

# Fighting For The Faith

Jude 1-7

Say, Jude, Part 1

**Jude 1-7** <sup>1</sup>Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, to those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ: <sup>2</sup>May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

<sup>3</sup>Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. <sup>4</sup>For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

<sup>5</sup>Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. <sup>6</sup>And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day— <sup>7</sup>just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.

## Introduction:

1. 20 years ago, yesterday, 4 airplanes were taken over by terrorists and after smashing into the two World Trade Center towers, the Pentagon and a field in Pennsylvania killed 2977 Americans with hundreds more dying from the after-effects of this act of terror. We were called into a war against terrorism.

In President George Bush's speech that day, he called us to action: "The search is underway for those who were behind these evil acts. I have directed the full resources of our intelligence and law enforcement communities to find those responsible and to bring them to justice. We will make no distinction between the terrorists who committed these acts and those who harbor them."

<https://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/gwbush911addresstothetation.htm>

2. When Japan bombed Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Japanese Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto supposedly said "I fear all we have done is to awaken a sleeping giant and fill him with a terrible resolve." (This quotation is from the movie "Tora! Tora! Tora!" though there is no written evidence he said it.)  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isoroku\\_Yamamoto's\\_sleeping\\_giant\\_quote](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isoroku_Yamamoto's_sleeping_giant_quote)

3. **There is a spiritual warfare the Church is called to fight against false teaching and error.**

## The Bible Tells Us That We Are At War:

- The Universal Church is at war
- Every local church is under attack
- The Scriptures are being rejected
- Every Christian is a soldier

**Jude 3** I found it necessary to write appealing to you to **contend for the faith** that was once for all delivered to the saints

**Psalms 144:1** Blessed be the Lord my Rock, Who trains my hands for **war**, And my fingers for **battle**

**1 Timothy 6:12** Fight the good **fight** of faith, lay hold on eternal life

**Matthew 11:12** And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers **violence**, and the violent take it by **force**.

**Ephesians 6:11** Put on the whole **armor** of God, that you may be able to **stand against** the wiles of the devil.

**2 Timothy 2:3-4** <sup>3</sup>You therefore must endure hardship as a good **soldier** of Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>No one engaged in **warfare** entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a **soldier**.

- In 1849, after siege of Rome, Garibaldi said: "Men, all our efforts against superior forces have been unavailing. I have nothing to offer you but hunger and thirst, hardship and death. But I call all who love their country to join in."
- In 1940, after Allies forced to evacuate Dunkirk, Churchill to Englishmen encouraged: "All I can offer you is blood, sweat, and tears."

#### 4. Glossary

##### a. Orthodoxy – Sound Doctrine (lit. "straight teaching")

- Gregg Allison: "The term *orthodoxy* ... refers to that which the New Testament calls 'sound doctrine' (1 Tim 1:10; 2 Tim 4:3; Titus 1:9; 2:1), that which rightly reflects in summary form all the teaching of Scripture and which the church is bound to believe and obey." (*Historical Theology*, p. 24)

**Titus 1:9** He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in **sound doctrine** and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

**Titus 2:1** But as for you, teach what accords with **sound doctrine**.

##### b. False Teaching

- Teaching that is contrary to God's truth and Word

**1 Timothy 1:10** whatever else is **contrary to sound doctrine**,

**2 Timothy 4:3** For the time is coming when people will **not endure sound teaching**, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions

**Matthew 24:23-27** 23 Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There he is!' do not believe it. 24 For false christs and **false prophets** will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as **to lead astray**, if possible, even the elect. 25 See, I have told you beforehand. 26 So, if they say to you, 'Look, he is in the wilderness,' do not go out. If they say, 'Look, he is in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. 27 For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

**2 Peter 3:3** knowing this first of all, that **scoffers** will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires.

### c. Heresy – teaching against the truth of Scripture

**2 Peter 2:1** But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be **false teachers** among you, who will secretly bring in **destructive heresies**, even **denying the Master** who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.

