

## Sunday Morning Message

July 25, 2021

*Earnestly Contending for the Faith - Messages from Jude*

*Jude 1:5 – 16 – The Enemies Among Us – Characters from the Past - Part Two – Fallen Angels*

Text – Jude 1:6

Congregational Reading – Jude 1:5 – 7 and verse 11

### Introduction

In this little one chapter letter, Jude expresses the great need for soldiers who would be willing to earnestly contend or fight for the faith. The reason that these spiritual warriors are needed is due to the fact that Satan is always sending into the church people who were actively working against the cause of Christ by distorting and sometimes even dismissing sound Bible doctrine.

In our introductory message to this epistle, we talked about the fact that, as Christians, we should not like to fight. In fact, we are encourage to: *“If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men”* (Romans 12:18). We are taught by the Lord to *“... Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;”* (Matthew 5:44).

We shouldn't be contentious as Christians, bud as Jude tells us there are times that we need to contend for the faith. We don't like to fight, but as we stated last week, when our family is under attack, we need to fight; when the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ is under attack, we will fight; and when our freedom to practice our faith is under attack, we will fight.

Last week, in our second message from this letter, we examined in great detail verse 5 and we saw some examples that Jude gave from the Old Testament that are types of the enemies that are among us today. We looked at just a few illustrations from the wilderness wanderings of Israel and we saw that Moses and Israel were constantly battling enemies from within the congregation who were trying to thwart the will of God.

### Transition

Today, we will continue to examine these characters from the past, and see how they illustrate perfectly the types of attacks that Satan may use to hinder the work of God today.

#### I. Characters from the Past (vs. 5 – 7, 11 – continued from last week)

We discussed v. 5 last week, today, we will look at the angelic opposers from v. 6.

#### B. Fallen Angels (Note - Point “A” was discussed last week)

*"6 And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day." (Jude 1:6)*

Peter also writes about the same events that Jude references here:

*"4 For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast [them] down to hell, and delivered [them] into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; 5 And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth [person], a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly; 6 And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned [them] with an overthrow, making [them] an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly; 7 And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: 8 (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed [his] righteous soul from day to day with [their] unlawful deeds;) 9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:" (2 Peter 2:4-9)*

Verse six from Jude is a reference to fallen angels who committed an offence against God and God's people that was so heinous that God now has them imprisoned, at least temporarily, until they meet their final judgment in the Lake of Fire.

Though we cannot be absolutely sure about this, it is almost universally accepted by theologians that these particular angels are referenced in an obscure event from Genesis:

*"1 And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, 2 That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they [were] fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose. 3 And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also [is] flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years. 4 There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare [children] to them, the same [became] mighty men which [were] of old, men of renown. 5 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man [was] great in the earth, and [that] every imagination of the thoughts of his heart [was] only evil continually. 6 And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. 7 And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. 8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD." (Genesis 6:1-8)*

This event took place before the flood, so it is important to remember that all of the humans involved in this event were destroyed in Noah's day, so unless one of Noah's daughters-in-law were one of the offspring of these devilish unions, there are no more of these super-human giants on the earth.

It is also important to point out that this weird event of these fallen angels who procreated with humans seem to be a one time thing. There is nothing remotely similar to it in the rest of the Bible. You might think that if it happened once, it could happen again, but we must also realize that nothing can happen unless God allows it, and since this event, according to Jude, led to an imprisonment of these spiritual beings, it is very possible that God is keeping an event like this from being repeated.

However, we must also realize that Satan and his fallen angels are still very active and busy today, working against God's people in an attempt to hinder the will of God. It would benefit us to know a little bit about who these fallen angels are, and just what they are up to today.

## 1. Satan's Majesty

Satan was not always, the adversary as his name applies. He was once the anointed cherub. The Book of Ezekiel gives the best description of this powerful and beautiful creature in chapter 28: *"... Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee."* (Ezekiel 28:12-15).

This passage clearly reveals that Satan was a beautiful "created" creature who was "wise" (verse 12) and "perfect" (verses 12 and 15) with built in musical capabilities. Isaiah 14:12 refers to him as Lucifer (לְיָלֵל – *heylel*), which means "light bearer," "shining one," or "morning star." This is hardly the image that is conjured up by the average person who thinks of the devil.

