

Contend Earnestly For the Faith Which Was Once For All Handed Down to the Saints

An Expositional Study of the **Epistle of Jude**

Chapter 13- The Prophecy of Enoch **Jude 14-15** 152 The Prophecy of Enoch Part 6

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Welcome again my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the **Epistle of Jude** and today I want to continue to examine what Jude taught about "The Prophecy of Enoch". So, let's open our Bibles and read **Jude 14 & 15** again together:

14 *It was also about these men that Enoch, in the seventh generation from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord came with many thousands of His holy ones,*

15 *to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."*

Now there are several aspects of Enoch's prophesy that I want to bring to your attention. First of all, I want you to note that prophecy and preaching are both ancient forms of delivering God message to God's people.

The Bible says that Noah was a "preacher of righteousness". Noah faithfully preached righteousness for 120 years. And it is interesting to note that after preaching righteousness for 120 years and after building a boat in the middle of the desert and after telling people that it was going to rain- even though it had never rained before- this man only had 8 souls in his Church.

And as I have said many times before, although Noah was in the perfect will of God- although Noah was doing everything that God told him to do- Noah would be deemed to be an abject failure by the pragmatic results oriented people who lead the modern Church

because they incorrectly reason that if something is of God- then it will grow and it will be wealthy. And that is just historically not true.

That pragmatism is an American trait, and it is wonderful when used in business. But when pragmatism is used in the House of God it is an abomination. What makes something “right” is how faithful it is to Scripture- not how popular it is. And there have been a few times when “right” and “correct” things *have* been popular with many people- but those are the rare exceptions to the rule. The overwhelming majority of the 6,000 year recorded history of Man teaches that when the masses of people are flocking to something; when everyone is doing it; when scores of people are believing and following after something- it is probably not of God at all.

The Bible says that Noah preached and yet very few heeded to what he preached. Jude says that Enoch prophesied, and we have no record that anyone at all listened to anything that Enoch said. And this is the way it has always been with Divine Truth. Most people reject God’s Truth when they hear it. They always have and they always will. Jesus said that God’s very own chosen people rejected what the prophets spoke and even killed them because God’s Word had no place in their heart. Let’s read **Luke 13:34&35:**

34 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, *the city that kills the prophets and stones those sent to her!* How often I wanted to gather your children together, just as a hen *gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not have it!*"

35 "Behold, your house is left to you *desolate*; and I say to you, you will not see Me until *the time comes when you say, 'BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!'*"

Christian brothers and sisters, we are made from the same clay as those people in Israel. And we have the same tendency to reject something that is true if it appears to be unpopular or if it goes against our normal thinking. But God’s Truth has never been popular with the majority of the population. That is why Jesus said that the very people of God- who lived in the city of God- rejected the prophets that God sent to speak to them, and not only did they reject what these prophets spoke- the people of God killed the very ones who spoke Gods’ Truth to them. They hated the Truth so much that they murdered the men that God has sent to rescue them from their own

sins.

No how could that be? Because God's Truth has *always* been offensive to the carnal mind. Many more people throughout history have been offended at God's Word than have accepted God's Word as being true. That is because God's Word never feeds the carnal lusts of man- but always speaks Divine Truth to the soul. On the other hand- false teaching always feeds the sinful nature of man- which is why it is so enormously popular.

So, we are making a huge mistake in trying to use human logic and fleshly reasoning and pragmatism in trying to serve God.

You see, dear friends, as fallen human beings- we seek after approval. We seek after greatness; we seek to be great; we seek to be prosperous; to be important; to be exalted; and to be big. We crave attention and we crave validation for who we are and what we do.

Ever since the serpent lied to Eve and deceived her- Man has sought to be gods. Humans have bought into the lie that if only we would eat something; if only we would believe something; if only we would do something; if only we would learn something- we would be gods. And that is not just a few people who believe this- that is the predominant belief system in the entire world.

Many, many people today really believe the lie that there exists within them a giant; a champion; a warrior; a conqueror that is trapped inside them and that by learning certain techniques or by psyching themselves up or by developing some part of their "self"- they can set that warrior free; they can liberate that champion and they can soar with the eagles and then they can do great and important things and that will allow them to fulfill all their dreams.

And that kind of teaching is infectious- it is intoxicating- which is why it is so popular- but that kind of teaching is not a Biblical. That kind of teaching is exactly the opposite of what the Bible teaches. That teaching is classic godless humanism. That teaching was birthed in the lie that satan told Eve in the garden and has been in competition with Divine Truth ever since.

The Bible says that inside all men is a sinful, fallen depraved nature – that is separated from God and is in hostile opposition to the ways of God. So that fallen nature certainly does not need to be set free; it doesn't need to be educated; it doesn't need to be trained or empowered or enabled- no, this sinful fallen nature of man needs to

die and to be replaced with a new divine nature and the only way that that is accomplished is through Salvation in Jesus Christ.

The scary thing about this is that although this kind of teaching about a giant that lies within us and that needs to be set free is an ancient heresy that is completely contradictory to Scripture, and which has been thoroughly examined and soundly rejected by the Church many centuries ago- it is one of the prevailing teachings in the modern Church and it is as popular today and has as many followers today than at any time in human history.

Teaching about building up and empowering the “self” of Man is enormously popular today and is almost universally accepted as being good- yet it is diametrically opposed to the Biblical teaching of sin; original sin; the Sovereignty of God; repentance; and salvation by Grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. So, when comparing Biblical Truth with heresy- it is very unwise to judge the Truth of a teaching by its popularity. We must judge whether something is true or not by it’s adherence to what Scripture says- not what appeals to the prurient interests and the base lusts of fallen man.

