

Our Assurance from History

If you have your Bibles today, I'd like you to turn with me if you would to the book of Jude. We're gonna be going on today in verses 5 through 11.

I want to give a "Good morning" welcome to all the folks down at the Antioch campus today. Thank you for all you're doing down there. We hope you have a blessed Thanksgiving. Thank you for all of you who are volunteering and helping out and serving there at our Antioch dinner. We know that there will be hundreds and hundreds of people coming who will be blessed. So thank you for being a part of all of that.

I want to let you know that our ushers said last week that we had more people walking out of last week's sermon than we've had in a long, long time. I want you to know that I don't pick these books or preach these sermons to offend anybody. If truth offends you, then I make no apology for that. If I offend you, you need to come and talk to me because I owe you an apology. But I want you to know that the book of Jude is a hard-hitting book. The Lord's brother wrote this to a church that was being threatened. If there was ever a church being threatened today in the world, it's the church of Jesus Christ in these days.

Around the world we're seeing more and more persecution picking up and particularly in Muslim countries. We are seeing hardship and erosion of the Christian faith happening in so many places. In our own country we are seeing that the very faith that we stand for is being compromised over and over again by all kinds of decisions and watering down of the gospel and moving away from truth as we try to accommodate a culture that's moving further and further away from God. So I'm hoping today that you'll be able to bear with us as we go through this very encouraging section actually, but it is confrontive. It is truth, and God gave it through Jude to give to us in hopes that we would be stronger as we stand together contending for the faith.

You know, one of the things that come out of the book of Jude is that we're dealing with people, he said, "Who have a tendency to say things that God never said and to use it for their own advantage." Like the little girl I was reading about this last week who wasn't eating her vegetables. Her mom said to her, "Honey, why aren't you eating your vegetables?"

She said, "God told me not to."

She said, "Well, I highly doubt that God told you not to eat your vegetables."

She thought for a minute and she said, "Well, maybe it was Moses."

She had learned to find a way to justify anything she wanted. Well, that's some of what was going on in this early church. People were trying to justify their sinful lifestyles and put God's name on it. Jude said, "Nope, you need to contend for the faith. You need to stand up and fight for that body of truth that cannot be compromised." This is the way the Lord's brother Jude puts it in Jude 1:

Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James,

To those who have been called, who are loved by God the Father and kept by Jesus Christ:

² Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance.

³ Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. ⁴ For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.

⁵ Though you already know all this, I want to remind you that the Lord delivered his people out of Egypt, but later destroyed those who did not believe. ⁶ And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day. ⁷ In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire.

⁸ In the very same way, these dreamers pollute their own bodies, reject authority and slander celestial beings. ⁹ But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring a slanderous accusation against him, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!" ¹⁰ Yet these men speak abusively against whatever they do not understand; and what things they do understand by instinct, like unreasoning animals—these are the very things that destroy them.

¹¹ Woe to them! They have taken the way of Cain; they have rushed for profit into Balaam's error; they have been destroyed in Korah's rebellion.

Let's pray for a moment.

Father, I know that you love us a great deal, and you are very forgiving. If it were not for your grace and mercy not a single one of us could stand. You have been gracious toward us, more gracious than we deserve. You've extended to us a mercy and a forgiveness that only could come from you. You have asked us to stand strong with a body of faith, truth that will continue to save people who believe it, and condemn those who don't. I pray today, God, that you'll encourage all of our hearts to stand and contend for the faith with you, for evil never wins, Jesus always does. That's the assurance that we have from history. And we pray, God, that you will encourage us with it today. We ask it in Jesus' name, Amen.

I really like superheroes. When I was growing up as a kid, my favorite superhero was Superman. Not the wimpy Supermans they have today, I'm talking about George Reeves, the real black and white Superman, the guy who could race faster than a speeding bullet and leap tall buildings in a single bound. He was more powerful than a locomotive.

