

They are focused on the work of man rather than focusing on the grace of God.

Our translation now:

Jude 3: “Beloved ones (fellow believers), while I was making all haste to write you about our common salvation, I felt it necessary to write you, urging you to vigorously defend the faith (Bible Doctrine in the soul) which was once for all handed down to the saints (you and me – believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.)” (EXT)

Jude 4: “For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.” (NASB)

This verse is an overview of the situation which is being addressed by Jude.

It’s an overview of the illustrations that will come in the next few verses.

Notice Jude doesn’t name anyone specific here, he just calls them “*certain persons*.” He wants us to understand individuals are involved here.

Jude describes these men as creeps who creep in unnoticed.

“*παρεισδύνω*” – “*pareisdýnō*” it means “*they enter secretly*”; “*to sneak in without detection*.” They “*enter stealthily*” and before you realize it, it’s too late.

These persons are dishonest, disingenuous, and deceivers and they sneak in.

They are able to sneak in because believers are unable to detect the truth from the lie.

These certain men teach false doctrine. 1 Timothy 4:1 and 2 Timothy 3:5-7

They pass themselves off as the highest authority from God. 2 Corinthians 11:13-15

They have deceptive personalities (sneaky; hard to pin down). 2 Timothy 3:1-7

They put on phony facades. They’re like used car salesmen – superficial and empty. Matthew 23:27-28

They are influenced, or sometimes controlled, by demons (i.e., they are part of the cosmic system). 1 Corinthians 10:20-21

The individuals described above who creep in require the believer to be doctrinally sharp so they can be easily recognized and revealed when the truth is readily available to draw from and doctrine in the soul is applied.

In other words, you cannot recognize falsehood unless you know truth. That is where Jude is going in addressing these believers.

“those (the creeps) who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons,”

“beforehand marked out” is the perfect, passive, participle of “προγράφω” – “*prográphō*” and it means: “to be written beforehand”.

What was written beforehand happened a long time ago (in earlier times).

What was written beforehand may have been found written in another document by another author long before Jude wrote his epistle.

This is why Jude uses “*prográphō*” – “written beforehand” because he wants to communicate the fact that this is not something he is saying. He’s just repeating something that’s been around for a long time.

The passive voice indicates that the subject, which is “*ungodly men*,” is receiving the action of being written about beforehand by God.

God’s doing the writing so, really, what Jude is saying is, “Look I’m just repeating something that God wrote a long time ago.”

We have the preposition “εἰς” - “*eis*” and the noun “κρίμα” – “*kríma*,” which means “judgment” or “condemnation.”

This is a condemnation, or a judgment written beforehand. A guilty verdict.

They are judged guilty a long time ago before they even existed.

These people who are infiltrating your churches have been judged by God beforehand and it was written in a document beforehand.

Jude doesn’t mention the punishment but since they are unbelievers, I think we can surmise what the punishment will be. As unbelievers, they are enemies of God destined for judgment.

Jude is, therefore, telling them, “Don’t sweat these guys. Identify them.” Here’s what’s going to happen to them, and you don’t want anything to do with these people.

“For certain persons have snuck in without detection, those (creeps) who were long beforehand written out for this condemnation (judgment) (In the Divine Decrees), ungodly (Without God and without Christ - Unbelievers) ...”

These unbelievers (ungodly) are enemies of God and enemies of Christians.

They can talk the talk of a Christian and often do. (That's what makes them such great deceivers.)

They know the scripture and they can talk the talk, yet they are unbelievers. It was written beforehand by God that they would be condemned and judged for their unbelief.

Jude 4c gives us their method for deception.

**“who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.”**

Turn is the present active participle of the Greek verb “μετατίθημι” – “*metatithēmi*.” It means “those who transfer” or “put in another place”. The present tense here of “*metatithēmi*” is progressive, meaning that the action of transferring is in progress.

The progress is happening as Jude writes. What is being transferred? “The grace of God is transferring into licentiousness – the lewdness of the ungodly.”

This is a perversion, a distortion of Christianity. Jude now says it is over and obvious.

What is taking the place of “God’s grace” – “ἀσέλγεια” – “*asélgeia*” and it means to “give oneself over to the inclinations of sensuality.” In other words, to live in “licentiousness,” debauchery, drunkenness, drug abuse.

