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THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Jude 5-7
Lesson #33
Three Challenges
08/21/2022

Context

What is the source of the stress for God's people?

Circumstances

physical discomfort, political fear, social conflict

Where do you find hope?
What do you call home?
Who do you listen to?

1

Jude

“5 Now I desire to remind you, though you know all things once for all, that the Lord, after saving a people out of the land of Egypt, subsequently destroyed those who did not believe. 6 And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day, 7 just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.”

2

Jude

“5 Now I desire to **remind** you, though you know all things once for all,”

- The Shepherd does not address the wolf until He has **prepared** the sheep.
- The sheep need to know the **message and model** of the wolves (false teachers).
- It is assumed that Jude's readers may already know this but need to be **repeatedly** reminded of it.

Three false messages that we need to resist.

3

1. A false HOPE in this world.

“5 . . . that the Lord, after saving a people out of the land of Egypt, subsequently destroyed those who did not believe.”

- We should learn from **observations of others** so that we don't have to learn from personal experience.
- **God's hand** is seen in both saving, and destroying.
- The “Good Shepherd's” heart is **directed to our response** to life's challenges.
- Our **“faith”** response to what God has done will determine our relationship to what God will do.

4

God's gifts can become our idols.

Israel's Golden Calf can become America's “Bull of Wall Street”.



5

2. A foreign HOME in this world.

“6 And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day,”

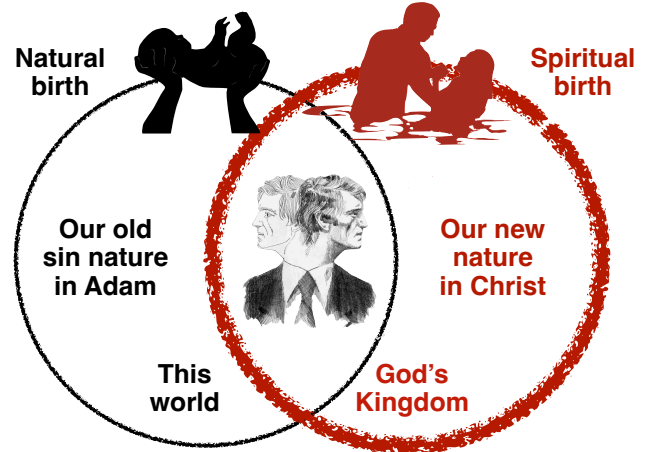
- Our **proper domain** is defined by our baptism.
- Where do we seek to find **comfort**?
- Where are we **investing** our lives?

NOTE: The background of this text is taken from the book of Enoch as though it was “Scripture”.

We are aliens
either to this world **or God's kingdom.**

6

Take our baptism seriously.



7

God's love for Israel had her in "time out" for most of her history.



8

I Corinthians 14

“20 Brethren, do not be children in your thinking; yet in evil be babes, but in your thinking be mature. 21 In the Law it is written, “By men of strange tongues and by the lips of strangers I will speak to this people, and even so they will not listen to Me,” says the Lord. 22 **So then tongues are for a sign**, not to those who believe, but to unbelievers; but prophecy is for a sign, not to unbelievers, but to those who believe.”

“Tongues” were a sign to unbelieving Jews in exile, under God's discipline. Isa.28:11-12

9

3. A foul HABITAT in this world.

“7 just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.”

- Sodom and Gomorrah **reflected** their environment.
- Only a remnant (Lot) was not **integrated** into the worldly domain's debauchery.
- **Adopting** the values of this fallen world, and temporal age is a ticket to harsh judgment.

Where are we getting our information and ideals?