You see, I like superheroes because no matter what happens in a superhero thing, two things are always true: The bad guys never win in the end, and the good guys always do. That's not far from the message the Lord's brother Jude was communicating to the churches of his day. He was telling them, "If you're standing with Jesus contending for the faith, no matter what happens, remember, Jesus always wins. The bad guys never do in the end. Jesus always wins. In fact, he already has." That's why Jude was calling Christians to remember the lessons of their own history. He said to them in verse 5:

Though you already know all this, I want to remind you that the Lord delivered his people out of Egypt, but later destroyed those who did not believe. ⁶ And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day. ⁷ In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire.

You see, Jude had been calling these Christians to contend for the faith. As we saw last week, "to contend" means "to fight" or "to struggle with intense effort." There's a battle going on. This was not a call to follow Jesus to a picnic. This was a call to follow Jesus to a spiritual war. Eternity is at stake, and he's building a kingdom. This faith that he refers to is the whole body of absolute truth entrusted to the church, a body of truth that does not change by culture or circumstance or time. It's eternal. There are times though in the battle that it can seem like the bad guys are winning, "But don't forget the assurance of history," Jude says. "Those who fight against Jesus and the truth always lose, and those who stand with Jesus and contend for the faith always win. We can stand strong and contend for the faith," he tells us, "because we have the assurance of history."

What is that assurance? Simply this, that God will destroy all those who don't believe, that God will finally judge all who rebel, and God will eternally punish all who are sexually immoral. That's the truth. No matter how many of those things seem to be winning, they've already lost. We have the assurance of history that God will destroy all who don't believe. Look what he said in verse 5:

Though you already know all this, I want to remind you that the Lord delivered his people out of Egypt, but later destroyed those who did not believe.

I was reading an article this week that came from the Today Show, actually a few years ago, about a promotion that H&R Block tax people did where they offered walk-in customers a chance to win a drawing for a million dollars. I don't know if you heard about that H&R Block promotion. Glen and Gloria Simms of Sewell, New Jersey won the drawing, but they refuse to believe it when H&R Block representatives phoned them with the good news. The article said:

After several additional contacts by both mail and phone, the Simms still thought it was all a scam. They usually hung up the phone, and they trashed the special notices. Finally, some weeks later, H&R Block called one more time to let the Simms know that the deadline for accepting the million dollar prize was nearing and that the story of their refusal to accept it was going to appear on an upcoming episode of NBC's Today Show.

At that point, Mr. Simms decided he ought to investigate a little further, which he did. A few days later he appeared on the Today Show to tell America how he and his wife had almost thrown away the largest prize of their life.

You know, I can't blame the Simms family actually for how they responded. We live in a world that breeds skepticism and unbelief, especially when it comes to receiving good news. We almost always race to the place where it seems that it's too good to be true. What Glen and Gloria Simms did with that offer of a prize is a classic example of what the Bible calls unbelief.

You see, this unbelief is more than doubting. This unbelief is when we hear the truth, can be confronted with the truth, have opportunity to accept the truth, but we chose instead to reject it. It is a willful rejection after being confronted with truth. That's unbelief. In the Simms' case, had they remained in that unbelief they would've forfeited their prize. The same thing is true for those who reject the truth of Jesus Christ and remain in unbelief. For people hear it again and again and again and again and again, but still refuse to accept it, believe it, and respond to it. They will forfeit the prize of eternal life.

Jude called Christians to remember and not repeat the mistake that Israel had made in the great exodus out of Egypt. He told them in verse 5:

Though you already know all this, I want to remind you that the Lord delivered his people out of Egypt, but later destroyed those who did not believe.

You see, the Israelites coming out of Egypt died in the wilderness, a whole generation of them. But it wasn't for lack of evidence or opportunity. They died because of their unbelief. You see, they had seen God's mighty hand in the deliverance of the ten plagues. They had seen and heard God's glory on the mountain when he gave his law to Moses at Mount Sinai. They had seen and experienced his power, his provision, and his guidance for 40 years in the desert, and yet an entire generation died because of their stubborn unbelief.

