**JUDE 1:14-16**

**GOD’S JUDGMENT ON FALSE TEACHING IS CERTAIN & JUST**

**Introduction**

Jude has been using a number of examples to demonstrate the certainty of the judgment of the apostates that he has been writing about. He now cites a prophecy to support his words. Verses 14 and 15 contain a prophecy about judgment of the ungodly and verse 16 applies the prophecy to the false teachers.

**Verse 14-15 ➤ PROPHECY OF GOD’S JUDGMENT UPON FALSE TEACHERS**

[14 Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, “Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, 15 to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him”.

Jude describes Enoch as the seventh from Adam, which can also be deduced from the genealogical records recorded in Gen. 5:3-24, 1 Chron. 1:1-3 and Luke 3:37-38. From these records we can construct the lineage from Adam to Enoch shown in Figure 1.

“…..the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Mahalalel, the son of Cainan, the son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.”—Luke 3:37-38

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Figure 1. The Seven Generation Lineage of Enoch.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age when 1st son born</th>
<th>Life span</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seth</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enoch</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahalalel</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jared</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenan</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>910</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

‘Seven’ is the number of completion in the Bible as well as the ‘seventh son’ being considered especially blessed. So Jude’s reference to Enoch as “the seventh from Adam” only serves to emphasize Enoch’s special position as a godly man.

Jude starts off by quoting nearly verbatim from the Book of 1 Enoch, which reads:

“And behold, he comes with ten thousand holy ones to execute judgment upon all and to destroy all the ungodly and to convict all flesh of all the works of their ungodliness which they have ungodly committed, and of all the hard things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him”—1 Enoch 1:9
Although the Old Testament gives the record of Enoch in *Genesis 5*, this prophecy of Enoch is not found there. Enoch is not a common name; so we may be sure that the man Jude mentions is Enoch of the antediluvian period, the man who walked with God and God took him.

Here is what the noted New Testament scholar Dr. Wuest¹ says about the Book of Enoch:

The quotation is from the apocryphal Book of Enoch. This book, known to the Church Fathers of the second century, lost for some centuries with the exception of a few fragments, was found in its entirety in a copy of the Ethiopic Bible² in 1773 by Bruce. It consists of revelations purporting to have been given to Enoch and Noah. Its object is to vindicate the ways of divine providence, to set forth the retribution reserved for sinners, and so show that the world is under the immediate government of God.

God apparently did not want the BOOK OF ENOCH in the universal canon of Scripture or it would be there—you may be sure of that. Godly men recognized that it was an apocryphal book, but here is one prophecy that God wanted put into His Holy Word. It is a prophecy concerning the coming of Christ with His saints.

[“Behold, the Lord comes…….”] Although Jude quotes from an apocryphal source, he imparts a more complete meaning to the prophecy. He applies Enoch’s prophecy to Jesus Christ by substituting the word “Lord” (Kurios) for “he”. Therefore, Jude identifies the “he comes” of Enoch’s prophecy as the SECOND COMING of Jesus Christ [i.e., the Parousia].

It should be seriously noted that the SECOND COMING OF CHRIST is the BLESSED HOPE of Christians {Titus 2:13}. This ties in with the ‘revealing’ or apocalypse of Jesus Christ which is the subject of the Book of Revelation {e.g.; Rev. 6:12-17; 11:15-19; 19:5-21; 22:1-5}.

It is interesting to note that Enoch has a special connection to the Biblical teaching of the RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH—the resurrection of believers who have already died and the resurrection and ‘snatching up’ to Heaven of those believers that are still alive at that time.

We know from the record in Genesis that Enoch was translated, that is, he was removed from the earth without dying {ref. *Gen. 5:24; Heb. 11:5*}. [As was Elijah; 2 Ki. 2:11].

And sometime in the future, the Church, the BODY OF CHRIST {ref. 1 Cor. 12:27-28; Eph. 4:11-12; 5:30}, is to be forcefully removed from the earth via resurrection {ref. 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:49-54}.

¹ Kenneth Samuel Wuest (1893–1962) was a noted New Testament Greek scholar of the mid-Twentieth century. Wuest was a professor of New Testament Greek at the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago and published over a dozen books on the New Testament. Wuest is often cited as an influential Evangelical and Dispensationalist scholar and is credited as one of the translators of the original New American Standard Bible (NASB). He later went on to produce his own English translation of the New Testament (the Wuest Expanded Translation—abbreviated WET) based on Nestle’s critical text. In his translation of the New Testament, Wuest attempts to make the original Greek more accessible to the lay reader by drawing out (in translation) the full variety of possible meanings and translations of the underlying Greek words.

