call for Christians is to obey secular authorities and governments has caused much confusion amongst many Christians it will help us to understand what Jude has in mind when talking of those who despise authority, by referring to what the apostle Paul wrote in his letter to the brothers and sisters in Christ who lived in Rome.

Paul wrote: -

- Let every person be subject to the governing authorities because there is no authority except from God therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has

appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad so do what is good, and you will receive the authorities approval, because they are *God's servant for your good*. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for they do not bear the sword in vain, because they are the servant of God, an avenger who *carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer* (Rom. 13:1-5).

The Christian religion was designed to extend throughout the world establishing a Kingdom amongst other kingdoms. Christians profess supreme allegiance to the Lord Jesus Christ he is their Lawgiver, their Sovereign and their Judge therefore Paul addresses the question: -

- What kind' of allegiance are they to render to earthly authorities?

Especially considering that the kingdoms of the world were then pagan kingdoms which had been generally founded in conquest, blood and oppression. Many of the kings were not only unprincipled men, but were morally polluted in their private lives and oppressive in their public administration thus Paul is addressing the question: -

- Should Christians acknowledge the laws of such kingdoms and of such authorities?

Many of the early Christians were composed of Jewish converts who had long been under Roman authority and oppression which was founded in a system of idolatry, thus the difficult question: -

- How far should they submit, if at all, to heathen authorities?

The circumstances for the Gentile converts was not much different since they would naturally look with abhorrence on the system of idolatry which they had forsaken and regard it as opposed to God, but since pagan religion was interwoven with the civil institutions and authorities there also existed danger that they might denounce the rulers of government altogether and be regarded as opposed to the laws of the land.

Naturally when the laws interfered with the rights of conscience; when they commanded the worship of idols or any moral wrong then it is right for Christians to resist the laws and take a stand, but where is the line to be drawn, the word be subject denotes that kind of submission which soldiers render to their officers it implies a willingness to occupy our proper place, to yield to the authority of those over us, but it does not designate the specific extent of the submission, but rather presents it as a general principal which would be to obey in all things which are not contrary to the Law of God.

It is most certain that the authorities Paul had in mind are the Roman rulers since he is writing to brothers and sister in Rome, but by extension the principal he is teaching extends to all generations. The reason Paul says Christians should be subject to the authorities over them is that governing rulers have received their appointment from God and therefore since Christians are to be subject to God they should honour God by honouring the system of government which he has instituted for mankind even if rulers had secured it, not according to justice, but by oppression.

The reason for this is because once a ruling government is established, how it was established is not the concern of a Christian since it is not their duty to seek to overturn it for without government there could be no society, no security, no private property; all would be confusion and anarchy and all nations would soon be in extreme Chaos. In all nations of the earth there is a constitution (a plan by which a particular country or state is governed) and this constitution is less or more calculated to promote the interests of the community. The civil authority agrees to govern according to that constitution and in this way there is an agreement and consent between the ruling government and those they are governing, but what if the ruler is an immoral man should Christians submit to his rule?

If he is ruling according to the constitution nothing can justify rebellion against his authority no-matter how irregular he maybe in his own private life; he may disgrace himself by an improper conduct, but if he is ruling according to the law and make

no attempt to change the constitution nor break the agreement between him and the people there is no legal ground of opposition to his civil authority and every act against him would be considered rebellion and unlawful. No personal misconduct in the ruler, no immorality in his own life, while he governs according to law, can justify either rebellion against him or contempt of his authority since he is accountable only to the people for his political conduct, for his private life and moral conduct he is accountable to his own conscience and to God.

Nevertheless opposition to a ruler can be justified when there are overt attempts on his part to change the constitution or to rule contrary to law. When the ruler acts in this way he dissolves the agreement between him and his people and therefore his authority is no longer binding because it then becomes illegal since he is acting contrary to the laws of that constitution according to which on being raised to the supreme power he promised to govern. His conduct and actions that are contrary to the law justifies opposition to his government, but a wise person will wait for the right time and find a legal way to bring about change according to law.