In fact, after seeing all of that, you'd be wondering how in the world can anybody doubt God? How can they refuse to listen to him? But they did. In fact, in the book of Hebrews in Chapter 3 we find a warning. There are five warnings in the book of Hebrews written to Jewish Christians, but for the whole church in general, a warning to help us to remember not to make the same mistake they had made in the wilderness. Today, the author says, "When you hear truth, respond to it. Whether it is the truth to be saved, the call to repentance, to holiness, whatever it is, obey when you hear God's truth." Hebrews 3 verse 7:

So, as the Holy Spirit says:

**"Today, if you hear his voice,
8 do not harden your hearts
as you did in the rebellion,
during the time of testing in the desert,
9 where your fathers tested and tried me
and for forty years saw what I did.
10 That is why I was angry with that generation,
and I said, 'Their hearts are always going astray,**

**and they have not known my ways.’
11 So I declared on oath in my anger,
‘They shall never enter my rest.’”**

¹² See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. ¹³ But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness. ¹⁴ We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first. ¹⁵ As has just been said:

**“Today, if you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts
as you did in the rebellion.”**

You see, their disobedience was the sign of their unbelief, and it’s not changed today. People, when we hear God’s voice speak to us, and it comes from his word, and we delay in that obedience, we’re saying to God in essence, “I don’t believe you; therefore, I won’t obey you.”

As Howard Hendricks once told a group of us pastors, “Partial obedience is total disobedience.”

We can’t get by God’s commands simply by saying, “Well, I’ll take this part and throw the rest out.” That’s why Jude and others use this example from Israel’s history to alert other generations not to see so much evidence of God’s truth and refuse to believe it. You can’t keep seeing what God is seeing. And if they were held guilty in the desert, imagine how culpable we are today when we have the word of God, the cross, the church, and 2,000 years of the testimony.

So he said, “Do not harden your heart while it’s still called Today. Don’t make the same mistake. Learn from history.” Unbelief may be popular even in the majority, but don’t be deceived, unbelief is rejection of God and the faith, and God will destroy all those who continue to refuse him.

People, we all have doubts at times. Doubts normally arise in the heart of a believer because we don’t have enough to go on or we don’t understand. But unbelief is when we hear what God says clearly and we reject it. We don’t do it. We don’t obey.

Martin Luther once said, “God’s not hostile towards sinners. He’s hostile to unbelief.”

“Contend for the faith,” Jude said, “because what you have believed is true. Be assured from history, all unbelief will be destroyed. All that will be left are those who stand believing in the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Not only destroying unbelief, but we have the assurance of history that God will finally judge all who rebel. This is what he said in verse 6:

And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.

Jonathan Mutchler, writing an article for the Associated Press along with Kiley Russell, were telling about a lady named Jan Davis, 60 years old, who is a professional veteran parachutist was involved in a dangerous sport called Base Jumping, jumping off towers and cliffs with a parachute. It was while Base Jumping that she fell to her death on October 22, 1999. If you remember that story, it happened up in Yosemite.

Her husband, who was filming the jump, and several reporters were stunned when Jan, the fourth of five jumpers, fell for 20 seconds and crashed on the rocks. Her chute had not opened properly. She was jumping off the 3,200 foot granite cliff El Capitan in Yosemite National Park.

She and other jumpers knew that Base Jumping is illegal in Yosemite. The law was adopted because there had already been six deaths in Yosemite along with numerous injuries due to Base Jumping. The five jumpers were in fact protesting the park's jumping restrictions, and ironically they were jumping to prove that the sport is safe.

These jumpers not only knew the risk, they also knew the law. They deliberately broke it. They rebelled against it, and Jan Davis paid with her life.

In his article I was reading, Jonathan Mutchler said:

In a similar way, many people think they can deliberately violate God's law. Eventually people learn, sometimes the hard way, that God's laws are there for a reason. They are there for our well-being.

Park rangers don't prohibit Base Jumping in Yosemite simply because they don't want anybody to have any fun. They do it for the same reasons they post signs for people to stay back from Yosemite Falls. The currents are strong. The rocks are slippery. The fall is deadly, and yet every year there are still people who are jumping off these cliffs with parachutes and who wade out into that river and get swept over the falls. You ignore the warnings and you can end up paying with your life.

