

Jude 14-16 — What Does The Bible Teach About God's Judgement?

October 3, 2021

If you are like most people, you are watching the news about the murder of Gabby Petito. Her fiancé Brian Laundrie has been on the run. The longer he runs from police, the guiltier he looks. One of the reasons America is captivated by this case is everyone is angry that a young woman's life was taken. Also nobody wants to see her murderer get away with the crime. Assuming it was her fiancé that took her life, everyone wants to see justice served. Nobody wants him to get away with murder.

If you want justice to be served, this will be a good message this morning. We will be talking about God's justice. We will answer the question, does anybody ever get away with anything or will ultimate justice be served?

So take out your copy of God's Word and turn to Jude 14. I don't care if you use a paper Bible or a phone Bible. Take out your sermon outline, we have a lot of good truth to learn this morning.

For those of you who are just joining us, let me take a moment to orient you to this series. As a church, we are studying the book of Jude. Jude is a book about apostasy. That is a big word. It simply means people who have known the truth of Jesus --- they may even have at one time claimed to be a Christian --- but for whatever reason, these people have turned their backs on Jesus and walked away from him.

That is a terrible place to be. The Bible is clear that every problem in this world comes from sin. Every one them. War comes from sin. Sickness comes from sin. Internet scams come from sin. Sin is always the problem. There is only

one answer to the problem of sin, that is Jesus. Walking away from Jesus is walking away from the only hope we have to all the problems that exist in this world.

Jude is not a book about apostasy in general. It is a book about a particular kind of apostasy. It is a book about people who have left Jesus, but rather than leaving the church, these people stay in the church and try to pull other people away from Jesus with them. That is a terrible thing to do.

These people are worse than murderers. A murderer takes physical life. The loss of a physical life is terrible, but for some people it is not a bad thing. As Christians, they die to be with Christ. The apostates in the book of Jude, who are trying to take people away from Jesus in the church, are trying to destroy people's eternal life. That is worse than death. That is worse than physical murder. This is why Jude is so upset in this letter. It is why he uses some strong language.

For the last few weeks, we have studied the apostates in Jude's day, but who are they today? Today we call these people theological liberals. These are people who are in denominations and in universities that claim to be Christians, but they don't believe the Bible. They like to reinterpret the Bible. They claim to be Christians, but they don't believe Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. They want to dumb Jesus down and make Jesus less than the Bible tells us he is.

This reminds me of the Bible scholars who took part in the Jesus seminar a few years ago. They met to look at the gospels and strike out the parables of Jesus and the miracles of Jesus that they believed were fictional, not factual. It

looked like they were clipping coupons from the Sunday paper when they were done with the Bible. These are the kind of apostates Jude is addressing.

Last week, Jude showed us how apostates go about their work. They operate today just like they operated in the past. We studied the way Cain, Balaam, and Korah worked in the past, to learn how apostates go about their work today.

Then Jude launched into what is called a Jewish Midrash. He gave a number of descriptions to show us how the lives of these apostates are useless. All the work of their lives amounts to nothing good, nothing productive. Remember he described them as waterless clouds. They make lots of promises but never deliver. They are like fruitless trees. There is all kinds of money, time, and effort put into their lives but nothing fruitful or productive coming out of their lives. They are like shooting stars. They burn bright for a moment in this life but then burn out and are catapulted into an eternity of utter darkness. There is nothing good coming from the lives of apostates in this life.

This morning, in Jude 14-16, Jude moved from showing us how fruitless and useless are the earthly lives of apostates to showing us the eternal fate of apostates. Let me tell you, it isn't pretty. Let's read the text.

It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his holy ones, to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him." These are grumblers, malcontents, following their own sinful desires; they are loud-mouthed boasters, showing favoritism to gain advantage. Jude 14–16 (ESV)

These verses are about God's judgement. This morning, we are going to handle our study in two parts. First, we will look at the topic of God's judgement in the Bible. That will enable us to create a canvas to place these verses in Jude upon. Second, we will look at what Jude says about God's coming judgement in particular.

