

## I. Introduction to the Book of Jude

There is no question about the Book of Jude and what it represents. The Book of Jude represents, beyond any shadow of a doubt, all the events that are taking place around us right now, bringing us right before and up to the rapture of the church and the Second Coming of Christ. It is a little book, just like 1, 2, and 3 John, with one chapter and just 25 verses.

The author is disputed and probably cannot be known for sure. Some people say it is Jude, the Lord's literal brother, born of Mary, part of the literal family of Joseph and Mary, as mentioned in Mark 6:3. Other people take the position that it was Jude, the brother of James, who was also called Thaddeus in Luke 6:10 and Matthew 10. It can go either way. Personally, I tend to believe that it was probably Jude, the brother of James, but it is not one of those things that really makes a big deal.

Technically speaking, the Book of Jude is the last book in your Bible. It ends the order of events and the final transition. The next book, the Book of Revelation, brings it back and puts it all in perspective for you, as in a summary.

## II. America's Spiritual Blindness and God's Judgment

The Book of Jude also serves another purpose, which I mentioned Thursday night. A couple of times a year, the President of the United States gives what is commonly called the State of the Union Address. In this address, the President stands before the American people and lays out where he thinks the nation is, how far it has come, and what work still needs to be done. He is, in essence, laying out the state of the Union, meaning the United States of America. That is exactly what the Book of Jude does for the child of God. The Book of Jude is God's State of the Union Address to us concerning Christianity and this country in the last days. We will discuss that in more detail shortly.

I do not know of another book in the New Testament—though there are plenty in the Old Testament—that paints the doom and gloom about to befall America better than this little book does. We have some problems in America, and the problem we have is that we do not understand the times in which we live. I am not talking about the unsaved world; there is no way they can understand. I am talking about God's people. We are going to see how that all fits into this. God's people are probably as confused today as at any time in the history of the New Testament church.

I do not know how many times I have been asked over the last couple of years, "Do you remember back in September 2001, the great travesty that took place in New York when the terrorists flew two jets into the World Trade Center and set for us a different course in life?" You would have thought that would have woken people up, but it did not. It only stirred us for a little while, and then we went back to sleep. America is fast asleep, and we all can relate to this: when you are really sleeping and enjoying it, you do not like to be disturbed. We were awakened for a short time, and then we went back to sleep. We were all gung-ho about terrorism, and then once

we got into the war and saw that when Americans went into Iraq and Iran, they were not just going to throw their hands up and say, "Oh, you are Americans, we quit." We did not have any stomach for it.

Whether you think the war is right or not is immaterial to me. I have been asked all the time, "What do you think about the war in Iraq?" And I say, "That is nothing compared to the big one that is coming." So I do not really care about these little squabbles going on around the world. You wait until the big one comes. We will talk about that in a minute too.

I have been asked this over the years: a number of years ago, we were introduced to a new disease that struck America—AIDS. Because of that and all the things that go along with it, people have been asked many, many times, "Was AIDS, like the World Trade Center, God's judgment on America because of sin?" Now we are faced with a new strain, the bird flu virus. When you first hear about the bird flu, you think, "What is the big deal with that? Flu, we are so used to. Birds, they are not..." The term is the "bird flu epidemic." So what? My bird dies, I do not care. We do not think in terms that it could be something catastrophic to us, that we could get it.

Back in the Dark Ages, they had the Black Plague. Now that sounds mean. Honestly, if you went in and your doctor said, "You have two choices: you can have the Black Plague or you can have the bird flu," you would say, "Give me the bird flu." It does not sound very bad. Black Plague, whoa, man. So we do not think of things the way they should.

Then what about all the terrible natural disasters? I feel sorry for the people down in Florida. We have tsunamis. We have New Orleans and all the travesty that took place with the hurricanes and the tornadoes. We had an earthquake in Pakistan a couple of weeks ago that killed a couple hundred thousand people. We have had so many hurricanes in Florida this time of year that they are running out of names. This one is Wilma. Now they are going to have to go to Greek letters because we have had so many hurricanes.

I am asked all the time, and I am sure if you are a Christian, you are asked too: "Is all of this that we are seeing God's judgment falling on America because God is going to judge America?" Here is how I answer that question: you would really be naive and you would really show how you do not understand God and the Bible if you did not understand that, first of all, the Bible is filled with God judging nations and judging people and judging the world because of sin.

My mind immediately goes back, and somebody says, "Well, could God...?" And the idea is, and this is where we are asleep, we think that God is a loving God. Therefore, God would never do anything like that because we have so bought into the concept that God is love, which He is, that we think that God is incapable of anything that we perceive as evil and wrong. In the world today, we look at God's judgment or whatever God would do as something that God would never do because the God of our mindset, the God of our concept, the God of our understanding, because of the way we are, is a God that would never do anything bad to anybody.

The wisest man that ever lived in Proverbs 28:5 addressed that issue when he said:

*Proverbs 28:5*

*Evil men understand not judgment: but they that seek the LORD understand all things.*

This is basically telling me that the world cannot comprehend God's judgment. They will fall into the trap that God is love and God is everything that is good. But they just do not want to buy into the fact, or they just cannot grasp, because of the world today, that a God who is our holy God would not also be a God that stands for holiness, who would have to judge on holiness. They cannot get to that.

I look at Genesis 6 and I see where God wiped out the world with the flood. He wiped out the whole world with a flood, not just the known world, not just "World, New Mexico," not just a city named "World," the whole world. In Noah's time, according to conservative estimates, there were 5 billion people on planet Earth. That is according to Harry Rimmer's Harmony of Science and Scripture, put out back in the 1920s. Five billion people on planet Earth—men, women, children, babies, adolescents, the whole nine yards—God wiped them out. We have a tough time with that.

In Numbers 16, there was a natural disaster called an earthquake where the Bible says that God opened up the ground. The ground shook, the ground opened up, and swallowed up about 500,000 people in one big gulp. In Genesis 19, God wiped out five or six cities that were filled with sexual perversion in the most unspeakable, worst form in the world. And God wiped them out. We have a tough time with that today.

In Deuteronomy 28, the Bible says that God brought disaster and disease on people who were ungodly. In 1 Samuel 12, the Bible says not only did He bring disaster and disease, but He destroyed their cities. My position is clearly this: somebody asked me, "Is all this stuff we see around us God's judgment on America?" My answer is simply this: I do not know. But I know that God is going to judge America. If I were to say, and you were to ask me, "Is all this that we are seeing God's judgment on America?" My first inclination would be to say no. Do you know why I would say no? It is too light for what God is going to do.

