

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

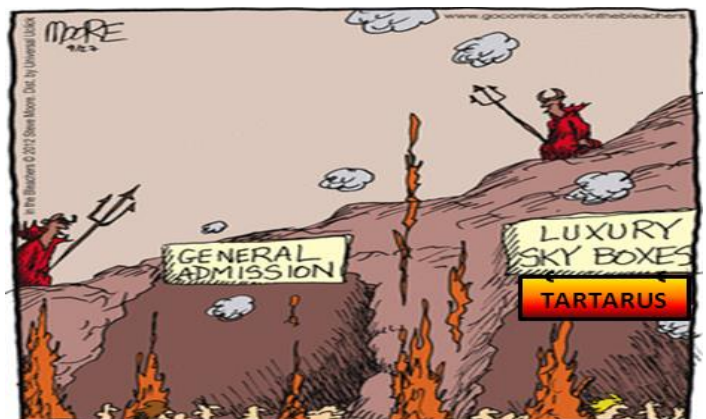
1) 02 Mar.....	1 Peter 1:1-12.....	Our Inheritance
2) 09 Mar.....	1 Peter 1:13-25.....	Our Mandate
3) 16 Mar.....	1 Peter 2:1-10.....	Our Identify
4) 23 Mar.....	1 Peter 2:11-25.....	Our Witness
5) 30 Mar.....	1 Peter 3:1-12.....	Our Relationships
6) 06 Apr.....	1 Peter 3:13-22.....	Our Defense
7) 13 Apr.....	1 Peter 4:1-11.....	Our Faith
8) 20 Apr.....	1 Peter 4:12-19.....	Our Savior
9) 27 Apr.....	1 Peter 5:1-14.....	Be Prepared
10) 04 May.....	2 Peter 1:3-11.....	Be Humble
11) 11 May.....	2 Peter 1:12-21.....	Be Equipped
12) 18 May.....	2 Peter 2:1-22 / Jude 1-25.....	Be Alert
13) 25 May.....	2 Peter 3:1-18.....	Be Encouraged

**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. Also note, *“Though several passages in Jude agree with those in 2Peter 2, yet there is so much difference between them, it is plain they are not transcribed from each other”* – Pool’s commentary
- The authorship of Jude is uncertain. Strong contenders include:
  1. Apostle Judas (aka Lebbaeus / Thaddaeus), brother of James (the less / son of Alphaeus) ... [Mk 10:3](#); [15:40](#); [Lk 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
2Peter 2:1-3	<p><b>Are We Prepared to Handle False Teachers?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peter doesn’t say “we MIGHT have false teachers” but “we WILL have false teachers” among us</li> <li>• The damage they can do include:                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introducing destructive heresies secretly with the intent to lead astray the very elect..... <a href="#">Mt 24:24</a></li> <li>2. Many will follow after their promiscuous ways (the path of least resistance is so easy to take)</li> <li>3. The truth will be maligned (“The church is full of hypocrites;” “One religion is as good as another”)</li> <li>4. They will exploit the weak with enticing words (“Give and you shall be healthy, wealthy, &amp; wise”)</li> </ol> </li> <li>• Fortunately, God has doom &amp; gloom prepared for them. Until then, God lets them test our faith &amp; resolve</li> </ul>
2:4-9	<p><b>God Knows How to Rescue the Godly</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peter conveys the concept that if God punished rebellious angels, He will also punish rebellious people</li> <li>• The term <b>“Tartarus”</b> for HELL is only used here in the NT, and it seems to be a separate holding tank as compared to <b>Hades (10x)</b> – the temporary place for unsaved people, and <b>Gehenna (9x)</b> – the final place of torment designed for the Devil and his angels, but will also hold people after their final judgment (<a href="#">Mt 25:41</a>)</li> <li>• The <b>Abyss (9x)</b> is where Satan is held for 1000 years; and is probably the same as Tartarus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Recall in <a href="#">Luke 8:31</a> where demons begged Jesus not to send them to the Abyss</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The <b>Lake of Fire (4x in Revelation)</b> is another name for Gehenna – the permanent place for the wicked</li> </ul>