What does the Bible teach us about God's judgement?

The theme of God's judgement runs through both the Old and New Testaments. Jesus spoke about God's coming final judgement and about hell more than any other person in the Bible. The only person who can save us from God's judgement is the one who spoke most frequently about God's judgement. Let's look at some of the things Jesus had to say about God's coming final judgement.

And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Matthew 10:28 (ESV)

This year, people were living in fear because of COVID. People wore one mask, two masks, three masks, four. If it can stop COVID, let's wear some more. People stayed home from church and from work. Businesses were shut down because people were afraid they might die. Jesus told us earthly death is a fear, but it should not be our greatest fear. Until Jesus returns, every one of us will face earthly death. Jesus said what we should be afraid of is facing God's final judgement after death. We should be afraid of the one who will judge our sin. We should be afraid of the one who can send us to hell. That is far worse than COVID.

And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life. Matthew 25:46 (ESV)

Jesus was very clear. There are only two options for eternity. It is either punishment or life. There is no middle ground. Both of those options are eternal. They are not temporary. Nobody will spend 50 years suffering for their sin in purgatory then graduate to eternal life. It doesn't work that way.

The only way for any of us to have eternal life is for us to be considered righteous by God. The only way for anyone to be made right with God is for God to forgive our sin. The only way that happens is if we trust Jesus to do that. That is why he came. That is why he died on the cross and rose from the grave, so that we can be made right with God by our faith and trust in him.

Unfortunately, many people do not want to talk about God's judgement. In our culture, talking about judgement after death and eternal suffering is socially unacceptable. At a funeral people say, "At least they aren't suffering anymore." In reality, everyone who dies apart from Jesus is suffering a lot more after death than they were before death. We say about everyone who dies, "At least they are out of their misery." According to the Bible, unless their sins are forgiven by Jesus, dying was only the beginning of their misery.

If you were with us when we did a series on hell a few years ago, you will remember some of this. The Bible is clear that for Christians, when they die, it is a good thing. To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord, which is better by far. For those who die without Christ, they go to a place called Hades, which is a place of suffering. That is not where those in Hades stay. There will come a time in the future where God will execute final judgement. Those who are in Hades will be taken out of Hades, judged by Jesus, then sent to their final

place of just punishment called the lake of fire. Our passage in Jude talks about God's final judgement. Let's learn a little more about it.

The Bible talks about a specific judgement at the end of time.

When we talk about God's judgement, sometimes people think of God's judgement as only something we experience here and now, like the law of sowing and reaping. There is truth to this. When we sin, we will suffer. There is natural suffering built into sin. In addition, God sometimes interjects a measure of his judgement on people in this life as a way to get them to repent of their sin. He did this with his people in the Old Testament. They would sin and eventually God would send a nation to conquer them and send them into exile. It is true that there is suffering in this life when we commit sin. Life works that way. The Bible is also clear that there is a specific event and a specific time at the end of human history where final judgement will be served.

The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead. Acts 17:30–31 (ESV)

Jesus is the one who rose from the dead. He is the one who will judge the world. Human history will not continue forever. History will come to an end and everyone will be judged by Jesus.

But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. Romans 2:5 (ESV)

Paul told us that when people commit a crime, sometimes they think they get away with that crime. That is not true. We may be able to escape judgement on earth for our sin. We may be able to escape some of the natural

consequences for our sin, but nobody can escape justice at final judgement before Jesus. All people do when they sin apart from Jesus' forgiveness is they bank their sin and store up more of God's just wrath for their sin.

Ultimately, nobody gets away with anything, unless they are forgiven by Jesus. Justice will be served, even to Brian Laundrie. If he is not caught by the authorities in this life, he cannot escape final judgement in front of Jesus.

...on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus. Romans 2:16 (ESV)

On that day, Jesus will judge everyone's secrets. We may be able to hide sin in our lives from other people but we cannot hide sin in our lives from God. Jesus will judge everyone's secrets on the day of final judgement. The sin we have successfully hidden from others we cannot hide from Jesus.