You take all of these and put them together and get them in one big mess on one big week, where we could call it "Hell Week," where all this stuff that has happened around us dumps on them. On your worst day, it would be nothing compared to what God is going to do when God finally judges America. If you do not know that God is going to judge America, then you do not know very much about God and you do not know very much about your Bible. The Bible says in Psalms 9:17:

*Psalms 9:17*

*The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.*

Once you read the Bible, once you claim to believe the Bible, then you are faced with a great dilemma, because now you have to choose that either God knew what He said when He said it, or God did not mean what He said and did not know what He said, so you do not have to believe it. I am of the persuasion, and have always been, that everything that God said, God meant exactly what He said, and that there is no error in it. In all of the world where it is in error, upside down, and nobody knows anything for sure, God gave me one book that I can absolutely not

only bet my soul on, but bet the aspect of raising my family, surviving through any catastrophe that may befall us.

That is the thing, and again, America is asleep. Somebody says, "Well, what about all the Christians that went through that?" The verse is:

*Philippians 4:19*

*But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

The verse is:

*Proverbs 3:5-6*

*Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.*

*In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*

God always takes care of His own. You realize when God brought the plagues back in Egypt that He was such a God that He judged Egypt, but the plagues never fell on His children. God has a way of sparing and helping His children in the midst of disaster when He judges things, the same way in the Tribulation Period. When God finally comes to judge this world in the Tribulation and all the plagues fall, we are going to look at it next week, you are going to find they fall on everybody and everything except the nation of Israel.

You are going to find the waters are going to turn to blood, and you are going to go into a drinking fountain and you are going to turn it on and blood is going to come out. You are going to go into 7-Eleven, you are going to get some of that spring Ozark bottled water, and it is going to be blood. You are going to have everything in the world that is going to be... you are not going to be able to get any water anywhere—not you guys, but anywhere in the world—the world is not going to be able to get it. Do you know what that Jew is going to do? He is going to go over there and pour him a big old drink of that blood, and he is going to drink it down, and it is going to taste like the purest spring water he ever drank. Do you know why I know that? Because Mark 16:18 says if you drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt you. The Jews are going to be immune to the plagues. God's people have always been protected. When God brought the flood to the earth in Genesis 6, He put His people in an ark that the flood could not get them.

So I am not worried about... I have met Christians who said, "Boy, I am just scared to death that the Iranians are going to sneak an A-bomb or some hydrogen bomb or some nuclear device in a briefcase and bring it to Kansas City. What are we going to do?" What are we going to do? Well, I keep some extra marshmallows and hot dogs on hand. Do you think I am worried about that? I am proud of the truth. If I knew where they were coming in, I would pave the way. I would let anybody into this place to get me home to Heaven on its own natural scale quicker than anything, because I will tell you what, this place is bad. It needs to be nuked.

The Bible says, "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God." Yes, God judges nations, and God is going to judge America. Now, if you want to put these little piddly things you are seeing around as the prelude to that, then go ahead. I think that God has

every right to judge America based on what... if you know the history of America and the history of the Bible and the history of God, I believe that God has every right to judge America based on what America has done with God's Word. Now, whether all this around me is God judging it or not, I could care less, I have no idea, but I do know this: the Book of Jude tells me that America is not going to escape the judgment of God sooner or later.

### III. Discerning the Times and Seasons

You are supposed to know this. As a young Christian, I tell you, we have different kinds of people here. We have some of you that have been around for a long time, and you have been in your Bible for a long time; you do not get any slack at all. You have some of you that have just gotten saved in the last couple of weeks; I cut you all the slack in the world. You have some people that have been saved for a long time, and you just found in the last month or year or whatever that you really got into the Bible; I cut you all kinds of slack. But the bottom line is this: any child of God that has been in the Word of God, that knows the Word of God, that has been around the Word of God for any number of years—and I am excluding all you people that are just getting plugged in, my job is to help you get to that place, that is why I teach you these things—what you did not know before I say this, you will know after I say this. If you want to come over sometime and let me run you through it, or you want to ask about it on Thursday night and have me lay it out in detail, that is what Thursday night is for. Use it.

But you and I should know that as the New Testament body of Christ, we are living in the very last moments, the very last moments of the very last hour of life on planet Earth as you and I know it. Now that may be a shock to somebody, and I do not say that to scare you. Maybe that scares some of you young Christians just because you have not grown to that place yet. Do not let it scare you. It is like somebody said one time, "Do you know so-and-so is dying?" And I said, "Well, you all have to die sometime." I mean, I do not know what... are we going to live forever? Certainly, you did not think that God's plan was that life on planet Earth just goes on forever. Please tell me that God had something better than that. Please do not ask me to accept the fact that God's plan, God was so limited in what He could do that He could not do anything better than this, and we are just all going to stay around here killing each other, stabbing each other, shooting each other, going to war with each other, spreading disease to each other, and we are all just going to... Please tell me that God had a better plan than that. And I know that He did.

If you know anything about your Bible, you know that the Bible tells you that you and I are supposed to know the times and the seasons. Paul tells you that in 1 Thessalonians 5:1, he says:

*1 Thessalonians 5:1*

*But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.*

We ought to know that. You are going to find that in the Bible, the times and the seasons will always deal with the nation of Israel, never the church. The times and the seasons are defined back in the Book of Daniel. They are talked about in the Gospels, and Paul tells you and me that you and I as a New Testament Christian are not to be ignorant of the times and the seasons. Let

me translate that for you: he is basically saying we should not be ignorant of how God is dealing with the nation of Israel and where God is at with dealing with the nation of Israel.

There are four seasons in your Bible, and I am not talking about the musical group. There are four seasons in your Bible:

- Genesis 1 to Genesis 12 would be the springtime of Israel.
- The summer of the nation of Israel would be from Abraham to 606 BC.
- The fall for the nation of Israel would be from 606 BC to Acts 7.
- The wintertime of Israel would be from Acts 7 right up to and including the Tribulation Period and the Second Coming of Christ.