God puts physical, spiritual, and moral laws in place to protect us. If we rebel against those laws, against that authority, we pay with our lives the same way the angels did. Some angels rebelled against God, and Jude said, "They are kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains." Verse 6:

And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.

It's hard to imagine that any angels would rebel against God. Think of it. Created by God with beauty and power and authority, they have the highest access to God. They are his messengers. They live in his presence, but there was a rebellion that occurred in heaven. This rebellion occurred in the heavens when Satan, the highest of the angels, the leader of all the angelic host, filled with pride and his own desire to be worshiped as God, led a rebellion against God. He let as many as a third of the angelic host abandon their positions of authority and their heavenly home. They were cast out.

Can you imagine? Here are these angels living in the presence of God's holiness, his majesty, his glory, and along comes Satan who was such a powerful deceiver he convinces a third of them that he is a better option than God. People, if Satan can do that to the angels who dwell in God's presence, imagine how easy you and I are as target. No wonder he leads so many people to rebel against God. He's a master at it. That's why Jude said in verse 8:

In the very same way, these dreamers pollute their own bodies, reject authority and slander celestial beings.

These people who are opposed to truth in the church and are changing the grace of God into a license and denying Jesus Christ, all in the name of God, are doing the very same thing the angels did. They're rejecting God's authority. In fact, the word "authority" there is a word that means "lordship." What Jude is saying is they were rejecting the lordship of Jesus over them. Jude knew a lot about that. He had done the same thing. As the Lord's brother, he refused to believe that Jesus was the Messiah until after the resurrection and then he believed.

You see, by rejecting God's truth, these angels were rejecting God who is truth, and so were these people in the church doing the same thing. By that rebellion they brought about their own destruction. You know, it's very interesting that they "rebelled against authority," Jude said. The Latin root of "authority" is the word "authentic" which means "that which allows growth and life." When we rebel against God we are rebelling against our own good to our own harm. Such rebellion leaves us separated from the only one who can save us. That's why when we hear that we're engaged in sin and we need to change or involved in something we know isn't pleasing to God, we're only hurting ourselves and others more in a delayed obedience because we are, in our rejection of obedience to God, we are rebelling against his authority. What we're doing is we're only hurting ourselves more by that rejection.

It's the age-old lies. Satan thought he could be as God, so he rejected the authority and found his own destruction. Many people today don't obey God because they want to be their own gods. "I want to be in charge. I want to rule so I can decide better than God can," so what happens is in their rejection, in that rebellion, they reap their own destruction. It gets worse not better.

Such rebellion leaves us separated from the only one who can save us. That's why Peter said in Acts 4:12, "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." If we ultimately rebel against God and his authority, there's no hope left for us. That's why this angelic rebellion was judged so severely.

The angels were to live in submission to God's authority. It was a total rebellion on their part. In fact, so much so did they live under that authority that Jude quotes about a time when Michael the archangel is battling the devil for the body of Moses. We don't know a lot about this event. This is a quote from a pseudepigraphal book of the time or very popular apparently and adding something to their understanding. Jude accepted this portion at least as truth. It was a pseudepigraphal book called *The Assumption of Moses*.

In that book there was a depiction of a time when Satan was battling Michael the Archangel over the body of Moses. We don't know what the battle was about or even what prompted it, but what's interesting, the point of the whole thing that Jude puts it in there for, is that Michael respected God-given authority so much, and even Satan's place as the highest angel in God's creative order, that even under that time, even as a fallen angel, Michael himself respected God's authority and asked God to rebuke one who he saw as higher than himself. Amazing. The angels rejected that kind of authority, and we see it happening all the time.

"These false teachers who deny the truth are like fallen angels," Jude said. "They despise authority. They have no problem slandering or blaspheming celestial beings. Their rebellion against God is no different than that of the angels. They claim to know God, but in reality they live in rebellion against them. Their fate will be the same as the angels who rebelled." He said, "It may seem like they're getting away with it, like the demonic host is winning, that Satan isn't rebuked, but keep in mind," he said:

These he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.