- Gr. *haíresis* = "choice", a chosen belief
- Teaching that is contrary to the Scriptures and the teaching of the Apostles
- **Examples:**
  - There are many paths to God besides Jesus Christ
  - Jesus Christ is just a good teacher, but not God
  - The Bible is just ancient literature, not God's Word
  - The Gospel is meeting social needs not about dealing with sin before God
  - The Gospel is about making you wealthy and healthy, not saved from sin
- Gregg Allison: "*Heresy* ... is anything that contradicts sound doctrine. It is false belief that misinterprets Scripture or that ignores some of the teaching of Scripture, or that incorrectly puts together all the teaching of Scripture. The church is to shun heresy and seek to correct its errors." (*Historical Theology*, Zondervan, 2011, p. 24)
- Alister McGrath: "Ancient heresies, seen by earlier generations as obscure and dangerous ideas, have now been sprinkled with stardust. The lure of the religious forbidden never seems to have been so strong. As Geoffrey Chaucer shrewdly observed back in the fourteenth century: "Forbid us something, and that thing we desire."

"... Heresies are the plucky losers in past battles for orthodoxy, defeated by the brute power of the religious establishment. And since history is written by the winners, heresies have unfairly lost out, their spiritual and intellectual virtues stifled by their enemies. The rehabilitation of heretical ideas is now seen as a necessary correction of past injustices, allowing the rebirth of suppressed versions of Christianity more attuned to contemporary culture than traditional orthodoxy. Heresy has become fashionable." (*Heresy: A History of Defending the Truth*, HarperCollins, 2009, p. 1)

### d. Apostasy – abandoning the truth of Scripture

- Gr. *Apostasia* – falling away from the faith, defection, abandonment, desert

- **Example:** One who is in a Bible teaching church and has even professed Christ as Savior, but then abandons Christ and Christianity. One who denies the faith.
- Because we believe that if you're genuinely saved, you're always saved, the apostate probably was never genuinely saved.
- **Example:** Apostasy occurred in our Ivy League universities. Harvard, Princeton and other colleges were founded and grounded in the Scriptures. Harvard began in 1636 when Puritans settled Massachusetts to train clergy. The early motto of Harvard was *Veritas Christo et Ecclesiae*, meaning "Truth for Christ and the Church".  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_Harvard\\_University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Harvard_University)
  - Princeton University was founded as a Presbyterian seminary after the Great Awakening
  - When Rationalism became the excuse to deny faith in the truth of God's Word (Revelation), there was a clear abandonment of the truth the universities were once committed to.
- **Comparison:** Nationally, an apostate could be compared to a "traitor." One who grew up in America but joined a terrorist group to fight against the country he grew up in.
- Sinclair Ferguson: "Apostasy is the old, vigorous word to describe this abandonment of Christ." ("Apostasy And How It Happens," Ligonier)
- **S. Maxwell Coder: "An apostate has received light, but not life. He may have received, in some degree, the written Word; but he has not received the living Word, the Son of God." (Jude: The Acts of the Apostates, Moody Press, 1986, p. 21)**
- Samuel Miklaski: "The abandonment or renunciation of Christianity, either voluntarily or by compulsion." (*The New International Dictionary Of The Christian Church*, p. 57)
- "Departure from essential beliefs and professed Christian faith." (Henry Holloman, "Apostasy," *Kregel Dictionary of the Bible and Theology*, Kregel, 2005, p. 28)
- Apostasy is essential unbelief in the guise of religion (Num 14:11; Heb 3:12,19; Jude 5)
- Apostasy is expressed through disobedience to God and the Word of God (Num 14:22; 2 Chron 24:17-19; Heb 3:18; 4:11)
- Apostasy differs from heresy. Heresy espouses false doctrines. Apostasy rebels from sound doctrine.
  - Some heretics might be wrong about some doctrines, but still be accurate about Christ and salvation

**2 Timothy 3:5-9** 5 having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. 6 For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, 7 always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. 8 Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed

Moses, so these men also **oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith.** 9 But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men.

