

Jude 5-7 — The Deadly Danger Of Rejecting Jesus

September 5, 2021

Good morning! I hope you are having a great Labor Day weekend. If you are a visitor in town, it is great to have you. My name is Kurt. I am one of the pastors. This morning, we are continuing our study in the book of Jude. Before we begin, I am wondering who in the room likes action movies?

If you like wild and crazy action movies, today's sermon is for you. In the verses we will study, there is a lot of wild and crazy stuff. Over a million people will die. That is a lot of body bags. We have demon babies. We have fire from heaven. We have homosexuality on full display. As I said, if you like action, this message will keep you on the edge of your seat. Buckle up. Grab the edge of your pew and hold on for the wild ride.

This morning, we are in Jude 5-7. You can turn there in your paper Bibles. It is easy to find. Find Revelation at the end of the Bible and go back one book. If you are using a phone Bible, that is fine. Feel free to turn there on your phone. While you are finding it, let me take a few minutes to get our Labor Day weekend guest up to speed in our study of Jude.

Jude was a half-brother of Jesus. He wrote this brief letter to churches around the year 69 A.D. He was countering a serious problem happening to churches at that time. Spiritual terrorists had crept their way into churches. We learned about this last week. A spiritual terrorist is somebody that isn't a Christian. They act like Christians. They are religious. They pretend to be Christians. They go to church. While they look good on the outside, their goal is

to destroy the church from the inside. Instead of leading people to Jesus, they want to sow doubt and undermine people's faith and trust in Jesus.

How do spiritual terrorists go about their work? They get into churches. They gain people's trust. They get on church boards and in positions of power. Then they use their positions of power and influence to peel people away from Jesus. They try to undermine confidence in God's Word. They know that when people stop trusting in Jesus, people stop following Jesus, and people stop worshipping Jesus, they will no longer be saved by Jesus.

What matters is if you are trusting in Jesus alone to be saved, by grace alone through faith alone, and in the Bible alone as the source of your authority on how to be saved. If spiritual terrorists can slip into the church and destroy that, they can destroy you.

This is why Jude began his letter in verse 3 by giving us the purpose of his letter.

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. Jude 3 (ESV)

Jude was begging us to fight for the Christian faith that was delivered once for all to us. Do not let anyone take you away from the Bible's message of being saved by Jesus.

Jude reminded us this message of the only way to be made right with God is by grace alone and in Jesus alone was delivered to us. It was not made up by us. It is God's truth. It is not man's truth. Nobody has a right to change God's message to us about what his son has done and how we are made right with God through Jesus alone.

In addition, Jude tells us this truth is once for all. It was perfect and complete when God gave it to us. It doesn't need to be constantly updated like your phone. It is perfect and complete. Anybody who comes along years later and tries to give you a new gospel or a different gospel is lying through their teeth. Those are not my words. Those are Jude's words! Those are the words of the Bible. The gospel of being saved through Jesus alone was delivered to us by God, not made up by man. It was delivered to us once for all. It is just as powerful and just as true today as it was when God gave it to us 2,000 years ago.

Last week, in verse 4, Jude told us how to recognize spiritual terrorists among us.

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. Jude 4 (ESV)

There are three qualities we are to look for.

First, is the ungodly life of people. Since spiritual terrorists are not true Christians, they have not been born again. They do not have the transforming power of the Holy Spirit in their lives making them into new people. They do not have the Holy Spirit giving them a new nature. While they are religious on Sunday, they act like the rest of the world on Monday. They do not have a new nature. They do not have a new heart. They are dedicated to religion on the outside, but their hearts are still in love with sin on the inside.

Let's be clear. Everyone struggles with sin. When we come to Jesus and are born again, there is a genuine change in our nature. The sin we once loved is the sin we now hate. The sin we didn't feel bad about is the sin that deeply

convicts us. That is because the Holy Spirit gave us new hearts, a new nature. We do not love sin, we despise sin because we can now see it for what it is.

Spiritual terrorists have not had the genuine experience of being born again. Any godly behavior in their lives is only a bandage over the sickness of their hearts. It does not come from a genuine change in their lives.