Jude reminds his hearers, "Don't be deceived. This rebellion is not winning. Their judgment has already been rendered and will be carried out on the great and glorious day of Jesus' return. They reject God now, and he has rejected them. So contend for the faith," he said, "and you'll be victorious just as those angels who stood with God, now live in glory with him. So too will you." Because the bad guys never win in the end. Jesus always does. In fact, he already has.

Not only destroy unbelief and judge all who rebel, but Jude said, "We have the assurance of history that God will eternally punish all who are sexually immoral." Verse 7:

In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire.

One of the great evidences that a people or a nation is living in unbelief and rebellion, is an increase in sexual immorality. Let me say that again. One of the biblical evidences that a people or a society is living in unbelief and rebellion against God, is an increase in sexual immorality. What does it say for our own nation where sexual immorality is becoming the accepted norm?

Steven Luff, co-author of *Pure Eyes: A Man's Guide to Sexual Integrity*, has joined a growing number of psychiatrists and addiction experts who are now saying that sexual immorality in America is becoming a national epidemic. That's a quote. A growing number of psychiatrists are seeing it.

Chris Lee in his article "The Sex Addiction Epidemic," said, "Reliable figures for the number of diagnosed sex addicts are difficult to come by, but the Society for the Advancement of Sexual Health, and Education and Sex Addiction Treatment Organization, estimates that between 3% and 5% of the US population, or more than 9 million people, could meet the criteria for being sexually addicted - not just influenced or engaged in, but addicted to sexual immorality. Listen to this:

Some 1,500 sex therapists treating compulsive behavior are practicing today. That's the latest statistic as of earlier this year.

Fifteen hundred of them focusing on compulsive sexual addiction, up from fewer than a hundred a decade ago while dozens of rehabilitation centers now advertise treatment programs, up from just five or six in the same period.

The demographics are changing too. "Where it used to be 40 or 50-year-old men seeking treatment, now there are more women, adolescents, senior citizens," says Tami VerHelst, Vice President of the International Institute for Trauma and Addiction Professionals. Grandfathers getting caught with porn on their computers by grandkids, and grandkids too are "sexting," which is texting sexual images and thoughts at age 12 and under, is on the increase.

I don't know if you've heard about the personal websites. I hope you've never seen them. I've never personally seen it. There are websites now, personal sites, that facilitate extramarital affairs. You log on. "You have immediate access to thousands of men and women who are willing to kick their vows to the curb for a no strings attached sexual tryst." That's what it says. Should you want to use the site to have an affair, the designers behind the site have worked hard that no one will ever know about your misdeeds. So far, the site has been a through-the-roof success. In one measured month in June of 2009, 679,000 men and women used the affair site in one month. Since the inception of this site in 2008, membership, those who have joined, now exceeds 4 million people.

As Mrs. Billy Graham once said, "If God doesn't judge America, he owes Sodom and Gomorrah an apology." Jude would agree. Jude called these Christians to remember the example of Sodom and Gomorrah:

In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire.

Solomon and Gomorrah are two examples of unbelief and rebellion manifested by their immorality and perversion. Solomon and Gomorrah are two ancient cities whose names have become synonymous with moral depravity. In fact, homosexuality was once called "sodomy" for a reason.

Sodom and Gomorrah were the largest of five cities of the plain near the Dead Sea that became so wicked God said he could not even find ten righteous people in any of the cities. So immoral that when God sent two angelic messengers to Abraham's nephew Lot who was living there to warn him of God's impending judgment, the men of the city, mistaking these angelic visitors as men, surrounded the house they were in and demanded they be tossed out by their hosts in order that they could have homosexual sex with these men. The angels struck them blind and rescued Lot and his family, but it says in Genesis 19 verse 24:

Then the LORD rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah—from the LORD out of the heavens.²⁵ Thus he overthrew those cities and the entire plain, including all those living in the cities—and also the vegetation in the land.

When you see that area today it's devastating. Those cities, they say, are buried under the silt of the Dead Sea. It's a devastating wasteland. Nothing grows there. Jude said, "They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire."

