16 - THE ISSUE OF APOSTASY – PART 1 (JUDE 1-11)

I. The Greeting (Jude 1-2)

A. The Author (Jude 1a)

- Jude identifies himself as a slave to Jesus Christ and brother of James.

> **Biblical Note:** Jude
> Jude is the writer of the New Testament epistle named Jude. He refers to himself as a slave or servant of Jesus Christ and the brother of James. He was the half brother to Jesus Christ. Apart from the epistle of Jude, we know very little about him. We know that he and his brothers did not believe in Jesus Christ during his earthly ministry (John 7:5). He became a follower of Jesus Christ after the resurrection.

B. The Recipients (Jude 1b)

- The letter is addressed to those who have experienced salvation through Jesus Christ.

C. The Greeting (Jude 2)

- He bestows a blessing of mercy, love and peace on his readers.

II. The Warnings Concerning Apostasy (Jude 3-11)

A. The Purpose in Writing (Jude 3)

- He would like to write them as an encouragement concerning their salvation.

- He must write to encourage them to contend for the faith.

B. The Presence of Apostates (Jude 4)

- False teachers have slipped into the churches, who deny the truth of Jesus Christ.

C. The Examples from the Past (Jude 5-7)

1. The Children of Israel (Jude 5)

- God punished those who murmured against him in the wilderness.

2. Fallen Angels (Jude 6)

- God punished angels who rebelled against God.

> **Biblical Note:** Angels who did not keep their proper domain
> Jude refers to fallen angels who rebelled against God. There are two views concerning the

nature of their rebellion against God. (1) Some scholars feel that Jude is referring to the angels that rebelled with Satan (Ezekiel 28:15). (2) Some scholars believe that these angels committed the sin of the "Sons of God" in Genesis 6:1-4 by having sexual relationships with women.
See: 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 9

Biblical Note: The Bottomless Pit (The Abyss) (Chains under Darkness)
The bottomless pit or the Abyss refers to the prison of disobedient or fallen angels. It is full of smoke and fire. The demons have a great dread of being sent to the Abyss.
See: Luke 8:31; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6; Revelation 9:11; 11:7; 17:8; 20:1-3.

3. Sodom & Gomorrah (Jude 7)

   - God punished Sodom and Gomorrah for their sexual sin.

Biblical Note: Sodom & Gomorrah
The kingdoms of Sodom and Gomorrah were allied with the cities o f Admah, Zeboiim and Zoar. These five cities, also known as the "cities of the plain," were situated on the Jordan River plain in the southern region of the land of Canaan. The plain, which corresponds to the area just north of the modern-day Dead Sea was compared to the garden of Eden as being well-watered and green, suitable for grazing livestock. Divine judgment by God was passed upon Sodom and Gomorrah and two neighboring cities, which were completely consumed by fire and brimstone. Neighboring Zoar was the only city to be spared. Sodom and Gomorrah have become synonymous with unrepentant sin, and their fall with a manifestation of divine retribution.
See: Genesis 10:19; 13:10-13; 14:2,8,10-12,17, 21-22; 18:16,20,22,26; 19:1,4,24,28; Deuteronomy 29:23; 32:32; Isaiah 1:9,10; 3:9; 13:19; Jeremiah 23:14; 49:18; 50:40; Lamentations 4:6; Ezekiel 16:46,48,49,53,55,56; Amos 4:11; Zephaniah 2:9; Matthew 10:15; 11:23,24; Mark 6:11; Luke 10:12; Romans 9:29; 2 Peter 2:6; Jude 7; Revelation 11:8.

D. Their Present Actions (Jude 8-11)

1. Their Pollution (Jude 8a)

   - These apostates pollute their own bodies.

2. Their Rejection of Authority (Jude 8b)

   - They reject true authority.

3. Their Slander (Jude 8c-9)

   - They speak evil of things that they do not fully comprehend such as angels.

   - Not even Michael the archangel speaks that way to the enemy.

Biblical Note: Michael the Archangel
Michael is a heavenly being or angel. He is the only angel expressly called an archangel in the

scripture (Jude 9). Daniel refers to Michael as one of the chief princes or angels (Daniel 10:13). His chief responsibility appears to be the care of the Jewish people (Daniel 12:1). He also had a dispute with Satan himself (Jude 9).
See: Daniel 10:13,21; 12:1 ; Jude 9; Revelation 12:7.

4. The Reasoning (Jude 10)

   - They reason as animals as they corrupt themselves.

5. Their Error (Jude 11)

   a. The Way of Cain

      - They seek to worship God in their own way and hate others.

Historical Note: Cain
Cain was the first son of Adam and Eve. He was a farmer by occupation. As an offering to God, he brought some of the fruits of the ground. Angered that his offering was not received, he murdered his brother Abel. When confronted with his sin, he denied the act of murder and gave no evidence of repentance. He fled to the land of Nod and built a city there. His wife must have been one of the his own sisters, which was not forbidden in those days.
See: Genesis 4:1-17, 24,25; Hebrews 11:4; 1 John 3:12; Jude 11.

   b. The Way of Balaam

      - They are motivated by personal gain and greed.

   c. The Way of Korah

      - They rebel against God's ordained authority.

Historical Note: Korah
Korah was a descendent of Levi. He led a rebellion against the civil authority of Moses. For refusing to appear before Moses as commanded, Korah, Dathan, Abiram and their followers were swallowed up by the earth. However, Korah's children were spared. 250 rebellious Levites were consumed by fire as well. From Korah descended the Korahites, who were the doorkeepers and musicians in the Tabernacle and the Temple.
See: Numbers 16:1-9; 26:9-11; Jude 11