

Week 2 – Jude – History Repeated – Bible Study Helps

Title: History Repeated: Learning from Biblical Apostasy

Sermon Summary: This sermon examines the book of Jude with a focus on the recurring pattern of apostasy throughout biblical history. Pastor emphasizes that God holds believers accountable to learn from past failures and avoid repeating them. The message traces apostasy from fallen angels to Old Testament examples, demonstrating how privileged people in God's presence chose to reject Him and follow their own desires. The sermon warns that the seeds of apostasy exist within every believer and calls for vigilant faithfulness, repentance, and alignment with God's Word. It concludes with Enoch's prophetic message that believers must preach the coming judgment while living holy lives that glorify God.

Key Points:

- God requires us to learn from history and not repeat the mistakes of those who fell away (Ecclesiastes reference)
- Three Old Testament examples of corporate apostasy: the post-Egypt Israelites who refused to enter the Promised Land, the fallen angels of Genesis 6, and Sodom and Gomorrah
- Apostasy is defined as abandoning what one has possessed—a total desertion from faith and relationship with God
- Even Michael the Archangel showed proper respect for spiritual authority when contending with Satan over Moses' body
- Three individual examples of apostates: Cain (chose his own way), Balaam (pursued greed over obedience), and Korah (rebelled against God's authority)
- Apostates are characterized as murmurers, complainers, following carnal lusts, speaking great swelling words, and being people-pleasers
- Natural realm illustrations of apostasy: clouds without water, trees without fruit, raging waves, wandering stars
- Enoch prophesied of God's coming judgment with ten thousands of saints—the same message believers should preach today
- The seeds of apostasy exist in every believer's flesh and require daily surrender to God
- Christians must earnestly contend for the faith and live as lights in a dark world

Scripture Reference:

- Jude 1:1-16 (primary passage)
- Numbers 14:1-2, 26-30 (Israelites refusing to enter Promised Land)

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- Genesis 6 (fallen angels)
- Genesis 19 (Sodom and Gomorrah)
- Genesis 4 (Cain and Abel)
- Numbers 16 (Korah's rebellion)
- Deuteronomy (Moses' death and burial)
- 2 Peter 2:4, 10-11
- 1 Corinthians 10 (examples written for our learning)
- Ecclesiastes (that which has been is now)
- Psalm 78 (meat in their mouths when God's wrath came)
- Proverbs 25:14 (clouds and wind without rain)

Stories:

- The Exodus and wilderness wanderings—God delivered Israel from Egypt with miracles, yet they complained and refused to enter the Promised Land, resulting in an entire generation dying in the wilderness
- The fallen angels of Genesis 6 who left their heavenly estate to cohabit with human women, producing giants, leading to God's judgment through the flood
- Sodom and Gomorrah's destruction by fire due to sexual immorality and wickedness
- Michael the Archangel's dispute with Satan over Moses' body, showing proper spiritual protocol by saying "The Lord rebuke thee"
- Cain bringing the wrong offering to God, becoming angry, and murdering his brother Abel
- Balaam the prophet who repeatedly sought God's permission to curse Israel for money, eventually teaching Balak how to cause Israel to sin through fornication and idolatry
- Korah's rebellion against Moses' authority, resulting in the earth opening and swallowing him and his followers (23,000 people)
- Enoch, the seventh from Adam, who walked with God, preached about coming judgment, and was taken directly to heaven without experiencing death

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Discipleship Questions

How does the example of the Israelites who witnessed God's miracles yet still murmured and complained challenge us to examine our own attitudes toward the blessings God has given us?

What does the fall of angels who were in God's very presence teach us about the danger of pride and the importance of remaining under God's authority?

In what ways might we be like Balaam, knowing what God wants us to do but still being tempted to go back to sin for personal gain or comfort?

How can we guard against becoming like Korah, who despised the authority God had established, especially when we disagree with leaders or structures in our lives?

What does it mean that even Michael the archangel said 'The Lord rebuke thee' rather than rebuking Satan himself, and how should this shape the way we speak about spiritual warfare?

How can we identify the 'filthy dreamers' in our own time who claim to speak for God but are actually leading people away from biblical truth?

What are the 'seeds of apostasy' that exist in your own heart, and what practical steps can you take today to prevent them from growing?

Why do you think God requires us to learn from past history, and what consequences might we face if we ignore the lessons from Scripture about those who fell away?

How does understanding that clouds without water, wandering stars, and raging waves describe false teachers help us discern who to listen to and who to avoid?

In what ways are you tempted to be a 'people pleaser' rather than pleasing God, and how can Enoch's example of boldly proclaiming God's coming judgment inspire you to live differently?

