

The Book of Jude (Part 19) – End Time Warning for The Church

August 7, 2021

The following text is a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at <https://www.cornerfringe.com/media/kwx4ztk/the-book-of-jude-part-19>

***Portions of this document have been edited from the video message to better present a comprehensive, written document. Special attention was given to preserve the original context, but this document is not verbatim. Scripture verses are in the red text with other quotes in blue. Therefore, it is recommended that this document is printed in color. The Hebrew words are generally accompanied by the transliteration into the English alphabet. In most cases, the Hebrew is to be read from right to left.**

All right, Shabbat Shalom, everyone. I've titled today's message, *An Unholy Lullaby*. I know it sounds a little ominous, and it is. You're going to understand why I'm calling it this as we get further into today, but to kind of upfront warn you, today's message will carry over into next week as well. On that note, be ready because we're almost done with Jude. We're getting to the end here; we probably have a couple of weeks left, and then we're going to start something else, whatever that is. I'll let the Lord worry about that. Amen.

We're going to get right to it. Last week, this is where we were in Jude 1:16—**These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage.** Verse 16 is where the writer talks about these grumblers and complainers. We went back and looked in Scripture, at the Torah and the Prophets. We even went beyond that into the Apocrypha. We looked at example after example of what these men look like, how dangerous these men are, and how they can have such an impact not on the world, but on the church, on the people of God, people who came into covenant with the living God, who had been in relationship with Him, who had experienced Him. Yet these people who turned the grace of God into lewdness have risen up, these false prophets and false teachers, and they wreak havoc on the church. Today, the writer is going to build on this, and we're going to break ground here.

Follow me; we're going to Jude 1:17—**But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Messiah Yeshua, Jesus Christ.** This is fascinating to me, and we need to pause. You need to feel this, absorb this, and take this moment in because the writer, as always, very intentional about what he's doing, is taking you back to the apostles. You had better listen to their doctrine, listen to their word, and hear them. The question is, why would we do that? The answer is because it's life and death. Have you ever thought about it in that context? Whether you listen to the apostles' doctrine and their teaching or not is the difference between whether you survive and make it and enter into eternity or whether you spend eternity separated from God, destroyed in hell.

Listen to the words of Yeshua in Luke 10:16—**"He who hears you, and He's speaking to His apostles, hears Me, he who rejects you rejects Me, and he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me."** Do you get it? If you're not going to listen to the apostles, understand who you're rejecting: you're rejecting Yeshua Himself, which ultimately, guess what, you're rejecting the Father. That puts some serious weight on the apostles doctrine and teaching. Listening to them is not negotiable if you want eternal life; this is the way you need to feel.

John says this in I John 4:6—**We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.** The apostles are the measuring line. The beautiful thing here is that when you go to the New Testament, we get all the writings and teachings of the apostles carried throughout; we get to see all these things. You are now confronted with the reality of. Whoa! This authority is divinely inspired by the Spirit of God. I will read the New Testament as I read the Torah; it puts it on the same level. See, that's a game changer, especially for Messianic Jews that come into faith in Yeshua. That's a game changer. Now they're looking at these words as, Well, I'm hanging on every word that the apostles speak; I'm going to apply it; I will heed it.

Apostle Paul says this: Ephesians 2:20—**having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone.** Notice what he does here when he says, “**the apostles and prophets.**” He's literally saying the bedrock—the bedrock of the Gospel, of Salvation—is laid upon the prophets and apostles, putting the apostles on the same level as the prophets. I hope that makes you read the New Testament a little bit differently.

Certainly, as we look at what Jude has to say in Jude 1:17—**But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ** (emphasis added). What is Jude doing here? He's pulling out the heavy artillery. He wants to show you that everything I'm telling you, thus far as we've been reading this epistle to Jude, everything he's written thus far is deadly accurate. He tells you the truth, and the apostles will bear witness to what he says. This is why he's bringing them to the table.