Was there anybody in here this morning that when you got up and you went outside to get the paper or you took the dog out or whatever you went out to do, that you did not know that it was not summer anymore? All you have to look at is the trees. The trees tell me, without any temperature inflection, the trees tell me something is changing. The trees tell me that we are leaving summer and we are going into fall. When I walked out this morning to take the dogs out, I immediately knew that it was not summertime anymore. I immediately knew that now we were in the fall. As we progress through fall, all of those green leaves you see out there will be gone. The temperature will be much colder. It will get darker earlier and lighter later, whatever it is. You are going to see that all those leaves are going to be gone, and you are going to have a bareness in all the trees. Then you are going to see some white stuff falling, and it is going to be called snow. It is going to freeze the water to ice. There is nobody in here that does not have the ability to discern that you are no longer in summer.

If that is true in a physical sense, if we are saved and we have the Spirit of God, then why cannot we discern by the same things we see around us that we are not in the summertime on planet Earth anymore as far as the nation of Israel is concerned? What more has to happen in life? How many more wars? How many more peace treaties have to be broken? How many more nations need to line up against the nation of Israel? How many more things need to happen before we pull our head out of the sand and say, "Wow, things are not very well on planet Earth. Gee, I wonder what is going on."

I will tell you what is going on very simply and very basically: you are living in the last moments of the last hour before the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. God, unlike—and I know you do not grasp this yet—God cares nothing about your career. God cares nothing about your finances. God cares nothing about any of those things in relationship to His coming. Now, on a personal basis, my God supplies all your need. I am not talking about that. I am saying He is not going to slow up His plan for one second because you have big plans for your career. You better get your career in the light of God's plan. That is another message.

There is a way that you know this. You know this because the Bible in the Book of Daniel told you, told you unequivocally, told you beyond any shadow of any doubt, and gave you the information that the Gentile nations that were going to run the world in an orderly fashion from the time of Daniel right up to 2005 where you and I are at. He told you in Daniel 2 that the kingdom that was in power when Daniel was there was Babylon. Babylon is in power in 606 BC,

and we know that the head of Babylon is Nebuchadnezzar. In about 536 BC, Persia defeats Babylon with Darius, and Darius and Persia run the world. Then in around 330 BC, Alexander the Great from Greece defeats Darius, and now Greece runs the world. Then Greece gets defeated by Rome at around 200 BC. The Caesars take over, and Rome dominates the world. That brings us up from 606 BC right in line with every world power, Gentile world power. We are in the time of the Gentiles. History is not hard if you just follow the Bible. God, when He said you are not to be ignorant of these things, this is why He makes that statement. He gives you all the material.

That brings us right up to the First Coming of Christ, and when Jesus Christ shows up the first time, Rome is in power. Rome is in power then up until 1500 AD, now with Martin Luther and the Reformation. When Martin Luther breaks with the Roman Catholic Church, and it all comes to pieces, and the Reformation breaks loose, we see the shifting power of the Gentile nations go from Daniel 2 to Daniel 7. Daniel 2 brings you from 606 BC up to the First Coming of Christ. Daniel 7 brings you from the First Coming of Christ up to 2005 and beyond, right into America. That is why Paul had the audacity to say of the times and the seasons, "brethren, I have no need to write unto you." You should have known those things, and I am giving all you young Christians a free pass because I am going to help you get there.

Then we find that in Daniel 7, the next great nation is symbolized by a lion. That nation would be England, and England comes to power in 1600 and stays in power until about the beginning of the 20th century, around 1900. Then the next great nation that grows up in Daniel 7 is the nation that is represented by a bear. That will be Russia. Russia comes on the scene with the Russian Revolution, and for the next 40, 50, 60 years, communism devours. In fact, it says about this bear that he arises and devours much flesh. Do you know what that means? That means from 1900 to 1970 or 1975, whenever it is, that Russia devours, and three-quarters of the world is communistic. It spreads everywhere. In fact, if you want to really study neat things, in the Philadelphia church age under England, three-quarters of the world is under the King James Bible. From the bear, three-quarters of the world is under communism. Interesting.

Then what happens? The wall went down in 1989 under President Reagan. The wall comes down, and now communism is gone. Communism is no threat anymore. Russia is no threat. Russia has been divided up and parceled up into little kingdoms and little groups. She never is the threat again that she was then. Do you know what great nation comes into power now? The United States of America. Do you know what she is represented by? She is represented by a leopard. A leopard. A cat. A special kind of cat because the Antichrist is likened to a cat. The Antichrist is going to get the whole world together.

You have three kinds of people in this world. You have three races: white people, black people, and the Shemites, the yellow people. Three basic races. All the other races come from there. But if you go back in your Bible in Genesis, you are going to find that Shem, Ham, and Japheth represent the three nations. Shem represents the yellow, the Chinese, Japanese, the whole line down there. You are going to find that Ham represents the black nation. And you are going to find that Japheth represents the white nations. When those three boys come out of that ark at the

top of Mount Ararat, wherever they spread out is where they go. Shem goes into Asia Minor. Japheth goes into Europe. Ham goes down into Africa. That is the way it goes.

But when the Antichrist pulls it all together, he has to have a nation that is amalgamated together. So the last nation in Daniel 7 that is the world power that ends all world powers is America, and America is likened to a leopard because a leopard is likened to the Antichrist. The leopard is the only animal that contains all three races. It has the white belly of Japheth, the yellow back of Shem, and the black spots of Ham, showing you that this nation is going to be fully integrated and fully got away with all the differences. Then the next nation that comes from that in Daniel 7 is the nation of the Antichrist. From that, he takes over the world. This is what you are told in 1 Thessalonians 5:1. The Book of Jude shows you why America gets clobbered.

## IV. The Downward Spiral of Sin

The Book of Jude is a program of the game of life. You go to the Chiefs game, you watch a bunch of guys running around down there, but you do not know who is who. You buy a program and you get to know who the players are. Most people watch life, and they just watch a bunch of things happen. When you get a Bible, you suddenly get the program that shows you the players. It is as simple as that. The Bible gives you and I a seat on the 50-yard line of this game called life, of what God is doing and what the devil is doing. The Book of Jude shows how America, the world power today, got into the position of being the greatest nation against God in the world today, all while under the illusion of being the great Christian nation.

I do not know how much you know about the Bible. Once we finish the books of the Bible, which is going to be next week, then we are going to launch into the doctrinal. I have given you all the basic stuff, and now we are going to go through and we are going to begin to develop the meat of all the... I am going to show you that systematic theology of learning your Bible. We are going to come through it week on week, and we are going to cover all the different areas. One of the things in time we will deal with is the great lesson that there are seven laws in your Bible. Seven laws in the Bible, and your Bible is built on these seven laws. The history of all the world is built on these seven laws. Everything that happens in this world comes back on these absolute seven laws. They are undisputed. It does not make a difference whether you believe them or not.