Second, spiritual terrorists see Jesus' forgiveness of their sin as a green light to plunge into more sin. Instead of Jesus' full and complete forgiveness of their sin becoming an incentive to turn away from sin, they see it as permissiveness for more sin. Paul talked about this sin in Romans. "Shall I sin all the more that grace may abound? Absolutely not!" If we died with Christ and rose to new life with him we died to our old nature that loves sin and are raised to have a new nature that hates sin. Yet, spiritual terrorists think Jesus' forgiveness of sin opens the door to more sin. This is another way we can recognize a spiritual terrorist in the church.

Third, we can recognize spiritual terrorists because they always want to be forgiven by Jesus, but they do not want to have Jesus as the master and Lord of their lives. They want to be in charge of their lives. They don't want Jesus in charge of their lives.

Today, as we come to verses 5-7, Jude moved from telling us how we can identify a spiritual terrorist to understanding the horrifying outcome of following people who were infiltrating the church and undermining the gospel. Jude wanted us to understand this is not a laughing matter. This is not a trivial issue. It is not merely an academic conversation. It is not something on which we can agree to

compromise. By eroding our faith and trust in Jesus, spiritual terrorists are trying to put us in a position where the same Jesus who saves us will actually turn and destroy us. We need to know that is what is at stake. Let's read about this in Jude 5-7.

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. 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— 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. Jude 5–7 (ESV)

In these verses, Jude gave us three examples from history to show us why rebellion against Jesus never succeeds. There is the example of the Exodus generation that turned its back on Jesus and were destroyed. There is the example of the angels in heaven who rebelled against Jesus — some of whom are already being punished by Jesus. There is the example of Sodom and Gomorrah that were judged and destroyed by Jesus.

The Exodus generation that turned its back on Jesus and never saw the Promised Land.

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. Jude 5 (ESV)

We need to remember Bible lessons of the past because they are easy to forget.

Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it... Jude 5 (ESV)

Sometimes people come to church and think, “The pastor is teaching on a part of the Bible I have read before. I read that Bible story when I was a child.”

When that happens, it is easy to begin to check out, like you are watching a rerun

of a movie you have seen before. Before you mentally check out in church, remember there is nothing wrong with reminding us of what we already know when we are in church. It is easy to forget what we already know so we don't forget. My job as a pastor is not to entertain you by inventing new truth. It is to remind you of the old truths.

It is like learning a foreign language. This past week my daughter took her first Spanish classes in college. She called me up telling me if feels like she forgot Spanish even though she took Spanish in high school. The problem was that over the summer she never spoke it or used it so she began to forget it. If you don't use a language, it is easy to forget that language. The same is true with the Bible. We need to be constantly reminded of what we already know because it is so easy to forget. That is what Jude did in these verses. He was not going to invent new truth but remind people of truth they already know but have probably forgotten.

Jude isn't the only biblical author who spoke of the importance of being regularly reminded of what we already know. This theme is found throughout Scripture. Peter spoke about this.

Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have. I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder... 2 Peter 1:12–13 (ESV)

As long as Peter was alive, he promised he would keep reminding people of the truths of Scripture they already knew but could easily forget.

Paul spoke about the same thing.

Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you. Philippians 3:1 (ESV)

Paul's letter to the Philippians was not new information. It was a reminder of what they already knew about Jesus. Paul said that was a good thing. It was safe for them. It would keep them from drifting away.

This is not just why we teach the Bible at CrossWinds, but it is also why I am always encouraging you to read the Bible at home during the week. As a church, we are on a *Take Up And Read* Bible reading plan as a church family. We are reading the Bible five days a week with two days to catch up on the weekend. We just finished 1 Samuel in August. In your bulletins is the card to guide you through reading 2 Samuel in September. While the Bible stories in the books of 1 and 2 Samuel are not new to us, they are still good for us to hear again and again. I invite you to join us.

Jesus saved a people out of the land of Egypt.

...Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt... Jude 5 (ESV)

Occasionally, I have a chance to be a part of the ordination counsel of young pastors in the EFCA denomination. These are councils where pastors are tested by the denomination to ensure they believe the Bible. We test them to ensure they understand and can defend the EFCA 10-point statement of faith. It is also an opportunity for us to test the extent of a young pastor's Bible knowledge.