What do they say? Well, they say this as we continue in Jude 1:18—**how they told you that there would be mockers** (emphasis added). I want to stop here. There would be mockers. In the Greek, mockers is *empaiktai* (ἐμπαῖκται). Remember that word, “*empaiktai*”; we're going to need it later, but “*empaiktai*” is just that. It's a mocker, a scoffer; it is what you would call a false teacher by implication; this is what it is. Well, let me ask you the question: What has Jude been talking about this entire time? Through his whole epistle, this is what he's been talking about. He brought all these different names, right? He brings the term dreamers to the table; he talks about grumblers and complainers, clouds without water, and trees without fruit. He has all these different names and analogies for the same people, and now he brings another name to the table, this time *empaiktai*, a mocker and a scoffer. We're talking about all the same people here.

What do they do? We continue in Jude 1:18—**how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts** (emphasis added). I want you to listen to me carefully. This goes on the heels of some of the stuff that we've been talking about in the last couple of weeks. The mockers, the scoffers, the dreamers, the grumblers, the complainers, the destroyers of the church. They are going to be released en masse at a specific time, and that is in the last days. Now, Jude is bringing this and saying, You better listen to the apostles. They warned us this is going to happen in the last days. Oh, specifically what time? The time of tribulation—time of tribulation.

Think about this; follow this logic through. When the church begins to fracture and come under stress, when there's fear on every side and they're faced with the persecution they couldn't even imagine, it comes in heavy upon them. Do you think Satan is going to say, I'm going to back up a little bit? Do you think he's going to back off a little, let them breathe a little, and show them a little bit of mercy? Do you know what he does? He comes in at the most vulnerable point of where these Christians are at, and he's

going to unleash hell. He's going to unleash false prophets, false teachers, and false shepherds; he's going to inundate the market with them and create pandemonium and confusion.

I'm going to tell you right now, go to Acts Chapter 20 and see what the Apostle Paul says to the leaders in Ephesus as he literally reminds them and says, Hey, savage wolves are going to come in among you. They're going to tear you up; they will not spare the flock. I've been warning you about this day and night for years with tears. This is what I've been doing: I've been vexed over this. Paul couldn't stop crying, and he wouldn't stop talking about it. The apostles, other apostles, didn't stop talking about it.

I challenge you: go back and get an eyeful of this. Go back to the Torah and onward as you look at the Old Testament; watch Israel in the wilderness. When do the scoffers, grumblers, and complainers rise to the surface? When they're freaking out, when they're terrified, when they're fearful, when it is at its worst because of trials and tribulations. When they're experiencing things they'd never experienced before, like not having water and thinking they were all going to die. Like being at the Red Sea with an army pressing on them and they're not armed for war, thinking they were all going to die. They're experiencing insane tribulation going through these trials. Oh, that's when these guys rise to the surface. Don't think it's going to be any different as we enter into this tribulation, which there has never been a tribulation like what is coming. Try to wrap your mind around that. With everything that we've read, there are certainly things that keep me up at night. I know how Hanukkah went down. That is not a good story, as they're ripping unborn children from their mother's womb. It's the most disgusting thing you have ever heard; it's like, where is your humanity? It's going to be worse; what is coming is going to be worse than that, and he is warning us about this.

He goes on and says in Jude 1:19, — **These are sensual persons**, sensual persons, *psychikoi* (ψυχικοί). That word is important; its definition is “natural.” If you go to different places in Scripture, primarily 1 Corinthians 2:14, Paul uses this term to refer to the “natural man.” Natural man, it's natural, but the implication here is that these people, these scoffers and mockers, are worldly-minded. They are focused on the world, not on the Kingdom of God. Their priorities are screwed up. They put more emphasis and concern on their employment, on things that are going on, and on obtaining certain things, materialistic things; they put more into that. They spend more time with the television than they spend on their knees in prayer. It's messed up, and yet these guys are in the church; the context here is they're in the church. This is a worst-case scenario, absolutely. These are sensual persons, and listen to what they do. This is where this whole sermon is going; I highlighted this: **who cause divisions, not having the Spirit** (emphasis added). Not having the Spirit of God, this is their fruit; it's what they do.

I want you to appreciate something here because Jude is casting a very, very broad net. It's a very generic statement in the sense of saying, Hey, they caused divisions, because I can tell you there are countless different ways those divisions can come in through these mockers and scoffers. There are all sorts of different things they can participate in that are unholy that would fall under the umbrella of division.

