

(vv1-4) Jude was the brother of James, who wrote the New Testament book named after him, and they are both half-brothers of Jesus. Jude was compelled by the Holy Spirit to change the subject of his letter ‘...and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith...For there are certain men crept in unawares...ungodly men...’ The importance and relevance of Jude’s letter is needed today as much as it was when he wrote it.

MATTHEW 13:24-30, 36-43 Why must we contend for the faith? One reason is that there are tares among the wheat. Jesus gives this parable to warn us of the times we are in; it concerns the Kingdom, which includes the church but is much larger than the church. There are tares (weeds) among the wheat, plants of Satan meant to confuse people and cause evil.

ROMANS 6:1-14 ‘Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed [done away with], that henceforth we should not serve sin.’ The Greek word is ‘katargeō’ ~ to render idle, unemployed, inactivate, inoperative; to deprive of force, influence, power. Jude spoke of ungodly men who are ‘...turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness [lewdness/immorality]...’ false teachers and apostates attempt to convince people that sin is acceptable, that it doesn’t matter to God how you live; whereas the truth of God’s Word exhorts believers to live a holy life given over to Jesus and to be led by the Holy Spirit. **GALATIANS 5:13-18; TITUS 2:11-15; 1 PETER 1:15,16.**

2 PETER 2:1-3 ‘But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.’ The second mark of an apostate according to Jude is that they are ‘...denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.’ The apostate denies that Jesus Christ is God, they will attack the Deity of Jesus or deny His teachings on holiness for the believer. **1 CORINTHIANS 6:9-20** the born-again believer desires to glorify God in all they do **1 CORINTHIANS 10:31; MATTHEW 5:16.**

(vv5-7) Jude now gives three examples of apostasy in the Old Testament to illustrate the damnation spoken of in (v4) ‘For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation...’

1. v5 the people of Israel
2. v6 the angels who sinned
3. v7 Sodom and Gomorrah

(v5) ‘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.’ Ideally, every Christian who is

reading Jude’s epistle would know exactly what circumstances he is speaking of here.

NUMBERS 13 in Israel’s history, they were slaves in Egypt for 400 years, released by the applied blood of the Passover Lamb, and then crossed the Red Sea miraculously as if on dry land (vv1-3) God has Moses send out 12 spies to secretly search out the Promised Land and bring back information to the people (vv17-29) 10 of the 12 spies come back with a report that the land is indeed bountiful, but... ‘Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak [giants] there.’ God promised Israel victory ‘And I said unto you, Ye are come unto the mountain of the Amorites, which the LORD our God doth give unto us...go up and possess it, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath said unto thee...’ (**DEUTERONOMY 1:20,21**). (vv30-33) Caleb and Joshua saw Israel from God’s perspective; the other spies saw Israel from man’s perspective, small and powerless. The Giants (sons of Anak) were an insurmountable problem to the 10 spies; the presence of the giants was insignificant to Caleb and Joshua; they chose to trust God and His promises.

NUMBERS 14 (vv1-5) ‘And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron... Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness! And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt?’ Here is our application point from Jude’s use of Israel, faithlessness causes sin. (vv6-10) Israel’s unbelief in God’s promises prevented them from entering the Promised Land, and they would wander for 38 more years until all the adult generation would die off (vv26-35) God will surely judge sin and unbelief.

1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-14 God is using ancient Israel to teach us today. We cannot presume upon the grace and mercy of God...flee from sin, that is our desire from deep within our spirit if we are born-again.

HEBREWS 3:1-19 Victory in Jesus today! (vv1-6) ‘Consider Jesus!’ Don’t allow world events or personal circumstances to take your eyes off of the Person of Jesus Christ **HEBREWS 4:14-16; 10:32-35; 12:1-4.** Our salvation is a gift, completely unearned **EPHESIANS 2:8; 1 PETER 1:5; JOHN 5:24.** The Israelites in the wilderness could not enter God’s rest because of unbelief in His Word. Jude encourages us to believe and act upon God’s promises, and this will also lead us to ‘earnestly contend for the faith!’ **EPHESIANS 4:1-32; 5:1-21** Walk in Jesus and rest in Him!