**Examples of Judgement**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Jude 5-8**

**Wednesday Evening**

**April 20, 2022**

**Jude 5-8**

5 But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. 6 And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;

7 as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. 8 Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries.

**5 But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.**

Saints, to prove that the determined fate was certain to come upon the false teachers and all unbelievers, Jude wanted to remind the believers of three examples of God’s punishment of sin and rebellion in the past. Such judgment also awaited the sin and rebellion of the false teachers.

First, Jude reminded his readers about God’s people, Israel, who, although the whole nation was rescued out of slavery in Egypt, not everyone entered the Promised Land.

The entire nation had received God’s deliverance, seeing his incredible miracles in accomplishing their exodus. But when they arrived at the entrance to the Promised Land, many rebelled against God, refusing to believe that he could or would protect them.

Their unbelief resulted in destruction. From the original group, only Caleb and Joshua (and their families) were allowed to enter Canaan because God destroyed every one of those who did not remain faithful.

**Hebrews 3:16-19**

16 For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, was it not all who came out of Egypt, led by Moses? 17 Now with whom was He angry forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness? 18 And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey? 19 So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

Saints, Jude used Israel’s experience on the threshold of the Promised Land to explain that even some among God’s people can turn away.

The false teachers had come from the ranks of the believers. While not truly followers of Christ, they were saying and doing many of the right things, even as they were teaching their wrong doctrines.

They understood that they could find deliverance from bondage to sin (like bondage to Egypt), yet they were choosing sin over salvation. The obvious result, Jude wrote, would be that they, like the disobedient Israelites, would be destroyed.

**6 And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;**

Saints, this second example of God’s punishment of disobedience describes certain angels, not those who live in heaven and glorify God, but those who did not stay within the limits of authority God gave them but left the place where they belonged.

Once pure, holy, and living in God’s presence, they gave in to pride and joined Satan to rebel against God. They left their positions of authority and their dwelling with God, resulting in eventual doom. Peter explained that God “did not spare even the angels when they sinned.”

**2 Peter 2:4**

“For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment”

Scholars differ as to which rebellion Jude referred. This could refer either to the angels who rebelled with Satan (Ezekiel 28:15), or more likely to the sin of the “sons of God” described in Genesis 6:1-4 (an interpretation given in the book of Enoch in the Apocrypha, when angels came to earth and took women as sexual partners; see also Revelation 12:7).

**Ezekiel 28:14-15**

14 "You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. 15 You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you.

**Genesis 6:1-4**

6:1 Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, 2 that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.

3 And the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years." 4 There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.

**Revelation 12:7-8**

7 And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, 8 but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.

Saints, Jude’s readers apparently understood his meaning, as well as the implication that if God did not spare his angels, neither would he spare the false teachers. Pride and lust had led to civil war and to the angels’ fall. The false teachers’ pride and lust would lead to judgment and destruction.

As for these disobedient angels, God has kept them chained in prisons of darkness, waiting for the day of judgment. These angels were imprisoned in Tartarus.

**1 Peter 3:19-21**

19 by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, 20 who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.

**2 Peter 2:4-5**

4 For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; 5 and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly;

Saints, some scholars describe the “chains” as metaphors for the confinement of “darkness”; others take them to be literal chains in a dark pit somewhere in this earthly sphere. Most likely this place of punishment is in a heavenly realm that is set aside for punishment.

These sinful angels will be “kept” in a place of punishment until the great day of judgment, when they will face their final doom.

**Matthew 25:41**

"Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:

**7 as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.**

Saints, finally, as a third example of God’s judgment of disobedience, Jude pointed out that Sodom and Gomorrah and their neighboring towns were destroyed by fire.

The inhabitants were so full of sin that God wiped the cities off the face of the earth. The people were following their own sinful natures, indulging in sexual immorality and pursuing sexual perversion. God “rained down fire and burning sulfur” (Genesis 19:24) as punishment.

**Genesis 19:24-26**

24 Then the LORD rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens. 25 So He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. 26 But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

Saints, so complete was God’s judgment and destruction that the cities no longer exist today. Archaeologists believe they may be under the waters of the Dead Sea.

The destruction of these cities served as a warning of the eternal fire that will punish all who are evil. The fire that rained on the evil cities pictures the fire that awaits unrepentant sinners. Many people don’t want to believe that God will punish people with “eternal fire” for rejecting him.

But this is clearly taught in Scripture. Sinners who don’t seek forgiveness from God will face eternal darkness. Jude warned all who rebel against, ignore, or reject God.

**8 Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries.**

Saints, the false teachers used dreams and visions for sources of their authority. Drawing from his three analogies above, Jude indicted the false teachers in three areas:

**1. They Live Immoral Lives**

Like the citizens of Sodom and Gomorrah, they follow wherever their sinful desires lead them, even into homosexuality. These people taught that Christian freedom placed believers above moral rules. No one living in such a way should attempt to speak for God. By doing so, these false teachers brought great judgment on themselves.

**2. They Defy Authority**

This “authority” could refer to church leaders, angelic powers (as below), or the Lord himself. Most likely, the false teachers rejected the authority of all of these. They lived to please themselves and dismissed the prospect of a Second Coming and judgment by God.

**3. They would Scoff at the Power of the Glorious Ones**

Saints, in light of the comparable verse in 2 Peter 2:11, the celestial beings mentioned here most likely are the fallen angels—the guilty celestial beings who deserve condemnation.

**2 Peter 2:4-11**

4 For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; 5 and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly;

6 and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; 7 and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked

8(for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)-- 9 then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,

10 and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries, 11 whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord.

Saints, the false teachers “slandered” the spiritual realities they did not understand, perhaps by taking Satan’s power too lightly.

Jude was emphasizing that the false teachers were immoral, insubordinate, and irreverent. Jude hardly needed to say more. The believers had no reason for listening to or following such people.

Saints, Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Short Movie Slide>**

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.” In Jesus Name!**