I have heard men say, "Well, I just do not buy into that." It does not make a difference whether you believe it or not. There are a lot of people that do not believe in gravity. You go up to a 25-story building and sit up there and say, "I just do not believe that gravity is real." You step off the edge of that building, and you know what happens? The law of gravity proves it is right. You suddenly get the idea right before you hit the ground that the law of gravity is an absolute law, and your opinion about it does not change it. This world is God's world. God made it. God fashioned it. God made it for a purpose. He had a plan. It is all laid out in the Bible. Then God put it in motion by seven laws. Your and my understanding, feeling, or disagreeing with those seven laws does not wake God up from a problem at all. He just keeps on going. The laws are universal.

You may think you can run through that wall. You may think you can get in your car and you can drive into a concrete barrier at 100 miles an hour, and you may think you are indestructible. A lot of young people think that today. You have young people that live their lives just like that. They are living their lives like a guy gets in a car and sees a cement wall down here reinforced with steel and everything else, and he makes 100 miles an hour. He is going to hit that wall. That represents the fun life you are having. He thinks to himself, because he is young, because he is strong, because he is vibrant, because he can run fast, he can break tackles, because he thinks of all the great things that youth brings, that that wall will not stop him. That wall will, and the last thing that will go through your mind besides the wall will be the fact that that wall stopped you. You cannot break or get around the laws. The laws are absolute.

This is what America has done. This is what gets Christians in trouble. This is what breaks it down to the place that we get in the mess that we are in. America has violated every law of God there is. When you violate the laws of God, you begin in your life a downward spiral. That downward spiral keeps going down; it does not go up. Once you violate the laws of God in your life personally, your relationship with God ceases to exist. Very slowly you begin... this is what Psalms 1 is all about.

*Psalms 1:1*

*Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.*

He is spiraling down. Any country that starts out with the Word of God and then leaves the Word of God begins that slow spiral down. Any church that starts out preaching the King James Bible and winds up dumping it starts that slow spiral working down. Every couple that ceases to put God in their life and their marriage, and they wonder why, "Why can't we make this thing work?" Because the law is telling you, "You are going down." You do not want to do what the Word of God says, so you are trying to get back up without doing the law. It does not work. That is like a guy falling off a 20-story building, grabbing at the air as he goes down and says, "Man, I do not understand this. Why can't I make any headway?" Because a law, an absolute law, has come into the thing: when you step off it, down you go. Violate the Book and its principles, down you go. It is that simple.

This is how it started. He says in Jude 1:3-4:

*Jude 1:3*

*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 1:4*

*For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Let us pray. Father, help us. Help us to understand this great book. Father, help us. Holy Spirit of God, touch the lives that are here today of men and women who are Your children, and show them, Father. Help them understand they need a beginning of prioritizing their lives. They are living in the last moments, and yet many of God's people are living like they are going to live their life forever. Help us to see the urgency of the hour. Help us to see the state of the Union today from the Book of Jude, and we will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen.

This spiral downward is laid out for you in two books in your Bible. One is the Book of Jude. The other one is the Book of Romans. The Book of Romans lays out, and the Book of Jude lays out, these downward spirals. He says in Jude 1:4 that men came in and turned the grace of God into lasciviousness. Lasciviousness is evil, animalistic passions. It is all the depravity, all the filth, and all the ungodliness of the world. That is exactly where Romans 1 gives you the best definition of lasciviousness of anywhere I know in the Bible.

Romans 1:23 lays it out this way. This is exactly what Americans do. This is exactly what the Book of Jude is talking about.

*Romans 1:23*

*And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.*

Now, there is lasciviousness. Lasciviousness means evil, depraved, animalistic passion. What Americans have done: they once had the truth. They once had the Word of God. They once had the absolute law of God, and what they did, they traded it. They changed the glory of God in this book into an image made like to corruptible man, and then did not stop there. Do you know why they did not stop there? Once you violate it, you cannot stop there. Once you destroy the glory of God and make it like corruptible man, the spiral starts, and then it is the animals, and then it winds up with that guy you went out with one time, the creepy things. That is where we are at.

Then it says in Romans 1:25:

*Romans 1:25*

*Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.*

How in the world did we ever get in America in a mindset where we serve and worship the creature more than the Creator? Why do we have guys who make a religion out of hugging trees? Why do we have a thing where we spend hundreds of millions and millions of dollars on saving whales who have got beached in Alaska, when there are people in Kansas City who are starving to death, who will not be able to eat, whose homes are going through the most hard time? The world is dying and going to hell, and we are spending literal millions and millions of dollars to study the mating habits of the bald eagle. Because we have lost the concept.

Jude 1:4 says, "denying the Lord and his word." In doing so, you destroy, as Jude 1:3 says, the common salvation. Salvation, God intended it to be very basic and very common. It is so easy. It

is called God's simple plan of salvation. But once man gets his hands on it and destroys the truth of God, the spiral starts. Now we start worshiping everything else more than God. America is worship-crazy for its gods and not the true God. They worship sports. They worship hunting. They worship everything out there.

We drove over there to the thing last night down there at the dragway. There was one of those rock concerts they have every year down there. I will tell you what, that place, the traffic was backed up, took us an hour to get there. That place was absolutely packed out. I have never seen that many people excited to go to worship God. Do you know why? Because they were worshiping something else down there. When you drove by this morning, all you had to see was a 40-acre parking lot, and you see what they left in it. I thought it snowed. It was trash, beer cans, everything in the world. America loves to worship its gods, and America has an abundance of gods. We look at the old Roman Empire where they had 500 gods. Boy, America has them beat to pieces.

He is telling us in Jude 1:3 that the common salvation has been destroyed. Men have crept in. They have destroyed the common salvation. Then Jude 1:3 tells you and me that we are to contend for the truth that was once delivered to the world. That is my job. Now that is going to separate the men from the boys in this world that we are in today. Right there, because America is in this boat. Now the mandate has been clearly given to you and me: we are to stand and deliver the truth and preach the truth that was once delivered to the saints in a world that absolutely despises that kind of truth.