**IN CONCLUSION:** Paul is stating a general principle i.e., submit to authorities who are appointed to keep the law and administer justice otherwise you will come under their wrath. The entire focus is on authorities who are appointed to bring the wrongdoer to justice and thereby protect the innocent (meaning they have been appointed for the good of the people not their harm) (v4).

### **Michael the Archangel, did not Dispute about the Body of Moses.**

Jude 9 -----<sup>9</sup>Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee

The following words of Paul: -

- Brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea and were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea (1 Cor. 10:1-4).

Show that the body of Moses does not refer to the physical dead body of Moses, but to the children of Israel that were plucked up out of Egypt and all baptized into Moses, the body of Moses Michael the archangel contended for was the people of Israel and not the dead body of Moses.

### **Contending with the Devil.**

To understand the words, "Contending with the devil" it helps to take a little time looking at the meaning of the word, devil, since the King James Bible unfortunately translates the Greek word diabolos (devil) and the Greek word daimonion (demon) both as devil instead of translating them to devil and demon accordingly.

This has over the years led to a misunderstanding of devil and demons simply because the Greek word diabolos means an accuser and slander and never relates to mental or physical healing or sickness of any kind whereas the Greek word (daimonion) which means a god, especially and evil one almost always relates to sickness. The word devil in the Bible refers to everything that is opposed to God and his will, it not only embraces everything in the human heart that resists God's will, such as self, ego, pride, greed, jealousies, hatred, anger and such like things, but also embrace every outward action that opposes God and his will.

The word devil is the perfect word for biblical writers since it does away with the need to go into detail to explain what it is that is standing in opposition to God because devil carries the same meaning amongst every nation of the world. Whenever the word devil (diabolos) is used anywhere in the world all understand that it not only means that which is totally contrary to God and his will, but also refers to the enemy of God and the enemy to all that is good.

Thus the devil in the context of the following verse: -

- Michael the archangel, contending with the devil (v9).

Refer to Michael the archangel hindering every king and every nation that pursued after Israel to destroy them by trickery, deception, war and battle. This is why the tiny nation of Israel whose population has been spread throughout all nations of the world, defeated by many enemies still exist as a most powerful nation in the world in fact so much so that when they are in a crisis not only are all the cameras of the world's media upon them, but all the world is watching. They are a miracle nation that has survived enemies that by natural reasoning should have wiped them off the face of the earth long ago, but they keep surviving and rising up out of the ashes as a strong nation. The reason they have not been entirely destroyed is because God has his angels keeping them.

**NOTE:** though to be saved to eternal life Jews like everyone else must believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, the nation of Israel is God's thermometer regarding Bible prophecy, this is because God's eyes are always upon Israel and he will never allow the nation or Jerusalem the Holy City of God to be totally destroyed and annihilated from the face of the earth.

**My personal belief:** is that the surrounding nations of Israel's (and many others associated with them) will rise up with the intention of destroying Israel. When this happens an enormous amount of Bible prophecy will be fulfilled, the Lord Jesus Christ will return as King of kings and Lord of lords and save Israel from their enemies and the following prophecy of Zechariah will be fulfilled: -

- God will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on him, whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn. On that day the mourning in Jerusalem will be as great. The land shall mourn, each family by itself (Zech. 12:10-14).

**For further information see the titles: -**

- The Devil in, Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).

### **The Lord Rebuke Thee.**

The words "The Lord rebuke thee" (v9) referring to Michael the Archangel rebuking the devil are alluding to the following vision of Zechariah concerning Joshua.

- The LORD showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him and the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: *is* not this a brand plucked out of the fire?"(Referring to Jerusalem and its inhabitants) (Zech. 3:1-2).

When it is understood that the word satan means one who withstands and opposes God and the word DEVIL means slander and accuser it becomes clear that they both mean the same thing (i.e., an enemy of God). If we were to put a microscope on the differences between the two it would generally be seen that the word satan mostly embraces a collective group that has great power and influence (i.e., governments, armies, institutions etc., that oppose God and his will whereas the word devil generally refers to an individual or those that have lessor power and influence.

