

Jude 6-7 “What Are Demons Doing?”

10.25.17

Tonight we continue in our study of Jude, the writing of the half-brother of Jesus, as we dive into some of the most complicated Scripture, you’ll ever seek to study. **Now, let me say up front**, your brain is going to be smoking by the time we’re done tonight, because what we’re going to be studying tonight is very “heady” stuff. Pick up with me verse 3...

Jude 1:3-7

³ 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. ⁴ 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. ⁵ Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. ⁶ And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day— ⁷ just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.

Remember: the word “Contend” is a military and athletic term and it’s the Greek word: e-PAG-ōh-Nizomai-it means to agonize in battle. It means: “straining in battle to hold a position or straining to the finish line.”



Now let me ask this as we begin...who are WE ultimately straining against? Satan and his demons.

Ephesians 6:12

¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

And what is Satan seeking to do? Pervert that which is holy...right...

Perversion:

1. the alteration of something from its original course, meaning, or state, to a distortion or corruption of what was first intended.
 2. sexual behavior or desire that is considered abnormal or unacceptable.
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Jude is REMINDING the people (vs. 5...“now I want to remind you.”) about accounts they’ve been taught from their Jewish history since childhood. And we know some of these accounts...like the

rebellion in the wilderness (as we looked at two weeks ago). We know the people of God were worshipping a golden calf when Moses came off of Mt. Sinai with the 10 commandments...



...and this was a perverted (sexualized) worship. (Yes, we know about that one.) And we know about the sexual perversion of Sodom and Gomorrah (notice the phrase “likewise indulged in sexual immorality and UNNATURAL DESIRE.”)

Jude 1:7

⁷ just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.

The people of Sodom are described in Genesis 13...this way...

Genesis 13:13

“Now the men of Sodom were wicked, great sinners against the Lord.”

Peter described God’s condemnation of Sodom when he said...

2 Peter 2:6

if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly.

Listen, God is going to punish those who rebel against Him and refuse to receive Him. That’s the point. These false teachers (Jude is saying) are going to meet their due just like the evil and perverse men of Sodom and Gomorrah. Remember, according to Genesis 19:4-5...they were so perverse that when God sent angels to Lot to tell him and his family to get out of there, the men of Sodom wanted to commit indecent acts with these angels (who looked like men).

Genesis 19:4-5

⁴ But before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both young and old, all the people to the last man, surrounded the house. ⁵ And they called to Lot, “Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may know them.”

Now, we know about Mt. Sinai and about Sodom...but, it’s verse 6 which describes an account we don’t know as well.

Jude 1:6

⁶ And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day.

Let's talk about these angels who left their position of authority. These angels are those who rebelled... So, who is THE chief angel that comes to mind who left his position of authority? Lucifer...a.k.a., Satan. Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28 record how Satan was a Guardian Cherub who was literally stationed at the throne of God. In fact, did you know that angels at this very moment are stationed around the throne of God saying: "Holy, Holy, Holy." And they've been saying that since they were created and they'll say it for all of time. Some were created to be around the throne. What about others?

Well, we know from Hebrews 1:14 that some were created to minister to us...

Hebrews 1:14

14 Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

We know the Angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would have Jesus... (see the depiction here in the movie: "The Nativity")...



You'll remember, also Gabriel spoke to Joseph to assure him to marry Mary.

There's another account in Scripture about Gabriel. **Turn to Daniel chapter 10.** It's here that we see where Gabriel couldn't get to Daniel because he was detained by a demon. You see, God was giving the prophet Daniel the revelation about the "70 weeks" of time that helps to explain the Great Tribulation in the book of the Revelation and the end time events. But, Gabriel couldn't get to Daniel...

Daniel 10:11-14

11 And he said to me, "O Daniel, man greatly loved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for now I have been sent to you." And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling. 12 Then he said to me, "Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words. 13 The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia, 14 and came to make you understand what is to happen to your people in the latter days. For the vision is for days yet to come."

