

# Y'hudah (Jude)

## Judgment of False Teachers ~ Part 1

In my last post, we began to explore this writing of **Y'hudah** (Jude). We looked at who he was when he wrote the letter, why he wrote the letter and the conical history of its inclusion in the Bible. This post will continue to explore the letter in more detail beginning with **Judgment of False Teachers ~ Part 1**.

**Y'hudah** notes that while he intended to write about salvation, he felt compelled to address the danger confronting his audience - false teachers.

***<sup>3</sup> Dear friends, I was busily at work writing to you about the salvation we share when I found it necessary to write, urging you to keep contending earnestly for the faith which was once and for all passed on to God's people. <sup>4</sup> For certain individuals, the ones written about long ago as being meant for this condemnation, have wormed their way in - ungodly people who pervert God's grace into a license for debauchery and disown our only Master and Lord, Yeshua the Messiah.***

***I was busily at work writing to you about the salvation we share.*** According to David Stern: "as with many books mentioned in the **Tanakh** that have not survived, our curiosity about **Y'hudah's** soteriological <sup>1</sup> treatise cannot be satisfied. This salvation consists of freedom of enslavement, the gift of the **Ruach HaKodesh**, and the ability to live a pure life - all of which are offered freely because of **Yeshua's** death and resurrection. **Y'hudah** is referring to the salvation that both he and his audience have experienced.

***Keep contending earnestly for the faith which was once and for all passed on to God's people.*** This suggests that the letter was written in the latter part of the first century when *the faith* had begun to crystallize. What the *ungodly people do* is not merely pass on erroneous information but *pervert God's grace into a license for debauchery and disown our only Master and Lord*. They no longer recognize **Yeshua's** right to command obedience but teach a perversion of Romans 3:28 and Ephesians 2:8-9 instead. A person is considered righteous by **God** on the ground of professing faith in **Yeshua** regardless of what sort of works he or she does. Such an attitude quickly results in debauchery and other kinds of antinomianism <sup>2</sup> since it removes the ethical and moral component of faith - faithfulness - trusting.

***Written about long ago*** will be addressed when we look at vv. 14-15 in a later post.

**God's condemnation** for sin has already been decided. Since the **false teachers** mentioned here are intentionally and unrepentantly leading others astray, **Y'hudah** is sure of their fate.

In the following passage, **Y'hudah** recalls three examples from the **Tanakh**. Each of these examples highlights a particular aspect of the **false teachers'** errors: They practiced the sin of unbelief (v. 5), sought authority they did not deserve (v. 6), and they engaged in immoral behavior (v. 7).

***<sup>5</sup> Since you already know all this, my purpose is only to remind you that Adonai, who once delivered the people from Egypt, later destroyed those who did not trust. <sup>6</sup> And the angels that did not keep within their original authority but abandoned their proper sphere, he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for the Judgment of the Great Day. <sup>7</sup> And S'dom, 'Amora and the surrounding cities, following a pattern like theirs, committing sexual sins and perversions, lie exposed as a warning of the everlasting fire awaiting those who must undergo punishment.*** ~ Jude 1: 3-7 (CJB). <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Soteriology is the study of religious doctrines of salvation.

<sup>2</sup> The doctrine according to which Believers are freed by grace from the necessity of obeying the Mosaic Law.

<sup>3</sup> Even though Jude has only one chapter, it is customary to use the "1" nomenclature in front of the verse(s).

*Since you already know all this* implies that **Y'hudah's** audience is fully informed about the message of **Yeshua** and the events derived primarily from the **Tanakh**. All **Jewish** readers and even most recent **Gentile** converts knew the **Exodus** story. That people had experienced God's redemption did not guarantee that they could not fall away and be destroyed.

In **Genesis 6:1-3**, *the angels that did not keep within their original authority* left their assigned place to have intercourse with women.

The transition to **S'dom** and **'Amora** points to the similarity of the sin of homosexuality and what these angels did in Genesis 6. The destruction of these cities at the SE corner of the Dead Sea is used over 20 times in Scripture as an illustration of **God's** judgment during the days of **Avraham** and **Lot** (cf. Ge 18:22–19:29).

In my next post, we will pick up our exploration of **Judgment of False Teachers ~ Part 2**.