Zechariah vision shows two things: -

1. Joshua (a righteous man and deliverer of Israel) is seen from heavens view and God's eyes as as a man standing before the Lord as high priest on behalf of the nation of Israel.
2. When God looks upon the populations of the world he clearly sees the sin nature of all its individual inhabitants and the heart and actions of those who are opposed to Israel and who act in some manner as an adversary against His people and his eternal plans and purposes. When these adversaries to God are referred to collectively as one spirit or one power they are given the title satan.

Thus when the individual sin nature of all mankind (the flesh) (self, ego, pride, lust, greed etc., that is opposed to God and His will is seen from heaven as one collective spirit since it is seen as an enormously powerful force acting as an opponent and an adversary against God, against His eternal plans and purposes, against Christ and against the people of God and is therefore given the title satan or the devil (the enemy of God and of Christ).

This is because Satan means an opponent and adversary and refers to anyone who withstands and opposes what is good. In its original Hebrew language it does not have a capital 'S' and does not refer to a supernatural evil and powerful god that is at war with the one true God, but to anything i.e., an individual person, a king, a nation or government etc., and to the spirit of man that that is opposed to God, His people and his eternal plans and purposes.

Like the word devil the word satan is also the perfect word for biblical writers since it does away with the need to go into detail to explain what it is that is standing in opposition to God because it carries the same meaning amongst every nation of the world. Whenever the word satan is used anywhere in the world all understand that it refers to that which is totally contrary to God and his will and all that is good and that it carries the idea of being an enemy of God.

This vision of satan standing before Joshua, does not only apply to Joshua, but by extension applies to whoever faithfully stands for God and lives with heartfelt passion to bring about God's eternal plans and purposes. This is clearly seen in the life of Jesus, he stood for his heavenly Father while at the same time all the sinful fury of the Jewish Chief Priests, the Pharisees and Scribes was unleashed toward him. If Zechariah was having the same vision today concerning Jesus it would read something like the following: -

- The LORD showed me Jesus the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him and the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jesus rebuke thee: *is not he a brand plucked out of the fire?*" (Zech. 3:1-2).

In Jesus life the Jewish chief priests, Pharisees and scribes were the satan it was their indwelling sinful selfish ambition, pride, greed and lust for power that led to Christ's murder.

John in the book of Revelation tells us: -

- The dragon, that old serpent, is the Devil, and Satan (Rev. 20:2).

These are not titles of powerful evil gods, but titles that embrace different aspects of sin dwelling in the human heart which are opposed to God and His will and manifest themselves as such in outward actions and behaviour. The dragon, that old serpent, which is the devil, and satan; is not only the complete title that embraces the entire sin nature of all mankind, but also embraces all the various evils of sin.

**The great dragon:** is a symbol of political power.

**That old serpent:** is a symbol of deception and temptation.

**The devil:** is a symbol of the sinful mind or proneness to sin in human nature.

**Satan:** is a title which embraces the dragon, serpent and the devil (all of these deceive the world).

**Satan's angels;** are a symbol of religious men in places of high influence who were called of God, but have become evil servants.

**For more information see the titles: -**

- Devil.
- Dragon.

- Satan.
- Serpent.

All titles are in, Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).

### **Showing Respect where Respect is Due.**

The focus of Jude so far has been on false religious teachers who are so arrogant and puffed up in pride that they speak against governments and those who hold high positions of authority. Jude has used the vision of Zechariah to highlight the fact that even God's faithful ministers and angels do not show disrespect to dignities, governments and leaders of nations whether they belong to God's Kingdom or not.

### **Cain, Balaam and Korah, False Prophets' Evil Teachers.**

Jude 10-11 ----- <sup>10</sup>But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves. <sup>11</sup>Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core (Korah)

**The way of Cain:** Cain the son of Adam and Eve could have been a great man of God, but instead was filled with jealousy and killed his brother and thereby became a murderer.

**The greed of Balaam:** Balaam; could have been a great prophet of God, but lusted after worldly wealth, Balak King of the Moabites three times offered Balaam silver, gold and the king's great honour to curse Israel. Balaam enticed by the silver gold and the king's great honour went to curse Israel for money.

