

# Jude

“Jude’s way of understanding the present danger is by tracing its origins in the past apocalyptic records.” —Phillip H. Towner

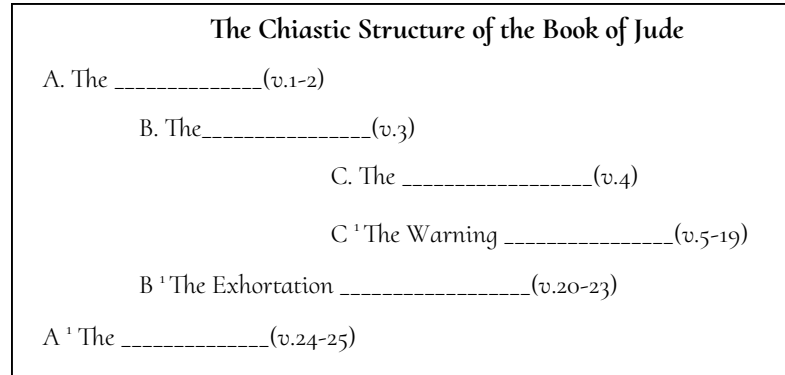
## The Mercy & Judgement of God

### “The Authority of Jesus to Judge”

#### Introduction

- In v.1-2, Jude has reminded his audience of their mutual identity in relation to Jesus Christ.
- In v.3, he has exhorted believers to contend for the faith which was delivered to them.
- The basis for this exhortation is given in v.4 as they are warned about false teachers within their midst.

He will now recall examples from the OT and other Jewish writings to show that God has \_\_\_\_\_ sin in the past, and will do so again in the future.



#### Old Testament Examples of Judgement—Jude 5-7

<sup>5</sup> Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.<sup>6</sup> And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day—<sup>7</sup> just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.

#### The Importance of Being Reminded

“Now I want to remind you...” →

“remind”—ὕπομινῆσκω (*hypomimnēskō*)—to cause one to remember, bring to remembrance, recall to mind. This term is in the infinitive tense, indicating that this is not a one-time reminder, but is something that is to continue.

“...even though you have been fully informed of these facts once for all...” (NET Bible)

- They have been instructed regarding the \_\_\_\_\_ of the faith and warned of the coming of \_\_\_\_\_ (v.17)

#### The Agent of God’s Judgement

“...Jesus...” — Some translations (NASB, NIV, KJV) say “the Lord” in v.5, others (ESV, NLT, NET Bible) follow the early manuscript traditions (4th-5th century) which specify “the Lord” as “Jesus.”

⇒ The use of Jesus’ proper name highlights His pre-existence and illustrates for the churches that He has been the \_\_\_\_\_ of God’s judgement in the past.

#### Three Examples of God’s Judgement

##### Example #1—The Generation who experienced \_\_\_\_\_

“...Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.”

- God’s judgment fell upon that generation on several different occasions and for a variety of reasons:
  1. Exod. 32—The immediate breaking of God’s commands regarding worship (3,000 killed)
  2. Num. 11:32-35—The gratifying of their cravings in a gluttonous and idolatrous ways (undisclosed number killed)
  3. Num. 14:1-23—The rebellion against the Lord in refusing to enter into The Promised Land (the entire generation will perish)

Num. 14:21-23—<sup>21</sup> But truly, as I live, and as all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord, <sup>22</sup> none of the men who have seen my glory and my signs that I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and yet have put me to the test these ten times and have not obeyed my voice, <sup>23</sup> shall see the land that I swore to give to their fathers. And none of those who despised me shall see it.

- 4. Num. 25:1-9—The indulgence in sexual sin and idolatry with the women of Moab (24,000 killed)

**Point of Emphasis:** Jesus is the one who \_\_\_\_\_ the unbelieving from among His people.

### Example #2—The Fallen \_\_\_\_\_ of Genesis 6:1-4

*“And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day...”*

- Jewish tradition, particularly the work of 1 Enoch, interpreted Gen. 6:1-4 as describing an incident in the past where angels (“the sons of God”) took human form and came to earth and engaged in sexual activity with women.

*“First Enoch documents one interpretation that the “sons of God” were fallen angels who through cross-species sexual relations introduced unprecedented evil into the human gene pool that motivated God to cause the great flood.”—Karen H. Jobes*

*“...he has kept in eternal chains...”*— The reality that certain fallen angels are imprisoned helps us to make sense of Peter’s description of Jesus’ post-death/pre-resurrection visit to the “spirits in prison” mentioned in 1 Pet. 3:18-20.

**Point of Emphasis:** Jesus is the one who has \_\_\_\_\_ these rebellious angels.

### Example #3—Sodom and Gomorrah

*“...just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.”*

- There is a clear connection drawn between the sin of the fallen angles and that of the inhabitants of Sodom & Gomorrah and the surrounding cities which must also be identified as sexual immorality.

*“...unnatural desire...”*— Other versions translate this phrase “strange flesh” or “flesh of another kind,” which are more literal renderings.

Observations: (1) The sin that Jude has in mind is sexual in nature.  
(2) The sexual sin that Jude has in mind is in some sense “unnatural.”

⇒ While Ezek. 16:49 emphasizes the excess wealth and pride of Sodom & Gomorrah, both Jewish (Josephus, Philo) and Christian traditions have historically identified the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah with homosexual activity in light of the account of Genesis 19:1-11.

**Point of Emphasis:** Jesus is the one who has made an \_\_\_\_\_ of Sodom and Gomorrah.

## Making Sense of Jude’s Examples

1. Taken together, these three examples illustrate Jesus’ \_\_\_\_\_ over all of Creation.

The example of Israel →

The example of the Fallen Angels →

The example of Sodom & Gomorrah →

2. Each of these examples demonstrates that those who \_\_\_\_\_ against Jesus’ authority will experience His judgement.

(1) Temporal Judgment: Heb. 12:4-8 Rev. 2:5

(2) Eternal Judgment: 2 Thess. 1:6-9 Rev. 19:11-15

3. These examples demonstrate that rebellion against Jesus’ authority will frequently manifest itself as \_\_\_\_\_ sin.

Among Unbelievers: Rom. 1:18-27

Among Believers: 1 Cor. 5:3-12

## Questions for Reflection

1. Which of these examples of God’s judgement is most striking to me?
2. Has there been a time in your life where your rebellion against God manifested itself in sexual sin?
3. What are the small battles that I need to be fighting against sin so that I can not fighting larger battles later?