



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Wages of Apostasy

AUGUST 29, 2012

Tom McCullough / PO Box 503, Granville, OH. 43023/ tom.mccullough@capitolcom.org / www.capitolcom.org.

The Epistle of Jude (AD 68-70), considered one of the general epistles, likely author was Jude. Jude was the half-brother of Jesus Christ and the brothers (Mt 13:55) of Joseph, Simon and James, the leader of the Jerusalem Church and the Jerusalem Council. While Jude had initially rejected Jesus as the Messiah (Jn 7:1-9), he, along with other half-brothers of Jesus accepted Jesus as the Messiah after Christ's resurrection (Ac 1:14). Jude likely wrote this epistle from Jerusalem and while the exact audience is unknown it was likely to Jewish believers and to a body or region that was under the influence of and plagued by false teachers. While Christianity and Christians were under political attack from Rome, the bigger threat to the church was false doctrine being preached by gnostic-like apostates. Jude calls the church to fight for the truth. Jude sites three examples, Israel, angels and all people of apostasy in the OT and the resulting wages of that rebellion. (Jude 5-7 NASB)

“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.” (5)

God delivered and destroyed. Jude's first example is of a reflection in scripture of God and in His grace and mercy delivering the nation of Israel out of Egyptian bondage (Ex 12:51), only to have the people in the nation of Israel respond by rejecting and turning from faith in God and rejecting that He could direct and take them to the Promised Land (Nu 13:25-14:4) The people's rebellion and rejection turned to making and worshipping their own idol and god. Given the rebellion and grumbling against God, He determined that those men of the nation of Israel 20 years and older that participated in the rebellion and grumbling would not live to see or enter the Promised Land. Those that were freed and yet rejected God were destroyed. (Nu14: 22-30, 35)The freedom, subsequent rejection and then destruction did not just apply to the nation of Israel.

“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,” (6)

Apostate fallen angels. Jude relates that a number of angels rejected God (Ge 6:1-3) and selfishly rejected their role in His will for them, possessing men and then cohabitated with women. Jude declares that those fallen apostate angels will ultimately face eternal separation from God. (Mt 25:4, Rev 20:10) Similarly, in Jude's third examples from scripture relates that any apostate can expect to be eternally punished and separated from God for their rebellion.

“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.”(7)

Rebellion and Immorality of any People. Jude shares that similar to the punishment to the nation of Israel and to the fallen angels due to their rebellion, all people that indulge in gross immorality, rebellion and rejection of God will undergo separation from God and eternal punishment in the lake of fire similar to those consumed in Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them.

Jude appears to use examples in OT scripture to warn his readers about the ultimate wages of apostasy and of those that rebel and reject God and His will.

For Your Consideration:

- Do you or have you rejected God and made your own idols?
- Do you recognize the wages or the results of apostasy?
- Like Jude and other believers, have you accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord and become His bond-servant?

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: SESSION OR HEARING WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE RM. 44

STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44