**1 John 2:19** They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.

**Hebrews 3:12** Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to **fall away** from the living God.

**Hebrews 6:4-6** <sup>4</sup>For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, <sup>5</sup>and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, <sup>6</sup>and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt

### **Introduction To Jude (1-2):**

<sup>1</sup>Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, to those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ: <sup>2</sup>May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

- **Written by Jude**, brother of James, half-brother of Jesus (Mt 13:55; Mk 6:3)
  - Jude attests to his own authorship (1)
  - Jude cites that he is the "brother of James" (1)
  - Jude was not an apostle and refers to them in the 3<sup>rd</sup> person (3-23)

**Matthew 13:55** <sup>55</sup>Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas?

**Mark 6:3** <sup>3</sup>Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?" So they were offended at Him.

- **Hey, Judes (and/or Judas')**
    - **Jude**, brother of James, half-brother of Jesus (Mt 13:55; Mk 6:3)
    - Judas – also known as Thaddeus (Lk 6:16; Acts 1:13)
    - Judas the Galilean – martyred revolutionary (Acts 5:37)
    - Judas Barsabbas – participated at the Jerusalem Council (Acts 15:22,27,32) and mail deliverer among the churches
    - Judas, ancestor of Jesus
    - Judas Iscariot
  - **History of Jesus' Brothers**
    - James and Jude did not originally believe in Jesus (Jn 7:5)
    - Converted and joined Pentecost prayer group (Acts 1:14)
    - Known as "Brother of the Lord" to early church (1 Cor 9:5)
    - Saw the resurrected Christ and believed (1 Cor 15:7)
- 1 Corinthians 15:7** <sup>7</sup>After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles.

- **The Letter**
  - Probably written to Jewish churches
  - Around 65-68 AD
  - Probably written in Jerusalem
- **The Church's Privileges (1)**
  - Called – elect
  - Sanctified – set apart
  - Preserved – *tereo* – stood guard over
- **The Church's Blessings (2)**
  - Mercy
  - Peace
  - Love

(notice Jude's usage of triplets – also: Jude, Jesus, James; servant, Master & Lord, brother)

### I. **Fight The Right Fight (3)**

<sup>3</sup>Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.

- "Beloved" and "contend"
  - seems like opposites
  - but because we love, we fight
  - if we didn't love, we would evacuate, escape or ignore
- We're to fight, but we're not to be
- David Helm shares the structure of Jude:
  - *Jude 3: contending for the faith – Jude 17-23: showing us how*
  - *Jude 4: challenges to the faith – Jude 5-16: supporting his case*

(1 & 2 Peter and Jude, Preaching The Word, Crossway, 2008, p. 279)

### A. **Fight For The Biblical Teaching On Salvation (3a)**

<sup>3</sup>Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation,

- Jude writes about "our common salvation"
- D. Edmond Hiebert: " 'Salvation' (*soteria*) is a comprehensive New Testament term ... an inclusive presentation of all the blessings ... our past deliverance from the guilt of sin, present deliverance from the domination of sin, and future deliverance from the very presence of sin." (*Second Peter and Jude: An Expository Commentary*, Unusual Publications, 1989, p. 217)
- The early church was getting false teachers who had different ideas about how to get saved

**Galatians 1:6-9** <sup>6</sup>I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, <sup>7</sup>which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. <sup>8</sup>But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. <sup>9</sup>As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

- Any other Gospel is an anathema – or a curse
- Ie/ a false Gospel is like counterfeit money – it has no backing by the government; a false Gospel is not supported by God
- Ie/ Ant Traps carry poison that is masked by food that attracts the ants. The workers bring these morsels of tainted food to their next, feed it to the queen who eventually dies. When the queen dies, no more ants are produced and the colony ends up being starved to death. (adapted from M. Green's *Illustrations for Biblical Preaching*). Like false Gospel, what tastes attractive is really poison. What you digest ends up starving you.
- Other ideas about salvation
  - Work for your salvation = Every religion
  - Grace + Works = Catholic model
  - Denial of Christ's deity, salvation by faith and inerrancy of Bible = Liberal model in Christian denominations
- Remember that Jude once was in unbelief of His own Brother, so getting salvation right was an emphasis for him

## **B. Fight For The Authority Of Scripture (3b)**

<sup>3b</sup>I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.