² This is the ETHIOPIAN ORTHODOX BIBLE.

³ “And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him”. {Gen. 5:24}. By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, “and was not found, because God had taken him”; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. {Heb. 11:5}. See also the example of Elijah in 2 Kings 2:11
The teaching of the Rapture is not revealed in the Old Testament at all, yet Enoch is a type or a representative of the believers who will take part in the Rapture. Enoch was removed from the earthly scene before the judgment of the Flood came upon the earth (Gen. 7-8). Likewise, believers who compose the ‘TRUE CHURCH’, the ‘BODY OF CHRIST’, will be removed from this earth will be caught-up to meet the Lord in the air, before the judgment of the GREAT TRIBULATION breaks upon the earth (ref. 1 Thess. 1:10; 5:9; Rev. 4:1-2).

When we say that the Rapture is the SECOND COMING OF CHRIST, we are not quite accurate if we mean that Christ is physically coming to earth at that time. No, the Rapture is the removal of the church. Then the visible church which is left on the earth, composed of folk who are not true believers, those who refused to believe will enter the GREAT TRIBULATION period (Isa. 13:6-13).

Of course, through the centuries, since the time of Christ, believers have been dying so that at the present time most of the Church has already passed through the doorway of death. And at the time of the Rapture they are to be caught up together with the living believers to meet the Lord in the air before the GREAT TRIBULATION.

Then, at the end of the GREAT TRIBULATION, the Lord Jesus will actually come to the earth “to execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed”.

However, and this is very important to note, at the time of the Rapture the LORD Jesus does not physically come to the earth, but the believers are caught up to meet Him in the air (ref. 1 Thess. 4:17). Obviously, the only way that ‘myriads of saints’ can come back with Christ to reign on the earth is that they had to leave the earth sometime before they come back. You simply have to believe in a pre-Tribulation Rapture if you believe that Christ is coming back to earth with His saints. In this way the saints are already with Him in Heaven and can return with Him at the end of the GREAT TRIBULATION, just as Enoch and Jude have prophesied. This is a remarkable passage of Scripture!

Now notice the four-fold use of the words “all” and “ungodly” in v.15: which serves to drive home the point that the ungodly will not go unpunished and are surely doomed:

Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, “Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”

This is Jude’s way of stressing the seriousness of his message about the LORD’s judgment. This four-fold use of the term all illustrates the complete scope and finality of the judgment. The ungodly are as good as dead; they don’t have a chance.

God’s judgment upon false teachers is certain for v.4 tells us that these men “…..long ago were marked out for this condemnation”.

Note what Rev. 6:15-17 says;

     And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?”
Jude has already told us in v.6 that there were certain “……angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode…….” and these “……He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day…..”

And in vv.4, 8, 10 false teachers are described as “……ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ…….” and “Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries…..But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves.”

Enoch prophesied regarding the false teachers of the last days about 5000 years before the New Testament was written, which is a remarkable thing! Here is stern message the writer of Hebrews gives regarding these men:

For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses’ law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, “Vengeance is Mine; I will repay”, says the Lord. And again, “The Lord will judge His people”. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.—Heb. 10:26-31

Jude tells us that Jesus Christ is Supreme Judge having been authorized for this task by the Father {John 5:27-30}. When Christ comes again to judge the world and everyone in it, He will be accompanied by all the saints {v.14} along with hosts of angels {Mark 8:38; 2 Thess. 1:7}.

The Book of Revelation describes this process.

“And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS”.—Rev. 19:14-16

“These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.”—Rev. 17:14

Now this prophecy of Enoch, and it is a great prophecy, deals with the judgment upon the organized church which will be in total apostasy after the RAPTURE. You see, the Rapture will rupture the church—the true believers will leave the earth and the make–believers will remain and will be here when Christ comes to judge men in that Day.

The fallen angels had forfeited their heavenly home because of their willful rebellion and disobedience. The false teachers were discredited and had forfeited their privilege to teach the Word of God

Enoch gained a heavenly home because of his faith and obedience. Gen. 5:22, 24 describes his life as a ‘walk with God’: “……Enoch walked with God three hundred years, and had sons and daughters…..And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him”. In other words, his lifestyle exhibited the characteristics of godliness, faith and obedience.

