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Remember What Our Lord Jesus Christ Foretold: There Will Be Scoffers Who Follow Ungodly Desires

Jude 17-18 and Second Peter 3:2-3

Remember what our Lord Jesus Christ foretold, there will be scoffers who follow ungodly desires DIG: What turning point in the book of Jude takes place here? What two groups does he say have warned us in the past about the coming apostasy? In what way should we remember their words? Why shouldn't the actions and words of the false teachers surprise us today? When did the last days begin? What do they particularly scoff at? What do they follow?

REFLECT: How does Jude point out that what was going on in the congregations of the LORD should be expected today? How do you remember the words of the prophets and apostles? What can you do to protect yourself and your loved ones against the sexual tsunami that is so prevalent in the world today?



But as for you, God's beloved ones, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. They said to you: In the *acharit-hayamim,* or last days there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires (Jude 17-18).

I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Savior through your apostles. First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires (Second Peter 3:2-3).

Jude follows the same structure as that found in **Second Peter**, **Chapters 2** and **3**. In **Chapter 2**, **Peter** dealt with the issue of **false teachers** who would appear in the immediate future; and in **Chapter 3**, **he** dealt with the issue of **scoffers** who would appear in the distant future. In the preceding verses, **Jude 4-16**, **he** wrote about **counterfeit teachers** who had already arrived. Now, in **Jude 17-19**, **he** writes about the distant future when **mockers** will appear, and **he** issues warnings against **them**.[101]

But as for you (in contradiction to **the apostates**), **God's beloved ones (Jude 17a).** The noun shifts from **these** (*houtoi*) to **you** (*hymeis*). The pronoun **you** is emphatic, placed first in the sentence, thus indicating that **Jude** is turning toward the encouragement of **his** readers. The word **beloved** does not refer to **Jude's love** for those to whom **he** was writing, but to the fact that all believers are **beloved** of **ADONAI**. The word is *agapao,* the distinctive word for **love** used in **John 3:16**, for instance. This signals a major transition, as did the same phrase at the beginning of **his** brief letter. In **Jude 3 he** began the body of the letter after a brief introduction in **Jude 1-2**. Here, **he** shifts from the denunciation of **the rebels** in **Jude 5-16**, to the encouragement of **the faithful** in **Jude 17-23**.

I want you (believers in **Jude's** own day) **to remember the words spoken in the past by the prophets.** With the word **remember**, **Jude** uses the first of several imperatives. In **Jude 5 he** wanted **to remind his** readers of the judgment **God** brought on **apostates** in **the past**. In other words, while contrasted in **their** content, **Jude 5-16** and **Jude 17-19** are parallel in form. Both bring a reminder to **Jude's** readers about **the false teachers**. The Greek word for: **spoken in the past** is a perfect passive participle, indicating that the **words** and the message are still valid today.

What the readers must do is **remember the words** that the Bible previously spoke to them. Remembering in Scriptures does not involve mere mental recollection, like when we remember someone's name that we had temporarily forgotten. Remembering in the biblical sense means that we take to heart **the words spoken**, so that they are imprinted on our lives and we can actually live them out.[102] Not being perfect, but sanctified, we are **conformed into the image of**

Christ (Romans 8:29).

I also **want you to remember the words spoken** by **our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and** what **He foretold through your apostles (Jude 17b; 2 Peter 3:2). Peter** wanted to emphasize that the commands of **the apostles** actually represented **the words** of **Yeshua.** Those commands were the moral norms that believers were expected to follow. In other words, the moral standard for believers was summed up in the teaching of **Messiah Himself**. **The apostate teachers**, on the other hand, were notorious for **their** immoral lifestyle.

New Covenant revelation came **through your apostles. Jude** obviously takes for granted that the apostolic warning to which he refers was well known to his readers (see my commentary on **The Life of Christ, to see link click Cy – These are the Names of the Twelve Apostles**). Paul also gave similar warnings. In **Acts 20:28-30 CJB**, he warned: **Watch out for yourselves, and for all the flock in which the Holy Spirit has placed you as leaders, to shepherd God's Messianic community, which He won for Himself at the cost of His own Son's blood. I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you; and they won't spare the flock. Even from among your own number, men will arise and teach perversions of the truth, in order to drag away disciples after themselves.**

The apostle Paul continued his warning in **First Timothy 4:1**: **The Holy Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons,** and in **Second Timothy 3:1-3** he said**: There will be terrible times in the last days** when men and women will give terrible evidence of their apostasy. In addition, **John** also speaks of such **people (1 John 2:19, 4:1;** and **2 John 7-11)**.

