



GRAN ALACANT TABERNACLE NEWS

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Issue 7

Greetings to all from the church at Gran Alacant

We are in the “summertime” part of the year that the days grow longer and warmer. The land becomes fruitful during this time with an abundance of melons, peaches, grapes, figs, cantaloupes, plums, vegetables and tomatoes and other fruits of the season. Our Lord God has given us an abundance of fruit through Jesus Christ, that leads to eternal life with Him, let’s not be forgetful of this while we enjoy the summer blessings and the abundance of physical fruit that the Lord provides for us from the land of this world this summer.

Here at Gran Alicante Church we are blessed at this time as people from different parts of Europe come to visit us, from Norway , Sweden , Denmark ,Ireland and the UK either because they have a holiday home here or are on vacation.

We thank all those that have visited us and pray that the Lord has blessed you just as we have been blessed from your visit.

We also thank God for the provision of a library for the Church Building with books in English and Spanish. Members of OM, Neil and Jacqueline, prayed for this and we have received the Gift from their organization, praise and thanks to the Lord. *(English books have arrived still waiting for the Spanish ones)*

We also praise the Lord for 3 new Spanish speaking brethren that have been attending our meetings regularly, a Spanish couple that have moved to Gran Alacant from Aspe and a brother from Madrid.

Brother Victor and sister Estefania desired to renew their wedding vows with God in the presence of the saints at Gran Alacant as witnesses, we had a wedding service, communion and praise and worship time and fellowship meal on their special day in the church building.



Summer a reminder of God's abundance

Israel looked forward to the summer harvest, it was a time of great joy, and during this time they would have a feast to give thanks to God for his provision and to pray that God would bless them with another good crop in the coming year.

But natural man's response to summer is to: relax eating out al fresco with the extra glass of wine or beer, to catch some sun, to spend time at the beach and in the sea especially here in Spain in the many resorts it has to offer: Nat King Cole's song "Give me those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer, those days of sodas and pretzels and beer" expresses the natural man's response to summer!

God's people are not immune from summer's lazy, hazy, days that lead to self indulgence. Each of us can dedicate most of the summer time on things that distract us from our creator God; we can turn the blessing of summer into a distraction and idolatry.

Summer is a blessing from God, It is a time of fruitfulness, and the land becomes alive with grain, vegetables and fruits. But in this abundance there is the risk of falling into the sin of forgetfulness as we are busy enjoying the abundance of God's provision for mankind. In Deuteronomy God warns His people of the misuse of this abundance: (Deuteronomy 6:10-12)

"So it shall be, when the Lord your God brings you into the land of which He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give you large and beautiful cities which you did not build, 11 houses full of all good things, which you did not fill, hewn-out wells which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant—when you have eaten and are full— 12 then beware, lest you forget the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

The trap is forgetfulness, we can spend summer time either "busy traveling" or "lazily relaxing,". There is so much that can distract us and fill our time with play, work or laziness which can take up much of our time and resources. How do we ensure that during this time we remember God in thanks giving and praise and continue to walk with Him according to His word? By not forgetting that all that we have all that we eat and drink and all that surrounds us is sustained and provided by Him, to have reverence and be thankful to God. But most of the time mankind is so busy enjoying this blessing that he becomes forgetful with a lack of gratitude.

In the book of Amos chapter 8, God gives a vision to Amos of a basket of ripe, summer fruit.

The basket of summer fruit is a symbol, to help us keep our focus on God during summer. It teaches us two lessons: one of remembrance, the other of fear. Summer fruit will not keep, once ripe it must be eaten within days or it will go bad and is thrown away, in chapter 8 Amos sees that God's purposes with regard to His people Israel was now ripe, because the nation had become ripe in its sin and under the judgment of God.

There is a time of ripeness in the purposes of God, ripeness for a nation, ripeness for the ungodly, and ripeness for each Christian.