I will let you in on a secret. My favorite question to ask in these councils is, "Where is Jesus in the Old Testament?" Unfortunately, that stumps many young men. Many times they do not have a good answer. If you were in one of those counsels, you would pass because we are studying the book of Jude. In Jude,

we see one of the places Jesus shows up in the Old Testament. He saved the Exodus generation out of Egypt.

It turns out, Jesus was very active in the Old Testament. In short, he was always about the business of saving God's people in the Old Testament, just as he saves us in the New Testament. The difference is in the Old Testament Jesus had not taken on a human body. He could only save God's people in a lesser way. In the New Testament, Jesus took on a human body permanently in the womb of Mary. He died for us and rose to save us. Instead of just saving God's people from physical slavery in Egypt, he saved us from slavery to sin. Instead of just saving God's people from physical death in Egypt, he saved us from eternal death in the lake of fire. In both the Old and New Testament, Jesus is the one actively saving God's people.

When Jude told us it was Jesus who saved Israel out of Egypt, that means it was Jesus who sent the plagues on the Egyptians. It was Jesus who parted the Red Sea. It was Jesus who provided manna for food. Jesus was the one saving God's people all over the place.

It wasn't just Jude that told us Jesus saved God's people out of Egypt in the Old Testament. If you comb through the New Testament, you find remnants of this truth hinted at by other New Testament authors.

Look what Paul said to the Corinthians.

...and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. 1 Corinthians 10:4 (ESV)

Twice in the wilderness, on the way to the Promised Land, God's people were dying of thirst. Twice God brought water out of a rock to save his people

from dying of thirst. Paul said Jesus was the rock that saved God's people and gave them water for their thirst.

We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents... 1 Corinthians 10:9 (ESV)

On the trip from Egypt to the Promised Land, the Exodus generation rebelled against God 10 times. Paul said every time they rebelled against God, they were actually rebelling against Jesus. They doubted Jesus' love for them. They doubted Jesus' ability to save them and provide for them when they faced trouble. Even though they had experienced the plagues on Egypt and the parting of the Red Sea in the past, they wouldn't believe Jesus would continue to provide for them and save them in the present.

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12 (ESV)

As soon as we read this, the first question that comes to mind is, "How does this relate to Jesus and the Exodus?"

In the Gospel of John, when Jesus said these words, it was right after the lighting of the great candelabra in Jerusalem that was lit during the Feast of the Tabernacles. When we studied the Gospel of John, we learned this candelabra was huge. It stood above the housetops. When it was lit, the flame from this massive candelabra rose so high in the sky that it lit up the entire city of Jerusalem. It was intended to remind Israel of the time in the Old Testament when God led the Israelites through the wilderness with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night that lit up the entire camp of their ancestors.

When Jesus said, “I am the light of the world...” He was saying that in the Exodus of Israel, he was the pillar of cloud that led them by day and the pillar of fire that led them by by night.

Jesus is the one who saved God’s people out of Egypt. In the Old Testament, Jesus could only save God’s people in a lesser way. In the New Testament, Jesus took on a human body in the womb of Mary permanently and irrevocably to save us in a greater way from slavery to sin and eternal death. Jesus is always about the business of saving God’s people.

The Jesus who saved God’s people out of Egypt later destroyed them because they did not believe.

...that Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. Jude 5 (ESV)

This is the point Jude wanted us to remember. The same Jesus who miraculously saved the Exodus generation from death in the land of Egypt, later severely judged them so everyone 20 years old and older died in the wilderness. They made it to the edge of the Promised Land but because they refused to believe Jesus and trust Jesus they were judged and died in the wilderness. The full story of Jesus taking the Israelites out of Egypt is found in Exodus 6-14. We can find the story of their destruction in Numbers 14.

Put yourself in their shoes. You watched as Jesus unleashed plague after plague on the nation of Egypt. You watched as water turned to blood, frogs covered the land, gnats covered the land, biting flies covered the land, you saw as livestock died, boils covered bodies, hail destroyed crops, and locusts ate crops. Finally, there was the plague of death on the first born. After the beginning