Now that is going to put the pressure on. That will separate the men from the boys. That is exactly what it has done. I said it Thursday night: you could not find a handful of churches in this town that preached on hell last year, and preached on hell, and preached on the judgment, and preached on the Great White Throne Judgment. You could put them in a basket, man. They are just not out there. Why? "We are not going to preach anything that offends anybody. We are going to make our preaching acceptable. We are going to make it respectable. We want to reach the crowd. We want to reach the masses. We recognize as pastors that we are living in a society that has changed." No, it has not changed. It is spiraling down. Spiraling down your preaching to go along with a spiraling down society will never work. We are to preach the same message that was delivered to the saints. If the world wants to spiral down, let it spiral down. We need to hold the line and preach the truth in a world that hates truth. But boy, is that going to put the pressure on you. You are going to lose some friends. You are going to lose some opportunities. You are going to have people ridicule and make fun of you. You are going to have people look at you like you are a three-headed monster. Let me ask you a question: what price are you willing to pay for what He did to save you?

## V. The Deception of False Values

America is like a Walmart Supercenter. I love Walmarts. I could get along without any other store if there were just Walmarts. Walmart meets all of your needs for a reasonable price. I love it. Now, I know some of you would never buy your clothes at Walmart. Some of you have to have Tommy Hilfiger on the front of your thing. Some of you have to have Liz Claiborne. I am

not fighting that. I like to do astrophotography and like the heavens. I will tell you the first one, I do not buy my telescopes at Sears or Penney's. I understand. I am making a general statement.

When you go into a Walmart, do you know Sam Walton was a saved man? He was a saved man, born again. When you go into a Walmart Supercenter, the thing is, I remember one time, they had 80 checkout lanes. Of course, they only have two of them open at any one time, but they have them if they need them. Now, I know most of all of us, the day after Christmas is the number one shopping day of the year. Because everybody slashes their prices because that is their last injection into the economy before the year is off. Because the day after New Year's, you are also hung over, you are not going out shopping. They know these things. But day after Christmas, you have just had a bunch of things given to you. You have everything that you could want. You have all your presents. Now it has excited your flesh that you want more. So you get a chance to go and get a deal. Hey, I am there with you. I go to Walmart because Walmart has some great deals.

The little guy, that little mask, is always going to cut down. He is just spinning them suckers day after Christmas. I will never forget. I went to Walmart, this has been four or five years ago, to a Supercenter the day after Christmas. Got there early. Oh, man. I mean, I should have been there the night before and camped out. I am in a place with Pat. I am standing in line. It goes all the way down the parking lot to the bus stop. They have every checkout open. I am thinking to myself, sitting there waiting, playing these mental mind games, I am looking at all these people, looking at all these checkouts. All you can hear is the barcode. I mean, it sounds like... I mean, if they could get a rhythm, you could dance to it. They are running across those scanning barcode things.

I am sitting there, and I will never forget, I thought, "You know what? It would really be fun to see this place in utter confusion." What would put this place in utter confusion? If somebody kind of got in the night before the day after Christmas and changed all the barcodes. The next morning, 28,500,000 people come into Walmart Supercenter, 85 lanes are opened up. I mean, the blue lights are going off. You would think there was a police raid. You hear, "Check it out on aisle four, blue lights!" You hear all that stuff that you love to hear. I mean, I tell you, every time somebody says, "Check it out on aisle four," women just run and knock each other down. They get through that thing, and they want to get it.

I thought to myself, "Wouldn't it be fun? Wouldn't it be utter confusion if while everybody is home preparing for the next day, I snuck in and with one magical stroke could change every barcode?" You know how it happens within, and when Walmart people are working at Walmart, you know, the barcodes are not fallible. It shuts down the whole system. You get up there, and I come through one time, and she will not scan, turns it over. She does it about nine or ten times. Now there are like five, eight, nine people behind me. So what does she do? "I need some help on register five for a price check." The minute she hangs up, all nine people go. And they are mad at me. It is like, could you imagine doing that in everything that is in the store? I mean, you come up with a tube of toothpaste, \$5.47. Come up with a big old 77-inch color digital laser light television, \$0.49. Boy, would they be on the price check on aisle six? It would be crazy.

Do you know what is wrong with America? While America fell asleep, the devil came in and changed all the barcodes on the value system in America. Do you know what some of God's people are doing today? They are spending millions of dollars on something that only really is worth 39 cents. That is what they are doing. God's people today embrace some of the most vilest, filthy, God-denying lifestyles. They enter into areas that God looks at as an abomination and decadent, unholy areas that God hates with everything that is passionate and holy in Him. And they look at it like it is just the way things are supposed to be. But then you talk about a godly lifestyle that loves God, loves the Bible, lives holy, lives separated, and they look at that like it is a bad thing. Somebody has changed the barcodes while America slept, while pastors went to sleep, while the spiral was coming down. They were so busy trying to keep up with the spiral of matching their preaching to the decadence of society, they denied the Lord that bought them. Now we have a society that does not know right from wrong.

*Isaiah 5:20*

*Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!*

He says, "Woe unto them that cast away the law of God and despise His word." Here we are. That trickles right down into Christianity. That is why God has given you so many dollars to spend. The dollars that He has given you are the talents, the abilities, and the time you have. We, because we do not have the right value system, are buying stuff that only costs 39 cents, and we are spending all of our resources on it.

## VI. The Progression of Spiritual Decay

You do not want to miss this. Here is the result. Here is the result of 100-plus years in America of denying the truth. This is America. Jude 1:6 makes some comparisons. I told you before, there are three main ways God teaches you the Bible. One of the ways is contrast; He shows you what is different. One of the ways He does is by association; He shows you the things that are the same. Here is an association. Because in Jude 1:6-8, he says:

*Jude 1:6*

*And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.*

*Jude 1:7*

*Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.*

*Jude 1:8*

*Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities.*

When he brings up Jude 1:6 and he talks about the angels which kept not their first estate, he sets the context. The context pictures right back to Genesis 6 with Noah's flood. Let me tell you that story. It is real easy, real quick. In Genesis 6, the Bible says that there were angels that tried to revolt against God with Lucifer back in the very beginning. Those sons of God, angels, came down to Earth in some kind of body. When they came down to Earth, the Bible says that they cohabited with human women, and they produced a race of giants. The purpose for that being is that the devil wanted to gain control of planet Earth through his own super infusion of his own demonic forces into the human race and thereby taking it over.