Ripeness in the timing of God for the first coming of Jesus the Messiah, (Galatians 4:4-5) *But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.*

There will also be a time of ripeness for His second coming, when the Heavens and earth are reserved for fire, for the Day of Judgment and destruction of ungodly men. In 2 Peter 3 the apostle reminds us to take note of what the prophets spoke of in the past and that in the last days scoffers will come, walking according to their own lusts, saying, "*Where is the promise of His coming?*" In verses 7 - 9, God shows His mercy, love and longsuffering for us:

But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. 8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Our time is not the Lord's time, God's purpose will be fulfilled in His way and in His timing, when the time is ripe according to His will.

There is Ripeness for a nation, when the nation has become ripe in sin and there is no more hope of repentance, that will be the time it will be dealt with according to God's just Judgment. In Genesis 15, God said that the Israelites would drive out the Amorites and Canaanites but not in Abraham's time. Why? Because the sin of the Amorites had not yet reached its full measure. Genesis 15:16: *But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."*

In Psalm 9:15–17: *The nations have sunk down in the pit which they made; In the net which they hid, their own foot is caught. 16 The Lord is known by the judgment He executes; The wicked is snared in the work of his own hands. 17 The wicked shall be turned into hell, And all the nations that forget God.*

The Nations will be punished as we see more and more people in the world turning away from their creator and putting their trust, time and effort in the things created and not giving God the glory and honor for what they have received (wealth and an abundance of provision that sustains life life that we are all enjoying).

There is a time of maturity and Ripeness for each true Christian, when we become a believers our sins are forgiven , we are born again in Christ Jesus , that is when our journey starts , the journey begins by desiring to follow our savior , to humble ourselves to His will and obey His teachings. A new Christian is like a bud that needs time to develop, to flower and produce fruit and ripen.

The growing in sanctification is spiritual maturity, which depends on our daily walk with the Lord and our willingness to change from our old ways and turn to follow a new direction according to the word of God and His ways. The Holy Spirit helps us in this walk and shows us how distant we are to the Holiness of God by showing us things as God sees them, He shows us our sins and weaknesses in order that we can make adjustments by a continual process of repentance. This journey at times may be uncomfortable as we daily have to battle to let go of those things that hinder us from growing to maturity, the nature of man is stubborn and rebellious but by agreeing with God through His word and submitting ourselves to His will we move to a higher ground and closer relationship with Him.

2Peter 1:3–9 *"as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. 5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. 8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.*

We are ripening daily by reading and hearing God's word and acting upon it by being in Communion with other true believers to help each other with the challenges that this life brings us, to edify, to reproof and correct each other in Love to be spiritually disciplined.

In trials James 1:2-4: *My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.*

In knowledge Colossians 1:9-10: *For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;*

In spiritual growth 1 Peter 2:2-3: *Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, 2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby 3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.*

Spiritual growth includes: increasing in our knowledge and understanding of God's Word, realizing and acting upon sin and to ask forgiveness, and trusting in God regardless of what we may be going through.

Standing in Grace, Romans 5 : 1-5 *Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*

Paul says in verse 2, *we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.* We now have access to enter God's grace, through faith in Jesus Christ; we now stand in God's favour. This is the loving relationship God extends to His adopted children. Though we are unworthy of it and really only deserving His judgement, yet He has extended to us His grace.

This gives us a different perspective on life and the world. It is no longer about me and what I want. It is not about my fame and fortune. It is not about feeling good and experiencing worldly pleasure to satisfy our carnal nature, but it is about worshiping God at all times, it's about obedience to His word because our lives are now for God's glory, It's about giving Him the worship and Praise that only belongs to Him, for the abundance of Life that He has given us now and for the future, because His mercy and grace has provided a way for us to escape the fire of Hell that we deserve and instead have the promised blessed hope of eternal life with Him in His abode. Being bought redeemed and justified by the precious blood of the messiah Jesus Christ.

