



# VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

## Weekly Bible Study - 13:03:2013

Website: [www.victoriouschristianministry.org](http://www.victoriouschristianministry.org)

### Studies in Jude

#### Study 7: Learning From Past Examples (Part 1)

**Text:** Jude 1:5-7 **"I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not. 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. 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."**

A fundamental principle in Geology is that "The past is the key to the future". Through careful study of the past, Geologists are able in many cases to correctly interpret the present and predict "the future". In the same vein, ancient events recorded in the Bible were not merely for Historical purpose but to provide contemporary humanity the key to unlock their future (Romans 15:4; I Corinthians 10:11) through proper understanding of the ways and requirements of God. When mankind fails to use this key, then History repeats itself. As already highlighted in Study 1, the book of Jude was written probably between 60 and 65 A.D.; but Jude did not consider it outdated to remind the believers about:

1. The events associated with Israelites wandering in the wilderness between 1491 and 1451 B.C.
2. The fate of the fallen angels probably reflected in Genesis 6 account.
3. The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah which took place around 1898 B.C.

To maximise our benefit from this study, we should appreciate the fact that the first two of these warnings related to people who were not enemies of God but believed themselves to be the spiritual elites of their generation. No wonder Paul warned in 1 Corinthians 10:12 **"Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall"**. It was this very fact that caused Prophet Isaiah to pen **"who is blind, but my servant? or deaf, as my messenger that I sent? who is blind as he that is perfect, and blind as the LORD'S servant?"** (Isaiah 42:19).

The warnings illustrate the fact that Jude:

1. not only understood but also believed that God does not change His moral standards and requirements on man with time, modernisation or technological developments. In fact Jesus Christ underscored this point in Matthew 5:18 when He stated **"For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled"**.
2. was not presenting some new innovation but "old time" truths that they had already heard and known but were not applying in their everyday lives.
3. clearly sets a dividing line between the saved and the unsaved and the ultimate destiny of the latter

In this study we are considering what we can learn from the first of these three Historical warnings and how these should affect our contemporary and future lives.

**Your Spiritual Welfare Is Our Concern**

### **The Israelites In The Wilderness (vs.5)**

At their departure from Egypt, there were more than 600,000 men aged 20 years and above but only two (Joshua and Caleb) got to Promised Land. Besides a journey that could have taken them 11 days ended up taking them 40 years – all because of the consequences of unbelief and rebellion (Numbers 13 and 14). How tragic this was! All they had to do was trust and believe God. Their failure to do so brought them into peril – what a warning for us!

Israel's deliverance from Egypt and wandering in the wilderness is a type of the Church – a 'mixed multitude' of true and false believers. They were physically delivered from bondage not by their faith but by God's covenant and mercy. They experienced the demonstration of the power of God in their exodus, they heard and saw God's revelation at Sinai and received miraculous provisions in the wilderness but failed to believe and rebelled against God – a salient warning against unbelief and rebellion. Paul repeated a similar warning in I Corinthians 10:1-12 **"Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; And did all eat the same spiritual meat; And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand. Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."**

Peter also issued a stark warning that while some "Christians" have been saved "out of Egypt", they may not make heaven if sin is allowed to sets in. **"For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire"** (2 Peter 2:20-22).

A person's faith is manifested in his actions. Faith without corresponding action is dead (James 2:20). James challenged Christians **"... shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works"** (James 2:18). As God destroyed the unbelievers in the wilderness so will He do to every "unbelieving believer" in the Church. Hebrews 3:19 referred to this **"So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief"**. This warning is primarily against unbelief and rebellion; but it should be noted that other sins like lust, idolatry, fornication, tempting God and murmuring also play significant part in birthing unbelief and rebellion.