Here's what I want to do: I want to dig into this. I want to unwrap this by going to Peter's version of Jude's sermon. Again, Peter gives the same sermon that Jude does; they're virtually identical to the point where scholars are still arguing today who wrote it first and who's plagiarizing whom. That's how identical they are; that's how close they are. I want to show you Peter's version of this statement, because he's going to make it, but he doesn't cast this general term around, which could apply to a lot of things. He gets hyper-specific, and as we peel this back, this will open up a whole new discussion, a whole new realm.

So, let's take a peek at this in II Peter 3:1— **Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder)**. That's a typical way to introduce what you're going to get into in the sense of how we see the apostles, whether we're going to First John or to Paul's letter to the Philippians—Philippians 3:1—... **For me to write the same things to you is not tedious, but for you it is safe**. What he's telling us is, Yeah, you know what? We're knuckleheads. We have thick heads, and we need to be reminded of things. How many of you have read the Bible cover to cover one time? Are you good? Are you done? Do you have it all? No, it's just not how it works. You constantly need to be reminded, and Peter understands this, especially in this context.

He moves on, and this is what we read in II Peter 3:2—**that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior**, a couple of things that we see here. Number one, he says the exact same thing that Jude just said in Verse 17, although he adds a little twist to it; he adds the holy prophets in addition to the apostles. Again, Peter himself puts himself with the other apostles on the same level as the prophets because there's authority, ultimate authority. Yeshua said to Peter in Matthew 16:19, **I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven...** If you go to Matthew 18:18, you understand what that means. **Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven**; you have authority.

This is a strong statement, a nice introduction, Peter. He should have your attention. He says this in II Peter 3:3—**knowing this first**: I want to stop here. This part is missing in Jude's version. Before Peter gets into what they have to say, he says, "knowing this first," in other words, what I'm about to tell you is priority number one; this takes precedence above all else. Again, why do you think Paul is crying for three years, day and night, not ceasing to warn the people that hell is coming to the church? These wolves are coming in, and they're going to rip it apart. This is priority number one for the apostles. So, he says, knowing this first, oh, **that scoffers**—and this is what you need to understand. That's the term *empaiktai* (ἐμπαῖκται), the exact same Greek term Jude used. We have two different English translations: scoffers in Peter and mockers in Jude 1:18. It doesn't matter; they both mean the same thing; it's the same Greek word. Scoffers **will come** when? **In the last days, walking according to their own lusts** (emphasis added).

Here's what's interesting. As we continue in Jude's version, Jude would say, These are central persons **who cause divisions**. What does Peter do? He gets specific, and this is what Peter says in II Peter 3:4—**and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."** (Emphasis added). That is what I call an unholy lullaby. Where you have people within the church, men and women, people that are used to fellowshiping together, they are there, but all of a sudden they change their tune. Why are they changing their tune? Because they're under duress, trials and tribulations come. Who in their right mind have you ever heard running around when things are great, food in their belly, the heat's on in the house, everything is great, your freedoms and liberties are well intact, and you don't typically see Christians within the church asking, Where is He? You don't. This is a time of tribulation, and these guys are fracturing. They're giving in to an unholy lullaby themselves, and they themselves are singing it to others. They're giving in to doubt. Where is the promise of His coming? See, these men, beware, they're coming, and they are going to seem logical. They're going to come in so subtly and so deceptively because they're already in the faith; they're already amongst us. They are going to rise up, and they're going to say, Well, hang on a second, let's think; we need to be reasonable and logical men. Look at the hell that has come to us.

I go back to the Torah, to the Word, and I see all these men rise up. Korah rose up because he needed to take matters into his own hands because things were going badly. He doubted; that doubt crept in. These guys will come in and start singing their unholy lullaby to put you to the sleep of death; it is certain. If you receive this and talk like this, it's going to happen, and there's not going to be anything left.

These men will come on the scene, and I love what Peter adds here in II Peter 3:4—... **“For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.”** You have these guys that'll come into the church and say, Hold on a second. We as Christians maybe just need to calm down. Maybe we shouldn't be so rambunctious and uppity, saying with all this urgency, Oh, Jesus is coming soon; Jesus is coming soon. I don't see Him.

