

LEARN FROM THE PAST **(Jude 5-7)**

I. Learn from the Hebrews (vs 5).

- A. The first group about which inspiration reminds us is the Hebrews led out of Egyptian captivity.
 - 1. God had heard the cries of Abraham's descendants in Egypt and sent Moses to deliver them.
 - 2. Moses went and tried to convince the Pharaoh to let the Hebrews go but he would not.
 - 3. Therefore, God performed 10 plagues against Egypt.
 - 4. After the death of the firstborn, Pharaoh let them go.
 - 5. The people left but the Egyptian army followed.
 - 6. God allowed the Hebrews to pass through the Red Sea and closed it on the Egyptian army.
 - 7. God cared for the wanderers and made sure they had food to eat and water to drink.
 - 8. Sadly, the majority of the group rebelled against God when the 10 spies gave a bleak report about Canaan.
 - 9. Because of this, the people wandered for 40 years in the wilderness.
 - 10. While so doing, all those over the age of 20 at the time of the rebellion died except for Joshua and Caleb.
 - 11. Over 603,000 people died.
- B. What is interesting is that this group of people that were destroyed by God was the same group that God had saved from Egyptian bondage.
 - 1. This tells us that we can lose our salvation.
 - 2. If it doesn't teach this, I don't know what it does teach.
- C. Those that do not have faith, or lose their faith, are going to be lost.
- D. Another lesson, especially with regards to the false teachers who crept in unawares is that God knows who they are and they will eventually show their true colors and be exposed for all to see.
- E. Jude is warning us to look at the example of the Israelites and learn from their mistakes.
 - 1. Those that rebel against God will be punished.
 - 2. This is something that has always been true with God.
- F. One of the loudest messages in the New Testament is for Christians to learn from the Israelites and their history.
- G. If God destroyed those whom He had saved then, can He not do it today as well?

II. Learn from the angels (vs 6).

- A. We really don't know a lot about this because we don't know when this group of angels fell.
 - 1. Jude says they left their first estate.
 - a. The word estate means beginning or position.
 - b. They left the position or beginning place they had been given

- by God.
 - 2. We don't know when this took place but at some point some angels rebelled against God.
 - B. Notice the result of their rebellion.
 - 1. It was put down and they are being reserved or watched in confinement until the judgment day.
 - 2. The bonds are figurative and indicate that their fate is sealed.
 - C. What the point of this example seems to be is that God can and will sentence those that do evil to eternal punishment.
 - D. If God will place this sentence on those who once inhabited heaven, will He not do so against those of us who inhabit earth?

III. **Learn from Sodom and Gomorrah (vs 8).**

- A. We learn of the sins of these wicked cities through reading about Lot and his family.
 - 1. The immorality of the people of the town must have been very great.
 - 2. So great that there were not even ten righteous people in the area.
 - 3. Because of their great wickedness and perversion God rained fire and brimstone down on them, destroying the cities and killing the people.
- B. Because of this, Jude says these people were set forth as examples.
 - 1. The phrase set forth is interesting.
 - a. According to Woods, it means to lie exposed as a corpse laid out for burial.
 - b. These cities were punished for all to see.
 - 2. The word example is from a Greek word that is only used here in the New Testament.
 - a. It means to exhibit or show.
 - b. Here it means to demonstrate for all to see the vengeance of God that is inevitable for all who rebel against God.
 - 3. Their deaths stand as an example of that which is to come for those who disobey God.
- C. Can you imagine the horror of that day when these cities were destroyed?
 - 1. The utter devastation?
 - 2. All because of abandoning God's word to fulfill the lusts of the flesh.