

Unbelief in the Wilderness

Jude 5; Numbers 14

Jude

a study of the epistle



3 Warnings from the OT

1. v. 5: Israel in the Wilderness

2. v. 6: Rebellious Angels

3. v. 7: Sodom & Gomorrah

Jude 5

5 Now I desire to remind you, though you know all things once for all, that the Lord, after saving a people out of the land of Egypt, subsequently destroyed those who did not believe.

**“Now I desire to remind you
though you know all things once
for all”**

Jude is making a connection between
his readers knowing “all things once
for all” and “the faith which was
once for all handed down to the
saints” in v. 3.

From William Barclay:

“preaching within the
Christian Church is not so
much bringing new truth as
confronting people with truth
they already know but have
forgotten or are disregarding.”

Sometimes...

Reminders are necessary.

Jude knows that his readers know the gospel, especially in contrast with their false teaching counterparts.

But sometimes even believers need to be reminded of the power of the gospel.

We need to hear the
Gospel every day, because
we forget it every day.

Martin Luther

Understand:

The evil people who were corrupting the Church did not regard themselves as enemies of the Church and of Christianity; they regarded themselves as the advanced thinkers, a cut above the ordinary Christian, the spiritual elite.

Can You Think Of

Parallels Today?

FYI: Textual Variant in v. 5

“Lord”

or

“Jesus”

“Lord” – NASB, KJV, NET, NIV

“Jesus” – ESV, CSB

Scholars Argue

- For “Lord” –
 - It was God that led Israel out of Egypt.
- For “Jesus” –
 - In 1 Cor. 10:4, Paul saw Christ as present with Israel in the wilderness.
 - 1 Enoch 69:26-29 describes the Son of Man as sitting in judgment over the bound angels.

And For Anyone Still With Me...

- Some suggest that Jude understood Jesus to be the Angel of the Lord in the OT.
- John said that Isaiah saw the glory Jesus Christ (John 12:41), referring to the throne room vision of Isaiah 6.
- Isaiah said every knee will bow to Yahweh and confess allegiance to Him (Isaiah 45:23), and Paul related this to Jesus in Philippians 2:10-11.

All That To Say This:

- “Jesus” is an appropriate attribution in these three examples.
- And most importantly:

Jesus IS Lord!

Israel was saved out of Egypt
but the Lord “subsequently
destroyed those who did not
believe.”

Turn to Numbers 13



Genesis 15:18-21

18 On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I have given this land, From the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates: **19** the Kenite and the Kenizzite and the Kadmonite **20** and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Rephaim **21** and the Amorite and the Canaanite and the Girgashite and the Jebusite.”

Numbers 14:11-12

11 The Lord said to Moses, “How long will this people spurn Me? And how long will they *not believe* in Me, despite all the signs which I have performed in their midst? **12** I will *smite* them with pestilence and dispossess them, and I will make you into a nation greater and mightier than they.”

The Judgment

Look at

Numbers 14:26-35

Jude's Point

No one in the believing community
can presume on God's grace,
thinking that an initial decision to
follow Christ or even an act such as
baptism ensures their future
salvation regardless of how they
respond to assaults on the faith.



Deuteronomy 1:32-33

32 But for all this, you did not trust the Lord your God, **33** who goes before you on your way, to seek out a place for you to encamp, in fire by night and cloud by day, to show you the way in which you should go.

Israel's Apostasy



WARNING!

