Jude

The Danger and Our Duty

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Purpose

• Purpose statement: v. 3
  - Due to the rendering in many English translations, notice a common interpretation of Jude's letter based on v. 3: “We may call it 'The Letter Jude Didn't Intend to Write'” (Coffman, *Commentary on Jude*, p. 497)

• Notice that better translations of verse 3:
  - Do not insert “while” [no equivalent in the Greek text]
  - Render (1) the present participle of the verb ποιούμενος, poioumenos as “making/using;” (2) the aorist indicative of the verb ἔσχον, eschon as “I had” rather than “I found/felt” and (3) the accusative ἀνάγκην, anankēn as “necessity” (a noun) rather than as “necessary” (an adjective; as in NKJV, ESV, etc.)
“Beloved, using all diligence to write to you concerning our common salvation, I had necessity to write to you, exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith having been delivered once for all to the saints” (Berean Literal Bible)

“Beloved, all diligence using to write to you concerning common of us salvation, necessity I had to write to you, exhorting [you] to contend earnestly for the once for all having been delivered to the saints faith” (Biblehub.com Interlinear)
Better Translations

- “Beloved, making* all diligence to write to you* concerning our common salvation, I had a necessity to write to you* encouraging you* to earnestly fight for the faith given once for all to the holy-ones” (Modern Literal Version)

- “Beloved, all diligence using to write to you concerning the common salvation, I had necessity to write to you, exhorting to agonize for the faith once delivered to the saints” (Young's Literal Translation)
Summary

- Contending earnestly for the faith against the possibility of apostasy (thus, the danger) is a biblical duty, a collective and personal duty and a duty that arises out of love for the lost
  - “To wrestle/struggle/fight/agonize” for the “once for all having been delivered to the saints faith” is a biblical duty (v. 3)
    - Accomplished by living the faith—living a faithful life to God according to the gospel
    - A collective [3rd pers. pl.] & personal duty (vv. 20-23)
      - A duty that arises out of love for the lost (vv. 22-23)
Theme: Overcoming the apostates
Key verses: Jude 3-4

I. Introduction (Jude 1-2)
II. The Alarm (Jude 3-4)
III. The Argument (Jude 5-16)
IV. The Admonition (Jude 17-25)
Detailed Outline

- Introduction (1-3)
  - Salutation (1-2)
  - Purpose for writing (3)
- The Danger: The Apostates (4-16)
  - The apostates (false teachers) described (4-11)
    - The apostates' character (4)
      - “came in stealthily” (among you)
      - “having been written about” (προγεγραμμένοι, progegrammenoi from προγράφω, prographō)
        - “written of beforehand unto this condemnation” (ASV)
        - Prophecies in Scripture (see vv. 5-7, 11) and from Enoch (1 Enoch 1:9; see vv. 14-15)
Detailed Outline

- The apostates' character (4) [continued]
  - Grace-changers
  - Disown, renounce, refuse, contradict God and Christ
- The doom of previous apostates (5-7)
  - Israelites: example of unbelief (5)
    - Ex. 32; Num. 14
    - 1 Cor. 10:1-13; Heb. 3:7-19
  - Angels: example of desertion (6)
    - Many wrongly assume Gen. 6:1-4 serves as background and that Gen. 6:1-4 involves angels
    - Parallel to 2 Pet. 2:4
    - Jude agrees with the Book of Enoch only as stated
The cities of the plain: example of fornication and unnatural lust (7)

• Cities around Sodom and Gomorrah: Admah, Zeboiim and Bela (Zoar)
  - Gen. 14:8; 19:25, 29
• Sodom and Gomorrah become proverbial for wickedness and judgment
  - Deut. 29:23-28; Is. 1:9-10; 13:19; Jer. 23:14; 49:18; 50:40; Ezek. 16:44-56; Amos 4:11; Zeph. 2:9;
  - Mt. 10:15; 11:20-24; Mk. 6:11; Lk. 10:12; 17:28-29
• Degrees of responsibility based on access to God's revelation
  - Rom. 9:29; 2 Pet. 2:6
Detailed Outline

