

Jude: Defend the Faith

A Warning

Jude 1:5-7

May 7, 2023

HDBC

Warnings are part of life. There are all kinds of warning lights and sounds in my truck. I have smoke alarms in my house that provide warnings. Our city has provided tornado sirens to warn people. Medications come with warnings about side effects. Tools come with warnings. Not all warnings are equal. Some are downright silly. Here are some actual warnings found.

Show pictures of warnings.

The problem with warnings, especially the kind we've just seen, is that we tend to ignore them. Either they are so silly, or because we assume they are not really all that important. There are other warnings that are critical and must be taken seriously. Pilot gets a warning that his fuel has run out. If I see a flashing light and bold sign that the bridge just ahead is out. If the doctor says, I have a serious blockage in a major artery.

The warning in Jude's letter is a serious one. Simply put . . .

Failure to be saved leads to condemnation and judgment from God. That's the warning. Jude reinforces it by offering three historic illustrations to show that this warning is real. God has provided a way for us to avoid judgment, but He requires a response from us. If we choose to ignore His plan for our salvation, we WILL come under His judgment. This is not popular to say. It is not comfortable to consider. But it is a necessary truth and an important warning to everyone.

READ Jude 1:5-7 Three illustrations of this truth from O.T.

A nation condemned for failing to trust God.

Angels condemned for rebelling against God's authority and position.

Cities condemned for ongoing, unrepentant, sinful lifestyles.

Unbelief. Failed to trust God's plan.

Rebellion. Failed to yield to God's authority.

Sin. Failed to obey God's word.

1. An unbelieving nation (5)

Remind you . . . Jude is not presenting new information to them. These are things his readers are well-aware of. But we learn through repetition. Two important things to consider in this illustration:

A. God judges national unbelief

As a nation, Israel decided to forget the miracles God had done for them and to reject God's call to cross the Jordan River to enter the promised land. Key passage is Numbers 14:27-38. [Turn to that passage.](#)

The people made their way out of Egypt across the desert and to the Jordan River. It was time to go in and receive God's great gift. They rebel. Ten of twelve spies recommend that they not go in and the people listen. Not only did they refuse to go in, but they grumbled against Moses and Aaron, even threatening to stone them to death.

At that point God stepped in a protected his leaders. Look at 11-12. There is the problem. They lacked saving faith. Moses once more interceded for his people. God listened, refusing to kill them at that time. However, look at his declaration in verses 22-24.

As a nation, they came under the judgment of God. An entire generation had to die before God brought the next generation back into His blessing. They were destroyed in the wilderness. Everyone died without entering the promised land. [God can and does bring judgment on unbelieving nations!](#) It makes me fear greatly for America.

B. God judges individual unbelief

The nation was judged and kept out of the promised land for a generation. But not all missed it. Caleb and Joshua did enter the promised land. Why? God not only looks at the nation, but at individuals.

They were all brought out of Egypt. They all looked like they were saved. But they were not. Along the way it became apparent that though they were all saved physically, there were not all saved spiritually. Some went along for the ride but were never saved.

On more than one occasion God moved through the people in judgment on those whose lack of faith led to open rebellion. Just because you are in the right crowd does not mean you will one day wear a crown. You can be in a crowd of saved people and not be saved. Likewise, you can be part of a nation experiencing the judgment of God, but as an individual be right with God and saved.

The point of this illustration is this. Entering the promised land is a picture of salvation. Unbelief will cause you to miss God's salvation. **Trust Him!**

2. **Rebellious angels (6)**

Jude, next mentions rebellious angels. Who are these angels?

A. **Fallen angels** *Angels who did not keep their own domain.*

That means they refused to be satisfied with the arena in which God created them to serve. They lived in the very presence of God, ministering before him and constantly serving His bidding. Yet they wanted more. They rebelled against His authority, choosing to follow Lucifer, who became Satan, the leader of all fallen angels. As Lucifer became Satan, these angels became demons.