Jude’s reference to Enoch provides a sharp contrast when one compares him to the fallen angels and the false teachers.
Note that the oft quoted text of **Heb. 11:6**, describing the dynamics of faith, is actually in context with the faith of Enoch:

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” —**Heb. 11:6.**

But the verse just prior to this one says,

“No faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, “and was not found, because God had taken him for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.” —**Heb. 11:5.**

**APPLICATION:** May we, as believers in Jesus Christ, be found just as faithful, just as obedient—that it may be said of us that “we walked with God”.

**Verse 16 ➢ FALSE TEACHERS ARE PRIDEFUL, BOASTFUL AND DECEITFUL**

[16 These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts and they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage.] Finally, in v. 16 Jude summarizes five additional ‘badges’ or identifiers of false teachers.

(1) They are **grumblers** or **murmurers** which means to mutter criticisms and find fault. This is not loud, outspoken dissatisfaction but muttering against God in an undertone. Like the Israelites who muttered against God in the wilderness [like Korah and the men with him], these men are grumblers and faultfinders **{ref. Ex. 15:24; 17:3}**. Jude has already told us **{v.11}** that the false teachers are like the sons of Korah who dramatically perished.

Murmuring characterized Korah’s rebellion against Moses **{Num. 16:11}**. These men murmur against God and the restrictions He places on their behavior and they curse their ‘lot in life’ [the meaning of faultfinding].

(2) They are **complainers**, complaining about their lot in life, discontented, never satisfied. If they recognize God at all, they blame Him for everything that has happened to them. They are like **{v.13}** “…..wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.”

Jude has already told us **{v.11}** that they have gone after the way of Cain who complained to God about the rejection of his sacrifice and killed his brother Abel and in **{v.12}** that they are “…..spots in your love feasts…..” and “…..clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots.”

Have you ever met someone who was discontented, dissatisfied, and unhappy with their lot in life and complaining all the time? Their complaining is a distraction and useless for edification!

(3) They also **follow their own evil desires** and driven to indulge their own base desires like “…..the angels who did not keep their proper domain…..”**{v.6}**. Jude has already told us **{v.4}** that these false teachers are “…..ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ” and also **{v.7}** like “…..Sodom and Gomorrah…..having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire”.

(4) Furthermore, they boast about themselves by **mouthing great swelling words**, in their great pride with the purpose of trying to impress and manipulate other people. Their mouth speaks
great swelling words; that is, they are immoderate and arrogant; they use extravagant language, which is fizz and foam but has no content. In v.13 Jude tells us that these false teachers are like “…..raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame…..”

Jude has already told us {v.8} “Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries” and also {v.10} “But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves”.

It can be rather amusing to listen to politicians today who use and overwork a great many modern expressions and high-fluting words and phrases. When they finish, one realizes that they hadn’t said anything—they had been just talking. That politician is deceitful and cannot be trusted because he had not committed himself to anything whatsoever. Well, there are a great many men in the ministry who talk like that also.

(5) They also flatter people to gain advantage. This is literally “admiring countenances.” They are great at applauding others—and they say a lot of nice things which are not true—because they are looking to men for their promotion, their advantage.

You may recall that the Epistle of James has something to say about this:

“My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality. For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, "You sit here in a good place," and say to the poor man, "You stand there," or, "Sit here at my footstool", have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?”—James 2:1–4

Jude has already told us that these false teachers only “serve themselves” {v.12}; that is their own self-interests and so would use flattery. They are even willing to flatter others if they think that they can get something out of it. This flattery of others is probably a reference to teaching people what they want to hear. Popularity, power and prestige drives these false teachers more than maintaining the integrity of the Truth of God’s Word.

Indeed, Paul in writing to the young pastor, Timothy, in what was probably his last letter mentions this issue in the context warning him of teachers who lose sight of their purpose and exhorting him to remain true to his calling:

“I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.—2 Tim. 4:1-5

APPLICATION: As believers in Jesus Christ we need to heed Jude’s description and warning regarding false teachers, mark them out and contend earnestly for the faith by refuting their false doctrine.

QUESTIONS

1. What comfort or discomfort does Jesus’ role as Judge bring to you personally?
2. Do you think we have present-day examples of false teachers/teaching like the ones Jude discusses? Can you identify an example?
Bibliography

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