



# CLOUDS WITHOUT WATER

THE EPISTLE OF JUDE

# Jude, A Bond-Servant

"Its style is broken and rugged, bold and picturesque, energetic, vehement, glowing with the fires of passion. In the build of its sentences it is more Aramaic than Greek, but it has at the same time a considerable command of strong, varied, and expressive terms" (Pulpit Commentary, Vol. XXII).

Origen once said, "Jude wrote an Epistle consisting of few lines, indeed, but filled with the vigorous words of heavenly grace."



# VERSES 1-2

"Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to those who are the called, beloved in God the Father, and kept for Jesus Christ: May mercy and peace and love be multiplied to you."

- Various questions about the author are immaterial to the powerful message.
- The recipients of this letter could have been just about any Christians from Egypt to Asia, but all are called, beloved, and kept.

# VERSE 3

"Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints."

- Writing about salvation will be a waste of time if the faith is left unattended.
- "Contending earnestly" means being unpopular (Matt. 10:22) and saying what our enemies least want to hear.
- Closed canon (1 Tim. 4:16, 2 Pet. 1:3, 2 Thess. 3:6). Faith delivered, as promised (John 16:13).



# VERSE 4

"For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ."

- Love does not mean we should be gullible. This is connected to Paul's warning in Acts 20:28ff.
- "Marked" does not mean predestined.
- Is grace a free pass for sin? Certainly not, and Romans 6 supports Jude's point.

# VERSE 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."

- "Reminders" (2 Peter 1:12-14).
- Jude proceeds to list several of God's more exceptional judgments, all of which exemplify the unnaturalness of rebellion to God.
- It was unnatural for the Israelites to reject the very God who rescued them (Psalm 78). Also, no special privileges for them – sin is sin!



# VERSE 6

"And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day."

- Other scriptures give us similar clues about the treatment of rebellious angels (2 Peter 2:4, Matthew 25:41).
- It is unnatural for anybody, including powerful spiritual beings, to elevate themselves above God. We are all subject to Him (Heb. 1:4-5, 2:5, 1 Corinthians 11:2ff).

# VERSE 7

"Just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example, in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire."

- Their sins are explained in simple terms. There was an abhorrent unnaturalness there, especially considering their blessings (Gen. 13:10).
- All three "examples" explode popular beliefs (special privilege based on legacy, exemption from judgment, sexual indulgence), and reiterate the ultimate end for those who are unfaithful (2 Thess. 1:9-10).



# VERSE 8

"Yet in the same manner these men, also by dreaming, defile the flesh, and reject authority, and revile angelic majesties."

- "Dreaming" a reference to speaking in the place of God (Jer. 23:16,32). But it is a dream to think we can override God's authority!
- "Reject authority" – dangerous ground when we fail to respect true authority. Beware of those who are anti-authority in even small areas of life (Rom. 13, Heb. 13:17, Eph. 6:1-2, 5:22ff, etc.).