CONSEQUENCES OF APOSTASY | JUDE 5-7 | PASTOR MARK BOFILL| 11/15/2026

I. Ancient Israel (5) | II. Angelic Apostasy (6) | III. Ancient Cities (7)

INTRO: Last week, we left off with Jude's warning concerning ***certain ungodly men*** who had crept into the church unnoticed, **turning God's Grace** into an excuse for sin and **denying the authority of Christ**.

Now Jude takes us back into history to show us that **Rejecting God's Truth** has always carried **Serious Consequences!** – He gives three historical examples: **Ancient Israel—Unbelief, Angelic Apostasy—Rebellion, Apostate Cities—Immorality.** – Different sins, but the same direction—**AWAY from God's authority and toward judgment.** – Although Jude does not use the word **APOSTASY *{Grk: apostasia}*,** his entire letter addresses the dangers of **abandoning God's truth**, which brings us to the title: **CONSEQUENCES OF APOSTASY.** *Jude's first example is…*

I. ANCIENT ISRAEL (5): READ [JUDE 5-7]: Jude begins his historical reminder by *highlighting **the Consequences of Israel's unbelief**, "But I want to **Remind You**, though you once knew this…"*

- Jude's audience already knew these accounts, but Jude understood that **knowing truth once doesn't mean we no longer need to hear it.**
- Peter similarly said in **(2 Pet 1:12)**, *"I will not be negligent to **Remind You** always of **these things**…"*

Sometimes **our greatest spiritual** need isn't to learn something new, but **to remember** what God has already said!

A. Their Unbelief Revealed: *"Saved the people from Egypt."* – Israel experienced extraordinary deliverance. God raised up Moses, judged Egypt, instituted the Passover, opened the Red Sea, provided manna, and led them by cloud and fire.

1. **(Ex 14:29)** says Israel *"walked on dry land in the midst of the sea."* > **They had seen God do what only God could do!** Yet when God brought them to the edge of the Promised Land…

2. **(Num 13-14) Records their Failure:**

   - **The Report:** Ten spies declared, *"We are not able…"* **(Num 13:31),** while **Joshua and Caleb** insisted, *"The LORD is with us…. Do not fear them."* **(Num 14:9).**
   - **The Response:** Same land, same giants, same circumstances—but a completely different view of God!
   - **The Root: (Psalm 106:24)** says, *"They did not believe His word."* > *(They rejected God - **14:11**)*

3. Their problem wasn't a lack of evidence; they had seen plenty. **Their problem was that what they SAW became more convincing than what God had said!** *(The spies FEAR affected all Israel!)*

P/A: Unbelief begins when circumstances become more authoritative than God's Word. > **Church**, how often does this happen to us? We know God's promises and have experienced His faithfulness, **yet when difficulties arise**, we begin questioning what God has already declared! – **Faith doesn't deny our circumstances; it Trusts God's Word above them!**

B. Their Unbelief Judged: Notice the outcome: *"The Lord… **afterward destroyed**…"*

1. **(Num 14:29)** declares that **the unbelieving generation** would fall in the wilderness. > **They came out of Egypt, but never entered the Promised Land!**

2. **(Heb 3:19)** gives the verdict: *"So we see that they could not enter in **because of unbelief**."*

- **The Consequence: Their persistent unbelief** led to disobedience, preventing them from entering God's promised rest.
- **The Caution:** Paul says in **(1 Cor 10:6),** *"Now these things became our examples…"*

P/A: Israel's Unbelief reminds us that God's blessings do not exempt us **from His judgment!**

- **Apostasy doesn't happen overnight! It begins** when we stop trusting God's Word, **continues** when we start compromising His truth, **and ends** when we reject His authority!

II. ANGELIC APOSTASY (6): Jude now reveals that **EVEN ANGELS were not exempt from God's judgment! READ**: They **deliberately rejected God's authority** and **rebelled against His established order**!

A. Their Rebellion Revealed: *"The angels who did not keep their proper domain…"*

1. Their Position: *{archē}*, their *"proper domain"* or *sphere of authority*, which they failed to keep.

2. Their Departure: The word ***{Grk: oikētērion}*** speaks of their habitation; *dwelling place* or *abode*. The ***{Grk: apoleipō}*,** translated *"left,"* means to *abandon* or *forsake*. > These angels did not merely wander from their appointed place; **they abandoned it.**

- **There is substantial evidence that (Jude 6)** is related to **(Gen 6:1-4)**, where some interpret the *"sons of God"* as **Fallen Angels** who crossed God's boundaries; **Others identify them** as **'descendants of Seth.'** Both interpretations remain debated.

3. Their Defiance: (Psalm 103:20) describes faithful angels as those *"**who do His word**, heeding the voice of His word."* **BUT these angels did otherwise!**

- **Jude's Point is Unmistakable**: These angels rebelled, abandoned their proper place, **and now await final judgment!**
  - The heart of rebellion says**:** *"What God has assigned to me is not good enough!"*
  - That same attitude appears whenever we say, *"I know what God says, **BUT**…"*
  - **Be Careful! (1 Sam 15:23)** warns, *"For **rebellion** is as the sin of witchcraft…"*

P/A: Rebellion begins… when our obedience to God becomes conditional upon our agreement with Him! **Church, we don't get to decide which portions of God's Word deserve our obedience!**

B. Their Rebellion Judged: Their Punishment: is *"reserved"* by God ***{tēreō}***. – **(2 Pet 2:4)** confirms Judes *"**For if God did not spare the angels who sinned**… but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment."* > **Notice the Consequences…**

1. Their Bondage: They wanted freedom but **received CHAINS**… they rejected their appointed place and **lost their PLACE**, they rejected God's authority and **received JUDGMENT!**

2. The Warning: Jesus said, ***"Whoever commits sin is a slave of sin."* (John 8:34)** > Know that… **Sin and Rebellion advertises freedom—but hides the chains!**

- **That's the Deception of Rebellion…** it promises Independence but produces Bondage!
- **God's Boundaries were never intended to rob us of life; they were established for our good!**

P/A: True freedom is not found in resisting God's authority, but in surrendering to it.

