

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

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

### Chapter 13- The Prophecy of Enoch **Jude 14-15**

### 149 The Prophecy of Enoch Part 3

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WOSM Monday 06/02/08

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

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

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

Now over the last two broadcasts, we have been going over what these two verses in Jude means. In these verses, Jude is inspired by God the Holy Spirit to pen down a subject that is very serious and very frightening- eternal judgment.

Now let me say, my beloved, that no one in their right mind enjoys the concept of eternal damnation- and I do not enjoy teaching about it. But the Biblical Truth about hell and God's wrath against the ungodly is a necessary thing if we are to be faithful to Scripture and our calling to preach the whole Gospel- not just the parts that are smooth and easy.

In **Matthew 22:37**, the Lord Jesus commanded us to not only to love God with all our hearts- but Jesus told us that we must love God with all our minds- so it becomes necessary to preach and teach what God's Word says about the difficult issues as well as the easy issues.

Many, many times in Scripture, we are cautioned against

placing our own *private* interpretation on the things of God and that goes for issues like hell and eternal judgment.

You and I do not have the right to formulate our own opinions about what hell is and is not based upon our own human reasoning and carnal thinking- but we are told clearly that we must base all of our understanding about these and all the other eternal issues by what God's holy Word declares them to be- even if that Divine Revelation contradicts our own closely held beliefs. Scripture is right- not because we agree with it- but Scripture is right because you see, Scripture came from the Mind and Heart and Mouth of Almighty God, and it is our duty to carefully research and correctly interpret and then humbly apply the Truth of God's holy and precious Word to our lives regardless if we find that to be comfortable or not. And this issue is one of those uncomfortable yet important issues that we must know and understand and learn and yes, we must love.

We must love what God says about eternal judgment- not because it is attractive to us- but because it is what God has said and we must always love everything that God has said. We must study about eternal judgment- not because we choose to- or because it makes us happy- but because we are told to. We must correctly interpret what the Bible says about eternal judgment because we have the obligation to think and speak Biblically about eternal judgment so that God may be honored by what we say, and we have the responsibility to preach and teach fully about eternal judgment with tears and in love in order to warn those who are lost that they are surely going to be eternally judged if they do not repent and be saved.

Jude is faithful to God in bringing up the subject of eternal judgment here in verses 14 and 15 of the Book of Jude and so we must also be faithful to God and examine this very frightening and difficult and yet important subject.

So, by the help of God- we will continue to study the very important and serious subject of eternal judgment. And if we do this rightly- we will not only see the just punishment of the ungodly- but we will see the supremacy and the magnificence and the glory of our great God in eternal judgment.

As I said on the last broadcast- the concept of eternal damnation is a very unpopular subject in our modern culture. And that would be

bad enough- but, sadly- the notion that God is going to damn *anyone* for any reason is becoming increasingly unpopular in the Church.

Many today in our modern culture values tolerance over Truth; upholds human relationships over a true relationship with the Savior; and values peace at any cost- even surrender; and those people values harmony over objective propositional Divine and inspired Doctrine and they would love to do away with the very concept of eternal damnation.

And for the most part- the modern American culture has done just that. But the fly in the ointment; the thorn in the flesh is the Word of God and you cannot read very far into the Bible without running headlong into clear and detailed descriptions of God's wrath against sin and His determination to judge it.

Today, the preaching and teaching about hell is considered by a growing number of Church leaders to be harsh, cruel, unloving, intolerant, unnecessary, and even unchristian. More and more Church leaders are shying away from even mentioning the clear depiction of this subject in their sermons and songs. I am hearing more often statements like this, "*We don't need to tell people about hell- we just need to tell people that God loves them!*" But these false leaders are running into a problem with their effort to sanitize the Church of all traces of eternal judgment- namely, Jesus Christ Himself.

On the last broadcast, we saw how that God's Love personified- Jesus Christ- preached about hell and God's wrath against sin seven times more than He talked about heaven and Love. Now that is just a plain fact about Jesus, and we would all do well to copy that ratio in our own ministries.

During the course of His earthly ministry, the Lord had much to say about the reality of hell. In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus warned of the danger of hell (**Matthew 5:22**) and spoke of the whole body entering into it (**Matthew 5:30**). This reality of unrepentant human beings in hell was clearly taught by our Lord in His words concerning the "**resurrection of judgment**" (**John 5:29**). In His references to hell, Jesus used the word "*Gehenna*".

That familiar term, which identified the continuously burning city dump in the Valley of Hinnom outside Jerusalem, graphically

illustrated to Jesus' listeners the fiery torment of hell (**Mark 9:43-48**). And near the end of the Sermon on the Mount- Jesus pictured false teachers as trees that do not bear good fruit and are "**cut down and thrown into the fire**" (**Matthew 7:19**).

Perhaps Jesus' most dramatic and frightening depiction of hell appears in the story of the rich man and Lazarus that we find in **Luke 16:19-31**- so let's read that passage together:

**19 There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:**

**20 And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus , which was laid at his gate, full of sores,**

**21 And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.**

**22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;**

**23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.**

**24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus , that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.**

**25 But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.**

**26 And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.**

**27 Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house:**

**28 For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.**

**29 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.**

**30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.**

**31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.**

The Bible declares that God reserves the severest judgment for those who hear the Truth but who reject it. In **Matthew 11:21-24**, Jesus addressed some of the Galilean towns that refused to believe in Him, and he warned them by saying:

**21 Woe unto thee, Chorazin ! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.**

**22 But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you.**

**23 And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.**

**24 But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.**

God's holy Son also ripped through the hypocrisy and false teaching of the scribes and Pharisees. He condemned them for their sanctimonious pride, their legalism, their greed, and their overall spiritual blindness. In response to their self-righteous arrogance, Jesus pronounced this fate on them in **Matthew 23:33**:

**Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?**

Such warnings of judgment are especially appropriate to the apostates and false teachers both then and now. The Bible clearly

teaches that those who claim to represent Christ yet do irreparable damage to Christ's Message will receive the severest judgment of all. The writer of Hebrews issued this stern warning to anyone who trifles with divine truth—a warning particularly ominous for false teachers in **Hebrews 10:26-31**:

**26 For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,**

**27 But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.**

**28 He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:**

**29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?**

**30 For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people.**

**31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.**

In verse 4, Jude pointed out that the apostates: “... **were before of old ordained to this condemnation**”. And here in verses 14-16, Jude reaffirms that truth and the truth of all the other New Testament judgment passages that precede it.

Now contrary to modern thinking, the discussion of eternal damnation is important, and it is useful in upholding the concepts of God's Supremacy, God Righteousness and God's seriousness about judging sin. And when a person is taught correctly about eternal judgment, his appreciation of Divine Mercy and Grace is much higher.

So, this is why we all need to earnestly contend for the Faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints. May God help us all.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.