

The Coming Storm

A Cloud on the Horizon: Jude verses 1-4

¹ Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James,
To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ:

² May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

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.

Intro: Jude wanted to talk to us about a bright sunshiny day that the Lord has made for all of us. The joy of our blessed salvation.

But Jude saw a cloud on the horizon, he saw the storm of apostasy coming and knew it would eventually hit the church like a category five hurricane.

Jude is the little book right before revelation. All New Testament writers talk about this falling away before the end. But Jude stands as a loud warning of what we should expect before the end.

This is the warning to board up your windows and make you house secure. The ultimate warning of the church's greatest danger.

Apostasy- to stand away from, to walk away from the (true) faith.

Hebrews 3:12 Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.

An Arlington, Virginia, minister said, "We have closed our minds to such trivial consideration as the question of the resurrection of Christ. If you fundamentalists wish to believe that nonsense, we have no objection, but we have more important things to preach than the presence or absence of an empty tomb twenty centuries ago."

A leading minister in Washington, D.C., said flatly, "In our denomination what you call the 'faith of our Fathers' is approaching total extinction. Of course a few of the older ministers still cling to the Bible. But among the younger men, the real leaders of our denomination today, I do not know a single one who believes in Christ, or any of the things that you classify as fundamentals."

From J.Vernon McGee- *What Can Believers Do in Days of Apostasy?*

The Weather Man-Jude

Credentials-Jude, a **servant** of Jesus Christ and brother of James,

The Long-Range Forecast- To those who are **called, beloved** in God the Father and **kept** for Jesus Christ: ² May **mercy, peace, and love** be **multiplied** to you. ³ Beloved, although I was **very eager to write to you about our common salvation**,

A Cloud on the Horizon- 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.

There is a great danger to the joy of our sunny days. It is the storm of apostasy. It is not coming from outside the church. It is coming from inside the church.

Board up the windows-I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints

One true faith has been delivered to the church

It has been delivered once and for all, never to change.

It is imperative that we board up the windows of our church against this coming storm.

We do this by standing against those who enter the church and distort the message.

We contend for the faith. Contend- to exert intense effort on behalf of something—‘to struggle for.’¹

There are lots of predictions in the news today about all kinds of coming storms: financial storms, political storms, social storms, storms of war, and storms of disease.

But Jude says we need to be aware of the storms of false teachers.

We have so much good news with the gospel we are tempted to let our guard down, but Jude says we cannot, we must be prepared to fight for the faith.

Satan’s best weapon is ignorance. In Hosea God said my people are destroyed because of a lack of knowledge.

The enemy loves to dumb down the church. Instead of a place of instruction it becomes a place of entertainment.

God’s people are to be a literate people, a people of the book.

Ignorant people are easily lead astray.

Think of the storms on the coast. The weatherman informs us of the intensity and location of the storm so that we are not ignorant of the danger.

I have heard many stories in my life living this close to the gulf of massive storms coming in and people who would not heed the warnings.

They thought they would be fine. They remained willfully ignorant of the danger they faced.

Jude is writing this letter, so we are not ignorant of what is going to happen.

¹ Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). In [*Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains*](#) (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 495). United Bible Societies.

The destructive winds of change- 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.

Jude is going to show us through the rest of his letter that from Genesis on that these evil people have always had the same plan to turn God's people away from the faith.

The first step always involves immorality. The second step always involves rebellion.

Once you start living wrong you will reject the God who says you must live right.

Jeremiah 23:14–22 But in the prophets of Jerusalem I have seen a horrible thing: they commit adultery and walk in lies; they strengthen the hands of evildoers, so that no one turns from his evil; ... for from the prophets of Jerusalem ungodliness has gone out into all the land.”¹⁶ Thus says the LORD of hosts: “Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the LORD. ¹⁷ They say continually to those who despise the word of the LORD, ‘It shall be well with you’; and to everyone who stubbornly follows his own heart, they say, ‘No disaster shall come upon you.’ ” ...²¹ “I did not send the prophets, yet they ran; I did not speak to them, yet they prophesied. ²² But if they had stood in my council, then they would have proclaimed my words to my people, and they would have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their deeds.

They creep in unnoticed!

These people are master deceivers impowered by the father of lies.

They use the language of the church.

They don't come in the back door; they are voted into the pulpits to lead the congregation. They are educated and have positions of authority.

2 Corinthians 11:13–14 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.