

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 04 Sept	1 Peter 1:1-12	A Living Hope
2) 11 Sept	1 Peter 1:13-25	Be Holy
3) 18 Sept	1 Peter 2:1-10	Building Our Faith
4) 25 Sept	1 Peter 2:11-25	Living as Strangers
5) 02 Oct	1 Peter 3:1-12	Living in Relationship
6) 09 Oct	1 Peter 3:13-22	Always Ready
7) 16 Oct	1 Peter 4:1-11	Equipped to Live
8) 23 Oct	1 Peter 4:12-19	When Ridiculed
9) 30 Oct	1 Peter 5:1-14	Alert Living
10) 6 Nov	2 Peter 1:1-11	Being Useful
11) 13 Nov	2 Peter 1:12-21	With Trust
12) 20 Nov	2 Peter 2:1-22 / Jude 1-25	On Guard
13) 27 Nov	2 Peter 3:1-18	With Anticipation

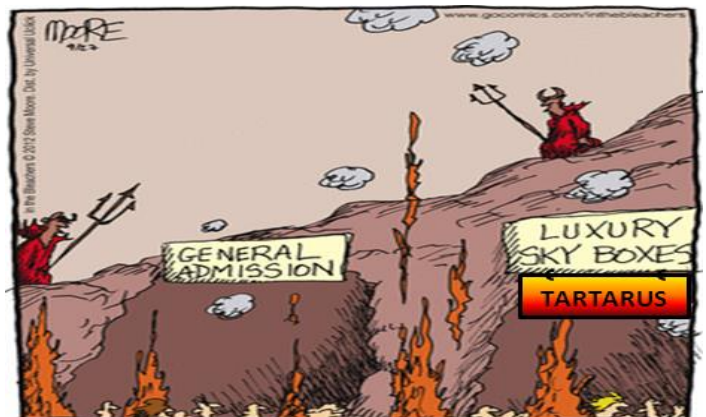
INTRODUCTION

- False prophets and false teachers tell convincing stories to misguide their listeners, yet God knows how to deliver the godly out of their snares – if we would only listen
- Church leaders must discern between immature or misguided teachers who need better training (e.g., [Apollos in Acts 18:24-26](#)), dissenters who have biblical reasons to challenge authority ([1Tim 5:19](#)), and agitators and false teachers who are bent on their own selfish agenda (“*ravenous wolves in sheep’s clothing*” – [Mat 7:15](#))
- For this lesson we combine 2Peter 2 with Jude since both address similar topics. “*Though several passages in Jude agree with those in 2 Peter 2, yet there is so much difference between them, it is plain they are not transcribed from each other*” – Pool’s commentary
- Authorship of Jude is uncertain. Strong contenders include:
 1. Apostle Judas (aka Lebbaeus / Thaddaeus), brother of James (the less / son of Alphaeus)[Mark 10:3; 15:40; Luke 6:16; Acts 1:13](#)
 2. Jude, a brother of James (the elder), who were both half-brothers of Jesus[Matthew 13:55; Gal 1:19](#)

Passage	Comments – 2 Peter 2
Angels in Tartarus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scripture is silent why some evil angels are imprisoned while others are free to serve Satan as demons • Some believe these angels had relations with women before the Great Flood, but that is pure speculation • For more info on this see Genesis 6 Comments
2:4-9 (cont)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v5. God did not spare the “ancient world” for their evil – but saved only 8 people (Noah’s family) • v6. Sodom and Gomorrah were likewise destroyed – with God saving only 4 people (Lot’s family) • vv7-9: Lot (and Noah) lived righteously within a wicked culture – and we can too, with God’s help.... 1Cor 10:13
2:10-19	<p>Indicators of Salvation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v10. Those preoccupied with satisfying the flesh and having no regard for authority and having no respect for anything revered (incl. parents) are unsaved • v12. They are “unreasoning animals.” Lam 1:9 says the wicked do not consider the consequences of their sins • v16. Like Balaam, the wicked often can only be restrained by God’s hand (Holy Spirit) 2Thes 2:7 • vv17-19. The damage they can do to others is horrific – and the church must warn and protect the sheep
2:20-22	<p>A Dog Returns to Its Own Vomit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These passages do not allude to someone losing their salvation, but to them returning to their wicked state without surrendering to Christ as Lord and Savior • The church can be a safe haven for those who temporarily leave their prior wicked life – but if they return to a life of evil after hearing the Gospel – God have mercy...2Thes 3:13; Heb 6:1-6; 10:26; 1John 5:16

Passage	Comments – 2 Peter 2
2Peter 2:1-3	<p>Are We Prepared to Handle False Teachers?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter doesn’t say “we MIGHT have false teachers” but “we WILL have false teachers” among us • The damage they can do include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introducing destructive heresies secretly with the intent to lead astray the very electMt 24:24 2. Many will follow after their promiscuous ways (the path of least resistance is so easy to take) 3. The truth will be maligned (“The church is full of hypocrites;” “One religion is as good as another”) 4. They will exploit the weak with enticing words (“Give and you shall be healthy, wealthy & wise”) • Fortunately, God has doom & gloom prepared for them, but until then, God will let them test our faith & resolve
2:4-9	<p>God Knows How to Rescue the Godly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter conveys the concept that if God punished rebellious angels, He will also punish rebellious people • The term “Tartarus” for HELL is only used here in the NT, and it seems to be a separate holding tank as compared to Hades (10x) – the temporary place for unsaved people, and Gehenna (9x) – the final place of torment designed for the Devil and his angels, but will also hold people after their final judgment (Mt 25:41) • The Abyss (9x) is where Satan is held for a 1000 years; and is probably the same as Tartarus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Recall in Luke 8:31 where demons begged Jesus not to send them to the Abyss • The Lake of Fire (4x in Revelation) is another name for Gehenna – the permanent place for the wicked

