

Jude Verses 5-7

Divine Judgment

“In this passage Jude provided further insight into the deceivers’ condemnation (v. 4b) by citing three of God’s past judgments against other apostates—namely, apostate Israelites, apostate angels, and apostate Gentiles. This section closely parallels 2 Peter 2:3-10. There Peter wrote about God’s judgment on fallen angels, on unbelievers through the Flood, and on the grossly wicked people of Sodom and Gomorrah... Jude likewise focused on fallen angels and the people of Sodom and Gomorrah, but he referenced the unbelieving Israelites instead of the people of Noah’s time. In both Peter’s and Jude’s letters, the references are brief and general because they were already familiar to their readers.” MacArthur

2 Peter 2:3-10 *But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves. 2 Many will follow their depraved conduct and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. 3 In their greed these teachers will exploit you with fabricated stories. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping. 4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, **but sent them to hell**, putting them in chains of darkness [gloomy dungeons] to be held for judgment; 5 if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; 6 if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; 7 and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the depraved conduct of the lawless 8 (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)— 9 if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment. 10 This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the flesh and despise authority.*

ταρταρώ **tartarōō** **Tártaros** (the deepest abyss of Hades); to incarcerate in eternal torment:—cast down to hell.

Vss. 5-7 God’s judgment concerning both believers and unbelievers is something the Lord makes us aware of in His Word. It is meant to keep believers aware of their responsibility to build upon the foundation of Christ with the fruits of righteousness and for the unbeliever their need for repentance and salvation from eternal condemnation through Christ. Fortunately for believers we will never have to experience God’s wrath against sin.

1 Thess. 5:9 *For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Romans 14:10-12 *Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the **judgment seat** of God; 11 for it is written, “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.” So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.*

βῆμα bēma a platform, tribune of the official seat of a judge of the judgment seat of Christ.

Revelation 20:11-12,15 *Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.*

- The question we must ask ourselves is, am I being influence by the world in any way? (2 Cor. 6:14-15,17)
- Jude cites three Old Testament examples of sin and judgment. He passed judgment on sin in the past and he will do so in the future.

Vs. 5 The first example involves the Israelites deliverance from slavery to freedom in the Promised Land of Israel in fulfillment of the covenant promise He made to Abraham in Gen. 12:2-3. It gives us a picture of grace, its rejection, and God’s judgment against it.

- God’s severe judgment against the Israelites who rejected His covenant of grace was total destruction.

ἀπόλλυμι apóllymi, to destroy, to put out of the way entirely, abolish, put an end to ruin render useless, to kill, to declare that one must be put to death. metaph. to devote or give over to eternal misery in hell, to perish, to be lost, ruined, destroyed.

“The continuous blessing of God depends on continuous reliance on God, the fate of those disbelieving Israelites haunted the minds of the NT writers (1 Cor. 10:5-11; Heb. 3:1-4:2).”
Hillyer

1 Cor. 10:5-11 *Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: “The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.” We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. We should not test Christ, as some of them did—and were killed by snakes. And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel. These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come.*

Ps. 95:10-11 *For forty years I was angry with that generation; I said, ‘They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they have not known my ways.’ So I declared on oath in my anger, ‘They shall never enter my rest.’”*

“Jude’s first example is the desert generation of Israel. Jude reminds his readers that ‘the Lord delivered his people out of Egypt.’ We encounter in this statement an interesting textual variant. As noted in the footnote to this verse in the NIV, a number of Greek manuscripts, in place of the word translated ‘Lord,’ have the Greek word for ‘Jesus.’ Some commentators think that this reading is original and that Jude here thinks of the preexistent Jesus as the one who delivered the people out of Egypt.” Douglas Moo

1 Cor. 4b *for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ.*

- The Israelites who died in the wilderness made a choice. Instead of choosing to follow and rely on God, they chose to set their hearts on evil things. Any church or so called believer who chooses to set their heart on evil things calls into question their salvation.

Col. 3:1-3 *Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.*

Vs. 6 *The second example concerns the sin and fate of fallen angels. They especially should have known better than to rebel against God. Pride was their downfall. They didn’t keep their position of authority, and they abandoned their heavenly home.*

Isa. 14:12 *How you have fallen from heaven morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!*

Luke 10:18 *He replied, I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.*

Ezek. 28:17 *Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings.*

Rev. 12:3-4 *3 Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on its heads. 4 Its tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that it might devour her child the moment he was born.*

If the “stars” of Revelation 12:4 are indeed a symbolic reference to Satan’s “angels” in verse 9, then what we have is a reference to the fall of a portion of the angels (the heavenly hosts) who followed Satan in his rebellion. Two thirds of the angels remained loyal to God and are called the “holy angels” in Scripture (e.g., Mark 8:38); one third of the original angels joined Satan and are called “unclean spirits” or “demons” today (e.g., Mark 9:25). gotquestions.org

If angels cannot break the chains sin brought upon them, we are foolish to think that humans can break them. We can't set ourselves free from these chains, but we can only be set free by Jesus. Guzik

- Demons are real and roam about the world it seems with free reign. These are the fallen angels who are not bound by chains. It is believed that the ones who are bound are the ones referred to in Genesis 6:4. Their sin was so egregious that God permanently prevented them from mating with women again. One of the reasons for the flood in Genesis 6 was to eradicate the world from their offspring.

Gen. 6:4 *The Nephilim were on the earth in those days—and also afterward—when the sons of God went to the daughters of humans and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown.*

2 Peter 2:4 *For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them in chains of darkness to be held for judgment;*

- Some believe (e.g., Michael Heiser, L. A. Marzulli) that demons are not fallen angels but the dead offspring of the Nephilim. They believe that in the demonic realm they are of lower rank than the fallen angels with Satan being the supreme leader (Eph. 6:10-12).

Vs. 7 The third example centers on sexual immorality and perversion. The perversion of Sodom and Gomorrah was so great that God had to literally annihilate them from the earth.

“gave themselves up to” literally means “going after different flesh.

“Like the apostate angels, the men of Sodom pursued creatures (angels) outside of what was proper for them. MacArthur

Lev. 18:22 *22 “Do not have sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman; that is detestable.*

Lev. 20:13 *“If a man has sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They are to be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads.*

1 Cor. 6:18-20 *Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. 19 Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; 20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.*

“Thus the severest eternal suffering will belong to those who know and reject the truth. Even more terrible will be judgment to those who, having done that, go on to teach demonic lies as if they are true.” MacArthur