

A. Introduction

- ▶ The NECF's 2023 40-day fast & prayer theme, "*Urgency of the Times*," . . . Church, awake!

1. Jude & his readers (vv1-2)

- Jude's two major claims.
 - 1) a [bond] servant of Jesus Christ,
 - 2) a brother of James.
- his *triplets* descriptions:
 - ▶ *called, loved & kept* (v1-possibly derived from the Servant Songs in Isa 42:6;43:4;48:12;49:1,8; 54:6)
 - ▶ *mercy, peace & love* (v2).

2. Church in danger(vv3-4)

- ▶ Urging you to *contend* for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people (v3).
- ▶ Ungodly people pervert the grace of God into a license for immorality and deny Christ as Lord (v4).

3. Warnings of judgment (vv5-7): 3 OT examples.

- 1) *God* (v5; Deut 1:35; Num 14:29-30).
- 2) *Spiritual realm* (v6; Genesis 6).
- 3) *Ungodly Sodom & Gomorrah* (v7; Gen 18-19:39).

4. Warnings analogies of judgment applied (vv8-10)

- ▶ "*dreamers*" God's false messengers (v8).
- ▶ archangel *Michael* refuses to slander & submit to God (v9).
- ▶ "*slanderer*" like irrational animals (v10).

5. Warnings of judgment (vv11-13): 3 further OT examples:

- 1) *Wickedness* (v11: Gen 4).
- 2) *Greed* (v11: Num 25:4).
- 3) *Rebel* (v11: Num 16:1-35).

▪ Explanation

- ▶ ...is depicted aptly in Jude's stern warnings to the Church about the dangers from within.
 - ▶ his life at Christ's disposal.
 - ▶ his modesty accepting & playing second fiddle role.
- ▶ God's gracious acts: *called* (past), *loved* (present) & *kept* (future).
 - ▶ to preserve & pass on our faith from the prophetic (OT) & apostolic (NT) teachings, that's *now* under threat.
 - ▶ Jude addresses the moral & salvation issues.
 - ▶ judgment upon Israel, Jude's day & ours.
 - ▶ judgment upon angels.
 - ▶ judgment upon ungodly nations.
- ▶ defiled their bodies, reject authority & scoffers (Sodom).
- ▶ Godly characteristic: Michael's *submissive* attitude.
- ▶ do not be spiritually naïve.
- ▶ Cain's *corrupted* cynical, rebellious & defying God.
- ▶ Balaam takes Cain's sin one step further: rebel God, tempts Israel to commit idolatry & sexual immorality.
- ▶ Korah's rebellion is the *end* result of judgment.

▶ 6 metaphors to describe the ungodly.

- 1) "blemished,"
- 2) "greedy shepherds,"
- 3) "clouds without rain,"
- 4) "barren trees,"
- 5) "stormy waves,"
- 6) "wandering stars."

**6. Warnings of judgment (vv14-16):
Enoch's prophecy to the Ungodly.**

- ▶ Jude vv.14-15 is quoted from the extrabiblical source of 1 Enoch 1:9 to emphasise the prophecy.
- ▶ In v15 alone, the word "ungodly" & ungodliness were mentioned four times.
- ▶ "grumblers," "faultfinders," "boasters," & "flatterers" (v16).

B. Closing: 3 Non-Negotiable Lessons

1. Steadfast in faith & vigilant against false teaching.
2. Inescapable judgment from God.

- ▶ enticed others to sin.
- ▶ feed only themselves, not the sheep (Eze 34:8 RSV).
- ▶ boasts of gifts but never given (Prov 25:14)
- ▶ dead in transgressions & cutoff from live-giving vine (Luke 13:6-9).
- ▶ wicked abominations (Isaiah 57:20).
- ▶ deceiver to lead God's people astray (Matt 24:4-5; 1 John 4:6).

- ▶ Jude's key point: Enoch's prophecy about the ungodly of his day applies to people of his day, & judgment will certainly come.
- ▶ The gravity of total moral & spiritual breakdown is stressed.
- ▶ Their ungodly behaviors is solely motivated by their evil desires.

Lesson 1

- ▶ We must be ready to contend (fight) for the faith that was entrusted to us as God's holy people (v.4), who are have been called, loved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ (v.1).
- ▶ We are not to pervert the grace of God into license for immorality and deny Christ as our Lord (v.4).

Lesson 2

- ▶ Our God is a judge, just as the angels who have abandoned their positions of authority are "reserved" for eternal judgment on the great Day (v.6).
- ▶ Take Jude's stern warnings very seriously: do not pervert the grace of God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus as our Sovereign & Lord (v.4).

3. Our self-examination on our ungodly characters.

- ▶ Examine our lives if there are any form of ungodly practices (vv.12-13, 16). "blemishes" or "wandering stars," "greed", "waterless clouds", "barren trees" ,"stormy waves", or grumbling, faultfinding, boasting, or flattering.

Lesson 3

- ▶ Bring all these ungodly characteristics to the Cross, repent & confess to the Lord.
- ▶ For indeed grace does not condemn us, but rather transforms us.

Let us pray!