

Epistle of Jude: *Contending for the Faith*

Study 3: Learning from the Past

READ Jude 5-10 and **LISTEN** to the [sermon](#) by Pastor Craig.

Big idea: Remember the purpose of Jude's letter: "to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3) in the face of opposition within the church. In our passage Jude wants to remind us that dangers facing the church are as old as creation, therefore predictable, and those who bring them will not escape judgement. Jude will use Old Testament examples to help us identify apostates and warn us of becoming apostate.

1. Why do you think Jude needed to remind his audience of things from the past, though they "once fully knew it" (v. 5a)? What is the danger of familiarity?
2. Why do you think Jude is so fixated on judgement and how does that fit into the theme of the epistle?
3. Example 1: What sin did Israel commit (v. 5)? How did God judge them? Why is it often easier to trust God for the future and not the present?
4. Example 2: Why do you think Jude uses this unique example, in v. 6, to describe apostates? How does Jesus' example from 1 Pet 2:22-23 and John 5:19 counter the sin of those angels? What do you learn?

5. Example 3: What sin did Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities commit (v. 7)? How does sexual perversion consume us? How would you lovingly help someone who is engaged in sexual sin?¹
6. Example 4: While the Archangel Michael, v. 9, had all power to defeat the devil, he did not dare rebuke him; to do so would overstep his authority and show a self-autonomous arrogance. Using the following verses, how does Michael become our example to follow? James 4:11-12; 5:9; Rom 12:18-19.

In what areas of your life do you struggle to submit to both physical and spiritual authority?

7. Rewrite Micah 6:8 in your own words and explain how this provides the antithesis to the actions and attitude of those described in Jude 5-10?

STOP AND PRAY:

Confess: *times when you have rejected God's authority over your life*

Praise: *God for giving you warnings and directives that you might flourish*

Pray: *that you will be able to joyfully submit to the authorities God has placed in your life to guide you and bless you ie. parents, church, government, His Word etc*

¹ If you are engaged in any form of sexual sin, it is recommended you speak confidentially to your pastor. Winning the battle with sexual sin begins with confessing it and exposing it. Book recommendation: *Finally Free* by Heath Lambert.