Hell has come to our doorstep, and people are dying; Christians are literally being decapitated. They're being tortured and imprisoned; where is He? Where is that promise? For 2,000 years teachers have taken the pulpit, and they keep telling me, Jesus is coming soon; He's coming soon. We've got people that have written books. He's coming on this date. He's going to come on this date. No, he's going to come on this date. Every single time, guess what doesn't happen? Yeshua doesn't come. This is what these guys are going to see. They're going to say, I'm just a reasonable man; I'm just looking at the historical context of what is going on here. That is an unholy lullaby; they are falling victim to doubt. They have let doubt creep into their heart.

I'm going to tell you right now, all the devil has to do to mess with the church is get them to doubt the promises of God, the promise that He is coming soon, and the promise that you will be delivered. Get them to doubt John 3:16, the promise that **God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son**, because we have a lot of believers that don't believe God loves them. Do you know how scary that is? We have people that are sleeping right now, the sleep of death. They've received this unholy lullaby because they don't believe the truth. They don't believe God's Word.

This is what terrifies me: when you think about this, and you think about how many have fallen into this trap already, and things haven't even ramped up yet. Let me ask you something. When you have given in to the unholy lullaby, when it has sung the tune to your heart, and you take that in, and doubt starts to get sown in your heart, do you know what you do? You become complacent, and then what happens is you go to the Word, and it doesn't burn in your heart anymore. You read a passage, and it doesn't mean much to you; you're not driven to read it. Something's wrong; you used to pray, you used to take it seriously, and you believed in its power, but not anymore. You just don't go there; it doesn't mean as much to you anymore because you don't believe it. You have doubt, and you are literally falling into the category of the mockers, scoffers, and dreamers.

How is it that we can have all these passages that you can go to and read about this radical judgment of God that is going to be unleashed on the earth, and it doesn't move you? It doesn't move you to repentance anymore. You know, maybe 20 years ago you heard a message and it cut you to the heart and you felt the fire, the Holy Spirit, and it dropped you to your knees and you said, I don't want to be judged, I don't want to face an eternity away from Yeshua, and I don't want to be destroyed. You had a childlike heart. You had this faith that burned within you; it was confirming the Word. You felt the power. What happened to the men and women who would look at Scripture and understand Psalm 68:35— **O God, You are more awesome than Your holy places. The God of Israel is He who gives strength and power to His people. Blessed be God!** Yeah, we can hear that message today, and what does that mean? It means nothing to a scoffer, to one who has received an unholy lullaby. This is terrifying.

So, not only do we have this warning that scoffers go out, but you're going to have a lot of people who have fallen victim to their message; they're already living their message, and they don't even know it because they are not on fire for the living God. They're not enraptured by His love. All doubt. All doubt, it's absolutely incredible.

There's a term for this in modern-day psychology that I want to bring to the table, and it's called the normalcy bias. I'm going to share a quick definition with you because I think it's going to blow your mind. This is what we're dealing with. —*PsycholoGenie*, What is normalcy bias? —**Definition: Normalcy bias is a psychological state of denial people enter [into] in the event of a disaster**; in other words, wrath, judgment in our context that we're talking about, hell is coming. It is going to be kindled by the lips of Yeshua. Okay, disaster is real—as a result ... **they underestimate the possibility of the disaster actually happening, and its effects on their life and property**. This is real; this is what I would call a real disease. Then it goes on, **Their denial is based on the assumption that if the disaster has not occurred until now, it will never occur** (emphasis added).

Welcome to the normalcy bias. II Peter 3:4—and saying, **"Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."** (Emphasis added). This is exactly what they're saying: because it hasn't happened by now, we can go back thousands of years—all this talk of Jesus coming soon, but it hasn't happened; therefore, it's not going to happen. To do that, to get to that point, to follow that unholy lullaby, guess what you have to do: you have to stop believing the Word. You are no longer walking in faith; you're on the path to hell; this is the reality. This is an unholy lullaby.