plagues, these plagues were limited to striking just Egyptians. They didn't touch you. The Egyptians' neighborhood was being decimated but your neighborhood was being left alone. It was not happening this way just once but again and again. It was obvious what was happening was supernatural and you were being protected. When you left Egypt, God separated the Red Sea so you could walk across on dry ground. Some fruitcakes claim the way this happened was it was low tide. The Red Sea is a sea. It doesn't split in half at low tide. In addition, Psalm 78:13 talks about this and says it was a literal wall of water on the Israelites' left and right. Between 1-2 million people walked across the sea on dry ground. When the Egyptian army tried to cross God brought the water back and swallowed the entire army in the sea. These guys experienced Jesus' saving power firsthand. When they were hungry and there was no food, God brought manna on the ground every morning, except for one day a week, the Sabbath. It was obvious that Jesus was supernaturally working every day to provide their daily bread, except for the day of rest. Twice Jesus brought water from a rock to provide for their thirst. They were at Mt. Sinai and saw the mountain engulfed in fire as God came down and gave Moses the Ten Commandments. It was one supernatural occurrence after another. Every time it looked like the Exodus generation was going to die, Jesus came to its rescue.

In spite of all Jesus had done to supernaturally save the Israelites out of Egypt and care for every one of their needs as they traveled to the Promised Land through the wilderness, all the people did was grumble, complain, and whine. "Why do we have to eat manna every day? It is the same food all the

time. We want meat. We want to go back to Egypt." When Moses went up Mt. Sinai to get the Ten Commandments, even after seeing how Jesus supernaturally wiped out Egypt, the Israelites turned their backs on God and started worshipping the gods of the Egyptians at the base of that mountain in a drunken orgy. This generation constantly rebelled against Jesus even though it was miraculously saved numerous times by Jesus.

It all came to a head when the Israelites arrived at edge of the Promised Land. They sent 12 spies into the land to check it out. The spies took 40 days to explore. The spies came back and said the land looked great but the problem was the people were giants compared to them. "We look like grasshoppers. We can never conquer the land. We are doomed. Let's go back to Egypt."

Only two of the spies, Caleb and Joshua, were of a different spirit. They believed they could conquer the land. They said, "It doesn't matter if we are grasshoppers. Grasshoppers and God always win. Look at what Jesus did to Egypt. Look at what Jesus did at the Red Sea. Look at the manna, remember the water from the rock?" The list went on and on.

The problem was the people sided with the 10 unbelieving spies. They turned their backs on Jesus and refused to believe Jesus would save them again, just like he had done in the past. They looked at their own strength, rather than trusting in Jesus' strength.

At that point, Jesus said, "Enough is enough. Every last one of you, beside Caleb and Joshua, who are 20 years and older, will walk in circles in the desert until you die and are buried." Between 1-2 million people died in the next 40

years of walking in circles, and their graves were dug so close to the Promised Land that they could see it, but Jesus would not let them enter it.

That is severe punishment --- 40 years of walking in circles until you die!

This brings us to Jude's point. The same Jesus who saves us can turn into the Jesus who destroys us if we consistently turn our backs on him. This is especially true if we have experienced being saved by Jesus then turn our backs on Jesus.

My friends, the saving that we have experienced through Jesus in the church through Jesus' death and resurrection which saves us from our sin and gives us a new nature is a far greater salvation than the Exodus generation ever experienced. We must not turn our back on Jesus and drift away from Jesus. May we not follow in the footsteps of the Exodus generation and get to the edge of our Promised Land in heaven but end up being judged by Jesus because we turned our backs on Jesus and the great salvation he has given us.

But truly, as I live, and as all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord, none of the men who have seen my glory and my signs that I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and yet have put me to the test these ten times and have not obeyed my voice, shall see the land that I swore to give to their fathers. And none of those who despised me shall see it. Numbers 14:21–23 (ESV)

Does anybody feel Jesus' anger at this point?

Say to them, "As I live, declares the Lord, what you have said in my hearing I will do to you: your dead bodies shall fall in this wilderness, and of all your number, listed in the census from twenty years old and upward, who have grumbled against me..." Numbers 14:28–29 (ESV)

Jude reminded us we must learn from history. This is why Jude was begging, pleading with people in this letter, to not walk away from Jesus. Do not

walk away from the faith once for all delivered to the saints. The same Jesus who saves you will become the Jesus who destroys you if you turn your back on him.

Some of the angels who rebelled from heaven are bound in a gloomy pit of darkness.

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— Jude 6 (ESV)

Here we get to some real exciting stuff. Here we have some super freaky stuff. In the last verse, we saw how the Israelites turned their backs on Jesus, and it did not end well. Here we have angels in heaven who turned their backs on Jesus. It also does not end well.

