

(vv1-4) Jude is the half-brother of Jesus. He sets out to write a letter to believers concerning *'the common salvation'* but the Holy Spirit had a different subject that He would compel Jude to write about. *'...it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith...For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men...'* the church today needs to be just as much on guard for apostates and false teachers as it was in Jude's time.

(vv5-7) Jude gives three examples of apostasy in the Old Testament to illustrate the apostate's certain damnation:

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

(v6) *'And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, He hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.'* We now look at the 2nd example of God's judgment and it takes us into the mysterious world of fallen angels. Jude, by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, connects this sin to a sexual sin in the next verse: (v7) *'Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.'* The Greek word translated *'habitation'* (*abode/dwelling*) is *'oikētērion'* - a dwelling place, habitation of the body as a dwelling place for the spirit. This word is only used one other time in the New Testament: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:1-8 Paul writes *'For in this [natural body] we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house [habitation/dwelling] which is from heaven.'* So what is Jude referring to with this Old Testament example? We only have two references in the Bible where it speaks of angels sinning:

ISAIAH 14:12-15 in this passage God promises Satan that he will be brought down to hell forever. REVELATION 12:1-4 at the time of Satan's fall one third of the angels rebelled with him. However, not all the angels that sinned are chained up, so something very evil happened concerning the specific angels that sinned in which Jude is referring. GENESIS 6:1-8 the timing of this is pre-Flood, something occurs which filled up God's patience and brought on the judgement of the Flood. The *'sons of God'* had sexual relations with the *'daughters of men.'* The Hebrew phrase *'bene Elohiym'* (sons of God) is used three other times in the Old Testament and always refers to angels (JOB 1:6; 2:1; 38:7). These fallen angels had sexual intercourse with the *'bath Adam'* (daughters of men), human women. Some have

trouble with this interpretation believing that angels are incapable of such. MATTHEW 22:30 *'For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.'* Jesus is speaking about the angels that did not fall with Satan. Angels are capable of appearing as men and are mistaken as such GENESIS 18:1-8; 19:1-6. (v4) *'There were giants (Nephilim) in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.'* This union of angels and women brought about the Nephilim, who also happened to be gigantic. The giants (Nephilim) terrorized Israel as they attempted to possess the Promised Land. 2 PETER 2:1-6 Peter also mentions this group of fallen angels and writes that they are chained up in hell awaiting final judgment. Peter also connects them to the time of the Flood and compares their sin to the sexual sin of Sodom and Gomorrah.

WHAT IS THE WARNING FOR BELIEVERS TODAY AS WE READ JUDE'S LETTER?

JUDE 1 (vv1-7) Jude is using the example of the fallen angels' sexual sin and the eternal judgment of God to make sure we are aware of the fate of false teachers and apostates among us today. Their damnation is sure! 2 PETER 2:1,2 *'But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.'* We surely experience false teachers among us in the church today...while their damnation is sure the truth remains that many will be deceived by their lies and follow them into destruction. How we need to be empowered by the Holy Spirit and the Word of God to help others escape their grasps! 1 THESSALONIANS 4:1-7 *'For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality...For God did not call us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.'*

GENESIS 6:4 *'There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that...'* even after the Flood, evidently Satan sent other fallen angels to do the same thing. MATTHEW 24:24-29 *'But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.'* We really don't understand how evil the days will be leading up to Jesus' 2nd Coming! The battle is spiritual, evil is real, but we win because Jesus has won! Walk in Him today! ROMANS 13:13; GALATIANS 5:16, 25