So, we see that angels operate in the spiritual realm and there is warfare going on we can't see with our natural eyes (again...Eph. 6:12). And so Gabriel finally gets through to Daniel... because of his prayers and because Michael came to assist him...

But jump down to verse 18, Gabriel will soon be heading out to fight against the Demon assigned to Persia and he foretells that another Demon...this time...one that's been assigned to Greece will come against Daniel...but, once again...Michael will be there to fight for Daniel...

Daniel 10:18-21

¹⁸ Again one having the appearance of a man touched me and strengthened me. ¹⁹ And he said, "O man greatly loved, fear not, peace be with you; be strong and of good courage." And as he spoke to me, I was strengthened and said, "Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me." ²⁰ Then he said, "Do you know why I have come to you? But now I will return to fight against the prince of Persia; and when I go out, behold, the prince of Greece will come. ²¹ But I will tell you what is inscribed in the book of truth: there is none who contends by my side against these except Michael, your prince."

The Bible is clear, with numerous accounts about demonic activity on this earth. And we know that these demons were those who ended up on the earth because they chose to rebel with Satan against God. You see, the angels in heaven were given a choice of whether to stay in heaven with God or to go with Satan. Like us, angels get a choice...they **had** free will. Amazingly, Satan convinced 1/3 of the angels to leave heaven (the throne of God) and come to earth with him. What a deceiver! In fact, Luke records the words of Jesus when He said He saw this happen.

Luke 10:18

¹⁸ And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven."

Now, many ask when did this happen? Well, there's no way to be dogmatic about this, but we can surmise some things from Scripture. We know that God created the angels, and while we can't be dogmatically certain about when He did, we do know Lucifer was cast to earth and this had to be before Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, because he was there. Remember, Satan was in the tree of "Knowledge of Good and Evil."

So, Satan was on earth and he took part in the rebellion of humankind...just as he had taken part in the rebellion of the angels in heaven... and so, to this day, along with his fallen angels, (demons)...because they chose to leave their original positions of authority as assigned by God, they were kicked out of heaven.. Now let's investigate this a bit. We said earlier that Satan is always seeking to pervert. See the SECOND definition of the word: "perversion" again...

Perversion:

1. the alteration of something from its original course, meaning, or state, to a distortion or corruption of what was first intended.
 2. sexual behavior or desire that is considered abnormal or unacceptable.
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Did the angels (Jude is speaking of) in Jude 6 seek to do something that aligns with this perversion sexually? Well, many scholars believe so... See the **first part of the verse again** and get this into your mind...

Jude 1:6

⁶ And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling,

Turn with me to Genesis 6 and let me show you where many scholars point to indicate this perversion carried out by angels...and we're going to go all the way back to the time before the Flood.

Genesis 6:1-8

¹ When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, ² the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. ³ Then

the Lord said, "My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years." ⁴ The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown. ⁵ The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. ⁶ And the Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. ⁷ So the Lord said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them." ⁸ But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.

Now, there is much debate about what this passage means and people have argued about it for centuries...so, we can't be dogmatic about any interpretation...but, I'll tell you what I know the Bible to teach... First, angels don't have the ability to reproduce. Jesus said in:

Matthew 22:30

For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.

Perhaps the key to interpreting this passage is trying to ascertain: "Who are the 'Sons of God?'" Are they angels or people? Well, I lean toward the interpretation that they were human beings...the descendants of Seth, who were inhabited by demons. Now who was Seth?

He was the son of Adam and Eve...the one who replaced Abel, who was killed by his brother, Cain. **There was a segment of Seth's offspring who were demon-possessed,** and this sin was so egregious and so horrid, that God said to the demons who were leading this rebellion with man, "You've gone too far." Now again, we don't know the degree of the wickedness they were involved in...but, we do know that God destroyed the earth right after this.

