



VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

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Studies in Jude

Study 9: Learning From The Past (Part 3)

Text: Jude 1:5-7 **"I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this.... 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."**

Natural sciences such as 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in Study 1, the book of Jude was written probably between 60 and 65 A.D.; but Jude did not consider these events outdated: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 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 should be noted 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. These were people / beings who had no use for words such as submission, accountability, and responsibility. 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

Divine Judgement on Sodom and Gomorrah (vs.7)

Sodom and Gomorrah selected by Lot during his separation from Abraham was described as **"... well watered every where...even as the garden of the LORD,**

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like the land of Egypt..." (Genesis 13:10). This speaks of prosperity, success and pleasantness – important ingredients for sins in the absence of God! In this study we are considering what we can learn from the last of these three warnings with a view to allowing them to affect our lives for good now and for eternity.

Causes of The Sins of Sodom & Gomorrah

Prophet Ezekiel confirmed this in his proclamations - **"Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy"** (Ezekiel 16:49). It has often been said that idleness breeds worms. Work was ordained by God as such a noble duty for mankind that He commanded that any person that would not work should not eat (Genesis 3:19,23,24; 2 Thessalonians 3:10). Failure to "occupy till I come" (Luke 19:13) breeds destructive worms of craftiness, self-deception and sin. For Sodom and Gomorrah, it led to a disregard for standards, laws, moral discipline and restraint; thereby giving rise to gross immoral and licentious behaviours including sexual misconduct. Strong Issachar became servant to tribute by taking rest in a pleasant land (Genesis 49:14-15). A little folding of the hand to sleep by a sluggard brings terrible poverty, want and lack (Proverbs 6:9-11 [see also verses 6-8]). David committed his worst sins when he chose to relax at home at the time that kings normally go to war (2 Samuel 11:1-17).

Consequences of The Sins of Sodom & Gomorrah

Jude described them as **"... giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh..."** (Jude 1:7). Another translation says **"these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh"**. They were guilty of the sins of sexual immorality, perversion, lust, greed and rebellion against God's order. Genesis 19:1-13 illustrate how flagrant and persistent their sins were that God was moved to destroy them with fire. Today, there are no cities of Sodom and Gomorrah as they were buried beneath the waters of the Dead Sea!

About 2000 years after this incident God warned the early Christians **"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God"** (1 Corinthians 6:9-10). God has not changed. People today that live like the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah will come under the same judgment from God. It is only a matter of time!

Conclusion

As we look at our towns and cities today, it is not uncommon to find the same sins of unbelief, pride, lust, greed, sexual immorality, perversions, rebellion, etc.; implying that the same judgment that came upon Sodom and Gomorrah is dangling over the people of this age. As "salts of the earth" and "lights of the world" (Matthew 5:13), we need to be as clear as Jude was in warning our generation so that some can be saved. Remember that the sin of Achan (Joshua 7) brought defeat to the entire nation of Israel. Although righteous Lot escaped when the Sodom and Gomorrah was judged, yet he lost all his property and had to start life afresh. If we do not do our bit to change our society for good, we will be affected somehow when God's judgement comes upon them.