You say, "Well, I just can't hardly believe that." What is your problem? Adolf Hitler tried to do the same thing. Do you not know what his Lebensborn program was? He took all these born Aryan SS males and said, "I want to create a master race." For the purpose of what? Taking over the world. So he had the master race marry pure-blood, not even marry, mate with pure-blood Germans. Then he would produce little kids. They put those into German orphanages. They would raise them up. Hitler's plan was that he would take over the world by taking young Aryan men of pure Aryan stock, taking pretty young Aryan women—some of them were not so pretty—of Aryan stock, mating the two together without marriage, and producing a race that in time would overrun the world and take care of the world and take charge of the world by a supreme race of Aryan white men, white people. That is where the Aryan race rather could come from today. I am telling you, that plan was not new. That plan was hatched in Genesis 6. That is what the devil tried to do with his own cohorts.

What happened was it comes to the place where it throws the Earth in the moment Adam and Eve disobeyed what God said and challenged God's authority and took that tree. That spiral started. By the time you get to Genesis 6, the spiral has almost hit bottom. In fact, the Bible says in Genesis 6:5:

*Genesis 6:5*

*And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*

The Bible says that that period of time was already quoted. There were probably 5 billion people on planet Earth. It was a world that was not without religion; it had religions on every street corner. But it was a world where one man was standing. His name was Noah. The Bible says in 2 Peter 2:5 that he was a preacher of righteousness. He preached for 120 years while the ark was preparing. In a world of 5 billion people, not one person got saved. Hebrews 11:7 says that he preached and condemned the world right before the flood. What was the flood? God's judgment.

Here is how you learn your Bible by comparison. The Bible says in Matthew 24:37:

*Matthew 24:37*

*But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*

See the comparison? The way it was in Noah's time, the spiral hit bottom, God's judgment came. It is going to be just like that when Christ comes back. I already told you, we are living in the last hour. The Book of Jude is the declaration that shows you the state that we are in. It is right there.

Then when you come down through this, it says in Jude 1:7:

*Jude 1:7*

*Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.*

That brings us back to Romans 1:26-28:

*Romans 1:26*

*For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:*

*Romans 1:27*

*And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.*

*Romans 1:28*

*And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;*

You see, there are natural sins and then there are unnatural sins. The more you go down the spiral, the more you leave the natural sins and you enter into the unnatural sins. That is the way it goes. Do you know what the nation of Israel had gotten into? This is all covered for you back there in 2 Kings 23, Leviticus 20:13, Leviticus 18, Deuteronomy 22, Deuteronomy 28, 1 Samuel 5, anywhere you want to go. Do you know what they had gotten into? They started out with just running around and shacking up, men with women and women with men. But at the end, first they dumped the Word of God, and then the spiral goes down. Before it gets too long, it is now men with men and women with women. That was not enough. Then it went from men to little children. Then it went from men and women from children to animals. It wound up called bestiality in your Bible. Then it wound up with a word called necromancing, which is sex with dead people. That is the spiral down that Israel got into. Now, let me just ask you a question: if you are any kind of intelligent individual with a reasonable IQ, where would you put America on that chart? Thank you. I think that was a gag and not an amen, as my old preacher friend used to say, "not the gagamagga and the gut wagon," but that is the way it goes.

Look at Jude 1:8:

*Jude 1:8*

*Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities.*

Now, here we go. Filthy dreamers. Takes us back to Genesis 6. Oh, by the way, about Sodom and Gomorrah. The Bible says in Luke 17:28-30, "as it was in the days of Lot, so shall it be in the coming of the Son of Man." The parallels are there. That is why we have the decadence in our world today. Somebody said, "Well, do you believe all this stuff is God's judgment or not?" Well, I do not know. But if it is not, God is missing the best opportunity He had all week. But even if it is not, hang on, the best one is coming. Maybe you are just not quite there yet, but get ready. Get on the 50-yard line and get your seat. Get your hot dog with sauerkraut and some nachos and a coke and stay put. You do not want to miss a thing. God has given you the program. It is called a King James 1611. So, you play by play where this thing is at.

Jude 1:8: "Likewise, these filthy dreamers." Genesis 6:5 said that where sin started in Genesis 6 was the imagination of their heart. You have to spend some time over in Ezekiel 8:12. You will find out exactly where Israel got into their problem. They got into their problems in their mind. Once you leave God's Word and cease meditating on the Word of God, you start meditating on everything else because the spiral goes down. It does not stop. It does not go down a while and stop. It does not go down a while and then go back up. It just goes down, down, down, down, down, down, down.

Let me tell you something. Do you want to know what the greatest... God has already pronounced the greatest judgment on America. Somebody said, "Do you think 9/11 was God's judgment?" Nope. "Do you think the great tsunami over there was a judgment?" Nope. "Do you think AIDS is a judgment?" Nope. "Do you think that all the earthquakes down there are judgment?" Nope. What do you think God's judgment is on America? The greatest judgment God can pronounce on any person or any country is for God to take His hand off that country and let them do their own thing. That is America. God says, "Hands off. Let her go. Let her go. Let her go."

Romans 1 gives you the progression. Five things: God was revealed, then God was rejected, then God was replaced, and then God was hated. That is all in Romans 1. God was revealed in this country in the 1700s, 1800s. Greatest preachers, greatest missionaries, greatest movements, greatest awakenings across this country. God was rejected in 1900 when they dumped the Word of God. God was replaced in 1960, and today as we stand in 2005, God is simply hated. In our government, in our country, know it. You cannot put it in a constitution. You cannot have the Ten Commandments in school. You cannot pray in school. You cannot have a Bible study in school. You cannot do anything in school. You cannot go to a public place and just display the nativity scene. Why? We do not want anything of God anywhere in our society. That is why they hate you. You live in a world with no truth, and you have a book that is true, and your job is to preach it. Tough job, nasty job, but somebody has got to do it.

He says "filthy dreamers." It starts in the heart. Then it says "defile the flesh." Once it gets into the mind, then it enters into the flesh. Once it gets into your flesh, the next thing is "despise dominion." What does that mean? I will tell you what it means. The world today despises the way you live. For 230 years in this country, they loved God. They believed God, the Bible. They believed everything that was right. Marriage was monogamous. You raised your children right. You paid your debts. You loved your wife. You loved your husband. You did what was right. You

prayed in school. Do you remember going to school and praying in school? I remember going to school at Easter, having a preacher come in and preach about Christ dying on the cross. Hey, do not look at me. I was Joseph in a nativity scene. I was a pretty fair Joseph, I might add myself.