Here's how Warren Wiersbe says it:

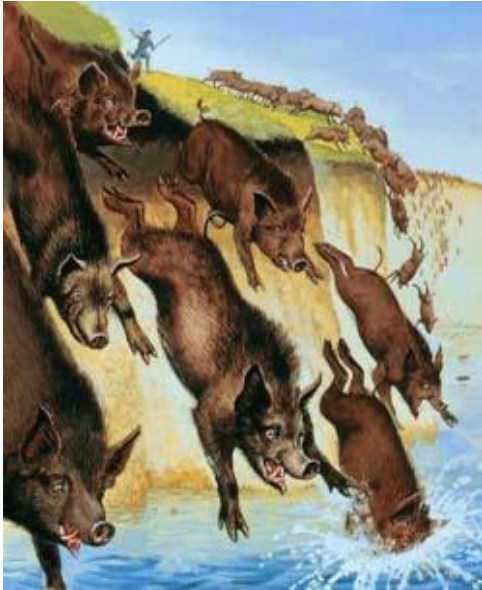
"I believe the simplest explanation is that the godly line of Seth, (the Sons of God), began to mingle with the ungodly line of Cain, and this broke down the walls of separation that God had intended by excommunicating Cain for the murder of his brother, resulting in compromise and eventually degrading sin. But regardless of which interpretation you accept, keep the main lesson in mind: the angels rebelled and were punished for their rebellion." Warren Wiersbe, Bible Commentator

Now look back at Jude 1:6 and let's see where these angels are today...

Jude 1:6

⁶ And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day.

Now quickly...where is this place of "eternal chains and gloomy darkness?" Well, Jesus had an encounter with demons who begged Him not to cast them somewhere. Do you remember that account? Remember Matthew chapter 8 when Jesus cast the demons out of the two men from Gadara (on the east side of the Sea of Galilee). Where did the demons, with the leader named "Legion," beg Jesus to cast them? Into a herd of pigs, right? Here's the artist's depiction...



Why? Because they didn't want to go where the angels are that are chained up...

Luke 6:31

“And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss.”

Peter described this place in 2 Peter...

2 Peter 2:4

For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell (Tartarus/Abyss) and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment.

What judgment? Judgment described in the book of the Revelation. During the judgment of God that will be poured out during the Great Tribulation as recorded in Revelation 9...demons are going to be set loose on this earth...who've been chained since before the days of Noah.

Revelation 9 describes what are called the “Trumpet Judgments” and the Apostle John records the fact that when the fifth trumpet is blown the Abyss will be opened and demons that look like locusts with scorpion tails and faces like human faces (vs. 7) and hair like women's hair (vs. 8) and their teeth like that of a lion's. **Verse 11 describes this...**

Revelation 9:11

They have as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit. His name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek he is called Apollyon.

What a terrifying scene...and it's all going to happen to those who reject God.

Church family, what does all of this mean? It means this: sin and rebellion are not going to go unpunished by our holy and righteous God, who sacrificed His Son for us. If the Israelites, the children of God were punished for their rebellion in the wilderness, and if the people of Sodom and Gomorrah were punished for their perversion...and the angels were punished for their perversion and rebellion, anyone who rejects Jesus and perverts the grace of God will be judged and punished.

You see, Jude, the brother of Jesus points all of this back to sin, rebellion, perversion, unbelief and the rejection of God. Oh don't be deceived...God judges rebellion and He will not tolerate and He

will not spare those who reject His Son. If God judged His own people and even the angels, He will certainly judge false teachers and anyone who reject Him.

The Apostle would say it this way.

Romans 1:18

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

Romans 1:24-28

²⁴ Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, ²⁵ because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. ²⁶ For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; ²⁷ and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. ²⁸ And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.

Please hear me tonight...please, please do not reject the LORD in rebellion and unbelief because judgment will be poured out on the unbeliever just as Jude, the half-brother Jesus described it.