Peter said: **First of all,** the appearance of **people** like this is no surprise. **They (the apostles) said to you, "You must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires" (Jude 18; Second Peter 3:3).** The imperfect tense of **"They said to you,"** points to the repeated nature of the apostolic warnings. And the Greek word *empaiktes*, translated **mockers** in **Jude** and **scoffers** in **Peter** are found nowhere else in the Bible. A **scoffer** ridicules the Word of **God**, especially the promise that **the Messiah** will return to reclaim the earth. They will say: **Where is the promise of His coming? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation (Second Peter 3:4).**

It seems clear that **the rebels** laughed at those who refused to go with **them** down the path of **their** own lusts; **people** who still had a sense of morality and "old fashioned" standards, unlike the supposedly superior Gnostics like themselves, who were exploiting their so-called freedom in **Christ** (see **Ac – The Book of Jude from a Jewish Perspective: Purpose**). **The apostate teachers** were claiming to be so Spirit-filled that there was no room for the kind of morality that **Yeshua** talked about. **They** claimed that grace was so abundant that their "sin" would result in even more grace (see **Ah – Godless People Have Secretly Slipped In Among You**). **They** claimed that the salvation of the soul was all that mattered, and what a person does with **their** body doesn't matter because it will turn to dust anyway. Those who fussed about sexual purity seemed to **them** to be astonishingly naïve.[103]

In the *acharit-hayamim,* or last times (Jude 18a) does not contradict the fact that the prophecies were directed to **Jude's** readers. The righteous of the TaNaKh believed that **the last days** had started with the coming of **Yeshua**, **His** death, and resurrection. The writer to the **Hebrews** could say, therefore, that **in these last days ADONAI has spoken to us by His Son (He 1:2; Acts 2:17; 1 Peter 1:20)**, indicating that **the last days** had arrived. Similarly, in both **First Timothy 4:1** and **Second Timothy 3:1** the coming of the apostates are said to be **in later times** and **in the last days** respectively. Paul fully expected this prophecy to be fulfilled in the false teaching that was undermining the church at Ephesus. This reminds us of **Jude 4a**, where **he** wrote: **For certain people whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you.**

There will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires (Jude 18b). The same **people** who are compared to **brute beasts** in **Jude 10** are said to be led by **lust**, as an animal is led around with a ring in its nose. The animal walks obediently after its master; these walk after **ungodly desires**. Neither the captive animals nor **the apostates** enslaved by sin have a choice. **They** will go wherever **they** are led. In other words **the false teachers** are slaves. They may talk about the freedom to do whatever **they** please, and despise believers who live lives of holiness in the fear of **God** as best they can, but the plain truth is that the **these rebels** have enslaved themselves to corruption.[104]

Jude portrays **the counterfeit teachers** as generally mocking **the LORD** and **His** moral standards. **They** are so intent on satisfying their **ungodly desires** that **they** have no room left for **God**. **They** will give free reign to **their** passions and debauchery because **they** have no capacity for holiness. Since **their** hearts are not

transformed, all **they** can do is pursue **their ungodly desires** like **brute beasts**. By labeling **their** desires as **ungodly**, **Jude** reminds us of **his** main accusation against **them (Jude 18:b** and **15)**.[105]

There is a sexual tsunami in today's world. Sex education in kindergarten (more like indoctrination), communal bathrooms, and distribution of birth control pills without respect to age are common now. Abortions, adultery and pornography at an all time high (see my commentary on **Exodus Dq – You Shall Not A Commit Adultery**). But, more than that, the sexual content in the visual media is unbelievable. You can't have a situation "comedy" that will be a success unless people are in bed together and sex is talked about constantly. The acceptance of homosexuality has to be in almost every show that wants to get ratings. Even the cars are sexy these days. All social barriers have been abandoned. Pornography is so available on the Internet that pretty soon the only thing left to see will be internal organs.

What used to be obscene is now commonplace. If you speak up at school, especially at college, about a personal relationship with **the Lord**, a belief in the Second Coming, in the authority of the Word of **God** and in the judgment of sin, you will be mocked. If you believe in "old fashioned" ideas like being against abortion, or believing in abstinence before marriage, or marriage between a man and a woman, you will be scoffed at by the *pneumatikoi*, the "enlightened" Gnostics of today, just as surely as believers were in **Jude's** day.