Balaam attempted to prophecy a curse on Israel, but every time God turned Balaam's prophecies into a blessing. Balaam knew, if he could turn Israel from God and bring about their fall, king Balak would give him the reward he had promised. Balaam for greed of money and the king's honour advised the Moabite king to have the Moabite women seduce the men of Israel to idolatry.

The Israelites were seduced by the women into idolatry and 24,000 Israelites perished, until they repented of their idolatry. Thus the reason Balaam is held up in the New Testament as an example of self-serving and greedy religious teachers and the destructive influence of hypocritical teachers who attempt to lead God's people astray for importance, fame, riches and wealth because they are driven by their own selfish greed for gain and pride and ego.

No Bible character is more severely used, as an example of a man's offensiveness to God. The madness of Balaam was that he not only considered cursing God's people for gain, but that he also went with the servants of Balak fully believing he could. This is the insanity of a mind and heart that is so self-centred it only cares about self and is fully driven by ego, pride and greed.

The full story is in (Num. chapter 22 and 23) (Deut. 23:3-6) (Joshua 24:9-10).

### **The Gain of Korah.**

Korah; could have been a great man of God, but with his two companions, (Dathan and Abiram) resisted the civil authority of Moses and refused to appear before him as commanded, because of this Korah, Dathan and Abiram and their followers were swallowed up by the earth, but the children of Korah were spared.

The full story is in (Num. 16:1-15) (Num. 16:31-35) (Num. 26).

Cain, Balaam and Korah all had the potential to be great men of God, but instead of serving God they greedily followed after money for reward. Clearly the focus of these verses of Jude is human men who all had great potential to influence God's people for good and not some mystical angelic evil entity or supernatural creature as many believe.

## Spots in your Feasts of Charity, when they Feast with You.

Jude 12-12 ----- 12 These are spots in your feasts of charity, 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;

The words, "They are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you" (v12) show how grossly corrupt these men are, they fellowship with their followers fully conscious they are living a double life and fully conscious they are deceiving, for their own gain those they are feasting with.

Jude is now shining a floodlight on the truth that religious teachers with such a gross lack of integrity and magnified self-interest are blots and blemishes in God's Kingdom. In fact Jude was so disgusted with religious men like this taking advantage of the naive' and innocent who were seeking God that he calls them brute beasts.

**Clouds they are without water:** clouds without water bring no growth to any living thing on earth.

**Carried about of winds:** means they have no strength of character and no integrity they are full of corrupt compromise to bring about their own selfish ambition.

**Dead trees:** means that have no spiritual life in them, "Why cumber they the ground with dead leaves and rotten fruit?" Even an earthly father will cast them into the fire.

To get a true sense of how emotionally upset Jude felt and the distain and intense disappointment that he had toward such men, ponder the following for a moment. When men and women who have a deep love for Christ perceive the love Jesus has for them and toward even the lowest of sinners and understand the brutal cruel and bloody death he suffered that we might be saved to eternal life there is a natural distain and disgust toward such hypocritical and self-serving religious men.

**Twice Dead plucked up by the roots:** since there are two common thoughts regarding the words twice dead (v12) amongst Christianity today we will consider them both. One refers to spiritual death while the other refers to literal death.

**Spiritual death:** twice dead in this context refers to religious teachers who began with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and were genuinely saved from spiritual death to spiritual life, but have now succumbed to the temptations of the world and seen how their ministry can be used to their advantage.

Now being driven by self, ego and pride rather than serve Christ in integrity and honesty are now serving self and using their privileged position in their ministry to advance their own selfish ambition and thereby are spiritually dead. In this sense they have been spiritually dead twice, the first time in their natural, fallen state prior to their conversion and the second time by the evident proofs of their gross hypocrisy.

**Literal death:** the words "Twice dead" (v12) refers to the Second Death spoken of in the following verses: -

- Jesus said, "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the *second death*" (Rev. 2:11).
- John wrote, "Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the *first resurrection*! Over such the *second death* has no power" (Rev. 20:6).
- John said, "Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the *second death*, the lake of fire" (Rev. 20:14).
- John stated, "The corrupt will be cast into the lake that burns with fire which is the *second death*" (Rev. 21:8).

