

God's Grace – License to Sin? Part 1

The Letter of Jude

- Who was Jude?
 - Brother of James, brother of Jesus
- When was the letter written?
 - Approx. 65 A.D.
- Who were the recipients of this letter?
 - Not known; however, from the content of the letter it was most likely written to the gentiles

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The Letter of Jude

- Why did Jude write this letter?
 - Concern for believers in contact with false teaching that perverted God's grace into a license for sinful and immoral living
 - Warning of the dire consequences for those who bought into this lie
 - This particular heresy came from a misuse and misunderstanding of God's grace – specifically, salvation by grace

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Jude 1-2

- ¹Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James,
To those who have been called, who are loved by God
the Father and kept by Jesus Christ:
- ²Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance.

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Jude 3-7

³Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. ⁴For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.

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Jude 3-7

⁵Though you already know all this, I want to remind you that the Lord delivered his people out of Egypt, but later destroyed those who did not believe. ⁶And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day. ⁷In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire.

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Jesus our Sovereign Lord

3 examples emphasizing God's sovereignty and judgment

1. Israel's Deliverance from Egypt

- Israel's exodus from Egypt was an incredible display of God's power at work as he decimated one of the most powerful nations on earth
- Yet the generation that witnessed God's incredible power like no other generation ever did were destroyed by God because they did not believe he was capable of giving them the promised land
- "if only God would show up more often, we'd believe..."

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Jesus our Sovereign Lord

3 examples emphasizing God's sovereignty and judgment

1. Israel's Deliverance from Egypt
2. Angels Rebel Against God's Authority
 - God's sovereignty is displayed over the heavenly realms as well as here on earth as he gave authority and positions to the Angels
 - God's judgment came swift as the Angels were not given the chance to repent and receive forgiveness
 - Rebellion against authority is the norm of our culture

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Jesus our Sovereign Lord

3 examples emphasizing God's sovereignty and judgment

1. Israel's Deliverance from Egypt
2. Angels Rebel Against God's Authority
3. Sodom & Gomorrah
 - Gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion ultimately rebelling against God and his ways
 - God's judgment on them serves as an example for all future generations of the consequences of sinful and immoral living
 - How does one keep oneself pure? – Psalm 119:9-16

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Jude 8-10

⁸In the very same way, these dreamers pollute their own bodies, reject authority and slander celestial beings.

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Jesus our Sovereign Lord

Rebellion against the sovereignty of Jesus

- Dreamers
 - Out of touch with reality and truth
- Pollute their own bodies
 - As Sodom had polluted itself with sexual immorality
- Reject authority
 - These men rejected both Jesus as an authority (Lord) and the spiritual leadership of the church

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Jesus our Sovereign Lord

Rebellion against the sovereignty of Jesus

- Slanderers of things not understood
 - The arrogance of these men is displayed as they speak abusively of things they do not understand

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Jude 11

⁹But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring a slanderous accusation against him, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!" ¹⁰Yet these men speak abusively against whatever they do not understand; and what things they do understand by instinct, like unreasoning animals—these are the very things that destroy them. ¹¹Woe to them! They have taken the way of Cain; they have rushed for profit into Balaam's error; they have been destroyed in Korah's rebellion.

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Jesus our Sovereign Judge

3 Wrong Ways

1. The Way of Cain (Genesis 4)

- Arrogance – coming to God on our own terms
- Cain is known for his rebellion, hatred, envy, and murder
- Cain was ultimately banished by God
- Cain's sin continues today in our “me-first” society
- Many expect that God should bend his will to ours

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3 Wrong Ways

1. The Way of Cain (Genesis 4)

2. The Way of Balaam (Numbers 22)

- Greed – followed money as his god (one of the main gods of our culture)
- Blindness – although Balaam was known as a “seer”, he was blind to spiritual reality and truth
- Balaam was responsible for leading Israel astray and was killed in battle while fighting against Israel

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Jesus our Sovereign Judge

3 Wrong Ways

1. The Way of Cain (Genesis 4)
2. The Way of Balaam (Numbers 22)
3. The Way of Korah (Numbers 16)
 - Rebellion/rejection of the authority put in place by God (Moses & Aaron)
 - The ground opened & swallowed Korah & his men
 - Cultural motto: “who are you to tell me what to do?”

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Jude 12-13

¹²These men are blemishes at your love feasts, eating with you without the slightest qualm—shepherds who feed only themselves. They are clouds without rain, blown along by the wind; autumn trees, without fruit and uprooted—twice dead. ¹³They are wild waves of the sea, foaming up their shame; wandering stars, for whom blackest darkness has been reserved forever.

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Jude 14-16

⁴Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: "See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones ¹⁵to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him." ¹⁶These men are grumblers and faultfinders; they follow their own evil desires; they boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage.

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An Understanding of God's Grace

- Our entrance into eternal life cannot be earned and is completely undeserved
- The punishment and payment for our sin has been made and our sins have graciously been forgiven
- This grace results in a transformed heart which leads us to live differently and to see Jesus as both our Lord and Saviour
- Our actions from this transformed heart are evidence of this transformation, and are not what saves us

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A Challenge to Us from Jude

- Have you bought into the lie that you are entitled to live however you please because God will forgive you?
- Are you guilty of perverting God's grace into a license to sin?
- Are you aware that God is Sovereign, and does your life reflect this truth?
- Do not be like the men in this text. Humble yourself, repent of your sin, and pursue godliness rather than your own sinful desires