



VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

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Studies in Jude

Study 8: Learning From The Past (Part 2)

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 Gomorrha, 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."**

Even natural sciences like Geology has discovered a fundamental principle that "The past is the key to the future". Through careful study of the past as recorded in the rocks, Geologists are able in many cases to correctly discover mineral deposits or predict their presence. Similarly, ancient events recorded in the Bible were not merely for Historical purposes but provides 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in Study 1, the book of Jude was written probably between 60 and 65 A.D.; but Jude did not consider these events outdated:

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.

It will help us to maximise our benefit from this study, if we appreciate the fact that the first two of these warnings related to beings who were not enemies of God but rather 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 write **"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).

These 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. Believed that similar judgements would be meted out by God to any individual in any age who repeats these sins.
3. was more interested in inculcating in the believers the "old time" truths they had already heard / known but were not applying in their everyday lives, than imparting new /innovative teachings or revelations.
4. clearly sets a line of demarcation between the saved and the unsaved as well as clearly spells out the ultimate destiny of the latter

The Fate of Fallen Angels (vs.6)

Your Spiritual Welfare Is Our Concern

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

Jude points out that these angels **“...kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation...”** Another translation of the Bible render it thus **“... the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode...”** In other words these angels were not satisfied to stay in their God-ordained “first estate” or “proper domain”. They rebelled against God’s order by leaving their “habitation” or “abode”. Both the fall of Satan through pride and rebellion (Isaiah 14:10-20) and the sins of the “sons of God” through lust and uncleanness (Genesis 6:1-4) fits very well with Jude’s warning about rebellion. Out of pride and lust these fallen angels left their posts / positions, disregarded their responsibilities and abused their privileges and powers. It is for this reason that Paul warned against appointment into place of spiritual authority immature **“... novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil”** (I Timothy 3:6). This warns against Christians who make too much of themselves over and against what the Bible says and fall into condemnation. It is also a call for us all to humbly recognise and accept our God given place and serve God accordingly.

Peter’s teaching on this subject reveals not only God’s displeasure on rebellion but also other associated sins. **“For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished: But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, self-willed, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities”** (2 Peter 2:4,9-10).

God’s judgment on their sins which came in two forms – (1) being “kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day”; or (2) cast out of heaven and left to roam the earth as demonic spirits; reminds us that Hell was not intended for people but for the devil and his angels; however, those who follow their rebellious ways will equally end up in the same destination (Matthew 25:41). Proverbs 21:16 warns against instability - **“The man that wandereth out of the way of understanding shall remain in the congregation of the dead”**.

Note that just like Esau who sold his birth-right for a pot of meal and could not recover it because **“... he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears”** (Hebrews 12:17); spiritual restoration from backsliding is by the grace of God and not a guaranteed right that anyone can claim at anytime they like. The principle of contentment is clearly taught in the Bible (Luke 3:14; Philippians 4:11; Hebrews 13:5) for every Christian. Listen to Paul admonishing Pastor Timothy - **“But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows”** (I Timothy 6:6-10). Solomon had the privilege of experimenting and researching into all aspects of life. Out of these came the solemn advice **“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man”** (Ecclesiastes 12:13). Adherence to this principle will deliver us from lust and pride and recover us from the path to destruction.

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