• The apostates' arrogance (8-10)
  - “Arrogance gone to seed” (8)
    • 2 Pet. 2:10
      - Michael's caution (9)
        • Literally, “he did not dare to bring against him a slanderous condemnation/judgment” (cf. 2 Pet. 2:11)
          - NKJV: “dared not bring against him a reviling accusation”
          - NRSV (better): “he did not dare to bring a condemnation of slander against him”
          - NIV (paraphrastic): “did not himself dare to condemn him for slander”

• No other Scripture provides context, though Moses' burial is described (Deut. 34:1-8) and Michael is mentioned (Dan. 10:13, 21; 12:1)
Detailed Outline

- “The Lord rebuke you” (Zech. 3:2; spoken by God)
- Clement of Alexandria says Jude is quoting *Assumption of Moses*, an apocryphal work but there is no surviving manuscript
- Michael, though an archangel, recognized all judgment and condemnation (even concerning the devil) belongs to God alone (see also Acts 1:25; 2 Tim. 4:10; 14-15; 3 Jn. 1:9-11)
  - Like brute beasts (10)
- 2 Pet. 2:12
- The doom of the present apostates (11)
  - Cain: example of disobedience and hatred
    - Gen. 4:1-25; 1 Jn. 3:11-12
    - The apostates (false teachers) do not love God, the truth or God's people
Detailed Outline

- Balaam: example of greed
  - Numbers 22-24; 2 Pet. 2:15-16
  - Notice the word translated “error” (πλάνη, planē) is cognate with “gone astray/wandered off” (ἐπλανήθησαν, eplanēthēsan) in 2 Pet. 2:15
  - Jude's point—the greed of false teachers: similar to 1 Tim. 6:3-10 (v. 10: “wandered/strayed” [ἀπεπλανήθησαν, apeplanēthēsan])

- Korah: example of rebellion
  - Num. 16:1-3, 28-33
  - Rebellion leads to destruction; then and now (1 Sam. 15:23; Is. 30:1)
Detailed Outline

- The apostates denounced (12-16)
  - Figurative denunciation (12-13)
    - Metaphors from 4 spheres of nature: land (trees), air (clouds), sea and heaven (stars)=4 spheres of 1 En. 80
    - Blemishes in your love feasts (12)
      - Other versions: “rocks”
      - σπιλάδες, spilades appears to be equivalent to σπίλοι, spiloi (2 Pet. 2:13) [see Meyer's NT Comm. on Gk. usage]
  - Shepherding (the concept of caring for) themselves
  - Waterless clouds: carried past by the wind without giving rain (cf. Prov. 25:14; 2 Pet. 2:17)
  - Autumn trees (trees as they are in autumn)
    - Without fruit, twice dead (fruitless & dead), uprooted
    - Unable to recover and to produce new fruit
Detailed Outline

- Raging waves of the sea (13)
  - Is. 57:20
- Wandering stars
  - πλανῆται, planētai (cf. v. 11: “error,” planē)
  - Enoch's prophecy applied to the apostates (14-15)
    - Endorses Enoch's prophecy, not all of 1 Enoch
    - “Seventh from Adam”—counting inclusively, he is:
      - Adam, Eve, Cain, Able, Seth, Cain's wife, Enoch
  - 1 En. 60:8
    - God coming with his holy ones (Deut. 33:2-3)
- The apostates' character (16)
Detailed Outline

- **Our Duty (17-23)**
  - The danger (the apostates) must be recognized (17-19)
    - Declared by the apostles (17-18)
    - Distinguished by two things (19)
      - Cause division
      - Worldly (ψυχικός, psuchikos; used 6 times in NT)
        - “Natural, physical; unspiritual, worldly-minded”
        - 1 Cor. 2:14; 15:44 (2), 46; Jas. 3:15
  - The Duty: Collective & Personal (20-23)
    - “Building up yourselves in your most holy faith” (20)
      - Essential to agonize for the faith (v. 3)
      - Rom. 10:17
Detailed Outline