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)

The final day of judgement at the end of human history isn't just for human beings. It is also for fallen angelic beings. The final judgement will be a time for God to deal once and for all with all sin. This way all final just punishment for sin is handed out and the problem of sin is done away with once and for all.

The day of final judgement will be a general and public.

Some people think they live their lives, die, and go to hell, but nobody knows. They think of hell as a completely private thing and of eternal suffering in perpetual isolation. While it is true that all people that die apart from Christ will go to a place called Hades --- which is a place of torment while they await final judgement and it appears there may be some measure of isolation in Hades ---

the Bible tells us that the great final judgment will be general and public, not personal and private.

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. Matthew 25:31–32 (ESV)

Once again, we see there are only two group --- those who know Jesus and those who do not know Jesus. This judgement is general because it involves everyone who has ever lived. It is public because it appears everyone will be together. Revelation gives us more information about this judgement.

Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. Revelation 20:11–14 (ESV)

So we see this is a general judgement and a public judgement. We see there is a book. Today we might say that God has given each of us our own Youtube channel so everything in our lives is recorded. We will be judged by Jesus based on what we have done in this life. The good news is that final judgement is not ultimately based on what is recorded in the book of our deeds. It is ultimately based on our names being in the book of life. The only way for our name to be in the book of life is for us to have trusted in Jesus to forgive our sin. Whoever's name is not in the book of life will be judged based on what is written about them in the book of their deeds. They will be judged based on what they have done. All those who have lived and died are judged this way. If someone's

name is written in the book of life, all the sin in their lives is paid for by Jesus and forgiven by Jesus. If someone's name is not in the book of life, he or she will be judged for his or her sin by Jesus. Jesus will determine a just and ultimate fate for that sin, which is not in Hades --- which is where all who have died apart from Christ are right now --- but is in the lake of fire --- which was originally made by God to be the final resting place of the devil and his angels.

God is the judge.

The Bible tells us that God is the judge at the final judgement.

...and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect... Hebrews 12:23 (ESV)

This is fair. Only God possesses all the criteria necessary to be a perfect, just, and fair judge. In addition, all sin is a violation of God's law. God's law represent's God's character. That means all sin is not just wrong because God says it is wrong. It is wrong because it is an assault on God's character. All sin is an assault against God, which is why he is the perfect judge for sin.

We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things. Romans 2:2 (ESV)

The good news is God's judgement will fall rightly. That means God's judgement on this final day will be perfectly fair. It will be perfectly just. It will not be overdone or underdone. Nobody will get a lawyer because nobody needs a lawyer. God's judgement will fall rightly.

What we find next is that while God the Father is the ultimate judge, he has delegated the final day of judgement to Jesus, his son.

For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son... John 5:22 (ESV)

This way the very one who was despised and rejected by man becomes the judge of all men. This way the very one who suffered and died for our sin is the one who judges everyone who has rejected his payment for their sin.

And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. John 5:27 (ESV)

Another reason God the Father has given all the responsibility for final judgement to God the Son is because Jesus can completely identify with us. Jesus is the Son of Man. He took on human flesh permanently. He can completely identify with us and completely understand us. He was tempted in all ways just like us. This is why Jesus is not just the perfectly just judge, but he is also the perfectly suited judge.

And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. Acts 10:42 (ESV)

As Christians, this is our message. It is not that God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life. While it is true that God does love you, that is only part of the picture. The part of the picture that we often neglect to tell is that Jesus is coming back. Jesus came the first time to die on the cross and rise from the grave to make a way to save us from our sin. Jesus is coming back. The one who came the first time to die for our sin and offer to forgive our sin is coming back to be the just and final judge of all sin. It doesn't matter if you are living or dead when he returns, everyone will ultimately stand before Jesus and be perfectly judged by Jesus.

The Bible's promise of final judgement is intended as a warning.