## **The Bible speaks of two deaths: -**

When Christ returns as King of kings and Lord of lords those sleeping in Christ will be raised from the dead and those who are alive will be gathered together to eternal glory to rule and reign with the Lord during his millennial reign on earth. John says of this group: -

- Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the *first resurrection*! Over such the *second death* has no power (Rev. 20:6).

At the end of Christ's millennial reign God descends from heaven in a great white throne, the sea and Hades gives up the dead and they are judged, according to what they had done. Those who are not counted worthy are cast into the Lake of Fire this is the second death, the lake of fire (Rev 20:12-15). The second death is the total extinction of those who are not counted worthy. Obviously this is a big topic and far too involved to cover effectively in this study.

## **For further information see the following title:-**

- The Second or Great White Throne Judgment.
- In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

## **Wandering Stars, to who is reserved the Blackness of Darkness Forever.**

Jude 13 ----- <sup>13</sup>Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.

**Raging waves:** are a terror to those on board a ship and cause much damage as false teachers are a terror to the body of Christ and do it great harm.

**Wandering stars:** they appear as angels of light, but will be cast into the Lake of Fire forever.

Once again we see Jude using lofty language to show his utter disdain toward religious teachers who like Balaam use their privileged position for their own gain. They are those who are hypocritical, full of pretence, deceit and lies, they knowingly deceive for their own gain and rejoice in their cleverness in deceiving their followers such is the depth of evil in their hearts.

## **The Blackness of Darkness Forever.**

The blackness of darkness forever (v13) refers to the Second Death at the end of Christ's millennial Kingdom when: -

- The sea, death and Hades gives up the dead and they all stand before God's throne. Books are opened and those standing before God are judged by what is written in these books according to what they have done some are counted worthy while others are cast into the Lake of Fire (a symbol of eternal death) (i.e., total extinction) (Rev. 20:11-15).

## **Enoch says, "Behold, the Lord cometh with Ten Thousands of His Saints."**

Jude 14-15 ----- <sup>14</sup>And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, <sup>15</sup>To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard *speeches* which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

**The books of Enoch:** the books of Enoch are a collection of apocalyptic literature written by various authors and circulated under the name of Enoch. It contains two books the first is an Ethiopic version made through the Greek from the original Hebrew text that was written by the Chasidim or by the Pharisees between 163-63 BC.

It is the best source for the development of Jewish doctrine in the last two pre-Christian centuries. Verses fourteen and fifteen of Jude may be an explicit quotation from 1 Enoch. The second book was written AD 1-50.

**Hard speeches:** refers to false twisted and distorted teachings.

**The ungodly:** in the context of this chapter refers to those who confess Christ, fellowship within the body of Christ, but pervert his teachings.

At the end of the Kingdom Parables Jesus said: -

- The kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matt.13:47-50).

Showing that within God's global and spiritual Kingdom in this present age there are wise and foolish servants and good and bad servants. It is these foolish and bad servants within the present Kingdom of Christ that Jude and Enoch are saying the Lord with his saints will execute judgment upon.

**For further information on the Kingdom Parables see:-**

- Matthew chapter 13 in, Commentary NT (ON WESITE MENU).

**Ungodly sinners have spoken against him:** means the unsaved are turned away from Christ because of these false and self-serving religious teachers who have twisted, distorted and perverted God's grace and brought a bad testimony to God, the Lord Jesus Christ and the Christian faith.

**Walking after their Own Lusts.**

Jude 16 ----- 16 These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts and their mouth speaketh great swelling *words* having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.

**Murmurers:** carries the idea that they inwardly and outwardly grumble and mutter against civil magistrates who restrain them and against God's providence and his laws and against ministers of the gospel whose gifts, talents and success they envy.

**Complainers:** self-centred people not only complain of their lot in life, but also blame God for not having made their circumstances different. They are so focused on self that they do not think to consider the hardship and struggles of others. These people are never satisfied or content, they find their joy in complaining demeaning, degrading and speaking against others especially those who are in authority over them or are blessed and appear to be more fortunate than they themselves are.

