

JUDE

A.D. 67-68

[14 Triads in this short book.]

Plain Sense Paraphrase

4-18/19-17 AA

This letter is from Jude. My credentials are that I am affiliated with the Apostle James - I'm his brother, and I am affiliated with Jesus Christ - He is my half brother, and I am his voluntary servant for life.

I am writing to all whose lives show they are true believers*: set apart by God to live holy lives, walking closely to Jesus Christ — truly saved.

*[*Jude became a believer after Jesus' resurrection.]*

2 May you experience more and more of God's unmerited favor, peace, and love!

Warning Against False Teachers

3 Dear friends, originally, it was my intention to magnify in this letter the wonderful salvation we all enjoy. But, instead, it has become imperative that I urge you to earnestly defend it! — the wonderful Good News message that God has entrusted once for all time to us - his holy people.

4 This is necessary because some unsaved scoundrels have infiltrated your home groups, turning the message

of the grace of God into license to sin. They are claiming that since we are saved by grace [no longer under the Old Testament Law, and all our sins are paid for by Christ's death], it doesn't matter if we live self-centered, sinful, filthy lives. ["We can live any way we please: God loves us, anyhow."]

These kinds of people were condemned long ago - both by Old Testament prophecies and examples - because they refuse to surrender their lives to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Master.

5 I'll remind you of a few examples - though I know you already know these things.

You recall that, even though our Lord rescued the nation of Israel from Egypt, He later destroyed those who did not remain faithful to Him.

6 And you recall what happened to the angels who were not content to live celibate lives as God intended but left the heavenly sphere and cohabited with women on this earth: God has kept them securely chained in prisons of darkness in Tartarus, ever since, waiting for the great day of judgment.

7 And don't forget Sodom and Gomorrah and their neighboring towns - Admah and Zeboim, which were filled with immorality and every kind of sexual perversion similar to these angels. Those cities were destroyed by fire and serve as a warning of the eternal fire of God's judgment awaiting all those who live like they did.

8 Just like these examples, the corrupt people who have infiltrated your home groups — basing their authority on

their dreams and 'visions' rather than on God's Word — live immoral lives, do not submit to godly authority, and scoff at the capability of satan and his demons to deceive or defeat them.

9 Contrast their attitude with Michael's, one of the mightiest of the angels, who did not presume to accuse the devil [*a Cherub; greater in authority than Michael*] of blasphemy, but simply said, "The Lord rebuke you!" (This took place when Michael was arguing with the devil about custody of Moses' body.) [Quoted from "The Assumption of Moses"]

10 But people like these scoff at any spiritual truth that seems unreasonable to them, and like animals with no spiritual perception, they simply follow their natural reason and passions — to their own corruption and destruction.

11 I assure you that they are heading for serious trouble!

For they are following in the footsteps of Cain, who, ruled simply by his instincts and passions, killed his brother and became an outcast in society.

They are greedy, like Balaam — who would do anything for money, no matter how much it 'cost' him.

And they are like Korah — whose rebellion against Moses' leadership ended in his death.

12 These people are totally out of place at your weekly fellowship meals, [like rocks hidden beneath the surface of the sea, ready to wreck a ship] — shamelessly stuffing

themselves at a meal which is intended to celebrate the Lord's love for us and our love for Him and each other.

Like puffed up rainclouds, blown about by the wind but never delivering any rain, they never deliver any good thing expected of them.

They are like bare, autumn trees, but they are doubly dead: for not only are their lives totally bare of any godly leaves or fruit, but they also have no roots in Christ.

13 Like crashing ocean waves depositing dirty foam on the beach, the only thing these people leave behind in their wake is shame and disgrace.

Like the planets that circle endlessly through the darkness of outer space, so they endlessly fail to find the truth and are doomed to spend eternity in pitch darkness.

The Judgment of False Teachers

14 Enoch, who lived in the seventh generation after Adam, prophesied about these kinds of people. He said, "Listen! The Lord is coming with countless thousands of his holy ones 15 to bring judgment upon all the people of the world. He will convict every unsaved person among them of every ungodly act they have ever done in their rejection of God and His ways, as well as of every grumbling and blasphemous word these sinners have spoken against the God they refused to acknowledge."

16 Just like the Israelites being led by God through the wilderness, these people do nothing but grumble and complain, thinking only of themselves and their

stomachs. They love to be the center of attention and to brag about themselves and what they know and have done. The only time they show deference or respect to anybody else is if they think it will be to their advantage.

17 But certainly, my dear friends, you remember this very thing was predicted by apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. 18 You heard them say that in the last times there would be people who would scoff at following God and His Word, and who would, instead, follow their own perversions and lusts.

19 So, these are the kind of people who are creating divisions among you. Don't be fooled by them. Their self-centered lives are all the proof you need that they do not have God's Spirit in them.

The Obligation of the Believers

20 Don't fall for their words or follow their example. Instead, dear friends, — strengthening each other's faith in the wonderful truths of the Good News message, and praying in the Holy Ghost for faith and endurance — 21 keep your faith in God, and your love for Him, strong, in full anticipation of the return of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Rapture, and the eternal life in Heaven, He has promised you.

22 You may be able, with love and patience, to rescue some of the people we've been talking about. 23 Saving the rest of them will be like trying to rescue people from a burning building - it will be hot, dangerous work, and you will have to be very careful that their sooty lives don't rub off on you while you're trying to help them.

Benediction

24 I will end this letter by praising God, who is able to keep you from falling away from the faith, and who will someday bring you into his glorious presence without a single fault, filled with great joy.

25 He is the only true God, and he is our Savior.

All glory, majesty, power and authority are His — right now, and for all eternity!