Let Us Beware

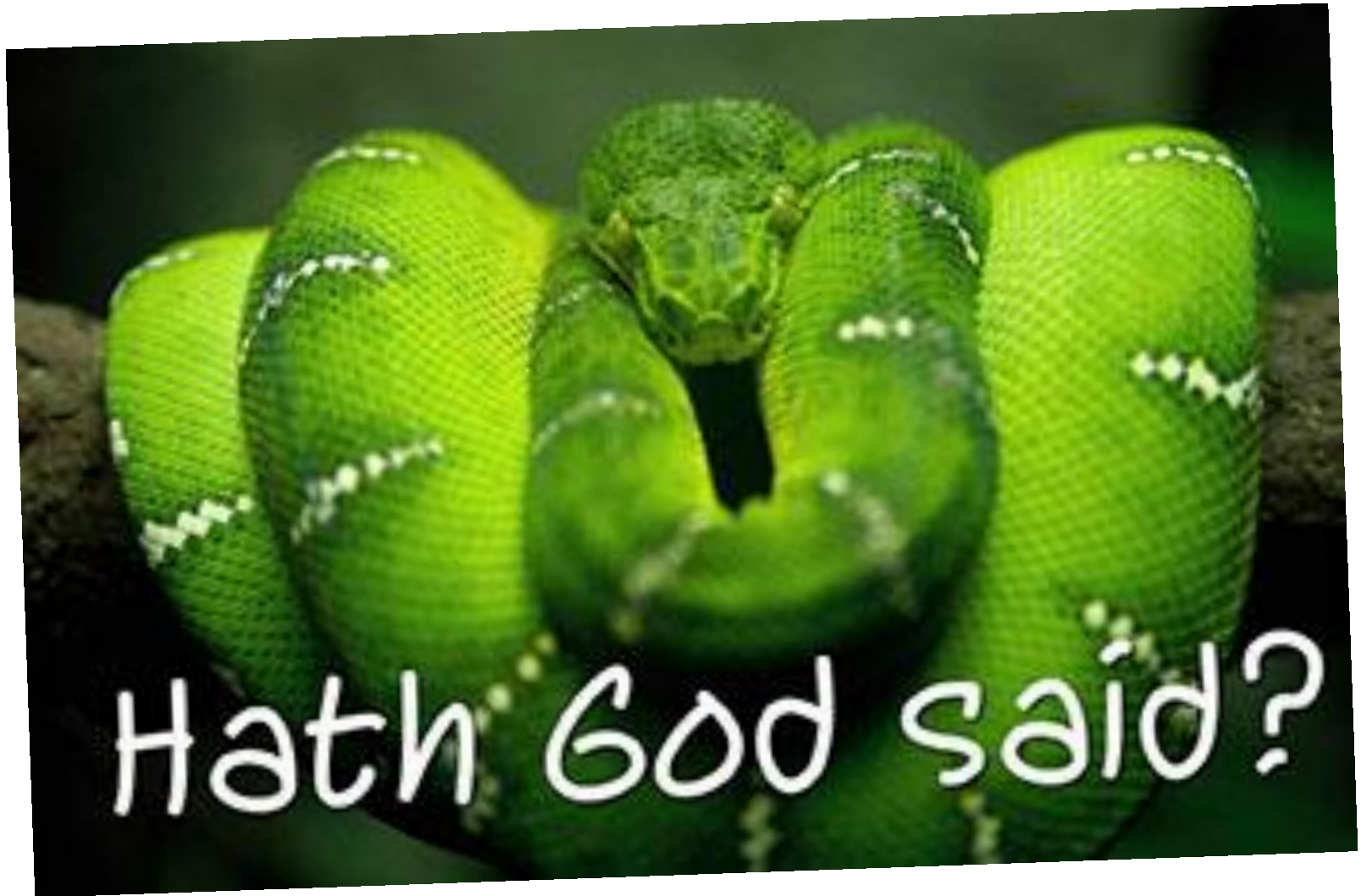
Even those who have the greatest privilege can meet with disaster before the end; even if people have received the greatest privileges, they may still fall away into disaster; even those who have received the greatest privileges from God cannot consider themselves safe but must be on constant watch against mistaken beliefs and error.

Persevering in the Faith

- The Glasgow minister George Johnstone Jeffrey tells of a great man who absolutely refused to have his biography written before his death. “I have seen,” he said, “too many men fall out on the last lap.”
- The Methodist John Wesley warned: “Let, therefore, none presume on past mercies, as if they were out of danger.”
- In his dream, John Bunyan saw that even from the gates of heaven there was a way to hell.

Christians Must NEVER

Get beyond the need to believe and trust, and all apostasy stems from a failure to trust in God's saving promises in Christ, just as the wilderness generation disbelieved that God would truly bring them into the Promised Land.



Hath God said?

Another Theological Question

The text says that God destroyed those whom He saved out of Egypt.

Does this indicate that some of those who are genuinely saved may actually commit apostasy and forsake their salvation?

Look at
Hebrews 3:7-4:13

Does Israel = The Church?

- Deuteronomy 10:16; 30:6 –
“So circumcise your heart, and stiffen your neck no longer...Moreover the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, so that you may live.”

Did all the Israelites “saved” out of Egypt meet this requirement?

Romans 9:6-8

6 But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel; **7** nor are they all children because they are Abraham's descendants, but: "through Isaac your descendants will be named." **8** That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, but the children of the promise are regarded as descendants.

The Unbelieving Israelites

Sinned in the wilderness and demonstrated that they did not truly belong to the people of God; they did not have circumcised hearts.

And So, This Is Jude's Warning

- Those who heed the warning and cling to the truth of the gospel belong to God.
- Those who apostasize (despite clear warnings) reveal their true selves and seal their own end.

1 John 2:19-20

19 They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us. **20** But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know.

John 18:37

37 Therefore Pilate said to Him, “So You are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”

John 10:25-30

25 Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father’s name, these testify of Me. **26** But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep. **27** My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; **28** and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. **29** My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. **30** I and the Father are one.”

The Fact Is:

If you belong to Him, you will
experience eternal salvation.

And at the same time...

We are to hold on to our
salvation with all of our heart,
mind, soul, and strength.

An angel with large, feathered wings and a woman in long, flowing robes stand in a barren, cracked landscape under a dramatic, cloudy sky. The angel is looking down at the woman, who is looking up at him. The scene is rendered in a sepia or brownish tone.

*Can Angels
Procreate?*

NEXT WEEK!