**Walking after their own lusts:** not only carries the idea of indulging in the lust of defiling passions and walking after the flesh (i.e., self, ego, pride and greed etc.), but also refers to people who live a lifestyle of unlawful sex, orgies, adulteries, incest, paedophilia and having multiple sex partners or using the opposite sex to fulfil one's own selfish lust and such like things. It embraces those who live to gratify self, ego and pride (the flesh) with excessive worldly wealth and riches and who indulge themselves in the opulent luxuries of this world.

This is because walking after the flesh carries the idea of self-indulgence the idea behind the words, "Walking after their own lusts" can be applied to any lifestyle that lives life simply to gratify the cravings of the flesh (self, ego, pride and greed etc.) for the things of this world or to sexual indulgences i.e., selfishly using others to gratify one's own sensual passions.

**Their mouth speaks great swelling words carry two ideas: -**

1. They flatter great men especially the rich and wealthy pretending to be astonished at their greatness, wisdom, knowledge etc., all the while hoping to be rewarded with gifts of money or acquire greater power and influence because of their friendship with them and their friends.

2. They have learned such masterful skills in speech making and how to distort, twist and compromise Scriptures and the teaching of Christ and the apostles so cleverly that by their masterful oratory they are able to entice followers into their ministries, but it is for their own advantage, gain and selfish ambition and the reward of importance, fame and power or worldly wealth and riches.

The entire focus of this chapter is on human men that have great influence over God's people and who minister for God, but do so for their own gain and therefore speak and teach false doctrines. Paul calls these doctrines: -

- Doctrines of demons and says, "In the latter time some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teaching of these doctrines" (1 Tim. 4:1).

These doctrines are called doctrines of demons because they not only lead believers and those seeking after God away from Christ and away from God's Grace, but also to ungodly behavior. These teachers appear as brute beasts to God, but as angels of light to those who follow them because of their deceptive gifts, talents and clever oratory and speech making.

**Paul in his letter to the Corinthian church wrote: -**

- Such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ and no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light so it should be no surprise to anyone if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness (2 Cor. 11:13-15).

**Having men's persons in admiration because of advantage:** refers to religious teachers who for the sake of self-interest have studied to please those they teach to advance their own career and selfish ambition. These ministers pay special attention to people of power authority, wealth and riches regardless of their sins in order to promote their own selfish ends.

They show admiration and commendation to people, but only if these people have something that will enhance or advance their own goal, dreams and ambition. They are religious teachers who profess to be ministers of the Gospel, but compromise their calling to derive some advantage or benefit to themselves and for the sake of a more luxuries and self-indulgent life style. The integrity of these ministers is so lacking that they not only soothe and flatter the rich or anyone else that can advance their career, but give them their stamp of approval and titles of importance regardless of their spiritual standing before God all in the hope of being identified with them and gaining their favour and their money.

**NOTE:** Jude is not saying it is wrong to esteem, compliment and give honour to those who it's due or show our appreciation for a person who has helped us in some manner. It is the motive that determines whether what we are doing is right or wrong.

**Jude Warns the Faithful in Christ of these False Teachers.**

Jude 17-19 ----- <sup>17</sup>but you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>they said to you, "in the last time there will be scoffers following their own ungodly passions." <sup>19</sup>it is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the spirit.

Throughout the New Testament the apostles constantly warn of false prophets and teachers arising in the midst of the worldwide and global body of Christ especially as we draw nearer to the end of this age and the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The words: -

- Who walk after their own ungodly lusts and are sensual not having the Spirit.

Means they live to gratify their own self-interest, though they are in the ministry they are not motivated by the Spirit of Christ or because they care about those they minister to, but are motivated by their own desire for advantage and gain. They are driven by self, ego and pride and not the Spirit of Christ (humbleness, love, compassion and care).

Jude's focus in this chapter is men who do not have the Spirit of Christ, but walk after their own passions and cravings for the things of the world that will gratify self, ego, pride and greed etc., and who have no conscience about using God's people as merchandise to gain their own goals, greedy desires, selfish ambition and their lust for fame, importance, power, money and material possessions.

### **Building up Yourself on Your Most Holy Faith.**

Jude 20-21 -----<sup>20</sup>But you, beloved, build yourselves up in your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit <sup>21</sup>keep yourselves in the love of God waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.