- **"contend"** = *epagonizesthai* – word from which we get "agony", use to be an athletic term for wrestling or a legal term for debate
  - "The image calls to mind a wrestling match. For the believers the implication is that they are presently engaged in an intense moral struggle over truth." (J. Daryl Charles, *Jude: The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, Zondervan, 2006, Kindle edition, Location 8580 of 9085)
  - Helm: "It carries the idea of athletes who, in an effort to win, find themselves intensely struggling, competing, even fighting with all their might." (p. 279)
- **"the faith"** – entirety of Scripture
  - the fullness of Christian teaching: Triunity of God, Deity of Christ, Christ's death and resurrection, Deity of the Holy Spirit, salvation by grace, authority of Scripture, man's fall, future judgment
  - Hiebert: "the body of Christian truth that brings salvation to the soul that receives it" (p. 219)

- S. Maxwell Coder: “The faith concerns our salvation, it has much to do with the Gospel, but it is more inclusive term than either. The faith is that extensive body of Bible doctrine which makes up the perfect whole of the truth revealed by God concerning our common salvation.” (*Jude: The Acts of the Apostates*, Moody Press, 1986, p. 17)
- 2 Cor 13:5 – “Examine yourselves, whether you be in **the faith**”
- Barna: “only 9% of self-identified Christians have a biblical worldview”
  - 72% argue that people are basically good
    - Bible: We’ve all sinned (Rom 3:10,23)
  - 71% consider feelings, experience, or the input of friends and family as their most trusted sources of moral guidance
    - God, Christ and Scripture are sources of truth
  - 66% say that having faith matters more than which faith you pursue
    - It’s not faith that saves, but the object of our faith – Jesus Christ
  - 64% say that all religious faiths are of equal value
    - Jesus: I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, no one comes to the Father except through Me (John 14:6)
  - 58% believe that if a person is good enough, or does enough good things, they can earn their way into Heaven
    - Eph 2:8-9 saved by grace through faith, not of works
  - 58% contend that the Holy Spirit is not a real, living being but is merely a symbol of God’s power, presence, or purity
    - Christ sent another Counselor just like Him (Jn 14-16)
  - 57% believe in karma
    - Who determines what is just and who arbitrates this justice? The universe or God?
  - 52% claim that determining moral truth is up to each individual; there are no moral absolutes that apply to everyone, all the time
    - Truth is determined by God, not His creation

[https://www.arizonachristian.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/CRC\\_AWVI2021\\_Release06\\_Digital\\_01\\_20210831.pdf](https://www.arizonachristian.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/CRC_AWVI2021_Release06_Digital_01_20210831.pdf)

- “once for all”
  - There is no more new truth or revelation from God
  - God gave us His truth once and for all
  - Charles: “This apostolic deposit establishes what is authoritative Christian truth, not what is currently theologically fashionable.” (ibid)

## II. Fight Against Apostasy (4-7; cf. 2 Cor 10:3-4)

**2 Corinthians 10:3-4** <sup>3</sup>For though we walk in the flesh, we do not **war** according to the flesh. <sup>4</sup>For the weapons of our **warfare** are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds

- Remember we’re not fighting people physically, but false teachings

- It's not a personal feud but doctrinal clarity

## A. The Characteristics Of An Apostate (4a)

<sup>4a</sup>For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people,

### 1. Their Infiltration – “crept in unnoticed” (Acts 20:29-30; Mt 7:15)

- “crept” = sneaky, subtle, deceitful
- They will attach to a church to build trust, then insert false teaching

ie/ Mosquito – injects 2 chemicals – an anesthesia to not feel the poke and an enzyme that breaks down the blood

**Acts 20:29-30** <sup>29</sup>For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. <sup>30</sup>Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.