What they did is described in a variety of ways. The first description is that these angels did not stay within their own position of authority. Jesus had given them a job and they left that job. The job of angels are to serve God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. They are to worship God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. These particular angels ditched their job. Second, they left their proper dwelling. Their home was in heaven. They were to stay in heaven. They left their lofty home and exalted position and decided to do their own thing and rebel against the Jesus who created them.

To understand what they did, we need to sneak into verse 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. Jude 7 (ESV)

Jude said there is a parallel between what these angels did when they chose to rebel and leave heaven and what happened in the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. We will get to verse 7 in a moment, but for now notice it says the

people in Sodom and Gomorrah pursued sexual immorality. The Greek word for that is porneia. It refers to expressing sexuality outside the bounds of one man and one woman in marriage for life. It is premarital sex, extramarital sex, homosexuality and lesbianism. Interestingly, the Greek here says that in Sodom and Gomorrah they pursued “ek-porneia”. That means extreme sexual immorality. In a moment, we will see that Sodom and Gomorrah were hotbeds of homosexuality of the worst kind. Extreme sexual immorality is an apt description. Secondly, it says that the people of Sodom and Gomorrah pursued unnatural desire. The Greek is literal and more descriptive. It says they pursued strange flesh. That means flesh that is not compatible with their own. This is men pursuing men and women pursuing women. It is obvious that men are not sexually compatible with men and women are not sexually compatible with women.

Jude said there was a similarity in the sexual sin of Sodom and Gomorrah and the sin of the angels who chose to rebel against Jesus and leave their places in heaven and their jobs in heaven.

Apparently, these angels also pursued extreme sexual immorality. Apparently, they also pursued sexual intimacy with flesh that was incompatible with themselves. So these angels left heaven to pursue sexuality with beings different from themselves and with beings sexually incompatible with themselves.

What is this referring to? There is only one reference in the Bible to something that can explain what happened. We know what happened must be described in the Bible because Jude said he was reminding them about

something they already knew about from the Old Testament. The only place in the Bible that fits this connection is found in Genesis 6.

When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. Then the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years." The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown. Genesis 6:1–4 (ESV)

Wow! That is freaky! How does this connect? We don't even see angels even mentioned in these verses, or do we?

The phrase "sons of God" refers to angels. Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:7 all use the phrase "sons of God" to refer to angels. Sons of God means being directly created by God, not born from human parents but created directly by God. The Jews believe Genesis 6 is talking about angels. The Christian church, at least up to the fourth century, also universally believed Genesis 6 was talking about fallen and rebellious angels.

What happened? It is one of two options: Either these powerful angelic beings rebelled against God, left heaven, came to earth and manifested themselves in human bodies or they were filled with lust for women, married them, and tried to create a sort of demonic/human hybrid with their children that was particularly evil.

This seems possible because as we will see when we look at Sodom and Gomorrah, in that passage two angels came to that city. They appeared as men. They were fully functioning men. They even ate food. Incidentally, in the Bible, every time an angel appears in a human form, angels always appear as male,

not female. The only place you find a female angel in the Starbucks logo. That is the coffee angel.

The other option is that instead of appearing as human men, they possessed men and lived out their fantasies through possessed men. This is a real possibility. In Jesus' ministry we see many demon-possessed people that Jesus saved. When Jesus cast out the demons from the Gadarene demoniac, we learned that because of the Gadarene demoniac's demon possession, he possessed supernatural strength. He was impossible to subdue and even broke chains through his demonic power.

Either these particularly powerful angels left heaven and appeared in human form to marry and fulfill their lusts with women or they possessed men in order to marry and fulfill their lusts with women. Either way we know the result in the next verse of Genesis.

The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. Genesis 6:5 (ESV)

They succeeded in corrupting the earth to such an insane level that everyone's thoughts at that time were evil all the time. This is thousands of times worse than the world is right now. It was so bad that the next passage is God saving Noah and his family but flooding the earth to kill everyone and everything that wasn't on the ark.

What Jude told us is those demons, who chose to turn their backs on Jesus and pursue sexual unions with human women on Earth rather than remaining in heaven and fulfilling their God-given job did not get away with their rebellion.

