

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**

148 The Prophecy of Enoch Part 2

WOSM Friday 05/30/08

Welcome again my beloved in Jesus Christ. We are continuing our verse by verse study of the **Epistle of Jude** and we have now come to a very fascinating place in Jude where we will examine the prophecy of Enoch. So, let's read **Jude 14 & 15** together:

14 And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,

15 To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

Now the concept of eternal Hell is not a popular subject in our modern society. The notion of eternal retribution is not even popular in the modern Church among those who say they are saved. Because we are living in the last days and because so many in the modern Church can no longer endure Sound Doctrine, there is enormous pressure placed upon the average pastor to temper the message so that it becomes more appealing to the masses of lukewarm Church goers.

We live in the time that Peter and Paul warned us about when people desire to be entertained rather than be edified so they fill their services with shallow preaching; psychological therapy; lots of music; comedy; skits- anything but genuine Bible Teaching and Preaching.

I am told nearly every week that I am committing ministerial suicide for preaching the way that I am preaching on the radio- and they well may be correct- if my goal was to be popular or to please man. But that is not my goal. My goal is to be faithful- faithful to the

Christ Who saved me and faithful to the Scriptures- and faithful to you – who deserve a chance to hear the Gospel. And when I am faithful- I am totally successful- regardless of whether I am loved or hated.

Our post modern American Culture believes that Man is basically good, and most people believe that they are saved and going to heaven- even those who live in premeditated sin. And sadly, this pagan idea about human goodness and eternal punishment has infiltrating the Church- and it is becoming increasingly popular to say that people are saved because they periodically do good things and to say that it really doesn't matter what you believe as long as you are sincere.

Even among those who call themselves evangelicals, the idea that God is really serious about hell is increasingly becoming a topic to avoid and those people who regularly preach about hell are looked at as rude barbarians.

As a result of this glaring lack of the Gospel being proclaimed in fullness- even the hard parts about hell and judgment- the fallen culture's false view of eternity has sadly become the majority view and for anyone to preach the Gospel in the same way that it has been preached for 2,000 years is today considered to be unloving, unmerciful, and even unchristian.

But the fly in the ointment is the Word of God which boldly and clearly proclaims that society is wrong about human goodness and wrong about eternal damnation. For starters, take a peek at **Genesis 6-8; Deuteronomy 28:15-68; Isaiah 1:1; 3; 5; 13:1-23:18; Jeremiah 2:1-9:26; 46:1-51:64; Ezekiel 20:33-44; 25:1-32:32; Joel 3:12-16; Zechariah 12:2,9; 14:2; Malachi 3:2-6; Matthew 12:36; 25:31-46; Luke 12:48; Romans 14:10-12; 1 Corinthians 3:12-15; 5:5; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Galatians 6:7; Colossians 3:24-25; and The Revelation 6:1-20:15)** and ten thousand other verses and even entire chapters where the concept of God's eternal wrath against sin is vividly portrayed.

In nearly every page of the Bible, descriptions of God's temporal and eternal punishment against the unbeliever and the ungodly are impossible to miss. That God has judged, is judging, and will judge sinners, both with death and eternal punishment, is unmistakable. Yet today, in spite of a 2,000 year history of tens of thousands of men of God from every nation under heaven faithful proclaiming hell and God's eternal judgment against the wicked- the preaching of these

things is as unpopular and unwanted today than at any time in history.

Contrary to popular opinion, the New Testament's treatment of future judgment is especially clear and includes at least seven primary features:

1. The final aspect of God's Divine Wrath relates to a specific future event—that is- the second coming of Jesus Christ. You see, at the end of this age- the Lord Christ will return to this earth to execute His Own righteous Judgment against all the wicked. Our glorious God has set a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through Jesus Christ, Whom He has appointed as Heir of the whole world, having established His Divine Credibility by raising Him from the dead. No preacher; no prophet; no human knows the exact hour or day of the second coming—only the Father knows- but God has already established the precise moment when His Son will return to the earth.

2. This Judgment will be general, and it will be public. For instance, **Matthew 25:31-33** tells us about a time when Jesus Himself will publicly separate between the sheep and the goats. That time is sure to come- so the good minister will faithfully warn people to repent and serve God so that they will not fall into that judgment.

But the modern theology of tolerance and vagueness says that we should just ignore that day of judgment and hope that no one falls into it.

Beloved, in the day in which our Lord returns, no one anywhere will be able to hide from his or her sins or be able to escape responsibility for them. The Great White Throne Judgment, at the end of earth's history, will be even more extensive—as all of God's enemies from every age are brought before Him for final sentencing. (**The Revelation 20:7-15**).

3. God's judgment will be just and impartial (Romans 2:11; Galatians 2:6; cf. Genesis 18:25). The Apostle Paul declared in **Romans 2:11** and in **Galatians 2:6** that neither the openly wicked nor the self-righteous will escape the judgment of God. You see, only God (in His triune glory) is fit to judge, because only He is perfectly holy

and righteous (**Exodus 15:11; 1 Samuel 2:2; Psalms 47:8; Isaiah 6:3; 57:15; Luke 1:35; Acts 4:27; Hebrews 7:26; Revelation 3:7; 4:8**).