I want to take you to the Book of Jeremiah, and I'll give you the background context after we read the first part here. Jeremiah 38:2—**"Thus says the LORD: keep in mind God speaking through Jeremiah, 'He who remains in this city, Jerusalem, shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence;** and I want to stop here because guess what? Those are God's go-to. They are His favorite forms of judgment when He brings judgment against nations, not just Israel, but against nations; this is what He's bringing. Oh, interesting. Page through, get to Revelation Chapter 6, and what will you see? You will see this judgment coming upon the entire world. There will be a sword, there will be famine, and there will be serious pestilence—but **he who goes over to the Chaldeans shall live; his life shall be as a prize to him, and he shall live.'**

Get the context here. Jeremiah has been sent by God to tell them wrath and judgment are coming; it is certain. This is coming, but does God leave them without hope? No. He gives them hope, and the hope is if you obey My voice, if you keep My charge, if you keep My commandments, which is said throughout the Book of Jeremiah, if you listen to Me, oh, you will live. Understand something: this is a prophetic template that we need to draw from right now. You must listen; you must believe. You're not going to listen to His voice unless you first believe that every bit of it is true. Then we can be spared the radical judgment that is coming, which, as I mentioned before, is way far worse than you can imagine what the tribulation is going to be like. That just doesn't even put it into context.

He goes on, in Jeremiah 38:4—**Therefore the princes said to the king, "Please, let this man be put to death.** Scoffers, dreamers, mockers, grumblers, and complainers, see, because things are ramping up in Yerushalayim, persecutions are already happening. They're getting jarred; the Chaldeans are attacking different parts of Judea; the message of hell and judgment is on its way, and Jeremiah comes and delivers this message, and what happens? These dreamers, these scoffers, these mockers—they rise to

the surface, and they want to cancel Jeremiah like this cancel culture wants to cancel Jesus. They go to censor him; they don't want him talking to them anymore. Why? Why don't they want him talking when he's coming in the name of the LORD? Look at this; this is why, **for thus he weakens the hands of the men of war who remain in this city, and the hands of all the people, by speaking such words to them. For this man does not seek the welfare of this people, but their harm.**" (Emphasis added). We don't want Jeremiah going on scaring the people of God. All this crazy judgment talk, this doomsday, the world's coming to an end, sky-is-falling nutcase, is messing with our world. He's making people unsettled. There's nothing beneficial about this.

Do you want to take this even further and see how scary this is? Do you know that these very same people were the ones going to the temple and offering sacrifices and praying to Yahweh? Do you know these are the very same people that believed the prophet who rose up during this time, Hananiah, who said, We will be delivered by God; we're going to be delivered. This is scary. There are so many stories that I can share, and this is why we have to take this into next week; there's too much here; this is way too serious. This is a form of where the scoffers come in; you're going to see what they're going to do. We have all these examples, and we'd know about them if we read the Word once in a while. We'd know about them if we prayed more. The Spirit of God is speaking to us, telling us the things to come, guiding us by His Spirit through His Word, through faith in Yeshua the Messiah.

I want to take you to one more passage to show you another way this works. II Timothy 2:17-18—¹⁷ **And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, ¹⁸ who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past;** It's interesting; we all know in the first century, as soon as the gospel started spreading, all heck broke loose; that's when persecution started happening. What happened? False prophets came in, just like Paul warned them. These false prophets, Hymenaeus and Philetus, came in acting as scoffers in the very same manner. Instead of asking, Where's the promise of the coming? They're telling you that you missed it. You actually missed it; you missed the coming of the LORD. What happens when you run around and say, Where's the promise of His coming? What happens when you tell them, Hey, you've missed the coming of the LORD? This is what happens, **and they overthrow the faith of some** (emphasis added). Oh my.

Let me leave you with this thought. What do you think is going to happen to all the Evangelical Christians whose pastors are telling them that they, don't have to go through the tribulation? You're going to be out of here; you're going to be gone when that tribulation hits. What is going to happen to these people? They've been set up; they're going to rise up with doubt and say, Where's the promise of His coming? That's why God has to send His shepherds out now, and the strong need to rise up. They need to start speaking the truth in love; this is not an option, people.

We're going to close here, and we're going to pray.