

Jude 14-

14Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, 15to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."

This is a quote from the book of Enoch. The book of Enoch was not in the canon of scripture for good reason. But that does not mean that **some of it** had not been passed down accurately by oral tradition from Enoch to the writer of the book of Enoch. This is not the only place in scripture where an extra-biblical source is quoted. I don't really see this as a problem at all so I won't spend much time on it.

Now Enoch lived before the flood. So this is a very old prophesy.

Gen 5: 21Enoch lived sixty-five years, and begot Methuselah. 22After he begot Methuselah, Enoch walked with God three hundred years, and had sons and daughters. 23So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. 24And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.

25Methuselah lived one hundred and eighty-seven years, and begot Lamech. 26After he begot Lamech, Methuselah lived seven hundred and eighty-two years, and had sons and daughters. 27So all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred and sixty-nine years; and he died.

Methuselah is believed to have died close to the time of the flood.

And what does the prophesy promise? It promises the execution of judgment. It may be that Jude quotes a very early source to make the point that judgment for non believers is real and it has **always** been part of God's plan. Probably these false

teachers were presenting a very positive picture of God... a God who would never punish anyone for sin. If you think about it, it is very difficult to float a doctrine of self-serving sinful pleasure like these guys were teaching and living, without also teaching that there is no consequence for that sin. You cannot foster sin and keep a strong view of God's justice at the same time. Something must give. And for false teachers it is the teaching about God's justice that gives.

Do you realize that there is no place in scripture that comforts a person who is intending to commit sin? That attitude in a person is always dealt with very sharply, very harshly in scripture. **Hebrews 10: 26For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. 28Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? 30For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The Lord will judge His people." 31It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.**

Beware of the teacher who's teaching makes you comfortable sinning. They have not done their job or you have missed scripture's point. Or as Romans says, **Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? 2Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?**

Well the false teachers wanted people comfortable with sin. But Jude did not. He appeals to one of the earliest prophecies regarding the judgment of God. And he tells his readers Enoch was talking about these guys that I am talking about. He said thousands of years ago what will happen to the guys who you are talking to and eating with and allowing to impress you. Sometimes we need someone bringing the reality of spiritual

things right into the presence of the mundane daily life. Jude was doing it dramatically.

“Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints,

The wording here in the Greek isn't conclusive that those he brings with Him are human. The word hagios means holy. It is often used for saints, but it is sometimes used for angels. A better interpretation might be “Holy Ones”.

There are multiple references to Christ coming back with angels for judgment.

Matt 24:31 31And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Matt 25:31 31“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.

Mark 8:38 38For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”

II Thess 1:7 7and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels,

So the Lord will come back. The Lord will return. Enoch knew God. And He understood the justice of God. He knew that sin had to be punished. He said that the Lord was coming back for that task and he was bringing tens of thousands of angels or saints with Him to accomplish the task. Wouldn't that event put a damper on the false teacher's party.

And why is Christ returning?

15to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”

You will never find the word ungodly used more often in one sentence in scripture. Ungodly means the lack of reverence toward God.

Christ is returning to put an end to sin. He has had enough. And in the last moment when the last elect sinner responds to Christ's call, Christ will pour out the wrath he has against sin. It isn't that He has finally worked up to it. He has **always** contained his wrath due to his grace toward those He would call to Himself.

II Peter 3: 8But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

God will not put a single one of His chosen ones in jeopardy. As much as the sin of our world is calling out to God for His judgment, just as much does God's love for His saints delay that final day. God will not put his chosen ones at risk. But when that final called one repents, he will not delay to judge sin and sinners. The salvation of the saints has been his only reason for delay.

To execute judgment- means essentially to **carry out** judgment. God will do that which has been on his agenda for years. He will eradicate the cancerous presence of sin. At the same time He will reward those who are His. No one will avoid God's judgment. There will be no place to hide.

And what is waiting for the false teachers if they do not repent?

**God will convict those who are ungodly
Of all their ungodly deeds
That they committed in ungodly ways
And of all the ungodly things they spoke towards God.**

To convict is to prove to be in the wrong. This is the only place in the Bible where this exact word is used. This word has in it the

word for “convict” that is used when the Holy Spirit convicts a believer.

Generally when I hear the word conviction in a church setting I think of a positive thing. I think of the work of the Holy Spirit showing me that I have sinned against God in some area of my life. And while I don’t like being wrong, I need God to show me where I displease Him so I can judge myself and not be disciplined by Him. After all, what I say is I want is to please God. And conviction is a necessary part of that process. So that conviction is very good and very useful in the process of God sanctifying me.

But when I hear that same word in a legal setting I think of it in very negative terms. If someone is convicted of a crime we know they are going to be punished for committing that crime. Really the only thing different in how the word is perceived is in the context. In both examples conviction is the process of showing someone that they are wrong.

The way the word “convict” is used in our text is the later use. The false teachers will be convicted of their crimes and sentenced. That doesn’t mean they will be shown their error so they can change it. It is too late for that. Jude has no trouble pronouncing God’s judgment on those who are doing what these false teachers are doing.

The beauty of the Christian life is that we receive the conviction of the Holy Spirit **now** to effect the needed changes in our lives and we **avoid** the conviction on the day of judgment that sentences us for punishment. These false teachers are just the opposite. They **reject** the conviction of the Holy Spirit **now** and **receive** the conviction of their crimes **later**. How blessed we are when the Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin now. It is done for our good. Do we view it that way?

Now, what do the false teachers get convicted of? What were their crimes?

Of all their ungodly deeds

That they committed in ungodly ways

And of all the ungodly things they spoke towards God.