4. The Promise of Divine Judgment is intended as a warning.

The Lord designed the concept of eternal damnation to produce fear of His wrath in the heart of Man. (**Exodus 20:20; 2 Corinthians 7:1; Hebrews 10:27; 11:7; cf. John 19:8; Acts 24:25**). Many people don't want to hear any preaching about hell or judgment today because they say it scares them. Well, that is exactly why God said to preach it- because if the thought that God is as serious as the Bible says that He is about hell really scares us- then surely we will not engage in sin nearly as often as we do. This is what is called, the fear of God, and it is directly related to our accurate understanding of God's wrath against sin. Jesus promoted this reverential fear in **Matthew 10:28**, when He said:

And fear not them which kill the body , but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

The Book that we are studying, Jude, tells us clearly in verse 23 that the proper and correct fear of the eternal wrath of God is a tool that can be used in evangelism.

In fact, all preaching should be done with a broken heart and a contrite spirit and a clear comprehension of the reality of God's certain plans to judge the ungodly. Look at the first part of **2 Corinthians 5:11**:

Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord , we persuade men;

Genuine Gospel preaching has always been accompanied with a clear pronouncement of God's wrath against the sinner until about 100 years ago. But to listen to the spiritual liberals who have invaded the Church today- you would think that preaching about hell is some off the wall kind of strange new corruption of the Gospel that is designed to enslave people, instead off what it really is- the true love of God which is to save lost souls *from* the certainty of that holy wrath.

5. God's judgment is based on His Law Because our hearts are deceitful and desperately wicked, human beings are not only *unable* to keep God's Law; they are also willfully disobedient to it. Everyone person born of woman has violated the Law of God- you, me- we are all guilty- and consequently, everyone *deserves* God's wrath. But God extends forgiveness to those who genuinely believe in Jesus Christ. Believers will not face God's final wrath because they have been saved through Faith in the atoning work of Jesus Christ- and their names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life- Alleluia!

On the other hand, those who persist in breaking God's law, and who show no signs of true repentance, will be judged for their rebellious unbelief.

6. God's final judgment will occur in specific phases. It will begin during the seven-year tribulation period (which immediately following the Rapture of the Church.) During the tribulation, God will unleash His wrath against the ungodly, through the seal, trumpet, and bowl judgments described in **The Book of the Revelation**.

His judgment will culminate in the battle of Armageddon in which He will utterly defeat His enemies. After Armageddon, the Lord will set up His earthly kingdom, during which Satan will be bound and Christ will reign in Jerusalem for one thousand years.

Satan will then be released and lead one final rebellion, before he and his followers are cast into the lake of fire forever. That final sentencing (of all of God's enemies) is at the Great White Throne Judgment. So the first phase of God's judgment will be an earthly one during the tribulation period; the second and final phase will be a heavenly one at the foot of His throne.

7. God's retribution ultimately results in eternal damnation in hell:

Just as the ungodly tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of this age. The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

So, it is also a falsehood to believe that preaching about hell is

simply the result of angry and cruel men on earth today. During the course of His earthly ministry, Jesus Christ had much more to say about hell than He ever did about Heaven. Jesus constantly warned man of the danger of hell and spoke about the whole body entering it. This reality of human bodies in hell was clearly taught by the Lord in His Words concerning the "resurrection of judgment.

Now I could go on further with this, but suffice it to say that the reluctance on the part of many today to preach and teach or even to listen to anyone who does preach and teach about hell is not the result of being more spiritual; nor is it the result of being more loving or more compassionate or more Christian.

No, the reason that preaching and proclaiming what the Bible clearly teaches about hell is unpopular today- even among those in the Church is because we are living in the last days, and we are seeing the great falling away that the Lord said would come.

The same reason that we are seeing a general lawlessness in our culture today; the very same reason that we are seeing a complete dismantling of our civilization; the same reason that we are seeing a breakdown of law and order today; the same reason that we are seeing scores of parents who do not have the courage or the stability to discipline their children; the very same reason that we see schools lose all order and discipline is the same reason that we see a lack of preaching and teaching about hell and eternal damnation; about right and wrong and about serving God with gladness of heart and sincerity.

The flip side, of course, is that the byproduct of a healthy and Biblical understanding of the certainty of eternal judgment of the lost is that we will begin to see the magnificence of Salvation. When we see Hell accurately, we will see the glory of God's Mercy; we will see the absolute miracle of regeneration and we will comprehend the wonder of this Amazing Grace that God would love us and save us. A clear picture of hell always produces a clear appreciation of Salvation. But the absence of an understanding of eternal judgment always produces a people who abuse Grace and who do not fear God.

True love; genuine love; Biblical love; godly love will teach and preach the Truth so that all men can hear and realize where they really stand and be smitten in their hearts and repent and so that

through the shed Blood of the Lamb and the Mercy of a good God, they can escape the terror of the Lord and so they can spend eternity in indescribable joy and glory in Heaven. And this is why we all need to earnestly contend for the Faith that was once and for all delivered to the Saints. May God help us all.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.