10

Romans 1

“18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, . . . 25 For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator,”

“28 And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper,”

“3:9 Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin;”



11

Jude 5-7

Three examples Spiritual condition Moral behavior Final condition

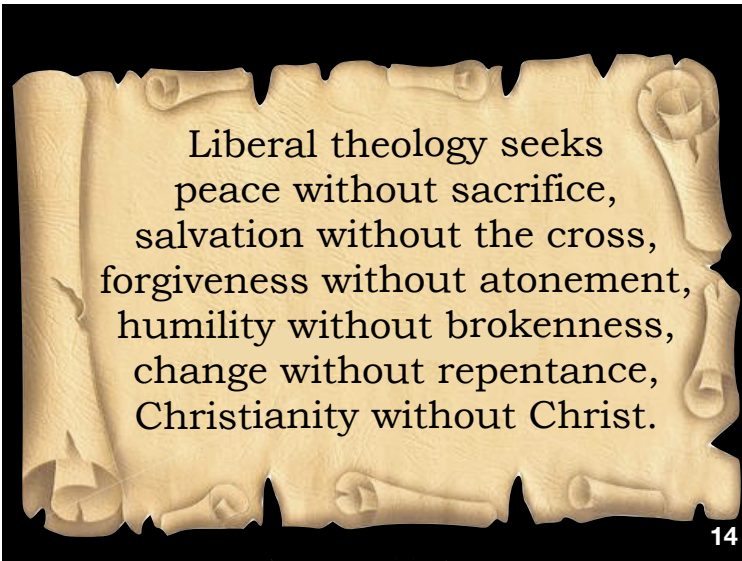
Israel's golden calf	Common condition Aliens to God's Kingdom	Sexual immorality	Denied the promised land
Bad Angels		Sexual immorality	Bound for Judgment day
Sodom & Gomorrah		Sexual immorality	Exhibit of Hell's fire

12

2 Peter 2

“4 For if God did not spare **angels** when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, held for judgment; 5 and did not spare the ancient world, but protected **Noah**, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; 6 and *if* He condemned the cities of **Sodom and Gomorrah** to destruction by reducing *them* to ashes, having made *them* an example of what is coming for the ungodly;”

13



14

Three big temptations

1. Making peace in this life through the **values of this world.**

material comforts, financial wealth, social respect, intimate connections, political favor.

2. Claiming **O.C. promises** for this life and **N.C. promises** for the next.

3. Follow the **crowd** (worldly culture, values, priorities).

15

Three questions

1. What gives you **hope**? Are you (like Jesus & Apostles) looking past this world, age, body, & life?
2. To which domain are you an **alien**? How at home do you feel bearing the Word and Way of the Cross in this life?
3. Who has your **ear and eye**? Are you seeking to navigate life's fears and disappointments with worldly wisdom?

16

The extreme religious right wants the kingdom before its time

and without its Spirit.

The extreme religious left wants the kingdom before its time

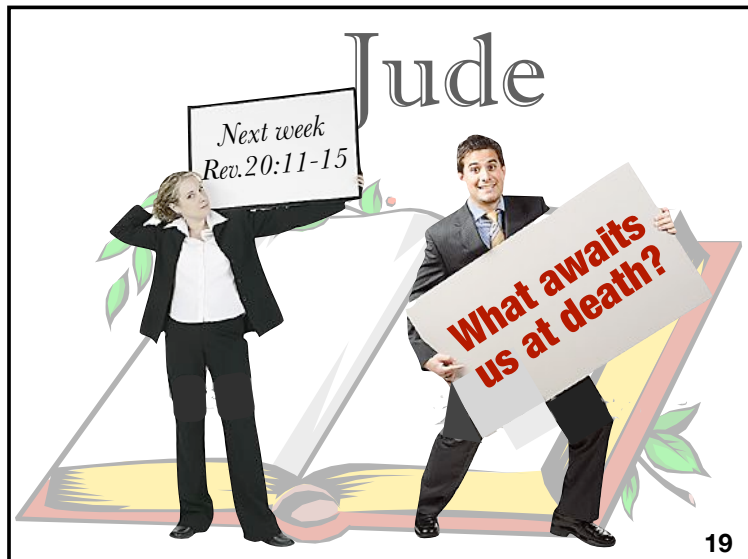
and without its King.

17

The evangelical center
wants the kingdom
with the Spirit
and the King
in its time

but is way too
**attached, anxious, &
angry** with the things of
this world as it waits.

18



19