We can rejoice in hope of the glory of God, It is a very strong word **rejoicing** (jumping up and down with a heart full of Joy), *Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say rejoice!* – Philippians 4:4 How can we be rejoicing when we are living in a world that is wicked full of mental and physical pain, full of Fear, where frustration, uncertainty and anger is growing across the nations? Politicians keep on promising what they cannot deliver to get our vote, man is in need of more and more wealth to live and have a comfortable worldly life but financial stress is on the increase, people are being abused,

there are various diseases increasing, marriages and families are losing their moral values and all sorts of perversion is being accepted as normal there is terrorism, wars and rumours of war, the list could go on and on.

How can a true born again Christian cope with all this without getting side tracked, deceived and contaminated and fall into the sin of forgetfulness by running to the doctor to get antidepressant drugs prescribed? Or Pay to have a psychiatrist or councillor listen to how bad life is becoming or joining anti stress and yoga classes to feel better? These things may be of some help, but God's prescription to overcoming the this world and its sinfulness is so radical that for those who do not know Him through Jesus Christ, will not and cannot understand His remedy to overcome the evil in this world.

Philippians 4:4 *4 Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!* The remedy we are given is to rejoice. Rejoicing is thanking God that the day will come when Satan and his followers will be forever locked up into everlasting torment. Rejoicing is understanding what God has done for us, rejoicing is not forgetting from where we were in God's eyes and where we now are, that you and I deserve hell not heaven, yet heaven is to be our home if we preserve by becoming more like Jesus Christ. Rejoicing is to know that "*all things work together for our good, who are called according to His purpose,*" (Romans 8:28).

1Peter1:6-7: *In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,*

As we grow with the Lord we begin to bring fruits which get sweeter led by the Spirit Galatians 5:22: *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.* All of these things are making us ready and ripe for the time when our Lord shall come for us to take us home to be with Him for eternity.

Ripeness for the ungodly. Those without Jesus Christ are sick, spiritually dead and decaying because they are un-forgiven and have to pay the penalty for their sins. Without Jesus Christ in our lives there is nothing that is good in us: Romans 7:18: *I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature.*

There is a ripening also for sin that keeps getting worse the further away people steer from our Lord. Just like over ripe fruit is no longer good for eating and thrown away so the ungodly are preparing themselves for destruction. Romans 1:28-32: *And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; 29 being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, 30 backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31 undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; 32 who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.*

Galatians 6:7-8: *Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.*

Our Lord God has given us an abundance of fruit through Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life with Him in eternity. Let us not be forgetful of God's Mercy and Grace this summer as we enjoy the summer blessings with the abundance of fruit and life that the Lord provides this world with.

Psalm 86

Bow down Your ear, O
Lord, hear me;
For I am poor and
needy.

2 Preserve my life, for I
am holy;
You are my God;
Save Your servant who
trusts in You!

3 Be merciful to me, O
Lord,
For I cry to You all day
long.

4 Rejoice the soul of
Your servant,
For to You, O Lord, I
lift up my soul.

5 For You, Lord, are
good, and ready to
forgive,
And abundant in mercy
to all those who call
upon You.

6 Give ear, O Lord, to
my prayer;
And attend to the voice
of my supplications.

7 In the day of my
trouble I will call upon
You,
For You will answer
me.

8 Among the gods there
is none like You, O
Lord;

Nor are there any works
like Your works.

9 All nations whom
You have made
Shall come and worship
before You, O Lord,
And shall glorify Your
name.

10 For You are great,
and do wondrous things;
You alone are God.

11 Teach me Your way,
O Lord;
I will walk in Your
truth;
Unite my heart to fear
Your name.

12 I will praise You, O
Lord my God, with all
my heart,
And I will glorify Your
name forevermore.

13 For great is Your
mercy toward me,
And You have delivered
my soul from the depths
of Sheol.

Many fail to realise that to overcome the difficulties of this world it is necessary to first look to God for help and to praise Him while we wait, trusting that He will deliver us. The center focus must be on God in worship adoration and thanksgiving for His greatness.

When we are facing difficulties, it is God that will deliverer us. David turned to the Lord when he was afflicted, and under attack , He knew that God is greater than all problems, circumstances and people. (Psa 50:15) *"Call upon Me in the day of trouble and I will answer and deliver you from all your troubles."*

When we pray with faith according to the righteousness that the Lord has imputed upon us through Jesus Christ and trusting only in Him and not conforming according to worldly solutions, God will deliver us. Not always according to our desires and expectations but in a way that pleases Him, for the Lord knows what is best for each one of us.