## 2. Satan's Mistake

Ezekiel goes on to state that Lucifer's heart was lifted up with pride because of his beauty, and as a result he was cast out of Heaven. Isaiah 14 lists five "I will" statements made by Satan: *"How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit"* (Isaiah 14:12-15). Satan's mistake was in thinking that he could exalt himself to a place of equality with God. As was already discussed regarding angels, Satan may be a powerful being, but he is less than nothing when compared to God.

### 3. Satan's Ministers

Unfortunately, Satan did not fall by himself. He deceived and influenced, perhaps even coerced a third of the host of Heaven to fall with him. Revelation 12 speaks of the both the fall of Satan and the final removal of Satan from Heaven. The fall is alluded to in verses 3 and 4: *"And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born."* (Revelation 12:3-4) The red dragon in this description is stated in verse nine to be "called the Devil, and Satan." The "third part of the stars of heaven" is apparently a reference to Satan's ministers who fell with him. They are actually called "ministers" in 2 Corinthians 11:15 where they are described as disguising themselves as ministers of righteousness. The four gospels are full of factual stories of the oppression and possession of people because of the attacks of these devils.

### 4. Satan's Ministry

While much of what is blamed on Satan is actually committed by his devils, Satan is in control of much of the evil that goes on in the world. He is "the prince of the power of the world" (Ephesians 2:2). He is also "the god of this world" who blinds people so that they cannot see the truth of the gospel (2 Corinthians 4:4).

Satan has a special hatred for God's people, both within Israel and within the Church. Satan afflicts believers as God permits (Job 1:12; 2:4-7; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10).

*"7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. 8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. 9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." (2 Corinthians 12:7-9)*

Satan tempts believers (I Thessalonians 3:5; Luke 22:31). Satan opposes God's program by opposing preaching (Mark 4:15), hindering missionary work (1 Thessalonians 2:18), accusing Christians (Revelation 12:9, 10). Satan is also the author of false doctrine. He teaches that sin will not be punished (Genesis 3:4, 5); that good men are hypocrites (Job 1:9-11); that we can tempt God (Matthew 4:5, 6); that marriage and the use of meats is sinful (I Timothy 4:1-3); and that the Word of God is not absolute (Genesis 3:1). Satan also opposes God's servants by hindering them (I Thessalonians 2:18), resisting them (Zechariah 3:1; Daniel 10:13) and by buffeting them (2 Corinthians 12:7; Revelation 2:10).

Satan knows just where and when to attack God's people. He studies them, and he knows just where the weak areas are. He attacks the mind of believers by causing them to have "imagination" that exalt themselves above the knowledge of God (2 Corinthians 10:5). He attacked both Job and Paul in the area of health (Job 2:7; 2 Corinthians 12:7 – 10). Perhaps his most successful attack is in the area of morality. He unsuccessfully tempted the Lord Jesus in Matthew 4 and Luke 4. Jesus used the Word of God to defend himself against Satan's temptations, which is good advice for believers today as well.

In Ephesians 6, Paul tells us to arm ourselves defensively and offensively against the wiles of the Devil and his minions:

*"Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all*

*prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;" (Ephesians 6:11-18)*

## 5. Satan's Misery

Satan ministry will end and his misery will finally come at the end of the Millennium when he will be thrown in the Lake of Fire, where he will join the Antichrist, the false prophet, all of the other devils, and all of the people that Satan deceived into rejecting Christ (Revelation 20:10). Satan was not content in rebelling against God and God's people by himself. He had to take a bunch of people and angels with him. John Phillips said it this way: "That lake of fire was prepared for him and his angels (Matt. 25:41), and there he goes headlong to make his bed in hell. His two companions in the crimes of the last days are there awaiting him. They have been there a thousand years, and far from being annihilated, they are alive and in torment and facing the same horrors for all eternity. The devil joins them, to be tormented eternally for all the wickedness and woe he has fathered since his fall."<sup>1</sup>

## Conclusion

What do we as believers need to remember today:

1. **We must realize** that Satan and his devils are real, and that they are still very active today:

Peter tells us to:

*"8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:" (1 Peter 5:8)*

2. **We must recognize** Satan's attempts to work against what God is trying to do in our nation, in our families, and in our church.

*"11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: **for we are not ignorant of his devices.**" (2 Corinthians 2:11)*

3. **We must resist** what Satan is trying to do by being filled with the Spirit of God, immersed in the Word of God, and completely yielded to the will of God: *"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."* (James 4:7)

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<sup>1</sup> John Phillips, *Exploring Revelation: An Expository Commentary*, The John Phillips Commentary Series (Kregel; WORDsearch Corp., 2009), Re 20:9b–10.