Small Group Guide: History Repeated

Based on Jude 1:1-16

Opening Prayer

Begin your time together by asking God to open hearts and minds to His Word and help you learn from the history recorded in Scripture.

Ice Breaker (5-10 minutes)

Question: Have you ever repeated a mistake despite knowing better? What made you go back to something you knew was wrong?

Key Takeaways from the Sermon

1. **God holds us accountable to learn from history** - "God requireth that which is past" (Ecclesiastes)
 2. **Apostasy is abandoning what God has given us** - turning away from truth we once possessed
 3. **The seeds of apostasy exist in all of us** - we must be vigilant against our flesh
 4. **God's judgment on apostasy is thorough and certain** - seen throughout biblical history
 5. **Our calling is to earnestly contend for the faith** - defending, preserving, and declaring truth
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Discussion Questions

Understanding Apostasy (15-20 minutes)

1. **What is apostasy?** How did the sermon define it, and why is it such a serious issue?
2. **Review the three Old Testament examples** (verses 5-7):
 - The Israelites who came out of Egypt
 - The fallen angels
 - Sodom and Gomorrah

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What did all three groups have in common? What did they lose or give up?

3. **Why do you think Jude chose these specific examples?** What message was he trying to communicate to believers?

The Trio of Apostates (15-20 minutes)

4. **Discuss Cain, Balaam, and Korah** (verse 11):
 - **Cain** - Did his own thing, rejected God's way
 - **Balaam** - Knew what was right but pursued money and fame anyway
 - **Korah** - Rebelled against God's authority

Which of these three patterns do you see most commonly today? In yourself?

5. **The sermon mentioned that Balaam went back to God repeatedly asking the same question God had already answered.** Have you ever done this? Why do we sometimes keep asking God about something He's already clearly said "no" to?

Personal Application (20-25 minutes)

6. **Read verse 16 together:** "These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts, and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage."

The pastor said this describes all of us at times. Which of these characteristics do you struggle with most?

- Murmuring/complaining
 - Following your own desires
 - Speaking carelessly
 - People-pleasing over God-pleasing
7. **The sermon emphasized that "the seeds of apostasy are present in you today and me."** What does this mean practically? How can we guard against these seeds taking root?
 8. **Michael the Archangel said "The Lord rebuke thee" rather than rebuking Satan himself.** What does this teach us about:
 - Humility before God?
 - How we should speak?
 - Respecting spiritual authority?

Living It Out (15-20 minutes)

9. **The sermon mentioned that people don't preach the gospel because they care too much about what others think.** How can we overcome this fear? What practical steps can we take this week to be bolder witnesses?

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10. **Enoch's message was "the Lord is coming."** How should the reality of Christ's return affect:
- How we live daily?
 - Our priorities?
 - Our relationships?
 - Our witness?
11. **The pastor said, "You've got time for TikTok, movies, and your own thing—you've got time for God."**
- What competes for your time with God?
 - What needs to change in your schedule to prioritize reading the Bible and prayer?
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Practical Applications for This Week

Individual Commitments:

Choose 1-2 to focus on this week:

- Daily Bible reading** - Commit to reading Scripture every day, even if just one chapter
- Identify one area of apostasy** - Ask God to show you where you're walking in your own way rather than His
- Confess and repent** - Bring specific sins before God and ask for His cleansing (1 John 1:9)
- Stop murmuring** - Catch yourself when complaining and turn it into thanksgiving
- Share the gospel** - Have at least one conversation about Jesus this week
- Study history** - Read one of the historical accounts mentioned (Exodus, Numbers 14, Genesis 6 or 19)
- Memorize Scripture** - Learn Jude 1:3-4 or another passage from this sermon

Group Accountability:

- Share with one person in the group which commitment you're making
 - Exchange contact info and check in mid-week
 - Be prepared to share next week how God worked through your commitment
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Reflection Questions for Journaling

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1. What privilege has God given me that I might be taking for granted?
 2. In what area of my life am I most tempted to "do my own thing" rather than God's way?
 3. What does my daily life communicate about who I really love and serve?
 4. If Jesus returned today, what would I wish I had done differently this past week?
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Closing Prayer Points

- **Confession** - Ask God to reveal areas of apostasy in our hearts
 - **Repentance** - Turn from known sin and rebellion
 - **Strength** - Request power to resist temptation and live for God's glory
 - **Boldness** - Pray for courage to share the gospel like Enoch did
 - **Gratitude** - Thank God for His patience, grace, and the privilege of knowing Him
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For Next Week