SEGUE: So, we've seen **Unbelief** in Israel and **Rebellion** among angels. **Now Jude brings us to a third example**, **revealing the CONSEQUENCES OF APOSTASY** from ***God's Moral Standards***…

III. APOSTATE CITIES (7): READ – Jude isn't simply giving us a **history lesson**; **he's reveals WHAT HAPPENS WHEN** people **Deliberately Disregard** God's "***moral boundaries***!" *(e.g., **Sodom and Gomorrah**)*

A. Their Immorality Revealed: *"given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh."*

1. **Their Corruption:** The ***{Grk: ekporneuō}***, describes giving oneself over to sexual immorality. – The prefix ***ἐκ*** seems to indicate ***a lust that gluts itself***, satisfies itself completely.

2. **Their Conduct:** Jude's expression ***"strange flesh"*** is commonly connected with the attempted ***violation of angelic visitors*** **(Gen 19:5),** while **(Ezk 16:49-50)** also identifies **Sodom's pride**, **selfishness**, and **abominable behavior.**

3. **Their Compromise:** The inhabitants of **Sodom and Gomorrah** **Rejected the Right Way** and followed their own **deceitful hearts (Jer 17:9).** – And because such Rejected God's Moral Boundaries, God gave them over to their lustful hearts **(*tt.* Rom 1:24-27).**

- Society is in danger when God's definition of SIN becomes ACCEPTABLE!
- **Remember Jude's warning in (v.4):** Certain ungodly men were *"turning the grace of our God into lewdness."* > They were **using God's grace** as an excuse for immoral living. **(*cf.* Tit 2:11-12)**

QUOTE: *"The fact that we are saved by grace does not give us an excuse to sin, but **it does give us a reason to obey."*— Warren Wiersbe**

P/A: We must never allow the moral standards of our culture **to become** standards for our lives.

- **The world may Redefine Morality, but it cannot Redefine Holiness!**

B. Their Immorality Judged: Jude concludes by describing these cities as *"**set forth as an example**, **suffering** the vengeance of eternal fire."*

1. **(Gen 19:24)** records how the Lord **Rained Brimstone and Fire** upon **Sodom and Gomorrah.**
   - **The Judgment:** Their destruction became **a historical warning** of God's holiness and the certainty of divine judgment.
   - **The Warning:** Jude's reference to **Eternal Fire** points beyond their physical destruction to the seriousness **of ETERNAL** judgment! **(*cf.* Matt 18:8; Mark 9:43-48; Rev 14:11, 20:14-15)**
   - **The Mercy: (2 Pet 2:7)** reminds us that God ***"delivered righteous Lot,"*** demonstrating His ability to rescue those who belong to Him. **(*cf.* Jude 24-25)**

2. **God's Judgment doesn't mean He has ceased to be loving; it REMINDS US that He remains Holy and Just, Patient and Merciful (Isa 6:3; Deut 32:4; 2 Pet 3:9; Hab 3:2).**
   - **All this brings us to the Hope of the Gospel…**

- **Jesus Christ came to Save Sinners! >** He **Died upon the Cross,** bearing the judgment our sins deserved, and **Rose Again** so that everyone who **Repents and Believes in Him** can receive forgiveness and eternal life. **Don't Fall Away from God, Fall before God!** …
- **The answer to sin** is not to redefine it, excuse it, or conceal it**. The answer is to REPENT and COME to Jesus Christ!**

P/A: God's Warnings are Invitations to Repentance before Judgment Comes! (2 Pet 3:9) says, *The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

CLOSING THOUGHTS: Jude gives us **three historical examples with one powerful warning: REJECTING GOD'S TRUTH HAS CONSEQUENCES!**

- **ISRAEL'S UNBELIEF:** They experienced God's deliverance but refused to trust His Word!
- **ANGELIC REBELLION:** They possessed heavenly privilege but rejected God's authority!
- **SODOM'S IMMORALITY:** They abandoned God's moral boundaries and embraced wickedness!

CHURCH, these are not merely historical accounts—they are **PRESENT DAY WARNINGS!**

- **POEM:** **"The Slow Departure"**

  It starts with doubt, a whispered lie,
  A truth ignored, a conscience denied.
  A heart once tender begins to stray,
  Until God's Word is pushed away.
  For no one falls away in a day;
  It begins when truth no longer leads the way. – Unknown Author

- **DON'T' WAIT until you've abandoned the faith** to recognize that you've been drifting from the truth! **Return** to His Word, **Surrender** to His authority, and remain **Faithful** to Jesus Christ

Examine Your Hearts: Am I Trusting God's Word, Submitting to His authority, and Walking in His holiness?

APOSTASY leads to judgment, but FAITHFULNESS to Christ leads to everlasting life—so HOLD FAST TO HIM.