**June 8, 2022**

**BIBLE STUDY**

**Refuge Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc.**

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**“SATAN, THE LORD REBUKE THEE”**

**Jude 1:1-9**

***Jude 1:1 "Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, [and] called:"***

There is much controversy over this little book. We find several opinions of who this Jude, or Judas is. In scriptures there was an apostle, named Judas, other than Judas Iscariot who was numbered with the apostles. There is a Judas who was the brother of James, as well. He would have been the half-brother of Jesus. He, like James, had not believed Jesus to be Messiah until after Jesus rose from the dead. No one can say of certain which Jude wrote this letter, but we believe it to be by the half-brother of Jesus and brother of James.

***Mark 6:3 “Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him.”***

It really does not matter who this Jude is. The message is the important thing. Jude identified himself as a bond-servant (lit., “slave,” Gk. doulos) of Jesus Christ. We would call this a general letter, because it was addressed to the sanctified of God the Father, who include Christians of all ages. How wonderful to have the assurance that we are kept in the Lord Jesus Christ. The name Jude, or Judas, was a common name among the Jewish people. The brothers of Jesus would have been terribly humbled by the fact that they lived with Jesus without really realizing He was Messiah, until after His resurrection. This statement seems to be from someone who is humbled by the fact of who Jesus is. "Sanctified" means made holy or set aside for God's purpose. All believers are preserved in Christ. Sanctified and preserved are in the perfect tense: Christians are once and continually “set apart” and “kept.” They are kept for the return of Christ. The devil cannot take them away from Jesus. Called means those who God called.

***Jude 1:2 "Mercy unto you, and peace and love, be multiplied."***

This greeting is a blessing spoken on the called of God. Jude prayed that three qualities, mercy, peace, and love would overflow in his readers’ lives. Mercy is the idea of showing compassion to one who was suffering and is used of both God and man. Peace speaks of tranquility, quiet, and rest. Love is a strong feeling of affection between those who are closely associated. Believers who have sought God’s mercy also receive peace (“inner assurance” and “stability”) and love.

***Jude 1:3 "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort [you] that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."***

Beloved indicates the close relationship between Jude and his readers. Jude was evidently planning to write a less urgent doctrinal letter but was forced by developments to pen this earnest exhortation. Jude conceives of Christian faith as having a definite, unchanging, and unchangeable content. Salvation is a common thing. It is received by everyone the very same way, by simple belief in Jesus. Jude planned to write a letter concerning our common salvation but changed his mind and instead wrote them to contend for the faith that was delivered to the saints. Jude, then, was open to the Holy Spirit’s adjustment of his plans so he could address something urgent that came up. He wants believers to energetically “contend for the faith,” that is, for the body of scripturally based doctrine that is to be the authoritative guide for our belief and practice. The message is a simple one. Do whatever is necessary to expose yourself to the salvation message. This is a letter begging them to seek out salvation. Do not let it slip you by. The message had been given early on to the saints. Jude does not want anything to happen to cause them to miss the opportunity of salvation. He explains it is simple to receive and is for everyone who will. Since Jude says this faith was once for all (or completely, wholly) handed down, he is implying there was a body of truth that had been communicated from the apostles. Jesus had promised the apostles in the Upper Room that the Spirit would teach them all things and guide them into the truth (John 14:26; 16:12-15). Even in the church’s early days there was a recognized content (doctrine) of accepted belief.

***Jude 1:4 "For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ."***

Even at this early stage of the Christian movement, there were those who were bringing in messages that were not true. False teachers had crept into the church. It had been predicted by Peter those ungodly persons who deny our only Master and Lord would come (2 Peter 2:1; 3:3). These individuals viewed God’s grace as an excuse for open sin. These evil men had crept in unaware to those in charge. They were of the devil, and they were intent in turning people away from the truth to believe a lie. Just because someone sits on the pew next to you in church, does not mean they are godly. Sometimes they are sent there by the devil himself to bring false teachings in the church and to damage the gospel message. These evil men had brought sin into the church. They had even gone so far as to declare the Lord Jesus Christ not to be God in the flesh. They really were denying the Father and the Son. “Before of old ordained” is probably not speaking of predestination in the sense of God deciding in advance that He would condemn these men and so seeing to it that they sinned. Rather Jude recognizes that Scripture often predicts the demise and judgment of any who flaunt God’s will. The men in question are wrongly assuming that grace means “no moral laws.” They thus effectively deny the sovereignty and eternal moral lordship of both the Father and the Son. If there is anything the New Testament emphasizes, it is that grace teaches us to live better than those in the world do, not worse (Titus 2:11-12). Yet these false teachers turned grace into something it was never meant to be an excuse for sin (Romans 6:1-7; Titus 2:11-14).

