



## JUDE - WEEK 2

**LIE #1 - "THE OLD TESTAMENT GOD IS VERY DIFFERENT THAN THE NEW TESTAMENT GOD."**

**INTRO. -** The letter of Jude deals with false teaching and as unpopular as it is to say in our culture today — the reason he deals with false teachers is because someone's wrong.

Not every religion can be true. Bertrand Russell, the famous atheist who wrote the book *Why I Am Not A Christian* said exactly that in his book. "Either one of the world

religions is true or none of them are true, because they all contradict each other.” He is exactly right.

Of course, there is also the view that we are all experiencing the same thing spiritually, but religion comes in and messes it up by trying to define it. But that viewpoint is also theological and not intellectually robust.

Most of us don’t take the time to think through our worldview or where we inherited it. As a matter of fact, Bertrand Russell also once said, “Most people would sooner die than think; in fact, they do so.” I believe he is right about that.

So, we can be right about some things and wrong about others. In fact, we all are. The question is, “Are you right about the questions that matter most? Who is God? How does He want us to relate to Him?”

That’s why Jude deals with false teachers, and he deals with them as a matter of urgency because false teaching damns souls.

We’re going to look at three lies today.

**LIE #1 - THE GOD OF THE OLD TESTAMENT IS DIFFERENT THAN THE GOD OF THE NEW TESTAMENT.**

**LIE #2 - GOD GAVE ME THIS DESIRE, SO IT MUST BE RIGHT.**

**LIE #3 - PEOPLE REJECT AUTHORITY.**

Let me just read you the four verses we’re going to cover.

So, the first lie the text hits upon is: “The God of the Old Testament is different than the God of the New Testament.”

In one sense, there is some legitimacy to this objection because we all have difficulty reconciling a God of love with a God of wrath.

The biblical authors, however, do not have that same difficulty. As a matter of fact, the Apostle Paul sums it up nicely when he writes:

“Behold the kindness and severity of God.” (Romans 11:22)

There is tension in the Christian life. We’re sinners who are pursuing holiness. God

commands us to repent and believe and yet He has chosen us before the foundation of the world. You gain everything by losing everything. If you want to live, you must die to self. There is tension in the Christian life.

God's undying love for your soul is in direction proportion to His just wrath for your sin.

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5 Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it,

Scripture itself confirms that we need to be reminded of core biblical truths. What biblical truth is Jude reminding these people of?

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that Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.

Now, there's a picture of Jesus we don't get everyday — the destroyer Jesus. Because the Jesus of popular culture is the gentle Jesus, meek and mild who would never condemn anyone for anything. I mean, did He not say, "Do not judge." We're left with a kind of one note Jesus who does not judge the living or the dead.

The biblical picture of Jesus has much more range.

This is almost going to sound contradictory. Jesus Christ loves you right now with a love that you can scarcely imagine, yet He is so holy that you would fall like a dead person in His presence.

God is holy and that's why our sinfulness separates us from God relationally. God is also love and therefore He draws us to Himself. He pulls us into the circle of His holiness through Christ and the end result is not that He is defiled by being in our presence, but we are changed by being in His. In other words, we become His holy people through relationship with Him. And yet we remain sinful. There is tension to the Christian life.

Let me give you another example that sounds contradictory.

Jesus Christ was and is sinless, completely and utterly holy and yet He attracted and continues to attract the most unholy and vilest of sinners. Why? Because people feel accepted by Jesus. Sinners feel accepted by Jesus.

Do you accept people who don't know Christ right where they're at? In the condition that they're in? In the deep, dark place of their sin? No, we usually don't, quite honestly.

Why is that? Because we're afraid that by showing someone such welcoming acceptance they will get the idea that we condone their sin. If this is the case, it means that we want people who don't know Jesus to change before they know Jesus. Do you see how it's backward?

Jesus welcomed sinners. Jesus welcomes sinners and so should we. Period. People were attracted to Jesus because He loved them and then they heard Him. And in hearing Jesus they heard the truth, because Jesus is the Truth. He drew them into His holy presence and He was not defiled by them, but they were changed by Him.

We should love people right where they're at — in the midst of their sexual sin, in the blindness of their bitterness, in the wake of their anger, in the confusion of their false religion or worldview — right in those places is where we need to love them.

Can you love people there? Or do you want them to change before they hear about the love of Christ? If you want them to change before they hear about the gospel then they will not hear of the love of Christ from you, my friend, because you will not be displaying it with that mindset.

This is the radical nature of the love of Christ. This is why people sometimes have a disconnect between the Old Testament and the New Testament.

So, people sometimes say:

**LIE #1 - THE GOD OF THE OLD TESTAMENT IS DIFFERENT THAN THE GOD OF THE NEW TESTAMENT.**

But God's plan of redemption was not revealed to humanity in one fell swoop. It was revealed over thousands of years. It was revealed little by little.

The NT tells us that Jesus is the exact representation of the invisible God, so until Christ came we couldn't know God in such a full way as we can know Him today.

So, who is the Jesus in the letter of Jude who “destroyed those who did not believe?”

## Jude

that Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.

What people in the Bible were saved out of the land of Egypt?

## Exodus 6:26

These are the Aaron and Moses to whom the Lord said: “Bring out the people of Israel from the **land** of **Egypt** by their hosts.”

**Jude, first of all, is saying that it was Jesus who was dealing with the nation of Israel in Old Testament times.**

Israel is the name for God’s people in the Old Testament. The name Israel is like the name church today. It means God’s people. When we refer to the church today we are referring to God’s people, followers of Jesus.