Building yourselves up in your most holy faith means trust in the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ and the apostles as recorded in the Bible in contrast to trusting in religious teachers.

### **We do not need to be walking Bible encyclopaedias to be Saved.**

Not every doctrine or teaching in the Bible is necessary to know for a person to be saved. A large amount of Scripture simply explains Old Testament history some verses are about how Christians should live in the world or behave in the church. Much of the Bible tells us what happens when people die and a great deal of Scripture is plainly used to prove that Jesus is who he says he is. Some verses give signs of the end of the age and the return of Christ while a vast amount of the New Testament is about how we should live and treat other humans.

No-one has to be walking Bible encyclopaedia to be saved to eternal life since God in his eternal wisdom has made salvation very simple by placing all the promises of eternal life in his Son. The Good News of the Gospel states, whoever has Christ not only becomes a brother and sister of the Lord but an adopted child of God and as in any natural family they become an heir of all God's promises to Abraham and heir to eternal life.

**I come in the volume of the book:** Jesus himself said to religious Jews who believed in God, read the Old Testament Scriptures daily and strictly adhered to every ceremonial rite, holy day and kept all their religious customs and traditions: -

- You do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent. You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life (John 5:38-40)

This shines a brilliant spotlight on the truth that the purpose of Scripture is to bring us to Christ. David in prayer and in faith echoing Christ wrote: -

- Blessed are those who put their trust in the LORD and make the Lord their trust (v3-4).

Then speaking of himself, but echoing Christ says: -

- Behold, I have come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me (v7).

And concludes his prayer with: -

- You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God! (v17) (Psalm 40).

These verses clearly show that the security David had for his salvation to eternal life was not in doctrine, but in his daily and faithful relationship to God the Father and the coming promised seed of Abraham, Israel's Messiah the Christ. Thousands of years later the author of Hebrews in his letter cites the words of David: -

- Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book' (Heb. 10:7)

The author of Hebrews cites this verse to prove to the unbelieving Jews the following two things: -

1. That salvation to eternal life is not in intellectual knowledge of the Scripture, but in a devoted living and faithful relationship with the Father and with His Son the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. That the purpose of all Scripture is to deliver a sinner from the kingdom of Darkness into the Kingdom of light by bringing them into this fellowship with Christ and with his heavenly Father.

When we all stand before the Lord's judgment seat Christ will not sit us down to do a written doctrinal exam, but he will examine our lives to see if our religious actions stemmed from a devoted and loving heart toward him and his Father or from selfish ambition, ego and pride and measure us against the Royal Law, "Love your neighbour as yourself" (James 2:8) (i.e., did we treat others with love, kindness, compassion, grace, mercy and forgiveness especially our brothers and sisters in Christ or use them for our own gain etc.).

**NOTE:** this does not mean that studying the Scriptures is of no value, quite the contrary, since the more we understand the Bible the stronger our faith and our hope grows and the more we learn of the nature, character will and the heart of the one we love.

**To give a simple example:** a young man may meet a girl that he is attracted to, so he takes her out on a few dates and finds she has a pleasant personality and caring nature, now, he knows this girl, no-one can say anything degradingly against her that he would believe because he knows her nature and her character, but if he never takes her for another date, it won't be long before that relationship will dissipate and other things will take its place. So it is with the Scriptures they are our date with Christ and through them we gain eternal and heavenly insights into treasures of God that change our lives and touch our hearts in a manner that nothing in this world can.

The key to finding, eternal life; the grace of God and the love of the Lord Jesus Christ is to read the New Testament with a humble heart. Whoever reads the New Testament with the right heart attitude can be totally confident God will reveal the Good News of the Gospel that leads to eternal salvation to them without the help of any religious teacher. Certainly Bible teachers can help us find many valuable truths, pearls and treasures contained in the Bible, but every seeker of God should be confident that as they read the New Testament with a humble and right heart attitude God will not keep himself hidden from them.