The Bible's promise of perfectly fair and just judgement in front of Jesus is intended to produce fear. This is a good thing. Fear motives a response. Fearing

COVID motivated a response. People wore masks and stayed home. Fearing MS-13 gang members coming across our southern border motivates us to have great concern about an open border. While COVID fear and southern border fears are legitimate concerns, the truth is our fear of those things may never impact us. We may never contract COVID. People coming across the southern border may never impact us in Iowa.

There is something that will impact all of us, and it will impact each of us in a much greater way. All of us will stand before Jesus and be judged by Jesus. The terrifying day of final judgement should motivate us to repent of our sin. It should motivate us to ask Jesus to forgive our sin. Unless Jesus is our savior now, he will ultimately be our judge later. This day of just and final judgement, where there is no secrets, should motivate us to repent and be saved!

The Bible promises we will be resurrected for the final judgment.

...and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment. John 5:29 (ESV)

Sometimes I hear people say, "How can you be so closed-minded and say Jesus is the only way to heaven? What about all the other good religious people in the world? Are you telling me they won't be in heaven? What about good Buddhist people and good Muslim people? They are religious. Won't they be in heaven?"

The Bible is abundantly clear that the great and final judgement will be run by Jesus. Everyone will stand before Jesus and give an answer to Jesus. Buddha will be there, but he will be giving an answer for his life to Jesus. Mohammed will be there, but he will be giving an answer for his life to Jesus.

Both Buddha and Mohammed will stand judged by Jesus and will be sent to the lake of fire by Jesus.

You ask me how I know this beyond a shadow of doubt? Buddha and Mohammed lived and died. There was nothing special about them. Jesus lived, but when he lived, he did things only God can do. He healed the sick and raised the dead with just a touch or a word. Then, after death, he did something that only God can do. He created life out of death. He rose from the dead. He didn't just create life that was before, but he created a type of life that never before existed, resurrection life. Jesus' resurrection body was filled with strength, not weakness. It was incorruptible. It never got sick. It will never weaken. It is a body designed to live forever. Mohammed and Buddha never did that. They died and stayed dead. This is why I know both of them will be judged at the final judgement while Jesus is in charge of final judgement. All religions are not the same. There is only one way to be made right with God, and that is through Jesus. Anyone who tells you differently is simply uninformed about the facts.

Speaking of Jesus' resurrection to new life, we must remember that everyone in all of history will be raised from the dead and be given resurrection bodies just like Jesus. There they will stand, in front of Jesus for final judgement. Our bodies will be like Jesus' own resurrection body on that day. They will be indestructible. That is a good thing if someone is facing a resurrection of life where we will end up in the new creation living and serving Jesus forever. Indestructible bodies is a bad thing if one's eternal destiny ends up being the lake

of fire. There their resurrection bodies will be burned but never destroyed because it is an indestructible body.

Does everyone experience hell the same way?

The answer is, “No.” Remember the only way for anyone to be in heaven is by repenting of our sin and placing our faith and trust in Jesus to forgive us of our sin. Yet, for all people, our works will be judged by Jesus. A Christian’s works are judged to determine the degree of their reward in heaven. Their sins are not judged because they are forgiven by Jesus and paid for in full by Jesus’ death on the cross.

Non-Christians will also be judged by Jesus based on what they have done in this life but that is to determine their degree of suffering in lake of fire so hell is a just response to their sin. Hell is not one-size-fits-all. For all people who die apart from Jesus, the greater the degree of sin in their lives on earth, the greater the degree of their eternal suffering in the lake of fire. Remember that Jesus is the perfectly just judge who give out the perfectly just eternal judgement in the lake of fire. The greater one sins in this life, the greater the degree of eternal suffering in the lake of fire in the next life.

Jesus told us of a particular sin that is extremely abhorrent to Jesus. It is a particular sin that merits extremely severe eternal suffering from Jesus, that is the sin of apostasy, the sin of knowing the truth of who Jesus is and what Jesus has done, but then turning your back on it and walking away. Let me show you.

Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I tell you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. Matthew 11:21–22 (ESV)

Chorazan and Bethsaida were some of the nice Jewish towns around Capernaum where Jesus lived. They were places that prided themselves on being religious and living lives better than other people. There were cities where Jesus did many of his miracles. In these cities, people watched Jesus instantly heal the sick and raise the dead. There was not a question about Jesus' identity in those cities. They watched Jesus' miracles with their own eyes.

Tyre and Sidon were Phoenician cities, not Jewish cities. They had no love for the true God of the universe. They were pagan to the core. They were like Las Vegas. They were the Sin Cities of their day. Jesus said that on the day of final judgement, it will be far worse for the two Jewish towns that looked so religious and proper on that day than for the hard-core pagan cities of Tyre and Sidon on that day. Why? The people of Chorazin and Bethsaida saw many of Jesus' miracles with their own eyes, but they rejected Jesus. They knew the truth of Jesus but walked away from the truth of Jesus. The cities of Tyre and Sidon never saw the miracles of Jesus. Jesus said the more people know the truth about him but then reject and walk away from that truth, the greater judgement they will experience on that great and final day.

It is better to be a serial killer on the day of judgement when you stand in front of Jesus than to have known the truth about Jesus but then walked away from Jesus and encouraged others to do the same. This is extremely scary for apostates. This is terrifying for those who are in the church but pull people away from Jesus in the church.

But I tell you that it will be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom than for you. Matthew 11:24 (ESV)

Remember Sodom? We looked at it a few weeks ago when we studied homosexuality and hell. They were given to extreme sexual immorality and homosexuality. All the men of the city, both young and old, participated in gang homosexual rape. That is bad! Jesus said it will be better for them on that great final day of judgement than for Chorazin and Bethsaida that were good, moral, and upstanding Jewish cities who knew the truth about Jesus but rejected it.

And that servant who knew his master's will but did not get ready or act according to his will, will receive a severe beating. But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more. Luke 12:47–48 (ESV)

Jesus said the more people know the truth about God, about Jesus, about the Bible, and the gospel, but they reject it, the more guilty they become and the more severely they will be punished on the day of final judgement. The less people know about the truth, the less severely they will be punished on the day of final judgement. This clearly teaches us there are different degrees of suffering in final hell, just as there are different degrees of reward in heaven. The degree of suffering someone experiences in hell is based upon two things. First, it is based upon what they have done. The greater the sin, the greater the suffering. Second, it is based upon what they knew. Those who know more about God and the gospel but reject it will be punished more severely than those who do not know the truth about God and the gospel.

What about people who never hear the gospel? Will they be in hell?

While we are on this topic, we need to answer this question. In short, “Yes.” Everyone who has not trusted in Jesus to forgive their sin will ultimately be

judged by Jesus and sent to a just punishment for eternity in the lake of fire by Jesus. But for those who have never heard the gospel, their experience of suffering in hell will be less than those who have known the truth of the gospel but rejected it.

Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? Hebrews 10:28–29 (ESV)

The writer of Hebrews talks about the severity of punishment that was prescribed in the Old Testament for those who knew God's Old Testament laws but intentionally rejected those laws. Punishment was the death penalty. Then the writer of Hebrews says, "You think that was bad?" It is far worse for anyone who knows the truth of Jesus, then turns his or her back on Jesus and walks away from him. That is an extreme insult to God. That outrages the Holy Spirit.

This brings us to the point where I want to begin bridging back to this morning's text. Follow the logic. If you know nothing about God's law, each of us still has our own conscience as a guide for right and wrong. When someone dies, with only having one's conscience as a guide, that person is judged by Jesus and sent to the lake of fire by Jesus for his or her sin, but his or her suffering is less, because he or she only knew some truth. If someone doesn't just have a conscience as a guide but also has God's laws in the Old Testament to teach about right and wrong, when he or she dies, that person will also stand before Jesus and be judged by Jesus. He or she will be judged more severely by Jesus because he or she had much more information about God's truth than others. Take this a step further. When someone dies and had a conscience as a guide,

God's laws from the Old Testament as a further guide into truth, plus knew the truth about what God had done through Jesus but rejected it, he or she will be judged by Jesus even more severely and experience an even hotter hell for what he or she has done.