They are convicted of all the wrong deeds that the false teachers have done. And those deeds come from a wrong way of living. The word for ungodly ways is really an ungodly way of life. So the deeds that are being judged are deeds that are completely congruent with how the false teachers lived.

This is different than sins that believers commit. The sins a believer commits are INcongruent to their normal lifestyles. They are inconsistent with the grace that they are walking in and the gospel that they believe. But to the false teacher the evil deeds are perfectly normal, perfectly predictable.

Now keep in mind, these false teachers are still attempting to wear sheep's clothing. These people would have been saying spiritual things that have some truth in them. They would be using all the right words. In our day they might have paperbacks and radio broadcasts. They would be people like Mr. Camping who has recently been in the news for prophesying Christ's return. These teachers aren't people that would immediately strike us as being false. But Jude makes it clear that these people **can be** discerned. He calls their actions ungodly and their whole way of life ungodly. And he makes no apologies for doing so.

We need to be students of the word so we can pick people like this out and deal with them as clearly as Jude did. This responsibility starts with Brad and I as elders, but it extends to everyone here who has a Bible and the Holy Spirit.

So the false teachers will be condemned for their unholy deeds that come from their unholy lives. What else?

They will also be condemned for all the **harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Christ.**

Mike gave me a book at Christmas that I am finally reading through. I may now finally catch up on all the good reading he has given me over the years.

Anyway, the following is a quote from a false teacher that is very popular right now in Christian circles. I quote:

"Christ is not appeasing God's wrath. God is not sadistically crucifying His beloved Son. We are not talking about the

retribution or criminal proceedings. The cross is a revelation of a compassionate God. Suffering love is the way of salvation for sinners. Jesus takes the pain of divine love on himself in solidarity with all of us. This tells us that God remains faithful to His creatures, even though they have abandoned Him; He desires that they live and not die. This is how God justifies us and brings us back to life." End quote.

Now, doesn't that sound spiritual? Doesn't that sound loving and rational? But it is Harsh. It is Hard. It is un-saying what the Holy Spirit inspired the Word of God to say. Scripture tells us that those in Adam were born with a death penalty over our heads. We fully deserved the wrath of God. And that wrath of God needed appeased. God appointed Christ to accomplish that task.

But here comes the false teacher and he says, "No. God would never do such a thing. Let me tell you what God is really like." And then he goes on to practically call God a liar. God tells us what he is like and false teachers try to tell us that he is different. Their hard words, which appear to be kind loving words, create a new God in their image. And our enemy does as much damage as he is allowed to do through that influence.

It is not so frightening when those in **our world** claim there is no God, or at least not a God like is described in the Bible. But it is very frightening when those who **pass as Christians in Christian circles** can preach this kind of wickedness and be accepted as one of the fold.

Sometimes we don't want to be bothered by the hard work of Bible Study. It is sometimes complicated and requires intense concentration. But what would you do if your life depended upon it?

I guarantee you that Brad and Diane know more about brain surgery than they ever have in all their lives. They probably know terms they never knew before. They understand some complicated processes they didn't know before. And while they were gathering the facts I doubt they said, "This is complicated. I don't really care to know all this."

My point is, our lives **do** depend upon us knowing the truth to protect us against from these false teachers. And make no mistake, they are very popular in our day and their books fill the shelves at Christian bookstores. These people are saying hard things, harsh things against what God has clearly spoken. Guard yourself against them by knowing and believing the Truth.

So God is going to execute judgment on the false teachers for ungodly deeds done in the context of an ungodly lifestyle and for the harsh things they have spoken against Christ.

Lets look at one more text about that Judgment before we close.

II Thess 1:3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other,

This is the picture of a true believer. Unlike the false teachers their faith is growing, they are believing God more and more. And the result is that they are looking after one another's interests more and more. This is the polar opposite of the false teacher who hangs out at the love feast looking to feast, to gain some advantage, on the members there.

4so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure, 5which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer;

We see here that Paul uses their behavior as evidence of their status with God and can go on making his points.

6since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, 7and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels,

See the two outcomes when the Lord returns.

For the believer- rest. Scripture continually gives us reasons for faithfulness **now** and the reason is normally for reward **later**. And we are always told that the reward is worth any sacrifice.

But for those who are opposing the true believers, giving them trouble, God is going to give **them** trouble. The reason for not rebelling against God **now** is future **punishment**.

Note there is no promise here that grants a reward **now** to those who are faithful **now**. Nor does it promise that those who rebel **now** will be punished **now**. So if the wicked get away with murder now and we seem to be punished for every good work, don't let that reflect on your view of God. **God's heart will be best revealed in the view from eternity.**

8In flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, 10when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.

There are those who are trying to take out the references in the Bible to hell and replace it with darkness. They are trying to remove any idea of God's violent punishment for sin. But they are making a mistake. God is going to take vengeance. We are told that **we** are not allowed to take vengeance, but God can and God will.

And when He does, it will be fierce. And notice what the offenses are.

Those who do not know God and
those who do not obey the gospel.

Basically the judgment will fall on all those who did not respond to the Gospel's call. They may or may not have recited a sinners prayer, they may or may not know a lot of theology. But in the end

They didn't know God and

They didn't obey the gospel. They may have known it, but they didn't obey it.

And what will happen when Christ returns for those of us who are believers?

Christ will be glorified **in** us. And He will be admired **among** us. And why will all that happen? For one simple reason.

Our testimony among you was believed. We believed the gospel. We believed the good news that our sin **DID** have the death penalty and Christ **DID** die to take that penalty for us and He **DID** taste God's wrath in our place. And that He will save those who call upon him in faith. We are saved by believing all the things the false teachers deny.