...he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day... Jude 6 (ESV)

In the great flood, Jesus took these particularly powerful and wicked demons and bound them in chains. Jesus locked them in a dark place in the universe from which they will never be able to escape until Jesus takes them out on the great day. That day is the day Jesus returns and executes judgment on the earth. Then he will consign the devil, these particularly evil angels, and the rest of the fallen angels who are still free, to their final resting place, which is the lake of fire.

The Exodus generation knew about Jesus' power. They saw Jesus' work, but they turned their backs on Jesus repeatedly and were sentenced to death in the desert. These angels in heaven also knew about Jesus' power. They had seen Jesus' work. They also rebelled against Jesus and turned away from Jesus even though they knew the full identity of Jesus. Jesus let them rebel for a period of time, just like he patiently let the Israelites rebel for a period of time. Eventually Jesus said, "Enough is enough." He bound these particularly evil demons in the pit until the day of judgement so they are no longer able to do their vile work on the earth.

It doesn't say that all demons are chained and bound in this pit, just those particularly vile demons who were so perverse they pursued union with human wives.

Some of you think this is far fetched. You are wondering what drug they put on my corn flakes this morning. It is not. This is supported by other parts of Scripture.

For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment... 2 Peter 2:4 (ESV)

This verse is talking about the same thing. Here it says they were cast into hell. That is not a good translation. If you have a Bible, you will notice next to the word hell is a footnote. The footnote says it is the Greek word Tartus. In Greek mythology, Tartus is the location where the Titans, the mighty men of old, were bound in chains and thrown into a pit. Even though it is Greek mythology, it is interesting that it so closely parallels biblical truth --- mighty beings bound in chains in a dark pit so they can no longer influence the earth like they did before the flood.

In the Gospels, we read about Jesus crossing the Sea of Galilee and going to the country of the Gerasenes. In that country, two demon-possessed men came running out of the tombs to approach Jesus and the disciples. The gospels tells us the story of one of these men. There was a legion of demons in him. He broke chains. He terrorized people. Nobody could contain him. While he intended to terrorize Jesus and the disciples, when he was close enough to see it was Jesus getting off the boat, it was a completely different reaction. Instead of terrorizing Jesus, he fell to his face and began trembling in fear in front of Jesus.

When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him and said with a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me"....And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss. Luke 8:28, 31 (ESV)

The demons in this guy were petrified of Jesus. This is the first time the demons in this man were ever scared of anyone.

As soon as these demons saw Jesus, they were worried Jesus would bind them and cast them into the pit of darkness, like Jesus did to a bunch of other demons at the time of the flood. This is why they were begging for Jesus to not throw them into the abyss, the pit of darkness.

These demons knew that by possessing this man and doing particularly wicked work through that man, they were walking the path of their demon friends that Jesus bound in a pit of darkness at the time of the flood and they were ripe for heading to the same place.

This is the same message that we saw earlier. Rebellion against Jesus does not end well. It didn't end well for the Exodus generation. It also did not end well for the angels that rebelled in heaven. Jesus did not wait for judgment until the end of time. He moved judgment forward for both of them in time. The especially rebellious angels went to the pit of darkness until judgment. The rebellious Exodus generation all died in the wilderness.

This is why Jude told us to contend for the faith once for all delivered to the saints. Fight for it. Don't let anybody take you from it. If you leave your faith in Jesus and decide to go your own direction and make up your own truth, it will not end well. It didn't end well for Israel when they rebelled against Jesus. It didn't for the angels when they rebelled against Jesus. It will not end well for anyone who rebels against Jesus.

We have one more example.

God's judgement on Sodom and Gomorrah was a preview of his judgment at the end of time.

...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. Jude 7 (ESV)

Perhaps no story was more impactful on the people of God than the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. It is referenced one way or another more than 20 times in the Bible. The devastation God unleashed on Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities for their sexual sin was horrifying. It serves as a perpetual reminder of the awesome nature of God's judgment on sin, especially on sexual sin.

In the days of Jesus, and even today, the area of Sodom and Gomorrah by the Dead Sea is still a place of boiling tar pits and smoke coming from cracks in the earth. It wasn't always that way. Genesis 13 tells us what it was like.