Take this one step further. When someone dies having a conscience as a guide, God's Old Testament laws as a guide, knowing the truth of the gospel but rejecting it and also stays in the church to try to pull other people away from Jesus and try to deceive people away from the truth about Jesus, how do you think Jesus will judge him or her?

In short, the hottest most hideous places in the lake of fire for all eternity is reserved for these people --- apostates, spiritual terrorists who know the truth, who reject the truth, and try to deceive other people to pull them away from the truth.

I told you the eternal resting place of these false teachers is not good. It is terrifying. This is what awaits theological liberals and spiritual con men. This is what awaits the televangelists who have led so many people astray. They should be terrified.

With this as our backdrop, we can now understand the seriousness of what Jude was saying in these verses.

What does Jude teach us about God's judgement?

The final day of judgement will come.

It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his holy ones..." Jude 14 (ESV)

In this verse, Jude quoted Enoch. If you look around your Bible, you will find a guy named Enoch, but we have no record of him saying these words. Who was Enoch? In the book of Genesis, as Jude wrote, we see Enoch was the seventh generation from Adam. He was a godly guy that lived in a very ungodly time. Genesis tells us he didn't die. It simply says Enoch walked with God and he was no more. God took him directly home to heaven. That made him famous.

In Jude's day there were two popular Jewish books called 1 and 2 Enoch. These were supposedly the writings of Enoch. The Jews and the Christians never considered 1 and 2 Enoch to be inspired Scripture. They were simply books, not books written by God. Enoch lived before the flood. If these books were truly the teachings of Enoch, that means what he wrote was on the ark with Noah to make it through the flood.

It is unlikely these books were on the ark with Noah. It seems these books contained some truth, but they are also filled with fiction.

Earlier Jude quoted another Jewish book of his day called the Assumption of Moses. That book talks about the angel Michael and Satan battling for the body of Moses. Here Jude quoted from 1 Enoch, which supposedly contained prophecy written by Enoch. Both the Assumption of Moses and 1 and 2 Enoch were never considered inspired Scripture by the Jews or Christians. My guess is the false teachers in the church, who were trying to lead people astray, were using some of these non-biblical books, like the Assumption of Moses and 1 Enoch, as justification for their false teaching. Jude quoted from these books to

show that even the non-biblical books these false teachers were using to support their own teaching claim what they were doing was wrong.

While we know 1 Enoch was not inspired by God, under inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Jude told us this one line from the book of 1 Enoch was true.

This quote tells us that the Lord will return. Jesus is coming back! He is coming back at the end of history to judge all of the ungodliness of ungodly people through all of history. God has been talking about coming back to judge sin once and for all for a long time. Enoch, the seventh from Adam, started talking about this a long time ago.

Thinking that life will go on forever, that Jesus will never return, is easy to do. Just because he have never seen Jesus doesn't mean he won't return. Peter talked about this in 2 Peter.

...knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation." For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. 2 Peter 3:3–7 (ESV)

Peter reminded us the world will not always continue. If you doubt that, think about creation. Everything started from nothing. The universe has not always existed. In Genesis, the Bible tells us God created everything in six days, not billions of evolutionary years. Creation in six days is an example of God stopping the natural order of things to intervene in human history.

Peter also reminded us of the flood. Things didn't continue forever. There was a flood when God intervened in human history to flood the earth. God destroyed everything on the earth that wasn't in the ark.

Peter said that in the same way, there is coming a day when God will intervene in human history again. This planet and the universe will be destroyed by fire at the day of Jesus' final judgement. Peter said this great and final day of judgement for the ungodly is coming. Jude quoted 1 Enoch to say the same thing. The great and final day of God's judgement of the ungodly is coming.

Jesus will not be alone on the day of judgement.

...“Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his holy ones...” Jude 14 (ESV)

When Jesus comes on the day of judgement, he will not be alone. He will come with ten thousand of his holy ones. This is referring to angels. The Bible tells us Jesus will return with his angels on that day of final judgement.

Paul talked about this.