This verse refers to unbelievers, but it certainly can apply to believers, as we shall see.

This word “*asélgeia*” does have a sexual connotation and this is one of the problems we see in the United States today.

This is one of the reasons this epistle is so pertinent today. We are a nation of “*asélgeia!*”

With the LGBTQ in our nation today, Christians are faced not with minor or insignificant theological changes to gain leftist acceptance, but with wholesale changes to the historical doctrines of the church.

Essentially, it’s “*asélgeia*” versus Christianity, which is what Jude is talking about.

Churches and denominations across America are changing, or contemplating changing, their doctrines to be more inclusive and supportive of the LGBTQ community.

We now have confusion over what a male and female are, and churches are also going with the flow to be accepted and attract members.

The current national zeitgeist is demanding changes to every aspect of traditional Christian theology.

In order for them to get their way, orthodox Christian theology - Biblical theology - has to change.

It's all happening right now, and Jude is setting things up so we can see this perversion of grace.

Acceptance of this licentiousness is increasing, even among believers. A doctrine of Scripture will be compromised if believers change to fit the new cultural mores and standards.

Biblical doctrines are being compromised, and they're substituting perversion for the doctrine of grace.

Jude tells us "we must vigorously defend the faith," as Martin Luther did in the 16<sup>th</sup> century: "Here I stand. I can do no other."

"*Aselgeia*" is nothing more than immoral degeneracy, resulting in the practice of every kind of immorality and insatiable lust, all of which are obviously opposed to the grace of God.

How can believers become involved in these perversions?

1. The rationalization is this: those who are saved by grace are now free to live in whatever way suits them.
2. Believers compromise grace and doctrine for cultural relevancy and acceptance.
3. An example of this rationalization is the way some believers use rebound. This is a perfect illustration of the grace of God being abused.
4. Sin now, rebound later. Sin all I want because God in His grace has given me rebound.
5. Such believers claim liberty in Christ, interpreting His grace as a license to sin.
6. The grace of God is perverted in "*aselgeia*."
7. I can sin without inhibitions or guilt. That's the thinking and the transfer that Jude is warning about.
8. The purpose of rebound is not to allow us to sin freely; its purpose is to take care of sin so that we can freely advance to spiritual maturity.
9. Romans 6:1-2: "What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase?"

Vs. 2: "May it never be! (This is a strong negation.)

Another way unbelievers can transfer grace to "*aselgeia*" is to change divine establishment principles.

These people change divine establishment principles into lewdness. They make them acceptable.

They make acceptable contemporary culture that which is unacceptable to God. In other words, changing morality to immoral degeneracy.

One of the obvious transfers of all this today is the divine institution of marriage for same sex marriage.

We now have in our verse “ἀρνέομαι” – “arnéomai” and it means to “deny” or “repudiate” or “disown.” This is a very strong term for negative volition.

Jude here is speaking of the false teachers who pervert the grace of God. Who do they deny? “Our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.”

“Master” here is the Greek noun “δεσπότης” – “despótēs” and it describes power without limit.

It simply means absolute authority, and power without limit.

“... who are distorting the grace of our God into licentiousness (perversion) and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.”

The expanded translation of verse 4: “For certain persons have snuck in without detection, those (creeps) who were long beforehand written out for this condemnation (judgment) (In the Divine Decrees), ungodly (Without God and without Christ - unbelievers) who are distorting the grace of our God into lewdness (perversions) and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.” (EXT)

1. The false teachers are rejecting and perverting the very doctrines of our Lord Jesus Christ.
2. They disown the sovereign God of the universe and the God-man who died for them.
3. As man, He died for us, the greatest demonstration of grace that there is. As the God-man, He is absolute sovereignty.
4. He is the creator of the universe, and he is the One who upholds all things by the Word of His power.
5. He is absolute truth, but they thoroughly reject the Almighty and the grace of God in Christ. For what? Pleasure, lewdness, or the excesses of sexual sin.

Jude 5: “Now I desire to remind you, though you know all things once for all, that the Lord, after saving a people out of the land of Egypt, subsequently destroyed those who did not believe.” (NASB)

The first illustration that Jude will give us is the apostasy of the Exodus generation.

Jude begins with the present active indicative of the verb “βούλομαι” – “*boulomai*,” meaning “to want something” or “desire something.”