Passage	Comments - Jude
Jude 1-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doctrine of Eternal Security highlighted in “Preserved in Jesus Christ” and “called”
Jude 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have work to do so “earnestly contend for the faith” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ If we are passive, then pray for boldness ♦ Even the Apostle Paul asked for prayers that he might speak boldlyEph 6:18-20
Jude 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These false teachers were unsaved and were enticing believers to sin sexually. Recall several messianic cult leaders in recent yrs who advocated sexual promiscuity <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jim Jones of the Jonestown massacre 2. David Koresh of the Branch Davidians 3. Rev Sun Myung Moon and his “moonies” • ...and it’s too numerous to mention the spiritual leaders who have succumbed to sexual sins in recent years from Catholic priests to Protestant preachers



Passage	Comments
Jude 5-7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jude, like Peter, called his readers to REMEMBER: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> God has no problems destroying even His own people if they forsake Him and pursue the flesh Even certain angels are in "everlasting chains" for unmentionable sins (This information possibly gleaned from oral traditions found in the Jewish Mishnah; Also see Genesis 6 Comments) Sodom & Gomorrah suffered annihilation for chasing "strange flesh" – i.e., homosexuality and bestiality Therefore, let's recall God's intent for the flesh → We are in these bodies for a relatively short time period to serve God and others honorably; Sex is designed for a monogamous marriage between 1 man and 1 woman; and we are NOT to give our bodies over to adultery or sexual perversion as those in Sodom & Gomorrah
Jude 8-13	<p>Common Malpractices of Those Practicing Perversion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v8. They defile the flesh ("dirty sex" – the Message") v8. They despise being told what is right and wrong v8. They call good evil, and evil good v10. They twist the truth and act like unruly animals v11. They seek their own gain v12. They are bold in their sins v12. They provide no benefit to society – only death v13. They rant & rave to get their way – not knowing what awaits them is "blackness of darkness forever" Note 1: U.S. Military chaplains can no longer ward off same sex marriages being held in military chapels with recent repeal of "don't ask-don't tell" legislation in 2011; Chaplains are being told if they can't live with the new regulations then they need to resign their commission
Jude 9	<p>"But Michael the Archangel said..."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to several early church fathers, this verse is based on a work called "The Assumption of Moses" Other quotations or allusions to non-Biblical works in the NT include Paul's quotation of secular poets Aratus in Acts 17:28, Menander in 1Cor 15:33, & Epimenides in Titus 1:12; and Paul stated in 2Tim 3:8 that Jannes and Jambres were the unnamed culprits who withstood Moses in one OT incident – whose names were known only by tradition; the writer of Hebrews 11:35 quoted from II Maccabees (an apocryphal book); and Jude also quoted from the apocryphal Book of Enoch in v14 Such usage does not raise the extra-biblical sources to canonical status, but the Biblical authors under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, found the quotations suitable for confirming, clarifying or illustrating a point
Jude 14-16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Book of Enoch. Jude quoted from the Book of Enoch, a recognized source of information much like the Jewish Talmud (Rabbinical sayings), the Jewish Targum (translation of OT Hebrew text), and the historically reliable apocryphal books, I & II Maccabees Note: Truth is truth, even if it is contained in the Koran, the Book of Mormon, sayings of Confucius, or the Wall Street Journal Jude's intent to quote from the Book of Enoch was to convey the inevitable destruction of the wicked v16. Sometimes it is hard to distinguish between disgruntled believers who grumble and complain a lot from those who have more heinous intentions to scatter the sheep and prey on the weak

Passage	Comments
Jude 16-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jude doesn't mince words as he calls these disrupters "devoid of the Spirit" – IOW, they are unsaved You would think they would be easy to spot and avoid BUT, if a church fails to adequately disciple its members, the weak will follow after these "mockers"
Jude 20-23	<p>How to Prepare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jude provided the following advice <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Build yourself up – each believer should become a self-feeding Christian – and get off the milk Pray in the Holy Spirit – each believer should know the will of God and pray within His will Keep yourselves in the love of God – each believer should strive to be holy as God is holy, seek forgiveness of sins, and continue serving Waiting anxiously for our eternal reward – each believer is to have a heavenly focus Have mercy on doubters – each believer should help look after the welfare of others, and come alongside those who are struggling Save Others from the Fire – each believer should be willing to take bold steps to help save the lost Show Mercy with Fear – each believer must recognize their own weaknesses & propensity to fall
Jude 24-25	<p>We Owe Everything to God Our Savior</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jude wraps up by acknowledging our success in this life is totally dependent on God God deserves all glory, majesty, dominion and authority – before time began, now and forever more So remember to praise Him daily through your words, thoughts, and service

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- False prophets and teachers don't take God by surprise. He knew they would sneak into our church before we even realize it
- The question for us is – Are we prepared to spot them, to handle them, to challenge them, and to minimize their damage?

NEXT WEEK: 2 Peter 3:1-18. Peter addresses more hard-hitting truths:

- Peter reminds his readers to remember and hang on to the words spoken by Jesus and God's prophets and apostles
- Peter contended with evolutionary concepts like we do today by emphasizing the authority of God's word
- The future awaits for the destruction of the world by fire and the construction of a new heavens and a new earth
- Therefore we need to be spotless and blameless in our walk between now and then