But you see, now 230 years later, the society we are in now says that was all wrong. Now I have a question. Where did it change? Why was it right for 230 years, the greatest prosperity of this country, where we never lost a war and everybody was afraid to touch us, and we stood as one of the greatest nations and we were feared and nobody messed with us? When they did, like the Japanese did in Pearl Harbor, we showed them who was boss. You drop a couple of bombs on us? Look at the big one we are going to drop on you: Hiroshima, Nagasaki. What happened for 230 years when our founding fathers framed the Constitution, they put God in it. When it first came back and they looked at it, they said, "There are not enough references to God," took it back, and they had to put God in it three more times. Do you know what they are saying today? No references of God at all. What happened? Why were they right and why were they wrong and we are right? You see, that is what it means when it says, "despise dominion." They despise society today that has anything to do with God. Their lasciviousness in their evil passions, their animalistic in their lifestyles, and now they look at what was once right, once holy, things that you and I grew up on that were good, wholesome family values, and now suddenly it was all wrong.

Then it says, "speak evil of dignities." That is against God. Dignitaries is what is right. That is against God, against church, against government, against preaching. The difference would be the Philadelphia church versus the Laodicean church. They speak evil now of what is right. Somebody says, "How did we get here?" Because when you leave the Book, the spiral starts down, and it does not stop. God was revealed, then He was rejected, then He was replaced, and now He is reviled. I will tell you what, the Book of Jude tells you what state America is in.

Then in Jude 1:11-13, he says this:

*Jude 1:11*

*Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.*

*Jude 1:12*

*These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots;*

*Jude 1:13*

*Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.*

Oh, what a passage. Three men in here. The first one is Cain. Cain is your first murderer in the Bible. It says they went the way of Cain. I guess that might have something to do with why in Kansas City, we are probably up to now what, 104 for the year? Killing people are killing people

all over the place. Why is it just... but why? The whole bottom line is Cain was the first. It went the way of Cain. Do you know how Cain went? The Bible says Cain, when he was faced with the wrong thing that he did, God gave him a chance to do what is right, and Cain said, "No way." Then the Bible says Cain left the presence of the Lord. When he left God's presence, what happened, people? He left the presence of God. God says, "Flip the spiral switch." Down he went. Not only is he the first murderer in the Bible, but he is also, keeping in our text here, the first type of Antichrist in your Bible.

Then the next man is talking about the error of Balaam. That would bring us back to Numbers 22-25. Do you know what the error of Balaam was? It was his greed. It was his greed. God told him what he could and what he could not do. I am going to condense the story. Balaam wanted to do something. God says, "You cannot do that." Balaam stayed up for the next week, finding a way to get around what God said and still justifying what he wanted to do. Do you know what drove him in it? His greed. Because somebody said, "If he will do this for me, I will give you a blank check." Brother, he just could not take no for an answer from God. He schemed, plotted, worked around, came up with everything in his life to try to get that around what God said so he could fulfill his one basic desire: greed. Do you know what happened when he left God, what God said, went his own way? Tell me what happened, people. The spiral started. God said, "Flip the switch on Balaam." I am just keeping within the context of our study here. When you start the error of Balaam, you start to find three men in that story. One of them is Baal, Balaam, and Balak. Baal represents the false god. Balaam represents the false priest. And Balak represents the false son. All three of them match up to the three unclean spirits found in Revelation 16, which come down and attack the nation of Israel. By the way, that is what he wanted to do. It all fits together.

Then you have the last guy, Core. Core in Numbers 16, he is the guy I talked about earlier that when he tried to overthrow Moses and lead the nation of Israel astray, God simply just put an earthquake and opened up the thing and they all got sucked down to the ground. God judged them.

Then you have Jude 1:12. This is where it gets real practical. This is America today.

*Jude 1:12*

*These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear:*

Do you know what that means? That means that everything you try to do good today, somebody has an ulterior motive, and they take their hand and take out what they want to take first. How many scandals do we need in the UN with the food for oil program? United Way, American Way, Red Cross, they have all had their scandals. You give your little hard-earned money to help it down there, and then you found out somebody else, when you gave your feast of charity, somebody got their hand in the till and got it out, and they ate without even being afraid and took your money that you gave down there to help somebody else. That is America. America is not concerned about people. Back in 9/11, when the whole thing took place, do you know what it took? It took a court order to get the Red Cross to give the money to the people up there because

they looked at all that money coming in and they said, "Wow, our budget is set for the next 35 years. Maybe we will just deal out a little bit of money." Somebody started saying, "What happened to all the money? Where did it all go? We gave something like 16 trillion billion dollars, and now we are only giving out a million dollars? Where is it all at?" Then they had to fess up and say, "Well, you know what? We are holding that for other events." No, no, that money came in for people. Do you know what they were holding it for? Christmas bonuses. Spots in your feast of charity. Nothing pure in this country anymore. Everything behind us has an ulterior motive.

Then he says, "clouds without water." That is a good one. You see, when you see clouds, you expect rain because when it clouds up, a law is taking place. That law is when cold air meets hot air, there is a violent reaction and it rains. Let me put it in simple terms: when your mother-in-law comes to live at your house, a violent reaction ensues. See how easy the Bible is? Warm air and hot air. Your mother-in-law is hot air, your cold air. The rest is history.

I read a biography one time of Marshal Foch. Marshal Foch was one of the great French generals in World War I. Little side note. He came to America in the 1920s, and they took him on a tour of America. Do you know what he wanted to see? He wanted to see the Grand Canyon. Here is Marshal Foch, great leader of the French army in World War I. Great guy. Great general. Standing there trying to take in all of the massive... he had never seen anything like the Grand Canyon. He said something in French. The reporter back there said, "I want to get Marshal Foch's statement. I first seen the Grand Canyon." So he went to his aide and he says, "What did the marshal say?" He said, "He said, 'It would be a great place to drop your mother-in-law.'" I do not think they printed that, but that is a true story.