Who among us doesn’t want more money? Who among us doesn’t want eternal good health? Who wouldn’t like to live in wealth, and health with no trials or tests? Who wouldn’t enjoy being great and popular and important and accepted? Who among us likes to be tempted? Who among us would ever volunteer for a trial? Who among us is happy to find out that what we are doing is sinful? Who gets filled with happiness and joy to find out that the Bible condemns our actions and thoughts?

You see, beloved, we don’t need anyone to teach us to enjoy things that make us feel good. Everything that causes our flesh to thrive is enormously popular with those who follow after flesh. But we must understand that the reason we like those things is because we are fallen creatures. But those things cannot ever bring anyone to saving faith in Jesus Christ and those kinds of false teachings should never be accepted- but they should be rejected.

But while it is true that no one has to be taught to sin and serve self- we *do* have to be taught to love and serve God. In fact, in order for any of us to genuine love God takes a supernatural miracle from heaven to not just change our heart but to re-create our hearts. That is because, by nature – we are the children of wrath.

And that is why no child has to be taught to rebel. All children rebel because it is in their nature to rebel. So, if we were to take a popularity contest among children- rebellion would be at the top of the list of things that we should like.

But rebellion is not good- it is never good; it is bad; it is wrong; it is sinful; in fact, the Bible says that rebellion is the same sin as witchcraft- so even though rebellion is enormously popular- it is contrary to Scripture and thus it is wrong.

So too with all heresy. Almost all heresy gains ground because it is popular, and it is far easier to accept in many ways than Divine Truth is. But all heresy is bad. False teaching is never good. All false teaching is just that- false. All deception and misinterpretation of Scripture and mis application of Scripture is wrong; and is sin- even that heresy and false teaching that is popular and is readily accepted in the modern Church.

Human beings will believe false teaching a lot easier, and a lot sooner than we will believe the Truth because lies and falsehoods feed our flesh, while Truth runs counterintuitive to human nature.

The fact is that human beings have to be *taught* Truth. We can stumble into error all on our own- but we have to be *taught* Truth. We have to *learn* how to serve God- because it goes against the very fabric of human existence.

That is why God gave us His Word. God's Word is True because it came from the Mouth and Mind and Heart of Almighty God- not because it is easy to accept; not because it is popular; and not because it is fun or thrilling or makes you wiggle with glee. And it isn't even that we *want* God's Word all the time- but it is that we *need* God's Word all the time. God's Word will judge our actions and tell us whether our actions are acceptable in Gods;' sight. God's Word will judge our thoughts and determine whether or not our thoughts are pure. God's Word will judge our beliefs and determine whether our beliefs are accurate and consistent and true and trustworthy. God's Word has the ability to discern between the very thoughts and intents of the hearts and goes all the way down and divides between the soul and the spirit of the human being.

God's Word strips us of all our pride and all our human achievements and all our fleshly desires and all our carnal whims and leaves us naked and bear and then by God's Grace, this same Word

clothes us with God's Righteousness and Purity and Truth. So, we need the Bible, and we need to know what the Bible says and we need to know that the Bible teaches and we need to know what the Bible means and we need to know how to interpret the Bible correctly- not based upon our own opinions or the changes in society or our own limited personal experiences- but we need to learn how to interpret the Bible according to the tried and true and time tested rules of interpretation so that we do not sin and place upon Scripture any private interpretation.

Heresy, all heresy is false precisely because it perpetuates that which is already wrong with us. It feeds what is wrong with us and starves that which we need. Truth does just the opposite- it feeds that which is holy and starves that which is wrong – even if that which is wrong is far more popular.

So, it isn't just that we *want* God's Word; it isn't that God's Word is always popular or exciting or makes us happy all the time- but dear friends- we *need* God's Word because it is our only Guide that is true; it is our only measurement that will prove that what we think is right, is in fact right. It is our only hope if we are to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

Left to ourselves, in our sinful, lost state, we would *never* volunteer for anything that is holy or right and godly or pure. We would always choose "self" over God. We would always do what is good for us rather than what is right in God's Eyes. We would always do what builds up ourselves rather than that which exalts Jesus Christ. That is true because man is a fallen and depraved creature who has lost his first estate because of sin.

That is why we want to do what we want to do and then we want God to give us His approval. We want to live anyway we see fit and then we want God to bless us. Because we have this "god complex" we tend to accept any teaching which promotes Man. Anything that says that we can be great – we're all for it. Any teaching that promotes our base fallen and depraved nature of trying to be gods we will accept in a heartbeat. Success; motivation; self esteem; self actualization; self worth ; self help; self, self; self is easily accepted and readily bought into- not because it is right- but because it speaks to our fallen natures.

So, heretics learn what men want and give them that. They learn to feed the self of Man so that they become enormously popular, and this popularity makes them rich and famous. But true men of God cry out against the sins of God's; people- even when it makes the people of God hate them. Since God wants us to be saved- He will never feed or promote those things that are wrong with us- He will always starve those things and give to us the things that will break the staff of our pride so that we will repent and turn to Him. And this is why we all need to earnestly contend for the Faith that was once den for all delivered to the saints. Well, I've got to stop right here. But please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our Journey through the Epistle of **Jude**. May God help us all.

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