**Praying in the Holy Spirit:** (v20) means praying in love, kindness, compassion, grace and mercy it means praying for ourselves and praying for the well-being others. The following is a good example of a prayer that was not prayed in the Holy Spirit. Years ago on a T.V. program called the Amazing Race two religious women were behind the winning car. They knew if they could overtake the car in front of them they would not only win the race but win a million dollars.

They prayed, "Dear God help us win this race, please give the car in front a puncture or cause an accident, in Jesus name Amen." This is a prayer that wishes harm on others for selfish gain and clearly not only a prayer Christ will not hear (meaning he will not answer), but also a prayer that is not being prayed in the Holy Spirit.

### **Save with Fear those who are Being Pulled into the Fire.**

Jude 22-23 ----- <sup>22</sup>And of some have compassion, making a difference: <sup>23</sup>And others save with fear, pulling *them* out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

Jude is encouraging the strong in faith not to judge all Christians who follow these false teachers, but instead have compassion on them.

Jude is a godly man who not only has a deep affection for Christ and a brilliant knowledge of the Lord's and the apostle's teachings, but also has a deep affection for those who are truly seeking God. He clearly understands what is important to the heart of God and that God sees our motives and will judge us accordingly.

This is why he encourages those who are strong in their faith not to judge sincere and good Christians, who have been deceived by cleverly twisted and distorted Scriptures and deceptive teachings, but rather show them grace, compassion and mercy and do all they can to rescue them from the false doctrines they are being influenced by even though they may loathe, despise and have absolute disdain toward the false teachers they are sitting under.

All brothers and sisters are called to do all they can to rescue those who are being deceived and influenced by self-serving ministers and teachers.

### **To Him who is able present you faultless before God's Exceeding Glory.**

Jude 24 ----- 24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present *you* faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

These words of Jude are some of the most majestic and glorious words of the Bible. They mean that Christ will keep all those who trust in him and remain faithful not because of their own self-effort or because they strictly adhere to ceremonial rites and religious customs and traditions but because of their faith and God's grace. This is why Christ is able to keep us and present us faultless before God the majestic glory. Here is the glory the wonder and splendor of the Christian faith we are saved not because of our righteousness, but because of Christ's.

**NOTICE:** Jesus will present us to his heavenly Father with exceeding joy, how stunning, majestic, glorious and humbling is that.

### **The Only Wise God our Saviour.**

Jude 25 ----- 25 To the only wise God our Saviour, *be* glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

Since every Christian knows the Lord Jesus Christ is their Saviour some religious teachers use these words of Jude "To the only wise God our Saviour" (v25) to support the mistaken theory that that Jesus is God. Sadly this stems from ancient religious teaching, tradition and a lack of understanding Bible language and the relationship of love between the heavenly Father and His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. God is the Saviour of us all since he is the source of all life. Before time began God in His eternal mind planned and purposed that salvation to eternal life would be in his Son, so Jesus is the fulfilment of God's foreordained plan of salvation for all mankind, without Christ no-one can be saved, thus both God and Christ are the Saviour but in a different manner.

God is the Saviour in that He is the source of all life and planned and purposed the eternal way of salvation, but Christ is our Saviour in that he is the fulfilment of God's eternal plan. Without God there would be no salvation, but God's eternal plan without Christ would be left bankrupt thus the reason the Bible in various contexts can refer to God the Father or the Lord Jesus Christ as the Saviour.

**It is interesting to notice:** that there is not one verse in the entire Bible that states we must believe that Jesus is God to be saved whereas in contrast to this silence there are literally multitudes of Scriptures that clearly state: -

- Whoever believes that Jesus is the Son of God will be saved.

Whereas there is not one verse that says: -

- Whoever believes that Jesus is God will be saved.

Surely if it was important to believe that Jesus was actually God, Christ would have told the apostles at least once in his discourses with them and in his messages of salvation, but all we find in the Scriptures is Jesus and the apostles proclaiming that people must believe that Jesus is the Son of God to be saved.

Jesus said, "This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent (John 17:3).

**For further information see the title: -**

- Trinity (The Doctrine of the Trinity).
- In, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

**NOTE:** 2 Peter Chapter 2 has a very similar message to this chapter of Jude.

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End.