He strengthens us through our weakness in order that we may bear fruit in every good work as we increase in the knowledge through our relationship with Him. In Psalm 34:4 David wrote, *"I sought the Lord and He heard me and delivered me from all of my fears."* Many of us do not receive deliverance because we search elsewhere for solutions to our lives, we do not ask God for Help or we ask with the wrong motives according to our natural worldly nature. We need to persist in praise and ask that His perfect will and purpose will be done and rejoice in the Lord during our troubled times trusting only in Him .

David is crying out from his soul with a deep trust as he writes, *"In the day of my trouble I shall call upon You for You will answer me. For there is no one like You among the gods, O Lord, Nor are there any works like Yours."* (Psa 86:7,8)

Surrendering to His will and trusting in Him through Jesus Christ, spiritually matures us and makes us strong to overcome, all else is sinking sand and will lead to dissapointment , destress and depression. Putting our trust and efforts on other things means we are falling away from the faith and annulling the power of God.

We must never forget that we are praying , worshiping and praising an all sufficient God who is above all things , nothing is imposible for Him and He can meet our every need. He is our creator who knows us more than our own selves.

If we have truely given our lives to Him in surrender through the sacrifice of our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ, then He is our rightful owner and master and director of our lives. But if we rebel against Him , we put obstacles in the way of His directing suffocating the Holy Spirit and not allowing God to intervene in our lives.

Being stubborn and doing things our own way will lead us to being stagnant , not growing and eventually falling into spiritual sickness and decay, we are the only ones that can stop God helping us to overcome this world, that is by being disobedient to Him and trusting in creation rather than Him who is the creator. We need to repent of our selfish nature and idols that the evil one is using in this world to steer people away from the Lord , and restore our status of being His

14 O God, the proud
have risen against me,
And a mob of violent
men have sought my life,
And have not set You
before them.
15 But You, O Lord, are
a God full of
compassion, and
gracious,
Longsuffering and
abundant in mercy and
truth.
16 Oh, turn to me, and
have mercy on me!
Give Your strength to
Your servant,
And save the son of Your
maidservant.
17 Show me a sign for
good,
That those who hate me
may see it and be
ashamed,
Because You, Lord, have
helped me and comforted
me.

children, His church (called out ones) He is faithful to forgive, but we must cry out for Him to teach us His ways in order that we can identify our sins and repent. Nothing is too difficult for God. God told Jeremiah, "*Behold, I am the God of all flesh, is anything too difficult for me?*" (Jer 32:17)

Our God is able to abundantly do beyond all that we ask or think." Jesus said, "*The things that are impossible with men become possible with God.*" (Luke 1:37)

David writes in Psalm 86:15,16: "*But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, Longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth.*

16 *Oh, turn to me, and have mercy on me! Give Your strength to Your servant, And save the son of Your maidservant.*"

Our Lord is one who has all authority, control and rule, He is a God of compassion, He is longsuffering and delivers us with loving kindness and truth through His abundant mercy.

Too many people seem to take the Lord for granted as Jesus said, "*You call me Lord, Lord, but you do not do the things that I say.*" (Luke 6:46)

In order to experience the blessings of our Lord, we must trust and obey Him completely. He is our God and has the right to determine what trials we must pass through in order to enter into the kingdom of God. His ways are higher than our ways and we should not resist them in any way. He is the Lord and besides Him there is no other. Amen

Studies on the Letter of Jude: handling false teaching in an age of massive apostasy 2

In our previous study, we made an introduction to the letter of Jude. We know that Jude urge the congregants to fight with false teaching. To fight with the enemies, we have to identify our enemy, so from verse 4, Jude carries on to dissect various kinds of false teachers.

Jud 1:4 *For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.*

As we have learnt in the previous study, one feature of Jude's letter is that it is very poetic. It has 14 triads in just 25 verses. Here we see the third triad. In this triad, Jude describes the nature of false teachers.