And Lot lifted up his eyes and saw that the Jordan Valley was well watered everywhere like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt, in the direction of Zoar. (This was before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) Genesis 13:10 (ESV)

The Bible tells us this area was a beautiful place. It was a nice neighbor. It was the place you wanted to live. It resembled the Garden of Eden. All that changed after Jesus brought judgment on these cities for their sexual sin. In Sodom and Gomorrah, Jesus gave us a preview in time of what his judgment on sin will look like at the end of time.

What brought about this judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah? It says they indulged in sexual immorality. As I mentioned earlier, sexual immorality is the Greek word *porneia*. That refers to any sexual relationships outside of the bounds of one man, one woman, in marriage, until death. It includes premarital

sex and extramarital sex. It is pornography on the Internet. It is all of that. It is lesbianism. It is bi-sexuality.

As I mentioned a moment ago, in Greek, it was what Sodom and Gomorrah pursued was extreme sexual immorality.

In addition, they pursued strange flesh, incompatible flesh. This talks about men pursuing other men. This talks about women pursuing other women. It is the entire LGBTQ lifestyle. It is men trying to dress like women then having surgery and taking hormones to look like women. It is women having surgery and taking hormones to look like men. It is the whole sexual agenda in our society that is different than one man, one woman, in marriage until death do them part.

The story of the straw that broke the camel's back and brought final judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah is told in Genesis 18 and 19.

The two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them and bowed himself with his face to the earth and said, "My lords, please turn aside to your servant's house and spend the night and wash your feet. Then you may rise up early and go on your way." They said, "No; we will spend the night in the town square." But he pressed them strongly; so they turned aside to him and entered his house. And he made them a feast and baked unleavened bread, and they ate. Genesis 19:1–3 (ESV)

Lot was Abraham's nephew. He was a relatively godly guy living in a very ungodly place. The reason he pushed his hospitality to get these two angels out of the town square for the night is because he knew how the people of the town treated visitors to their community. Let's just say they didn't provide a warm friendly welcome.

But before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both young and old, all the people to the last man, surrounded the house. And they called to Lot,

“Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us, that we may know them.” Genesis 19:4–5 (ESV)

All the men of the city, both young and old, planned to involve themselves in a gang homosexual rape of these men. That is extreme sexual immorality. There are some theological fruitcakes out there who say the men of the city were just mad because Lot didn’t given them a chance to greet the new visitors in town. That is wacky. In this context, the Hebrew word “to know” means to be sexually intimate. Jude also tells us the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah was extreme sexual deviance and going after the wrong flesh, the wrong gender. The sin of not a lack of hospitality. Jude tells us it is homosexuality.

By the way, I assume these two angels, who appear like men, appear like very good looking young men. After all, they were angels. They would not look like old crusty men. That is why these homosexuals lusted after them so strongly.

Lot went out to the men at the entrance, shut the door after him, and said, “I beg you, my brothers, do not act so wickedly.” Genesis 19:6–7 (ESV)

Lot knew homosexual gang rape was evil. Lot had told his friends and neighbors that homosexuality and homosexual gang rape were evil. They knew this was sin, but they didn’t want to listen to Lot’s warning.

“Behold, I have two daughters who have not known any man. Let me bring them out to you, and do to them as you please. Only do nothing to these men, for they have come under the shelter of my roof.” Genesis 19:8 (ESV)

This is not a good thing. This is a major dad failure on Lot’s part. He should have been protecting his daughters. What this verse tells us is how much Lot feared for his own life at this moment and how much he was not willing to trust God for rescue at this moment.

But they said, “Stand back!” And they said, “This fellow came to sojourn, and he has become the judge! Now we will deal worse with you than with them.” Then they pressed hard against the man Lot, and drew near to break the door down. Genesis 19:9 (ESV)

They didn't like Lot pointing out their evil. Their new plans were not just to gang rape the angelic visitors but to now to also gang rape Lot! They intended to break down the door and tear Lot and these men out of the house. What an amazing attitude of these homosexuals. They were completely given over to their homosexual lusts. They didn't care what happened to other people. They just wanted to satisfy their homosexual passions.

But the men reached out their hands and brought Lot into the house with them and shut the door. Genesis 19:10 (ESV)

Thankfully, the angels saved Lot at this point.