Read ahead: Jude 1:17-25 (the conclusion of the book)

Prepare to share: One way you saw God help you contend for the faith this week

Leader Notes

- **Be vulnerable** - Share your own struggles with the seeds of apostasy
 - **Keep it biblical** - Always return to Scripture, not just opinions
 - **Create safety** - Make the group a place where honest confession is welcomed
 - **Point to Jesus** - End with hope in the gospel, not just conviction of sin
 - **Follow up** - Reach out to anyone who seemed particularly convicted or struggling
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"Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." - Jude 1:3

5-Day Devotional: Learning from History's Warnings

Day 1: The Danger of Privilege Without Faithfulness

Reading: Numbers 14:1-4, 26-30

Devotional: The Israelites witnessed God's miraculous deliverance from Egypt—the plagues, the parted Red Sea, the pillar of fire by night. Yet when faced with the Promised Land, they complained and wanted to return to bondage. Privilege doesn't guarantee faithfulness. They had everything: God's presence, His provision, His protection. But they murmured, complained, and rejected His plan.

What privileges has God given you? Salvation, His Word, a church family, spiritual gifts? Don't take these for granted. The Israelites prayed to die in the wilderness—and God answered that prayer. Be careful what you ask for in your complaining. Today, examine your heart. Are you grateful for God's blessings, or have you become entitled? Repent of murmuring and choose faith over fear, gratitude over grumbling.

Day 2: Guarding Against Spiritual Compromise

Reading: Numbers 31:16; Revelation 2:14; 2 Peter 2:15-16

Devotional: Balaam knew God's will but sought profit anyway. When God said "no," he asked again. When he couldn't curse God's people directly, he found another way—leading them into immorality and idolatry. This is the error of Balaam: knowing what's right but doing wrong anyway for personal gain.

How many times has God clearly said "no" to something in your life, yet you keep asking, looking for loopholes, or compromising? Perhaps it's a relationship, a business deal, entertainment choices, or how you spend your time. Balaam had direct access to God but enriched himself instead. You have God's complete Word—don't ignore it for temporary pleasure or profit. The way back to sin is always open, but so is the way forward in obedience. Choose wisely today.

Day 3: Respecting God's Authority

Reading: Numbers 16:1-3, 31-35; Jude 8-11

Devotional: Korah was a Levite, set apart for God's service, yet he despised Moses' authority. His pride said, "I could do this better." The earth opened and swallowed him and his followers. Even Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil, didn't bring a railing accusation but said, "The Lord rebuke you."

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Are you resisting God's authority in your life? Perhaps you're critical of spiritual leadership, dismissive of Scripture's commands, or rebellious in your heart toward God's design for your life. Pride says, "My way is better." Humility submits to God's established order. You may be gifted, intelligent, and capable—Korah was too. But God opposes the proud and gives grace to the humble. Today, examine where you're resisting authority. Repent of pride and submit yourself to God's ways, trusting His wisdom over your own.

Day 4: The Reality of Spiritual Warfare

Reading: Genesis 6:1-7; 2 Peter 2:4-9

Devotional: Angels in God's presence rebelled and fell. They left their first estate for forbidden desires, and God reserved them in everlasting chains. Even supernatural beings with direct access to God's glory chose apostasy. This reveals the seriousness of rebellion and the reality of spiritual warfare.

You face a real enemy who wants you to fall away. Satan fell from heaven and took a third of the angels with him. He tempts you to covet, to pursue your own lusts, to reject God's design. But remember: even powerful angels face God's judgment. How much more should we walk carefully? Your flesh wants to sin. The world offers temptation. The devil whispers lies. But greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. Put on the armor of God today. Resist the devil and he will flee. Stay close to Jesus.

Day 5: Walking Faithfully Like Enoch

Reading: Genesis 5:21-24; Jude 14-16; Hebrews 11:5-6

Devotional: Enoch, the seventh from Adam, walked with God in a wicked generation. He prophesied of God's coming judgment and the Lord's return with ten thousands of His saints. Then God took him—he never saw death. Enoch's message is our message: Repent, for the Lord is coming.

In a world of apostasy, murmuring, and compromise, will you walk with God? Enoch lived among ungodliness yet maintained faithfulness. He preached truth when it was unpopular. He pleased God by faith. You live in similar times—wickedness abounds, false teachers multiply, many fall away. But you can be different. Walk with God daily through prayer, Scripture, and obedience. Preach the gospel boldly. Live as light in darkness. One day, like Enoch, God will say, "Well done, come home." Until then, walk faithfully. The Lord is coming soon.