First, he says "*certain people have crept in unnoticed*". The enemies of Gospel come in with many forms and attack in many ways, and the enemy is easiest to identify when they look different than we do. Because it helps us create an "us" against "them" mentality. That's why in the cowboy movies, the villains wear black hats and the heroes wear the white hats, because it keeps things so much easier. But it is just a fairy tale. In the fairy tale, we are told that the prince and princess live a happy life forever, while in reality, there are risks, deceptions, struggles and setbacks and we have to be vigilant and have discernment.

Jude used the word "creep in" because, they are cunning in the sense that it is impossible to identify them with appearance, while identifying people by appearance is normally what we do. Those false teachers might kiss their kids, love their wives, smile a lot, pray with eyes closed tightly, use Jesus' name a lot or wash and kiss the feet of refugees; they wear white hats and they are tares among the wheat. But in the end, their teaching gives them away.

Therefore we can only identify them by studying the Bible and testing what they say against what the scripture says.

Jude is rebuking the church over their lack of vigilance against false teachers. The apostles had taught them, Jesus had warned them, and still they have allowed these men to creep in. No wonder Jude felt compelled to change the topic of his letter!

There are mainly two possibilities that they fail to do it. Either, they don't do their homework to study the scripture, so the enemies come, they fail to identify them but be captivated by their charisma. Or they identify them, but they lack the courage to rebuke them. As people always emphasize the love of God, while forget the wrath of God. In the eyes of this world or even for many Christians, Christianity always gives people an impression that we only talk about love, forgiveness and humbleness. But don't forget, we are also called to fight with the false teaching, and to be the warriors of truth. Toleration of lies is betraying of truth. As Paul taught in the letter to the Ephesians.

Eph 6:10: *“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. so we are called to stand up for the truth and fight with false teaching.”*

Then Jude uses the triad to describe the three characteristics of false teachers.

First, they are *‘those long ago were designated for this condemnation’*. The first character tells us the difference between those who makes mistakes in their teachings and the false teachers. Every person makes mistakes, because we are imperfect human beings. While the false teachers have been designated or marked out for condemnation long ago. They are unsaved people in the scheme of the devils and their condemnation is marked out beforehand.

In the second part of the triad, Jude describes the manner of these false teachers as *“ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality”*. They are ungodly men who change God's grace into licentiousness. Ungodliness is Bible's term for our modern term “unbeliever”. Therefore it comes as no surprise that these enemies are unbelievers. We'll see that Jude emphasizes this fact again when we get to the third part of this triad.

The modus operandi of false teachers is to turn or change grace into a license to sin. Licentiousness means having a license or a right or freedom to commit sin. Before we truly understand grace as the Bible teaches it, our flesh can be tempted to be persuaded to see God's limitless forgiveness as a green light to go on sinning. But Paul addressed this problem in his letter to the Romans clearly:

Rom. 6:1 *What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? 2 May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it.*

Paul's question was likely the essences of the false teachers' argument to the church. The argument is as follows:

Grace is a forgiving of sin, and it is without limit. Christ's sacrifice on the cross was sufficient to cover all sin. Therefore, the false teachers were Gnostics, who taught the church that they could glorify Christ through their sin. Because as they sinned in the flesh, they were creating a need for more of God's grace to be made available to cover that sin. By allowing the flesh to engage in sin, the believer was increasing God's grace, which is a good thing. And since the flesh was to be replaced one day anyway, it mattered not to God that we allowed the flesh to sin.

They dismissed the need to observe moral laws of any kind, which is called antinomianism. This is heresy and false teaching, let's address this notion clearly. As Paul says, “are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? May it never be!” In fact, every true believer needs only search their hearts to know the answer to that question. For the Spirit convicts us of our sin and leads us to an understanding

that God is calling us out of sin. Paul says we are to glorify the Lord in our body, since the Holy Spirit dwells within it. Our body is to die, so Paul says making it a sacrifice to God. Just as the Jews never sacrificed an imperfect animal. Our earthly life is to be used to prepare our bodies as a sacrifice, so that our body is a pleasing sacrifice in life and in death. These false teachers on the other hand, aren't seeking to glorify their bodies, much less the Lord. Their warped theology was merely a cover for their corrupt morals.