And they struck with blindness the men who were at the entrance of the house, both small and great, so that they wore themselves out groping for the door. Genesis 19:11 (ESV)

You would think when God strikes all the men in the town blind, they would wise up a bit and maybe think gang homosexual rape is a bad idea. They didn't wise up. Instead they wear themselves out in lust looking for the door. These guys did not take God's supernatural hint that they were heading in the wrong direction and were about ready to go over the edge of the cliff.

You know what happens next. The angels told Lot and his family to leave because God was going to rain down fire and sulfur on the cities to destroy them for their wickedness. That is exactly what happened by morning. God incinerated the cities of the valley with fire from heaven turning the entire valley into a lake of fire.

Some of you say, “That is a nice Bible story but what proof do we have that actually happened?” Archaeologists tell us this area of the world is a seam in tectonic plates. In the past, there is evidence of a massive volcanic eruption in this area. In addition, on the south shore of the Dead Sea, where these cities were located, there are large oil reserves below the earth’s crust. Archaeologists tell us that in the past there was a massive volcanic eruption in this area spewing lava and burning oil into the air which fell on these cities, burning them to a crisp in a lake of molten fire, tar, and oil. This is similar to what happened to Pompeii when a volcanic eruption buried that city.

Back to Jude. Jude said what happened to Sodom and Gomorrah was an example for us to learn from. It was a preview in time of what Jesus’ ultimate judgment will look like at the end of time.

Let me point out two things for us to learn from:

Jesus judges sexual sin and provides freedom from sexual sin.

One thing we need to stop and learn at this point is how Jesus feels about sexual immorality. Let’s just say God is not happy with homosexuality. He is not happy with the entire LGBTQ lifestyle. I am not saying that. God said that. It is the kind of sin where Jesus covers people in molten lava.

Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. Hebrews 13:4 (ESV)

God promises to judge sexual immorality and adultery. That is not something that may happen. It is a promise of what will happen.

While sexual sin is serious sin, the good news is that there is hope. While God judges sexual sin, he also has rescue for anyone caught in sexual sin. It is

not hormone therapy. It is not counseling. It is Jesus. Remember that in the Bible, Jesus is the one who is always about the business of saving God's people. He saved his people from slavery and death in Egypt in the Old Testament and he saved his people from slavery to sin and eternal death in the New Testament.

Yes, Jesus saves God's people from slavery to sexual sin!

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. **And such were some of you.** But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. 1 Corinthians 6:9–11 (ESV)

The good news is Jesus freed the Corinthian Christians from slavery to sexual sin and even slavery to homosexual sin. You can claim you were born a homosexual all you want but that doesn't matter. Jesus is the one who creates a new heart and gives us new life and who miraculously and supernaturally saves us from slavery to sexual sin just as he miraculously and supernaturally saved his people out of Egypt. That is good news!

It doesn't end well for anyone who rejects Jesus.

The other thing for us to learn from is how it ends for anyone who rejects Jesus and the Word of God. Sodom and Gomorrah were an early earthly preview of the everlasting judgment that awaits everyone who rejects God's Word and turns their backs on Jesus. The lake of fire that landed on Sodom and Gomorrah was a preview of the ultimate lake of fire where all who rebel against Jesus will spend eternity.

But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death. Revelation 21:8 (ESV)

And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. Revelation 20:15 (ESV)

The only way for anyone's name to be in the book of life is by trusting in Jesus alone, through faith alone, by grace alone. That is the only way to have your name written in the book of life. This is why Jude was adamant we must fight for the faith delivered once for all to the saints. We must not let anyone pull us away from it.

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6 (ESV)

Jude warned us how it ends for anyone who turns away from Jesus. Do not allow spiritual terrorists to slip into your church, your school, your denominations and move you off of the historic faith. If they accomplish their work, it will not end well.

Remember the very same people Jesus rescued out of Egypt were the people Jesus destroyed in the desert because they turned their backs on him. The angels that were created to worship Jesus around his throne ended up in chains bound in a pit of darkness until the day of judgment.

This morning, if you are on the edge of rejecting the Christian faith, I beg you not to do that. Many of you who are teenagers or young adults have questions about the Christian faith. That is good. Ask the questions. Seek out the answers. As you are asking questions about your faith, don't walk away from Jesus. A horrific end awaits anyone who does that.



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