You see, God hates sexual immorality because it is a direct assault on the natural order and the message of beauty and intimacy that God seeks to create through proper sexual expression. Sex is good. It was designed by God to be good, and it was designed by God for a purpose. Part of that purpose is intimacy in a marriage, an expression of the unique one flesh relationship that exists between a man and a woman in the context of a marriage. That's why God said in Genesis 2 verse 20:

So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field.

But for Adam no suitable helper was found.²¹ So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh.²² Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

²³ **The man said,**

**"This is now bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called 'woman,'
for she was taken out of man."**

²⁴ **For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.**

²⁵ **The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.**

People, one of the purposes of this sexual expression is to declare the intimacy that exists in a marital context between one man and one woman who are united together in an inseparable one flesh relationship to enjoy an intimacy with each other that they would only enjoy with anyone else but God. That's the purpose of it in a marriage.

But it was also for procreation that a married couple would come together, and in that union of intimacy God would create more image bearers for himself to fill and subdue the earth with his glory. Genesis 1 verse 27:

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

How many more ways does God have to say it that a marriage cannot be between two men or two women?

²⁸ **God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."**

It's up to God to open or close a womb. He decides who has children and who doesn't. Even couples who may find their wombs barren can be used by God to fulfill and subdue the earth with his image bearers through adoption and a host of other ways in a

God-ordained way to fulfill the purpose of this marital creation. But this kind of sexual relationship was also to be a picture of Christ and the church. That a man who is the groom and a woman who is the bride live in a mutually submissive relationship of love and respect that would serve as a visible expression of the relationship between Christ, the groom, and his church, the bride. That's why the apostle Paul put it like this in Ephesians 5 verse 25:

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.²⁸ In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.²⁹ After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church—³⁰ for we are members of his body.³¹ “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”

You see that intimacy passage from Genesis.

³² This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.

You see, it's the picture that a man and a woman, united together in the intimacy of that relationship, would be a picture of the intimacy that exists between Christ and his church. Sexual immorality violates all of that expression. Premarital sex cheapens the intimacy of marriage and is a perversion that actually destroys intimacy and trust. More couples engage in premarital sex have destructive marriages than those who don't.

Extramarital sex, adultery, is an assault on the sanctity of marriage and its covenant of one man one woman only for each other for life. And homosexual sex is a total perversion of this. That's the word Jude used in verse 7, when he used the word “perversion.” It literally means “a lusting or chasing after strange flesh.” That's what the word “perversion” means. A man lusting after a man or a woman lusting after a woman is chasing strange flesh. It is a total perversion of the natural order. That's why you can be sure that God didn't create people to be homosexuals any more than he creates people to chase after rebellious things and to chase after false gods. He doesn't create people to chase after strange flesh. Therefore, same-sex marriage is an oxymoron. It is mutually exclusive. It can't happen. It can't fulfill a single purpose of God-ordained marriage.

So when Christians stand up for moral purity and sanctity of marriage and opposing adultery and premarital sex and homosexual sex and gay marriage, they're labeled bigots, homophobes, judgmental, hate mongers, the list goes on and on. But you want to know the truth? God says, **“In reality, they may be the only ones who are the most loving people of all because they are the only ones who care enough and are brave enough to tell the sexually immoral the truth in hopes of saving them from the destruction of eternal fire.”**

As Paul told the Corinthian church in 1 Corinthians 6:18:

Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body.¹⁹ Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from

God? You are not your own; ²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

“Take a lesson from history,” Jude said, “People who engage in sexual immorality are opposing God, and they’re like unreasoning animals,” he said in verse 10:

Yet these men speak abusively against whatever they do not understand; and what things they do understand by instinct, like unreasoning animals—these are the very things that destroy them.

“People who engage in sexual immorality are opposing God, and they are like unreasoning animals who take on the moral code of an animal,” is what Jude is saying. People, that doesn’t mean that God doesn’t forgive. I don’t meet many people today who haven’t been engaged in sexual immorality. The thing is that we turn away from it. We confess it to God. It’s wrong, and you’ll find his healing, his forgiveness, his grace and mercy is powerful and complete. But if we continue in unbelief and don’t listen to God, if we continue in rebellion and go our own way and insist on it, he said, “These serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire.”