These men wanted to engage in all manner of sin and do so within the context of the church and without the bother of condemnation or judgment. They weren't content to carry on with their sinful choices outside the church, instead they wanted to bring their sin into the church. Yet at the same time, they brought it with teaching that made an argument for why their sin wasn't actually sin. Along the way, they encouraged others to join in with them. We can see examples of this kind of thinking and living on today, with various sexual perversions and other sins, and they want to redefine sin so that these immoral practices can be allowed to continue and even be accepted as normal. Sin is always corrosive and corrupting, ever since Eve took the first bite in the garden, those who enjoy sin are always looking forward to sharing it with others.

Finally, Jude says these men deny Jesus Christ as master. This last part of Jude's fourth verse is a direct quote of 2Peter 2:1-2:

2Pet. 2:1-2 "But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned;"

As we learn in previous study, one of the features of Jude's letter is that he quotes Peter's letters 13 times in just 25 verses.

It is not because Jude lacks confidence in his authority, but because Jude wants to communicate the message that "Peter has told you, but you just forget his warning!" Today, we can say the same thing, Jude had told us. Today's situations are no different from Jude's time in terms of Biblical literacy or vigilance towards false teaching. It would be an embarrassing question to ask in any church: "have you read the bible from cover to cover?"

Jude has straight-forwardly reminded his readers that they ignored Peter's good advice, and now they find themselves fighting an enemy inside their city walls. The enemy looks like one of us, but he can be known by his fruit. Their fruit is sin, done in the name of grace, and by their sin, they deny the Master and corrupt the truth. Jude knows there is a leak in their ship, so he has written urgently asking the church to plug the holes and throw the scum overboard.

But perhaps the audiences of the letter would wonder if such men could be rehabilitated inside the church? Shouldn't the church have more compassion on these unbelievers? Maybe the church should remain seeker friendly? Therefore Jude reminds the church how the LORD has dealt with such people historically.

Let's look at each example to better understand the lesson Jude is to leave with the church. First of all, Jude says I desire to remind you, but you already have everything you need to know available in scriptures. Jude is implying he shouldn't have to remind them of anything.

All of his examples are found in the Jewish scriptures, which every God-fearing Jew should have known.

In the first example, Jude references the wandering of Israel in the desert after leaving Egypt. Israel departed Egypt as a nation, but that nation consisted of two million individuals. God didn't call that nation because all two million were God-fearing believers. Scripture makes clear that believing Israelites have never been more than a remnant. Sometimes that remnant is quite small, sometimes it's most of the nation. But we should never confuse what God does with the nation for what He's doing for the individual members of that nation. So as Israel left Egypt, and received the Law and prepared to enter the Promised Land the first time, they revealed their true hearts along the way. Time and time again, the people of Israel chose to satisfy their flesh in conflict with God's instructions. They grumbled about the lack of water, the lack of food, and even worshipped idols. Scripture says they did these things as a result of a lack of faith, Hebrews says specifically:

Heb. 3:16–19 *“For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, was it not all who came out of Egypt, led by Moses? Now with whom was He angry forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness? And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.”*

Jude reminds the church that even though God's nation left Egypt together, they were not all equally God's people. Among the camp of Israel were unbelieving men and women who lacked a true heart. They were like the false teachers of Jude's day. They didn't get credit for showing up. Moreover they were condemned for lack of faith. As a result of their unbelief, God eventually destroyed an entire generation of Israel in the desert. Only the remnant entered into the Promised Land.

