

Contend Earnestly For the Faith Which Was Once For All Handed Down to the Saints

An Expositional Study of the **Epistle of Jude**

Chapter 13- The Prophecy of Enoch **Jude 14-15** 147 The Prophecy of Enoch Part 1

WOSM Thursday 05/29/08

Welcome again my beloved in Jesus Christ. We are continuing our verse by verse study of the **Epistle of Jude** and we have now come to a very fascinating place in Jude where we will examine the prophecy of Enoch. So, let's read **Jude 14 & 15** together:

14 And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,

15 To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

Now taken out of context- this prophecy could mean anything. But Jude wrote this prophecy down for us in his inspired Epistle so that we would link this prophecy to the false teachers. I want to remind all of us that this entire **Epistle of Jude** was written to warn the believers about apostates and deceivers who Jude said in verse 4 were going to creep into the Church and bring in bad doctrine and try to destroy the Church of Jesus Christ- so this entire Epistle is a real serious book about a real serious subject- one that is very relevant to us today.

Those of us, who believe that we are living in the last days, look to Scripture to give us certain "signs" which show us what time it is in God's economy. Most people, when they are speaking about last day signs are always talking about things like the nation of Israel; the supercomputer in Brussels Belgium; the mark of the Beast; the

Middle East wars; and the decline of our culture- and those events are of great importance to us.

But my concern has always been about the Church and the people of the Church and whether or not the Church is right and faithful and strong. And the Bible has some very specific last day “signs” which have to do with the Church and the people of the Church which also tell us what time it is in God’s economy. Let’s read about some of these signs in **Matthew 24:3&4:**

3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.

Now notice what the disciples had asked Jesus. In verse 3, they asked he Lord what was going to be the sign of His second coming and of the end of the world. They were asking Jesus what was going to be the “sign” that would mark the end of all things. And what was Jesus’ first response to their question about His second coming and of the end of the world in verse 4? Notice that Jesus did not start out with Middle East events. Notice that Jesus did not begin his answer of last day signs by discussing the decline of the culture or the Supreme Court or the mark of the beast. No, Jesus’ first response to the very specific question about the sign of His second coming and of the end of the world was very much to the point:

... Take heed that no man deceive you. (Matthew 24:4)

This was Christ’s first and foremost concern about the last days and it should be our concern also. Jesus didn’t suggest that, if it was convenient, that we should try to brush up a little about what the Bible says by periodically reading a few verses here and there. No, Jesus gave all of us a command that we “**take heed.**”

Now the phrase, “**take heed**” was a phrase that was common in both the Bible and in the Middle East at the time that Jesus walked the earth. The phrase, “**take heed**” was used 55 times in the Bible by everyone from Moses to Samuel to Ezra to Job to King David to Isaiah

Jeremiah, Hosea, and Malachi. Matthew and Mark used the term, “**take heed**” four times each. Luke used it nine times- six in his Gospel account and three times in the Diary of the Church- **The Book of the Acts of the Apostles**. The Apostle Paul used it seven times; the Apostle Peter used it once and the writer of **Hebrews** used it once.

In every single one of the fifty- five times the phrase, “**take heed**” is used in Scripture it means: *to be attentive; to apply ones self; to observe; and to give attention to.*

So, what did Jesus command us to be attentive to; what did Jesus say for us to apply ourselves to? What did Jesus say that we should give heed to in the last days? Jesus said that we were to take heed that no man deceive us. Why did Jesus command us to diligently take heed so that no man would deceive us? **Matthew 24:5** tells us why Jesus told us to take heed:

For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

Now through the years, we have looked at this verse in only one way. We have looked at this verse to mean that in the last days, many people will come in Christ’s Name saying that they themselves are Christ. And that verse surely *does* mean that- but we must also see that this verse also means that many will come in Christ’s Name and correctly say that Jesus is Christ and yet they still will deceive people because the rest of what they teach is wrong. Let me show you how.

Throughout the 2,000 year history of Christianity, there have been many who said that they themselves were Christ and they did indeed deceive many people. But the majority of those people operated from *outside* the Church, and they operated from the position of not being Christians. But all of the struggles that the Church has gone through over Doctrine came from within the Church and history shows us that many, many heretics- who wrecked great havoc among the people of God- stedfastly declared that Jesus was Lord- it was the other stuff they taught that was so damaging.

For example- Arius the heretic of the third and fourth century, who is the father of the modern day Jehovah’s Witnesses openly and proudly declared that Jesus was the Christ- but he also taught that Christ was not Deity, and he rejected the Biblical Truth that Jesus

was of the same substance with the Father. You may remember that we examined Arius and his heresy earlier in our study of Jude. At one time every single Bishop in the Christian Church agreed with Arius about his false Doctrine except one- Athanasius- and single handedly- God used Athanasius to rescue the Church and today we hold to the Doctrine of Christ's Deity due to the lifelong efforts of this one man.

Arius was ruled to be a heretic and he was excommunicated from the Church- yet he believed that Jesus was Christ.