So, Jude is saying that it was Jesus who brought Israel out of the land of Egypt. And in saying that, Jude is saying:

1. **Jesus is the God of the Old Testament**

Even Paul makes this same point, that it was Jesus dealing with the nation of Israel. Why? Because God is one. One God, three Persons, as revealed over and over again in the Scriptures. When people say, “The word Trinity is not in the Bible,” they are correct. The word trinity is just shorthand for what the Bible actually teaches about God — that He is Trinitarian in nature.

## 1 Corinthians 10:1-5

**10** For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, **2** and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, **3** and all ate the same spiritual food, **4** and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. **5** Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

**Jesus Christ will be one of those two things to you — a Rock that you keep butting your head up against that will eventually crush you. Or He will be water to your soul, bringing fresh life and quenching your spiritual thirst.**

## Exodus 17:6

Behold, I will stand before you there on the **rock** at Horeb, and you shall strike the **rock**, and water shall come out of it, and the

people will drink.” And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.

**Psalm 136 - 26 times God emphasis that His steadfast love endures forever.**

But here in Jude we are presented with something that is hard for us to wrap our minds around — Jesus not only welcomes sinners with open arms, but He judges unbelief with severity.

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Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.

**Unbelief leads to rebellion. That’s all sin is — it’s simply rebellion of the heart against God.**

Again, the first commandment is to love God with everything within us. Now, when you love anyone with everything that is in you what do you generally want to do for that person? Well, you want to do whatever you can for that person. In Christian terms that’s called obedience. But the word obedience has negative connotations in our culture, because we generally have to coerce obedience with threats.

**But if we loved God we would want to do whatever we could for Him. Even Jesus said as much. “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”**

**Why do we break the Ten Commandments? The short answer is that we don’t love God. Our sin and rebellion has led to the world we live in. A world where we don’t really want God involved.**

## **Deuteronomy 4:3**

Your eyes have seen what the Lord did at Baal-peor, for the Lord your God **destroyed** from among you all the men who followed the Baal of Peor.

**This first group is religious people who are engaged in false teaching and false practices that resulted in the severest judgment.**

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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—

**2. When we abandon God’s loving care we enter into God’s wrathful judgment.**

It doesn't sound very loving until you examine it.

Sin is very irrational. God's saying, "I love you and I have everything for you and then some, more than you could hope or imagine and I've given everything of myself for you now." This is God's love toward us and we say, "How dare you! You want to love me like that because You want to control me!"

Let's use the analogy of the runaway high schooler. This scenario plays out in real life. There is a great documentary called "I Am Jane Doe" that deals with the example I'm using.

There is a 15-year old girl who sneaks out of the house. She leaves her proper dwelling and the protection of her parents. At the party she attends she is deceived by a man. He makes life without the rules of her parents sound so very attractive. Not realizing at the time that she is not just leaving her parent's authority, but she is exchanging it for an authority with evil intent. It's just that she's blind to the evil intent.

She buys into the lies. She runs away for the sake of freedom. The liar slowly introduces her to drugs, which she experiments with and soon she is addicted. In this state of drug dependance, his true motives come out. He has deceived her so that he might sell her for child prostitution. Now, she is raped repeatedly while, filled with guilt and shame and addicted to drugs and sees no escape.

Now, without sentimentalizing that scenario, we probably feel various emotions while hearing it. One emotion we should feel is anger, but that's stating it too mildly.

Everyone readily admits that we should love the things that God loves, but very seldom is it stated that we should hate the things God hates.

Sin brings devastation and destruction. If we cannot say that the God of this universe unequivocally hates child prostitution, then we have nothing to say to anyone about anything humane. Because every form of prostitution from children to grown men and women is a moral issue. And any moral issue is by default a theological issue. You cannot get away from God if you care about justice, because you cannot have justice without

God. And you cannot have justice without punishment. And you cannot have punishment without love.

Have you ever told your children when they were young? “Do not leave my side. It’s very crowded here. I don’t want you to get lost, etc.” And they rebel and leave your side. After panic and fear and worry, after you find them and hug them, then you are angry with them for leaving your side. You are angry with them for putting themselves in danger. The reason you are so angry with them is because you love them so very much.

**3. God’s wrath against sin is just the mirror of the depths of His love for you.**

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.

**LIE #2 - GOD GAVE ME THIS DESIRE, SO IT MUST BE RIGHT.**

Not all desires are natural, meaning just because you desire something doesn’t make it good.

Christianity is not about the negation of desires. It’s not about repressing desires. It’s about the untwisting of desires.

“Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.” This doesn’t mean God gives you whatever you want if you attend a few worship services. It means as you delight yourself in Who He is, in your relationship with Him through Jesus Christ, He will give you the desires that please Him. In other words, the things that make you the most happy will change. Now, this doesn’t mean you won’t have to give up any desires. But it’s like this... the story of the buried treasure.

## **Matthew 13:44**

44 “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Jesus bought each believer at a price; the sale is final.

## **1 Corinthians 6:20**

20 for you were bought with a price.



# **Matthew 20:28**

28 even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

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8 Yet in like manner these people also, relying on their dreams, defile the flesh, reject authority, and blaspheme the glorious ones.

**They reject Lordship, whether it is the authority of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit or church authority. Wait! What? Church authority?**

**LIE #3 - PEOPLE REJECT AUTHORITY.** No one really rejects authority - we just abandon wise and loving authority (God) for foolish and selfish authority (self or another human or system of thought that replaces God).