What lesson do we learn from Israel in the desert? God knows Who are truly His and who are hiding in the camp, and those who are not His will perish, as Peter teaches:

2Pet. 2:9 *“then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment,”*

In his second example, Jude mentions sinning angels. In the Bible, there is not systematic description of creation and fall of angels. But the information in the Old Testament is enough for us to understand what Jude refers to. Let's go to see some concrete descriptions of Satan in the book of Isaiah and Ezekiel:

Isaiah 14:12–15:

“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.”

Ezekiel: 28:12

“Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “You were the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. 13 You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created. 14 “You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. 15 You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you. 16 “By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, And you sinned; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing Out of the mountain of God; And I destroyed you, O covering

cherub, From the midst of the fiery stones. 17 "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, That they might gaze at you. 18 "You defiled your sanctuaries By the multitude of your iniquities, By the iniquity of your trading; Therefore I brought fire from your midst; It devoured you, And I turned you to ashes upon the earth In the sight of all who saw you. 19 All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you; You have become a horror, And shall be no more forever."

There is a pattern in these two messages, the authors always announce the judgment for gentile kings first and then shift to the description of Satan. Maybe because the evil gentile kings are pictures of Satan or they are Satan's agents. From these verses, we know that Satan was an angel created by God and was perfectly made. It was in the privileged place of serving God, but Satan rebelled against God and wanted God's glory. God says Satan was filled with violence because of pride and they have abundance of skills and they would be put to the fire in hell forever.

Finally, the third example is Sodom and Gomorrah, a story that needs no explanation. The chief sin of these cities was indulging in gross immorality. The men of the city gave in to a wrong desire and as a result, they went after strange flesh. Jude says the entire episode of Sodom and Gomorrah took place so the world would have a vivid picture of what the Lord has planned for those who practice such things. The judgment of the cities was temporal, but the judgment the people are enduring is eternal. That is the lesson Jude is drawing from this example. The false teachers of his day were indulging in fleshly sinful desires, but God had a judgment prepared for them.

Let's sum up these three examples. The enemies of the faith maybe hard to see, but God knows them, they are the ones who do not believe, they reject God's authority, so God will reject them and destroy them. The enemies of the faith have been exposed to great and wonderful truths and wonders. They are like the angels that willingly left the proper place. They despise the majesty of God's glory, and they will experience eternal darkness. The enemies of the faith are motivated by an indulgence in their flesh, and they are seeking to defile the flesh, but they will experience eternal fire in the end.

Study prepared by Brother Haihan

Be Steadfast

In 2 Peter 3: 14–18 the apostle ends the letter calling us to be diligent in the faith this conclusion should set the way we spend our time this summer and the remaining time we have in this world:

Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; 15 and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, 16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures. 17 You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; 18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

Here we have the same lesson of the basket of summer fruit: Peter reminds us that God keeps His promises. The end can come suddenly, and we may have been too busy or too lazy to see the ripening of God's timing, being too caught up in the cares, struggles and pleasures of this world and not taking time to prepare. "Teach us Your way, O Lord; help us to walk in Your truth; and deliver us from the way of the wicked, for Yours is the Glory forevermore, in Jesus name, Amen.

God Bless you Pastor Pino Cinquemani

Psalm 100



Make a joyful shout to the
Lord, all you lands!
2 Serve the Lord with gladness;
Come before His presence with
singing.
3 Know that the Lord, He is
God;
It is He who has made us, and
not we ourselves; We are His
people and the sheep of His
pasture.
4 Enter into His gates with
thanksgiving, And into His
courts with praise.
Be thankful to Him, and bless
His name.
5 For the Lord is good;
His mercy is everlasting,
And His truth endures to all
generations.

The Church at Gran Alacant, thanks God and all our brothers and sisters that have come to visit us during the past months, thank you for your time of worship together, for your freewill offering , prayers and blessings . We pray that by the word of God you have been blessed too and God willing may enjoy fellowship together in the near future.

*May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious to you.
May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace.*

Please continue to pray for the church mission here in Gran Alacant; to be strengthened in the wisdom of God; to be guided by the Holy Spirit in order to stay firm in His word and to fulfil His will and purpose for us during these difficult times as apostasy is increasing in the churches
Blessings in the name of Jesus the messiah .

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