...and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 2 Thessalonians 1:7–8 (ESV)

Paul was clear. Jesus will return with his mighty angels.

Jesus will execute judgement on the ungodly.

“...to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him.” Jude 15 (ESV)

As we saw, there is coming a day when everyone will stand before Jesus to be judged. The reason for Jesus' return is to bring final judgement and justice on sin and sinners. As Revelation 20 tells us, the books will be opened and

people will be judged based upon what they have done as recorded in the books. The only way to escape this judgement is for one's name to be in the book of life, to have repented of sin and trusted in Jesus to forgive our sin.

Enoch's prophecy reminds us that the reason for final judgement is to deal with sin. Can you get the word "ungodly" in here any more times than Enoch did? Enoch said Jesus is coming to deal with all the ungodly people with their ungodly ways, their ungodly deeds and all the ungodly words they have spoken. The reason for final judgement in front of Jesus is because Jesus is going to bring an end to all sin and sinners. This is why Jesus at the final judgement will throw the devil and his fallen angels into the lake of fire forever. Jesus will justly judge all sinners. They will be imprisoned in their resurrection bodies in the lake of fire forever. Sin is always the problem. Jesus is always the answer. Jesus will bring an end to all the fallen angelic beings and all the sinful human beings who have not repented. The Bible even says the earth will be burned up and remade so that it is like today but free from sin.

At that time, the false teachers who have stayed in the church --- who have distorted the only saving truth in the world, who have pulled people away from Jesus, the only one who can save them --- will find themselves for all eternity in the hottest, most hideous place in the lake of fire. All who have trusted in Jesus to be saved will not just have resurrection bodies that are free of sin but will also have an entirely new earth that has been remade to be free from sin. We will have a government that will actually work because Jesus will be on the throne, large and in charge of everything.

Jude closes by reminding us how false teachers are the ungodly people, the kind of people Jesus is coming back to judge!

These are grumblers, malcontents, following their own sinful desires; they are loud-mouthed boasters, showing favoritism to gain advantage. Jude 16 (ESV)

They are grumblers. That word was used to describe the Israelites. It means to be a complainer and whiner. They always have a problem with people.

Malcontent means excessive complaining, crying, and whining. There is nothing you can do to make them happy. These are people always complaining about something or someone.

Following their own sinful desires means being driven by lusts. They live to satisfy the fleshly desires they experience at the moment. They think, "If it feels good, do it."

They are loud-mouth boasters. That means these people love to exaggerate and speak about their self-importance. They think they are smarter and better than others. There is no sense of humility. They are full of themselves.

They show favoritism to gain advantage. This means they play politics all the time in the church. They manipulate people to put themselves in positions of power and influence.

Jude told us the result of these false teachers' earthly lives is not good. They are waterless clouds. They are trees without fruit. They are foaming waves whose lives churn up garbage. At the end of time, they will face Jesus and be judged by Jesus. At that time, they will be consigned to the hottest, most hideous places in hell for their rejection of Jesus and for trying to take other people away from Jesus too.

The entire lives of these people is a dead end road.

Conclusion

This morning, if we are like an average church, there are some of us riding the fence of our faith. There are some here who at one time placed their faith in Jesus, but with the busyness of life, have drifted away from Jesus. You are considering drifting away from Jesus and the church entirely. If that is you, I beg you to not walk away from Jesus. Do not walk away from Jesus, like the false teachers in the church were encouraging people to do in Jude's day. In the frustrations of life, do not run from Jesus, run to Jesus.

There are also others here this morning who are not Christians. You are just here checking out Jesus and the church. If that is you, know for sure the Bible reminds us that after death, every one of us will stand before Jesus. That is the most important event in our lives to be ready to face. We either decide now if Jesus will be our savior, and that day is a day of being judged by Jesus for rewards, or we reject Jesus now and he will be the judge who sends us to an eternal but just punishment in the lake of fire later.

Each one of us must decide. Is Jesus our savior now or will he be our just judge later? If you do not know Jesus, I beg you to trust him as your savior today and be born again.



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