**Matthew 7:15** <sup>15</sup>Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.

- This is why Church Membership is important because we agree on essential dogma. We must agree on the teachings on the Trinity, the death and resurrection of Christ, salvation by grace
- A few decades ago while in San Bruno, a couple came who wanted to teach speaking in tongues – we welcomed their attendance, but not their teaching
- There was another time someone wanted to teach an odd doctrine. We told him he could attend but not teach this odd doctrine. When he started to share it with others, we had to address the error. We loved him, but addressed his false teaching.

### 2. Their Condemnation – “designated for condemnation”

- God has predicted their coming (2 Peter 2-3, suggested by Lenski) and intended judgment for them

### 3. Their Character – “ungodly”

- They would defy the Word of God
- Rebellious
- No fear of God

**Romans 3:18** <sup>18</sup>“There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

## B. The Strategy Of An Apostate (4b)

<sup>4b</sup>who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

## 1. Perverting God's Grace Into Sensuality

- "pervert" = "change or alter" (Helm, p. 298)
- These false teachers were changing God's purpose for grace
- God's grace is biblically about gifting us our salvation – something we don't earn
- False teachers pervert God's grace by saying God is so gracious, we can keep sinning because He will keep forgiving us
- Ie/ Gregory **Rasputin** was a mystic priest who was influenced by a cult that was highly immoral. Their philosophy was that you could sin because repenting brings you closer to God. Sin was excused as a false means of spirituality.
- **Grace is not a license to sin**

**Romans 6:1** <sup>1</sup>What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?

- Paul is addressing the concept of **antinomianism** = that the law no longer applies because of grace
- Martin Luther used this term against a co-worker named Johannes Agricola (1494-1566) because he continued to sin though he was in grace. Luther stated: "Are you steeped in sin, an adulterer or a thief? If you believe you are in salvation."
- Have we started justifying our sin? This is the beginning of perverting God's grace.
  - Ie/ lying about financial issues because we're struggling financially
  - Ie/ excusing sexual sin because it's consensual
  - Ie/ ignoring God's morality because it's unpopular

## 2. Denying The Lordship Of Christ

- *and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ*
- notice 5 titles of deity in this phrase
- "deny" = disown, renounce
- When churches teach that Jesus is merely a good teacher and not Lord, God and Savior, that is an abandonment of faith
- E.g. Joshua Harris, a former evangelical, mega-church pastor and popular author who divorced his wife, left the pastorate and forsook Christ. It's one thing to kiss dating goodbye, but it's another thing to kiss Christ goodbye.
  - Harris: "I have undergone a massive shift in regard to my faith in Jesus. The popular phrase for this is 'deconstruction,' the biblical phrase is 'falling away.' By all the measurements that I have for defining a Christian, I am not a Christian. Many people tell me that there is a different way to practice faith and I want to remain open to this, but I'm not there now."  
<https://www.instagram.com/p/B0ZBrNLH2sl/>

- Hillsong composer Marty Sampson “I’m genuinely losing my faith.. and it doesn’t bother me.” <https://www.christianpost.com/voices/reaching-out-to-a-hillsong-leader-who-is-renouncing-his-faith.html>

**Luke 6:46** “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you?”

## C. **The History Of The Apostates (5-7)**

<sup>5</sup>Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. <sup>6</sup>And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day— <sup>7</sup>just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.

### 1. **The Apostasy Of Israel (5)**

**Jude 5** <sup>5</sup>Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.

- “although you once fully knew it” – the readers know of Israel’s history
- Israel was delivered from Egyptian oppression, crossed the Red Sea, yet there were still those who denied the faith
- These unbelievers among the Israelites willfully denied God
- **Their Sin: Unbelief**

### 2. **The Apostasy Of Fallen Angels (6)**

**Jude 6** <sup>6</sup>And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day—

- These fallen angels were once in service and in the presence of the True God
- Following the deceit and pride of Lucifer, the Demons left their domain of heaven they occupied as angels
- Though some demons are actively involved
- They are awaiting judgment for their abandonment of God
- Demons willfully departed from God
- **Their Sin: Rebellion**