But he talks about down through here, and he says, "clouds without water." Do you know what that means? That means it looks like it is going to rain, but there is nothing in the clouds. You do not get what it looks like. It means that it looks like this world can satisfy your needs. It looks like the parties on Friday night and Saturday night. It looks like all the things you get into. It looks like all the investments you can make with your money and your life. It looks like there is really happiness in all those things, but there are clouds without water. The loneliest place on this planet today is the lives of God's people who have invested everything that God gave them in the wrong things. The suicide rate in this country is unbelievable. The despair and the despondency is unimaginable. Why? Because people thought those clouds would give me something that would satisfy my soul, and it has not, and it will not. There is only one thing that will satisfy your soul, and I will just say it right now before I get to the end. It is this old Book right here. This is the water the woman was looking for. This is in John 4, that great story about the woman at the well. She had come to that well every day of her life getting water, and every day she had to come back because that water would not satisfy her. Then one day she met the Fountain of Youth. Oh, there was a day she met the eternal water. There was a day she met the water of life, the Lord Jesus Christ, and He said, "Lady, what are you doing at this well?" She said, "I have come here to draw water. Our fathers draw water from here. This is Jacob's well." And He says, "Hey, the water I have to give you, you will never have to drink again." She says, "Really? What kind of water is that?" "Water is eternal life." She says, "Give me this water." She got the water.

Do you know how I know she got saved? Do you know how I know she got the living water? Because the Bible says that when she left, she left her bucket. You did not have to come back to the well anymore. Once you get tired, keep going back to get filled up. I will tell you what, you get the water that God has. You get the truth of God in your life. It sustains you and gets you through. You do not have to keep looking for a fix. You do not have to keep looking for a high. You get it all right there.

Then he says in Jude 1:12, "carried about with winds." Ephesians 4:14 defines winds as false doctrine:

*Ephesians 4:14*

*That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;*

Boy, God's people are so confused today. No wonder Christian marriages are on the rocks. No wonder it is a mess. No wonder Christian kids are going to hell by the basket full. No wonder the whole thing is a mess. It is because we do not know what we believe today. We believe something, but we do not know why or we do not know what. We do not know why we believe what we believe, and we hope that is why there are so many cults that just feed on young Christians because nobody today is taking them and teaching them one-on-one what that Bible says, and they just get blown about by everything that is out there.

He says in Jude 1:12, "trees without fruit that wither." Do you know what that simply means? No family values in America. Let me tell you something. This is a true statement. Take this to the bank. Whatever the parents are, good or bad, the children will always turn out worse than the parents, good or bad. They will never be higher unless you take them through the Word of God and teach them to be higher. You get a parent over here that just does the things of the world, and they go out and party and drink and do all the things that they do, and they do not really do anything bad. They just come up there and do good old "good boy sin," you know, "good boy times" and all that stuff, and they have kids, and there is no God involved, and there is no Bible involved. The spiral starts, and your kids will always get into something more than you got into. Do you know why? Because between the time you do it and the time they do it, the spiral is farther down. Life is so easy, folks. It is not hard. When I look at somebody coming in and the parents are a mess and the kids are a mess, I know I have got two points of the spiral that I have got to deal with because that is an absolute law. That is why there are no family values in America. That is why kids are just as wild and ruthless and just as uncontrollable. Those parents are uncontrollable, just not as bad.

Then he says "twice dead." They die physically. They are going to die spiritually. They die twice. You see, I am only going to die once if Jesus does not rapture me out, but I am going to live for eternity. These poor people have to go through the pain of life, the agony of life. I think that is one of the greatest tragic statements of all the Bible and all of history. How about you beat the world just beating you up, the devil kicking you six ways from Sunday. You so devoutly worshiping him, doing his bidding and calling, doing everything that he asked you to do. And then he winds up giving you cancer, cirrhosis of the liver, or you wind up dying someplace. Then

after the agony of serving your god that failed you, then after you die physically, you have to spend eternity the rest of your life in hell without God spiritually. Wow.

How many times I have went to a funeral and I have stood by the casket, I walk by, I have a guy that being... I will tell you what, I know I cannot judge anybody's heart, but I would not want his chances to go into Heaven. I have heard somebody say, "Well, gee, Tom, it is all, all the pain is over now." Gee, yeah, that is exactly what I say all the way from the back. "Oh, nuts." You say, "How do you know that?" Because the Bible says you die twice. Pain may be over in this life, but oh, there is a whole new definition of pain waiting for you. Death in this life is absolutely nothing compared to the death of a spiritual life of your eternal separation from God Almighty and His judgment falling on you.

That is what he says in Jude 1:13:

*Jude 1:13*

*Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.*

I told you, we talked about it Thursday night. I told you the most shameful thing in the world is a man or woman who dies and goes to hell. I am telling you, because God never intended for you to be there. God thought, and here is how it works. Do not tell me about God is love. I will tell you what the Bible's definition of God's love is. The Bible's definition of God's love is God's wrath poured out on His Son, so you would not have to experience it. Do not tell me about God's love. I will take you to places in the Bible and throw you to Him. You will not know whether to hold the book upside down or not to figure it out. I know what God's love is. I have experienced it. Do you know what it is? It is not some marshmallow in the sky. Do you know what it is? It is not some "God is love, and He does not judge anything." Do you know what it is? On that cross, God's love for me was so strong, He dumped His wrath and turned His back on His Son for He loved me.

Now, you know what, life is so easy. You either accept that, and God says, "Okay, you have accepted it. I am taking My wrath off of My Son, or I am taking My wrath off of you, and I am putting it on My Son." You say, "I do not need God. I do not want God." God says, "Okay, I am taking My wrath off of My Son, and you wear it." Is that complicated? Is there anybody with a sixth-grade education that cannot grasp that concept? God's love is God's wrath poured on His Son for you and for me. You reject the love. He takes the wrath that He put on His Son, and you bear it.

I am telling you, the world of Noah and the challenges that he faced are no different than the challenges that you and I face, even though it is four or five thousand years different. We as God's people who love the truth find ourselves in a world that hates truth. We as God's people have so much time and money and effort to spend, and we walk through it paying two dollars for something that costs five hundred thousand dollars and pay all of our lives for something when God looks at it and it is not worth 39 cents. Because we think evil is now good, and good is now

evil. Noah stood alone, and you and I will probably as a church have to stand alone, or at least it will seem that way.

## VII. The Call to Contend for the Faith

The job of the Christian of the last days is twofold. Look at Jude 1:21.

*Jude 1:21*

*Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.*

And Jude 1:20 also goes along with that, says:

*Jude 1:20*

*But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,*

The first thing that you and I are to do is look to yourselves. Noah preached for 120 years, and the only people he got saved was his family. I am telling you, the most important thing is...