Passage	Comments – 2 Peter 2
Angels in Tartarus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scripture is silent why some evil angels are imprisoned while others are free to serve Satan as demons</li> <li>• Some believe these angels had relations with women before the Great Flood, but that is pure speculation</li> <li>• For more info on this see <a href="#">Genesis 6 Comments</a></li> </ul>
2:4-9 (cont)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v5. God did not spare the “ancient world” for their evil, but saved only 8 people (Noah’s family)</li> <li>• v6. Sodom and Gomorrah were likewise destroyed, with God saving only 4 people (Lot’s family)</li> <li>• vv7-9: Lot (and Noah) lived righteously within a wicked culture – and we can too, with God’s help ... <a href="#">1Cor 10:13</a></li> </ul>
2:10-19	<p><b>Indicators of Salvation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v10. Those preoccupied with satisfying the flesh and having no regard for authority and having no respect for anything revered (incl. parents) are unsaved</li> <li>• v12. They are “unreasoning animals”                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <a href="#">Lam 1:9</a> says the wicked do not consider the consequences of their sins</li> </ul> </li> <li>• v16. Like Balaam, the wicked often can only be restrained by God’s hand (Holy Spirit) .....<a href="#">2Thes 2:7</a></li> <li>• vv17-19. The damage they can do to others is horrific – and the church must warn and protect the sheep</li> </ul>
2:20-22	<p><b>A Dog Returns to Its Own Vomit</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• 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 . <a href="#">2Thes 3:13</a>; <a href="#">Heb 6:1-6</a>; <a href="#">10:26</a>; <a href="#">1John 5:16</a></li> </ul>
Passage	Comments – Jude
Jude 1-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Doctrine of Eternal Security</b> highlighted in “Preserved in Jesus Christ” and “called”</li> </ul>
Jude 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have work to do so “earnestly contend for the faith”                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ If we are passive, then pray for boldness</li> <li>♦ Even the Apostle Paul asked for prayers that he might speak boldly ..... <a href="#">Eph 6:18-20</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Jude 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These false teachers were unsaved, enticing believers to sin sexually. Recall several messianic cult leaders in years gone by who advocated sexual promiscuity                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Jim Jones of the Jonestown massacre</li> <li>2. David Koresh of the Branch Davidians</li> <li>3. Rev Sun Myung Moon and his “moonies”</li> </ol> </li> <li>• ...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</li> </ul>



Passage	Comments
Jude 5-7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jude, like Peter, called his readers to REMEMBER:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>God has no problems destroying even His own people if they forsake Him and pursue the flesh</li> <li>Even certain angels are in “everlasting chains” for unmentionable sins (This information possibly gleaned from oral traditions found in the <a href="#">Jewish Mishnah</a>; Also see <a href="#">Genesis 6 Comments</a>)</li> <li>Sodom &amp; Gomorrah were annihilated for chasing “strange flesh” – i.e., homosexuality &amp; bestiality</li> </ul> </li> <li>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 &amp; Gomorrah</li> </ul>
Jude 8-13	<p><b>Common Malpractices of Those Practicing Perversion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>v8. They defile the flesh (“dirty sex” – the Message)</li> <li>v8. They despise being told what is right and wrong</li> <li>v8. They call good evil, and evil good</li> <li>v10. They twist the truth and act like unruly animals</li> <li>v11. They seek their own gain</li> <li>v12. They are bold in their sins</li> <li>v12. They provide no benefit to society – only death</li> <li>v13. They rant &amp; rave to get their way – not knowing what awaits them is “blackness of darkness forever”</li> <li><b>Note 1:</b> U.S. Military chaplains can no longer ward off same sex marriages being held in military chapels with 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</li> </ul>
Jude 9	<p><b>“But Michael the Archangel said...”</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>According to several early church fathers, this verse is based on a work called “The Assumption of Moses”</li> <li>Other quotations or allusions to non-Biblical works in the NT include Paul’s quotation of secular poets Aratus in <a href="#">Acts 17:28</a>, Menander in <a href="#">1Cor 15:33</a>, &amp; Epimenides in <a href="#">Titus 1:12</a>; and Paul stated in <a href="#">2Tim 3:8</a> that Jannes &amp; Jambres were the unnamed culprits who withstood Moses in one OT incident – whose names were known only by tradition; the writer of <a href="#">Hebrews 11:35</a> quoted from <a href="#">II Maccabees</a> (an apocryphal book); and Jude also quoted from the <a href="#">apocryphal Book of Enoch</a> in v14</li> <li>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</li> </ul>
Jude 14-16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Book of Enoch.</b> 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 &amp; II Maccabees</li> <li><b>Note:</b> Truth is truth, even if it is contained in the Koran, the Book of Mormon, sayings of Confucius, or the Wall Street Journal</li> <li>Jude’s intent to quote from the <a href="#">Book of Enoch</a> → to convey the inevitable destruction of the wicked</li> <li>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</li> </ul>

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

**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:

- The apparent delay of Christ’s second coming caused some to question whether He would return
- Peter’s opponents expressed the view that the world will go on as it always had with no interventions from God
- Peter reminds his readers to remember and hang on to the words spoken by Jesus and God’s prophets and apostles
- The future waits 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