• Keep yourselves in God's love (21; imperative)
• How to keep yourselves in the love of God (participles)
  - “Building up yourselves in your most holy faith” (20)
  - “Praying in a holy spirit” (20)
    • Our prayers are ineffective if we are “worldly-minded/unspiritual” (v. 19)
      - Ps. 34:12-16; 1 Pet. 3:10-12
    - Awaiting the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ (21)
    - Compare the imperative & participles of Eph. 5:18-21
Detailed Outline

- Duty toward others (22-23)
  - Save using gentle measures (22)
    - “And on some have compassion, making a distinction” (NKJV)
    - “and to some be kind, judging thoroughly” (YLT)
    - “And have mercy on some who are wavering” (MOUNCE)
    - “And have mercy on some, who are doubting” (NASB)
  - Perhaps the “unstable souls” (2 Pet. 2:14)
  - Requires love and patience to lead them out of their immaturity and away from the false teachers
  - Help them focus on staying in God's love, looking for the Lord Jesus Christ's mercy and eternal life (v. 21)
Detailed Outline

• Help those who are struggling realize the wonderfulness of their salvation
• Make the truth of God's Word so exciting that false teaching becomes repulsive to them
• Demonstrate our loving care to young believers
  - Save in/with fear by snatching (23a; NKJV)
    • Those who leave the faith and become part of the apostate group
    • Use caution; be careful; fire-fighters can get burned
  - Gen. 19:16—Lot saved from fire
  - Zech. 3:2—Israel plucked from Babylonian captivity
  - Amos 4:11—Israel once saved would be judged
    - “Hating even the garment defiled by the flesh” (23b)
  - Lev. 13:47-59 (next slide for warp and woof)
Warp and Woof
Detailed Outline

- Stronger believers can be defiled by those who are defiled—the very ones we are trying to save
- Love God's people; hate sin
- Where sin exists, Satan is at work
- Defilement spreads quickly and quietly
- We must recognize the seriousness of sin
  - Skilled Christians—not novices—should deal with false teachers or with the ones that false teachers have captured
    - Knowledgeable in the Scriptures
    - True to God
    - Knows the enemy and his devices (2 Cor. 2:11)
Detailed Outline

- “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure” (Benjamin Franklin)
  - It is easier to instruct babes in Christ and keep them from false teachers than to rescue them from the fire
  - We must not wait until a brother or sister is engulfed by the flames to pull them out of the fire!
  - When the smoke begins to smolder we should respond immediately; put out the embers before one soul is lost to a spiritual forest fire that can consume others
Detailed Outline

• Conclusion (24-25)
  - God is able to guard you from stumbling/falling (2 Pet. 1:10-11)
  - God is able to present you faultless/blameless before the presence of his glory (1 Pet. 1:8)
  - To God be glory (Eph. 3:20-21)
Key Words & Phrases

- **Ungodly** (4 times); **ungodliness** (1 time)
  - ἀσέβεια, asebeia (2 times)
    - “godlessness, impiety (in thought and act)”
    - 1:15, 18
  - ἀσεβής, asebēs (2 times; see also 2 Pet. 2:6)
    - wicked, sinful
    - 1:4, 15
  - ἀσεβέω, asebeō (1 time)
    - ungodliness; to act wickedly
    - 1:15
Key Words & Phrases

- Holy/holy ones/saints, ἅγιος, hagios (4 times)
  - “holy (moral quality), consecrated ([ceremonially] acceptable to God); holy person/people = saint(s), holy place = sanctuary”
  - 1:3, 14, 20 (2)
Memory Verse Review
(1 Peter—3 John)

• 1 Pet. 4:16—“But if anyone...”
• 2 Pet. 3:18—“But grow...”
• 1 Jn. 1:7—“But if we...”
• 2 Jn. 1:9—“Whoever...”
• 3 Jn. 1:11—“Beloved...”
Memorization in Jude

1:24-25

“24 Now to Him who is able to keep you[a] from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

25 To God our Savior,[b] who alone is wise,[c] be glory and majesty, dominion and power,[d] both now and forever. Amen” (NKJV)