God wants us to learn and obey. You know, sometimes people wonder, “Why doesn’t God just zap people. I mean, if they’re living wrong and they’re claiming to be Christians, why doesn’t God just zap them and take them out?” Well, there’s a good reason God doesn’t do it.

In the book *The God Conversation*, J. P. Moreland and Tim Muehlhoff were writing about that very issue. He said:

What if God took the radical step of setting a deadline for ridding the world of evil? Or suppose God announces that next Monday at midnight he’ll step in and stop all suffering caused by evil people? How would he do it? Let’s say God decides to use a tool carried by many police officers, a taser gun.

A taser gun shoots an individual with a temporary high-voltage current of electricity. The makers of taser guns claim that a shock lasting half a second will cause intense pain and muscle contraction. Two to three seconds will cause a person become dazed and drop to the ground. Anything longer than 3 seconds will drop an attacker for up to 15 minutes.

The makers of taser guns boast of a 95% compliance rate. In other words, hit a person with enough electricity, and you can get them to do anything. So, when the deadline for stopping all evil comes, God gets us to comply with his wishes by shocking us.

So here’s how it works. You start to tell a lie, you’re hit with a half second zap. You try to rob a person, you get two seconds of shock. You’re disabled. A would-be murderer would be incapacitated. However, knowing that evil thoughts often lead to evil actions, God also zaps us for sinister thoughts. But God is still not finished. Since evil is failing to respond to do good when given the opportunity, God zaps us every time we don’t show mercy, every time we don’t show kindness, every time we don’t show justice, every time we misjudge somebody.

As a result, people are zapped for doing evil acts, zapped for thinking evil thoughts, zapped for failing to do what's right, zapped for a bad attitude.

What would be the result? A world of twitchy people who obey God like cowering, beaten dogs. I'm grateful God's slow to anger. I'm not like Jesus yet, and I got a hunch neither are you.

I have days, I'm ashamed to say -- I don't do it intentionally -- but I have days where my attitude and my thoughts and other things I'd be wearing out his taser gun. God is patient with us, very patient. But as the Scripture said, "Don't ever take God's patience as a sign that he is not gonna do anything about these things."

Jude said, "I want you to remember, God is gonna destroy all unbelief just like he did with Israel in the desert. God will judge all who rebel, just like he did with the angels who rebelled. God will eternally punish all the sexually immoral, just as he did with those of Solomon and Gomorrah who refused to repent and tried to make their lifestyle the norm. Verse 11:

Woe to them! They have taken the way of Cain; they have rushed for profit into Balaam's error; they have been destroyed in Korah's rebellion.

Cain, one of the sons of Adam and Eve, a figure in the Scriptures of unbelief and death because he wouldn't respond properly by faith as his brother Abel did.

"Balaam's error," that prophet hired by Balak, King of Moab, to curse Israel and Balaam went along with it because of his greed and taught them how to seduce Israel through their immorality.

"Korah's rebellion," that leader of leaders with pride and despising authority led a rebellion with 250 other leaders in Moses' day. They were destroyed by God in the wilderness.

"Learn the assurance of history," Jude said. Evil men never win. Jesus always does. In fact, no matter what happens you stand with Jesus and contend for the faith, you have the assurance of knowing victory is already ours.

Father, I want to thank you for the assurance of history. I want to thank you that you've given these as examples to us to encourage us today. There's not a one of us that can point a finger at anybody else. We are all sinners fallen short of your glory. Saved by your grace and your mercy, we have now been entrusted, as we saw last week, with a faith, a body of truth that we are to contend for. It may look at times as though the world, the flesh, and the devil are winning, but I thank you for the assurance today that they're not. Evil never wins. Jesus always does. In fact, you already have. Help us, Lord, to remember this and to stand with you no matter what. And we'll praise you for that victory. In Jesus' name, Amen.