He desires to remind them of three illustrations, and they must use their own thinking and make some application based on what information they had in the mentality of their souls.

It is something they knew before that they no longer considered, or they have forgotten. Thus, Jude says, “I desire to remind you.” He will remind them of the three situations that will apply to them.

This verse is a very pointed reminder, since the recipients are moving in the same direction as those who are in these illustrations.

Next, you have the verb “ὑπομνήσκω” – “*hypomimnēskō*,” which means “to remember” or “to bring to remembrance,” to “recall to mind.”

“You have the adverb “ἅπας” – “*hapax*,” which means “once and for all.” It is presented once and then retained for all time.

Then you have the accusative neuter plural of “πᾶς” – “*pās*” and in the neuter it means “all things.”

So, our modified translation would be: “knowing once for all, all things”.

**“Now I desire to bring to your remembrance, knowing once for all, all things...”**

Once you’ve learned Bible Doctrine, you must apply it to your life. If you forget it, you’re not applying it. The completed canon of scripture, the inspired Word of God, contains all things that you need to know but it must be taught, heard, metabolized, and retained.

There is a sense of urgency Jude has in verse 5. Jude sees a parallel between Israel and those believers who are the recipients of his epistle. He sees the same danger.

Israel experienced a huge display of God’s grace in the Exodus. God gave them His law on Mount Sinai, a law that no one else had: a divine law. They were His chosen people, and He would take care of them. But a number of these Jews, after all of this, rejected and rebelled, and it occurred in a number of incidents.

Even though His people failed, His discipline and His forbearance and His grace were made evident.

PRINCIPLE: God’s grace is always in action. God’s grace is what supports you and supplies you with logistical grace. His grace has supplied you with salvation and the spiritual life. God even provides you with dying grace and eternal life.

The history of Israel is the history of a lack of grace orientation, and a lack of faithfulness to God’s word. That is what Jude understands.

Jude fears if his readers reject his appeal about false teachers, apostasy, and true doctrine, and follow the same course as Israel, they will receive divine discipline and worse. Jude wants to preclude this. So, the believers now receiving Jude's epistle must not ignore what they already know to be true. Jude was just reminding them what they already knew. They must not succumb to what is not in their best interest (false doctrine and apostasy).

This illustration allows Jude to remind his audience that the spies who lied after their reconnaissance of the Promised Land were all killed immediately. Numbers 14:37

Then, the rest of the Exodus generation died in the desert over the next 40 years. Only the second generation, 20 years and under, would enter the land that God promised. Why? Because of no "grace orientation," no "doctrinal orientation," and no "faith rest." After everything God had done for the Exodus generation, they couldn't trust Him to deliver them in the Promise Land. They were still unbelievers.

The bottom line in this first illustration is the readers of Jude's epistle must not deviate from sound doctrine and they must not drift from grace.

They must contend for the faith in their souls, as Jude has said, in order to preclude discipline, and in order to continue to live the spiritual life.

Jude understands the inroads made by the deceivers, the false teachers, who are just like those 10 spies. Jude presents the solution incumbent upon these churches who are being attacked by the false teachers.

His readers have forgotten, ignored, or been lied to about what they should have known or recalled all along. They knew the doctrine necessary to preclude the falsehood, and yet they needed to be reminded, as we all do at some point. That might be called "repetition."

They have neglected what they need to resist, just like Israel. They are caught up in false doctrine, which brings apostasy and destruction to the spiritual life.

**Jude 5: "But I want to remind you, though you once for all time knew all of these things, that the Lord..."**

Here we have the aorist passive participle of "σώζω" – "sōzō," which means to "save" or "deliver to safety."

God graciously delivered His people from Egypt in order to fulfill His covenant to Abraham – a great nation! But saving them from destruction did not preclude their bad decisions.

What happens when the gracious provisions of God for all the Israelites were rejected?

Well, we have the aorist active indicative of the verb "ἀπόλλυμι" – "apollymi," which means to "destroy," "to kill," "to put to death." Who is going to be put to death? The exodus generation and all of those who follow in their path. And who's going to do it? God!