### **View 1: The Fallen Angels of Genesis 6 Who Co-Habited With Humans**

(Hiebert, MacArthur, Blum)

1. “As” or “In like manner” connects verse 6 with verse 7 where sexual immorality is discussed – attributing gross immorality to these fallen angels
2. Lot’s angelic visitors were lusted after by the men of Sodom & Gomorrah. If the fallen angels had the same flesh, they could have lusted after humans. (MacArthur, p. 44)

3. Though angels do not have flesh, they have taken the form of humans (e.g. Gen 18-19). Each instance they have appeared as males.
  4. Old Testament angels were called "Sons of God" (Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:7)
  5. In Gen 6, these angels mixed with humans and bore giants
  6. 2 Peter 2:4-5 links angels with Noahic flood
  7. 1 Pet 3:18-20 links "spirits in prison" with Noah
  8. The Apocryphal Book of 1 Enoch describes fallen angels who lust after humans, descend upon Mt. Hermon and commit adultery
- "Virtually all commentary—past and present—has related Jude 6 (and 2Pe 2:4) to Genesis 6:1–4 in some way or another. This interpretation of "the sons of God" (Ge 6:2), following the lead of Clement of Alexandria, is largely due to two reasons: (1) a mistaken linking of the angels in Jude 6 with Sodom and Gomorrah in v.7 and (2) the association of demons with Genesis 6:1–4 that began to emerge in second-century BC Jewish interpretation. In 1 Enoch (second- first century BC?), for example, we find perhaps the most elaborate expansion of this connection between the angels' fall and sexual promiscuity." Charles, Daryl; Thatcher, Tom. 1 and 2 Peter, 1, 2, and 3 John, Jude (The Expositor's Bible Commentary) (p. 470). Zondervan Academic. Kindle Edition.

### **View 2: The Fallen Angels Who Fell With Satan (Demons)**

1. The title "Sons of God" do describe angels, but always unfallen angels (Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:7)
2. Angels appeared in human form but it is never clear that an incarnation took place. Jesus taught that angels were sexless (Mt 22:30)
3. God sent the flood because of what man did, not because of what the angels did (Gen 6:3,5-6). If the first view is correct, the Lord would have repented for creating those angels also.
4. "As" or "In like manner" does not necessitate a connection with sexual immorality. Verses 5-7 give three illustrations of judgment. Judgment, not immorality, is what is being compared.
5. Genesis 6:4 is a strong argument that fallen angels could not have cohabited with women and produce giants. Verse 4 ("and also after that") would mean that a second invasion of fallen angels had to take place. (Wiersbe)
6. Peter and Jude teach that these angels are chained in darkness awaiting judgment. They would have to had been let loose.
7. The context of Genesis 4-6 discusses the lines of Seth and Cain.
8. "Sons of God" is also used to describe man everywhere else in Scripture except in Job.
9. 2 Peter 2:4-5 is not linked with 1 Peter 3:18-20. Men are judged, not angels.

### **3. The Apostasy Of Sodom & Gomorrah (7)**

**Jude 7** 7 just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.

- **Their Sin: Immorality**
- "sexual immorality" = Gr. *Ekporneusasai* – "ek" intensifies their immorality

- "gone after" = "a departure from the established order in nature to follow a practice contrary to nature" (Hiebert, p. 238)
- "strange flesh" = Gr. *heteros* = different nature or kind (cf. Rom 1:24-27; Lev 18:22-25)

**Conclusion:**

- God's teaching on salvation is worth fighting for because souls are at stake.
- God's teaching on Christ is worth fighting for because salvation is at stake.
- Don't fight just to be pugnacious but because we love people enough to be right with God.

**Discussion:**

- What battles do Christians fight today that distract us from where the real battle is?
- What essential truths are under attack today that we must defend?
- How can we rise from passivity to contend for the essential truths of the Scriptures?