In the fifth Century, Pelagius also agreed that Jesus was the Lord and would have never challenged that fact. Yet Pelagius' heresy was the foundation of what is today called Secular Humanism. He too, was declared to be a heretic and was also excommunicated from the Church because he taught false Doctrine about the Fall of Man and the Sovereignty of God. But Pelagius said that Jesus was Lord.

During the great debate about Justification of the 16th Century. Martin Luther stood against the power and authority of Rome and the pope himself and refused to accept the false teaching that man cooperates with God in his own Salvation but boldly proclaimed that Justification was by Grace alone through Faith alone in Christ alone apart from any human work- as the Bible declares.

This faithfulness to Scripture about Justification over 500 years ago brought forth what is today called the Protestant Reformation and those of us today who have not lost our protest can thank God for Martin Luther.

Yet the Roman bishops who attacked Luther steadfastly believed that Jesus was the Lord – yet they were so horribly wrong about how a man is justified.

And many of the false teachers of our day- who preach and teach things contrary to Sound Doctrine openly say that Jesus is Lord- yet the other things that they teach are rank poison to the soul of man.

The point that I am making is that it isn't enough for us to simply say that what Jesus was talking about in **Matthew 24** were people who would operate *outside* the Church and say that they themselves were Christ. No, we are commanded to be diligent to study and learn the very same Doctrine of the Apostles and we are to watch so that false teaching and deception does not come into the Church in our day.

And there is only one sure way to combat this invasion of false teaching in our day and that is that we must study to show ourselves approved unto God a workman that needeth not to be ashamed- rightly dividing the Word of Truth.

Now I want you to keep in mind that I didn't require this of you. Taking heed that you are not deceived in the last days is not my expectation. Jesus Christ commanded all of us- myself included- to do this and not Blair Bradley. And we all will have to answer to Jesus – not me- about whether or not we were obedient to what He said and whether or not we valued what He said enough to even try.

Now brothers and sisters, please listen to me. I am just a man with clay feet, and I am filled with mistakes and faults. I am a wretched sinner that has been glorious saved by Grace, and it is Mercy that rewrote my life. I am not the Judge- but I am one of many, many watchman on the wall blowing the trumpet that the enemy is at the gates.

You can argue all day long about my personality and you can debate with me about my style- and you may be right- but you cannot argue about the red letter words of the Lord Jesus Christ- they are what they are- I didn't write them. So, you and I best just humble ourselves and bow our knees to what Jesus clearly said and just simply obey Him.

So, I ask you today. What specific things are *you* doing to be obedient to what Jesus commanded us to do and take heed so that no man deceives you? Do you spend dedicated and consistent time in God's Word on a regular basis or do the cares of this life and television and sports rob you of your time in the Word?

Does the Bible bore you? Does Sound Biblical Doctrine appear to be dry and dull and uninteresting? Do you find it much easier to study a book *about* the Bible than to actually study the Bible itself? Why is that? Do you really think that God gave us the Bible so that we would *not* know it?

Why do you think that it is true that in almost every Church in America, Bible Studies and Prayer Meetings are the least attended services? Do you think that that is a healthy and normal thing? Why do you suppose that 100 years ago every Church routinely taught Doctrine yet today it is almost impossible to find a Church that routinely teaches orthodox, propositional, historical Doctrine so that

we may be equipped to resist the wave of heresy that we are facing today? Many pastors in our day would argue that teaching Doctrine isn't even necessary in our day.

And if you were the devil and if you wanted to get God's people to be weak and gullible and in a position to be misled- wouldn't you encourage the leadership of the Church to cancel Bible Studies?

Does your Church value and promote Bible Studies that deeply and earnestly search the Scriptures in a line by line, precept upon precept method? When is the last time that you engaged someone in a serious, deep discussion about important and eternal matters?

My Christian friend, do you engage yourself in regular times of earnest and fervent prayer? Does your Church promote those times? I spoke with the pastor of a mega Church in Florida several years ago, who pastors a Church of over 17,000 souls. He told me that if he called a prayer meeting or a Bible Study during the week- he would have less than 100 people come- so he just canceled them all because he said it wasn't worth opening the Church doors for just 100 people.

Do you really believe that *not* studying your Bible and *not* praying will equip you to obey Jesus and "take heed"? I don't. And neither did Jesus. And neither did Paul and Peter and John and James and the writer of Hebrews and neither did Jude.

So I encourage you- turn the TV off and cancel the softball games and put down the Video controllers and open your Bibles again and let's rejoice that we have God's Word so easily accessible to us and let's learn God's precious and glorious Truth again and let's put the altars back into the Churches and let's use them and as God's people, and let's weep again between the porch and the altar again and let's cry out to God again and let's repent of our apathy and our backsliding and our lukewarmness and let's wear out the knees of our pants before we wear out the seats of our pants and let's be obedient to what Jesus said and let's all earnestly contend for the Faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints. May God help us all.

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