**Jude 5: “But I want to remind you (He is reminding his readers), though you once for all time knew all of these things, that the Lord, having saved the people (That is the Israelites) out of the land of Egypt, afterwards destroyed those who did not believe.” (EXT)**

As you know, nothing has changed in our time or in our nation at this very moment. We are already feeling the effects of ignoring and rejecting God's word and His salvation through Jesus Christ. Our nation is in that situation right now. There is apostasy in the land and degeneracy rampant in the souls of so many, even believers in Jesus Christ. Great discipline, and even national destruction, is just quite possible, and maybe just around the corner if this degeneracy, and if our negative volition, continues.

They should have gotten the point. There was no doubt of God's immutable intentions for His people, and that was to reside in the Promised Land. He provided everything to get them there and to have it. They had no excuse not to believe and accept what God's grace had given to them. You see, the Lord showed His deliverance by rescuing Israel from slavery, from bondage, and He further showed them His incredible power, and His care, and His faithfulness in so many miraculous events. They faced disaster after disaster, and every time, the Lord showed them what He could do, and they still rejected it.

That's why Jude is writing this, and leaders in the churches today in America, who are not teaching doctrine, are leading this country down the path of destruction. God blesses believers who are advancing in the spiritual life, and He disciplines those who are not. But we are on that road just as Israel was, and just as the Jews of the first advent were in the time of Jude.

The penalty for the rejection of God's grace for the exodus generation was destruction of those who did not depend on the Word of God, but rejected it. Believers who fail to metabolize doctrine, and so destroy the spiritual life so graciously provided, who fail to grow, who fail to live the faith-rest life, who fall into apostasy and reversionism, will pay the severe consequences of discipline, pain, and suffering. I wish it were not true, but it is, even to the point for some of the sin unto death, but not loss of salvation.

Expanded translation of Jude 5: **“But I want to remind you (He is reminding his readers), though you once for all time knew all of these things, that the Lord, having saved the people (That is the Israelites) out of the land of Egypt, afterwards destroyed those who did not believe.” (EXT)**

**Jude 6: “And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day,” (NASB)**

In verse six we're going from Israelites to angels.

**“And angels who did not keep their own domain...”**



We have the negative adverb “*μή*” – “*mē*,” translated “did not,” and the verb “*τηρέω*” – “*tērēō*,” which means “to keep” or “to maintain.”

Next, we have noun “*ἀρχή*” – “*archē*.” It can be translated: “their own personal, beginning or origin.”

**“And angels who did not maintain their own domain (keep their first estate), but...**

“But” is the conjunction “*ἀλλά*” – “*allá*,” along with the verb “*ἀπολείπω*” – “*apoleípō*,” which means to “leave behind.”

Certain angels left behind their original dwelling place, which God had created for them. They left behind the very place God had designated, over which they would rule. What God gave them, however, was not enough. They had everything, and it was not enough. They coveted something else. Not land, but they looked for something else, and so they became the fallen angels. The scripture calls them demons.

This is the source of the demons and in that fateful decision that they made using their own volition. They were following their leader, who now is called Satan. Lucifer equals Satan in a fallen condition.

The name Lucifer was given before the fall and gives us some idea of how incredible he was. It means son of the morning and he was the most beautiful, wise, and powerful creature that ever came from the hand of God. Ezekiel 28:13

He was the anointed cherub, none higher than him. He commanded the personal honor guard of the Lord Jesus Christ in the Third Heaven. He had incredible authority, beauty, and power. He had it all, but it wasn't enough. The desire for power can corrupt so easily unless there is something in the soul to stop it. Lucifer had tremendous power, and it corrupted him. Despite his exalted position, Lucifer became dissatisfied and wanted more.

Secretly, he began to covet the sovereignty, the power, and the glory of God. He expressed his desire in Isaiah 14:13-14, the five “I wills.”

**“And angels who did not maintain their own domain (keep their first estate), but abandoned their own place of residence...**

Next, we have the phrase “*τηρέω*” – “*tērēō*,” which means “to keep,” “to guard,” or “to observe.”

So we have: “Jesus Christ has kept in “*αἰδιος*” – “*aídios*.” This adjective means “in eternal” along with the masculine noun “*δεσμόν*” – “*desmón*,” translated “bonds” or “chains.” We have:

**“And angels who did not maintain their own domain (keep their first estate), but abandoned their own place of residence, Jesus Christ has kept in eternal chains of...**