***Jude 1:5 "I 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."***

Jude is reminding them that just because they were saved, does not mean they can do anything they want to, and still be saved. He is giving as an example, the Israelites {God's people} who he delivered from Egypt {world}. They were delivered but started complaining and doubting that God would take them to the promised land. God made them wander in the wilderness 40 years, until those who had doubted died. Without faith, it is impossible to please God. It does not matter whether it is the Israelites on their way to their promised land, or believers in Christ who are on their way to their promised land. We do know there will be some, who stand before Jesus on judgment day who will profess to be Christians, who Jesus will tell to get away from Him, He never knew them. We must walk in the salvation we receive to inherit heaven. Our faith in Jesus saves us. Although ungodly individuals occasionally appear to have the advantage, in the following verses, Jude cites three illustrations from biblical history to demonstrate what awaited the disobedient false teachers: First, Israel, following her deliverance from Egypt, failed to believe that God would grant them victory over the Canaanites (Numbers 14:11) and as a result, that generation died in the wilderness.

***Jude 1:6 "And 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."***

Second, angels who fell—possibly referring to the sin of the angels who followed Satan in his rebellion against God (Ezekiel 28:11-19; Revelation 12:3-4) or, preferably, to Genesis 6 when the sons of God cohabited with the daughters of men, have been kept in eternal bonds while awaiting final judgment (2 Peter 2:4). The word "kept" is tereo, which means to guard, or keep an eye upon. The word "reserved" here, is translated from the same word that was translated kept in the verse above. Before the fall these angels had the privilege to move around as they willed. They were dwelling in the presence of the Light. There were three archangels in heaven Lucifer, Michael, and Gabriel. Each of them had a position over the other angels. One third of the angels followed Lucifer in rebellion. When they chose to follow Lucifer, who is now known as Satan or the devil, they gave up their freedom of movement and are only allowed to minister when sent on an evil mission. Demons, as we call them, or devil spirits as the Bible calls them, are still ministering spirits. They just minister evil instead of good. A devil, or demon spirit, must get permission from God before he attacks a Christian. We are bought and paid for by Jesus and we are His. He says what can happen to us, not the devil. They are waiting for the judgement of God, as is all intelligence. The people in the world who are not Christians can be attacked at any time by the devil spirits. The chains, in the verse above are not literal chains, but a control on them. Notice this is not a literal place they are held, but they are dwelling in darkness. The main thing we are to see in this, is the fact that they fell after they knew God.

***Jude 1:7 "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."***

Third, Sodom and Gomorrah are the biblical archetypes for wicked immorality, and God judged them with destruction by fire and brimstone (Genesis 19:23-29). God’s judgment on all three OT rebellions provides an example for false teachers to heed. We see, in this, the judgement that came on these cities, because they lived for the sins of the world. The sin of Sodom and Gomorrah was the sin of homosexuality. In one day, the judgement of God fell and they were all destroyed except Lot, his wife, and his 2 daughters. Homosexuality goes against the laws of nature. Sodom and Gomorrah are mentioned often in Scripture as examples of God’s severe judgment on sexual sin, in particular sexual perversion. From this verse and verse 6 immorality has clearly entered the ranks of believers to whom Jude writes.

***Jude 1:8 "Likewise also these [filthy] dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities."***

Jude describes the false teachers against whom he writes. Instead of God’s revealed Word they pay attention to their own visions or dreams. In doing so they lapse into immorality and insubordination, refusing to obey authorities (whether angelic or perhaps apostolic) and even criticizing them openly. This is just saying that the sins of the flesh lead a person to come against all authority of God and the authority He has set up upon the earth. To defile the flesh, is to do things against the laws of nature. Scripture instructs us to obey the legitimate authorities appointed over us. But false teachers reject authority. In this case, they were accountable to only themselves. Moreover, the group would slander glorious ones.

***Jude 1:9 "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."***

Jude illustrates this with an account of a dispute over Moses’s body between the archangel and the devil. Michael, the archangel, was one of the three known archangels. Before Lucifer fell, he was probably in the highest position an angel could hold. Michael had respect for authority and did not personally come against the devil {Lucifer}. He fought the devil by the name of the Lord. Michael refused to utter a slanderous condemnation against Satan but said, The Lord rebuke you! The false teachers, by contrast, didn’t understand how spiritual warfare works. They lived in a dream world, out of touch with spiritual reality. They’d blaspheme rather than invoking the Lord like Michael did. We can learn from this. We should not come against the devil, or his devil spirits, in our own name. The only way for us to rebuke him is in the name of Jesus.

**Questions**

1. The Judas who was the half-brother of Jesus did not believe He was Messiah, until what?
2. What kind of letter was this?
3. Who was the letter addressed to?
4. What does "sanctified" mean?
5. What was the blessing he spoke on those he wrote to?
6. What had he given diligence to write to them about?
7. Verse 4 warns of what kind of men creeping into the church?
8. In verse 5, he reminds them of what?
9. What was done to the angels who kept not their first estate?
10. Who were the three known archangels in heaven?
11. The Bible call those we call demons, what?
12. Can a demon attack you whenever he wants to?
13. Why was Sodom and Gomorrah destroyed?
14. What do the filthy dreamers in verse 8 do?
15. How did Michael fight the devil?