

Jude

“Just Hold On” - Lesson Two-

Introduction: False teachers and those who follow them have "reservations" in the blackest darkness.

[14-16].....Even Enoch Told Us

vs.14 Enoch was a legendary Jewish hero "who walked with God" and was "no more"

(Gen.5:24-25). He lived 365 years before being taken away. His son, Methuselah, lived 969 years!

"Enoch, the seventh from Adam..." - Jude quickly points out that God's judgment for false teachers has been around since the beginning

NOTE: The quote of Enoch is taken from I Enoch 1:9, which shows God's judgment & condemnation at the end of time for those who have opposed him. The apocryphal writings of Enoch(I-III) dealt with punishment of Israel's enemies and the judgment at the end of time.

vs.15 Jude uses the word *all* at least three times(depending on your translation): this indicates that **NONE** will escape the Lord's judgment and **NO** deeds will go unpunished.

vs.16 Jude is specific about the wrongs done by the false teachers and those who have followed their lead. These wrongs are not limited to deeds only, but include speech too.

In conjunction with verses 8 and 10, the wrong speech includes:

grumbings, faultfinding, bragging, and partiality for personal gain.

"...they follow their own desires..." reflects their immoral lives, which also shows up in their speech

[17-19].....So Did James & Nem' (The Apostles)

vs.17-19 "Scoffers" were those people who ignored all the precepts(rules) of the law. Jude doesn't use a specific prophecy or allude to a particular scripture to illustrate his point. Why?

These "scoffers," Jude declares, are spreading division in the church because they are yielding to their immoral instincts and are teaching this to weaker believers

[20-23].....The Best Offense is a Great Defense

vs.20-21 Jude now contrasts the false teachers' behavior with that of the faithful Christians' Jude is saying, "those of you who are faithful, build on your faith" - It will be near impossible for the false teachers to derail those with a strong faith

Again, Jude uses a triadic formula (as he did in vs.2) to explain this "great defense" against the false teachers:

1.Pray in the Holy Spirit

- 2. Stay in God's love
- 3. Wait for the Mercy of the Lord

vss.22-23 Here are more communal defenses (triadic) against the false teachers lessons:

- 1. Be merciful to those who doubt
- 2. Snatch others from the fire and save them
- 3. Show mercy mixed with fear to others

Jude doesn't believe that there's help nor hope for the false teachers, but that it is the church's responsibility to try to reclaim those who've followed them

Treat them with mercy, not sharp rejection as the false teachers will receive

[24-25].....What's Really Being Said in this Benediction

vs.24 "To him who is able to keep you from falling..." - Only God's grace can keep people & communities from falling in the face of evil
"...to present you before his glorious presence without fault & with great joy..." - we don't possess the power to be in his presence faultless.

Only God's grace can do this too

vs.25 Jude is just painting a picture in our minds of a glorious, faultless church in the presence of God - by the means of the Lord's eternal power & majesty!

Conclusion: By holding on to our faith, we can defeat the false teachers in our society and win back those who've fallen away.