B. **Bound angels**

All demons are not presently bound. Many are loose and are active in this world. We know that from reading the New Testament. There are dozens of references to demons who are clearly free to oppress and possess individuals and to fight against the Kingdom.

Not these. These demons have already been imprisoned, waiting to stand before the judge. Peter refers to this same group of demons in [2 Peter 2:4](#) and possibly in [1 Peter 3:19-20](#).

It is likely that these were the "sons of god" referred to in Genesis 6 who saw the "daughters of men" and had sexual relations with them. This was certainly a part of the sinful activities that brought an end to God's patience and led to the flood.

There is much that remains a mystery about this event. In some way

these angels entered into the physical realm and had sexual relations with women, producing an unnatural race of **mighty men** called **Nephilim**. Led to widespread immorality. Ultimately led to the destruction almost all of creation.

Angels were created to serve and worship God. These rebelled against that plan, thus becoming an example of apostasy. As with those Israelites who lacked faith, these demons will ultimately be destroyed.

3. Sinful cities (7)

What was the key sin of these cities? Sexual immorality, specifically homosexuality. They were going after *strange flesh*. They were living examples of Paul's words in Romans 1. They had rejected God's plan and decided to make their own rules. They trusted their own judgment more than God's. The Bible says their sin was great and extremely wicked.

The story of these cities is found in Genesis 13-19. Abram and Lot were forced to separate because of the size of their herds. Lot chose the green valley of the Jordan River and quickly settled in the city of Sodom.

Some years later God determined to bring judgment of the cities. Abraham interceded, asking God to spare the cities if 50 righteous were found. Then 45, then 40, 30, 20, 10. Still the cities came under condemnation. Angel was sent to rescue Lot just before destruction. The wicked men of the city tried to abuse the angel of God who came to rescue Lot.

Rescued Lot and his wife and daughters. Wife turned to look back and was turned into a pillar of salt. When she turned to look, she saw the fire of Heaven destroying the cities. **Genesis 19:24-25.**

Lot and daughters escaped to the mountains. Even there the wickedness of Sodom followed them. In a sordid conspiracy, his daughters on successive nights got him drunk in order to produce children through him.

Three examples of what will happen to those who reject God's free gift of salvation. It is a warning to any who would embrace some watered-down version of the Gospel that comes short of the real thing. A warning to look inward, to do a

self-examination to make sure you are truly saved. Jude's brother, James, wrote about the difference between saving faith and a faith that comes short. True saving faith truly changes a person's life. Here are a couple of questions to ask yourself.

Were you changed when you were saved?
Are you changed now because you have been saved?
Did your salvation experience change you?
Has your salvation experience continued to change you now?

Dorothy Sayers, the mystery writer, was also a devoted Christian. She offers and explanation of the moral law of God. She pointed out that in our society there are two kinds of laws. There is the law of the stop sign, and there's the law of the fire.

The law of the stop sign is a law that says the traffic is heavy on a certain street, and as a result the police department or the city council decides to erect a stop sign. They also decide that if you run that stop sign, it will cost you \$25 or \$30 or \$35. If the traffic changes, they can up the ante. That is if too many people are running the stop sign, they can make the fine \$50 or \$75, or if they build a highway around the city, they can take the stop sign down, or reduce the penalty, making it only \$10 if you go through. The police department or city council controls the law of the stop sign.

But then she said there is also **the law of the fire**. And the law of the fire says if you put your hand in the fire, you'll get burned. Now imagine that all the legislatures of all the nations of the entire world gathered in one great assembly, and they voted unanimously that here on out that fire would no longer burn. The first man or woman who left that assembly and put his or her hand in the fire would discover that the law of the fire is different than the law of the stop sign.

Bound up in the nature of fire itself is the penalty for abusing it. So, Dorothy Sayers says, the moral law of God is like the law of the fire. You never break God's laws; you just break yourself on them. God can't reduce the penalty, because the penalty for breaking the law is bound up in the law itself.