

An Inductive Examination of 2 Peter and Jude

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JUDE

In 2 Peter chapter 2, we have examined how Peter wrote about “false teachers”. In 2 Peter chapter 3, we have seen how these false teachers adopted the doctrine of uniformitarianism. This word may be new to some of you doing this study; therefore, let me give you Webster’s definition. “n. the doctrine that all geologic changes may be explained by existing physical and chemical processes, as erosion, deposition, volcanic action, etc., **that have operated in essentially the same way throughout geologic time.**” **Emphasis mine.**

This definition may leave some of you cold; however, what it is saying is that since time began all things have been happening like they always have. There have been upheavals, rain and floods, fire and storms, however, the idea is that over a period of a hundred years everything has been going the way it has always been from the beginning. Using the “Evolutionary model” there has been no “world wide” catastrophic events since time began. You may say “where is this going?” I began by saying that “... these false teachers adopt the doctrine of uniformitarianism.” Let me give you an example from 2 Peter 3:1-7.

¹Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in *both of* which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), ²that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, ³knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, ⁴and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of creation.” ⁵For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, ⁶by which the world *that* then existed perished, being flooded with water. ⁷But 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.”

Write out where the doctrine of uniformitarianism was being used by these false teachers. _____

2 Peter 2 and 3 are so very essential for CHRISTians today in order to see what is being taught in the majority of old line denominational local churches, colleges and seminaries. Since so many local churches, colleges and seminaries are not teaching that the only AUTHORITY we have as CHRISTians is the Word of God, then CHRISTians have no authority for their speaking. It is basically one person’s opinion against another person’s opinion. The abysmal ignorance of God’s Word by so many CHRISTians is because they are not being taught how to read, study, memorize and APPLY the Word of God to themselves and to the situations of life they face daily in their relationship with their spouses, children, parents, neighbors, friends, employers and employees. They have not been told that they are to have ministry twenty-four hours a day seven days a week. And even a greater crime is that they are not being prepared to have this ministry by the very ones who are supposed to be equipping them. The reason is simple enough. It doesn’t take a “rocket scientist” to realize that those who are supposed to be teaching them how to do these very things are themselves ignorant of the Word of God.

As a CHRISTian leader of nearly a half a century ago said, “Mother hens have been tremendously successful in equipping their chicks to survive. How have they done this? Well they scratch scratch, step back two steps, look down and cluck cluck. If they didn’t do this there would be no ‘next’ generation.” Oh, to God that those who serve in the office of pastor would do the same thing.

It may sound like your teacher is painting a “horrible” picture of the situation the church is in today, especially in America. Well, as we will see, Jude started to write to his addressees about the “common salvation” but he found it necessary “to write to them exhorting them “... to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.” Jude 3,4.

We are living in such a day and that is why we must study Jude in conjunction with 2 Peter. However, before we begin our study I have copied from the Nelson Study Bible, New King James Version a note from page 2158 an **INDepth** article entitled **The Use of Apocryphal Sources**. The Jewish Apocrypha consists of books and writings that were never recognized as part of the canon of Scripture, but which served a devotional purpose for many believers of ancient times, including some of the authors of the New Testament. Jude cites two books of Apocrypha in his letter. Jude 9 apparently comes from *The Assumption of Moses*, and verse 14 comes from *The Book of Enoch*. Today we do not have a complete text of *The assumption of Moses*, but two early church fathers, Clement of Alexandria and Origen, testify that v.9 is a reference to that book.

Jude is not the only New Testament author who quotes extrabiblical sources. In 1 Cor. 10:4, Paul apparently made use of a Hebrew commentary (the Midrash) to support his interpretation of Israel’s wilderness wanderings. In Acts 17:28 and Titus 1:12, he quoted from pagan poets to support some of his assertions. Though we do not know where the names Jannes and Jambres come from (see 2 Tim. 3:8), Paul did not hesitate to use their story as an example of godlessness for Timothy.

Should the New Testament writers have quoted from apocryphal sources? Surely God had no trouble guiding the biblical writers in selecting material from these sources. Luke knew of “many” accounts of the life of Christ (see Luke 1:1), which he set out to better with his own “orderly account” (1:3). Along the same lines, Paul had at least one letter from the Corinthian church to guide his responses in First and Second Corinthians. Even the devil is quoted in Matt. 4:3, 6, 9. This does not mean that these sources are inspired, or even accurate, but it does mean that sometimes New Testament writers drew from the written sources God had given them to communicate effectively what He wanted them to say. The writers of Scripture wrote all that, and only that, which God had inspired them to say. We must affirm with Peter that the ultimate origin of Scripture is the mind of God (see 2 Pet. 1:19-21).”

You may want to reread this **IN Depth** article a number of times and bring to class any questions you may have regarding its content. Write out your questions in the space provided. _____

There has been a number of different opinions about whether 2 Peter was written before the book of Jude or whether it was written after the book of Jude. There are those who believe that Peter borrowed from Jude when he wrote 2 Peter. However, it seems rather clear from the text of 2 Peter 2:1 and Jude 4 that Jude was written shortly after 2 Peter. In 2 Peter 2:1 we read, “But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them and bring on themselves swift destruction.” When does Peter say the “false teachers”, “will secretly bring in destructive heresies”? _____

In Jude 4 Jude says: "For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ." When does Jude say the ungodly men (false teachers) will come in among the CHRISTians? _____

With this background now let us proceed to examine the book of Jude.

JUDE

1. What does Jude call himself in v.1? _____

¹ Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ:

² Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

³ Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

⁴ For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

The first word Jude used to identify himself is the Greek word δοῦλος (doo-los) which was used to describe a person who was born into slavery. A δοῦλος had only one purpose in life and that was to please his master. Under Roman law they had no "rights." The CHRISTian life is so easy to live when you are a δοῦλος. Jesus said "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. **You cannot serve God and mammon.**" Matthew 6:24 **Emphasis mine.**

Could it be the reason so many in our day who call themselves Christians are so ineffective and cannot be used by the Holy Spirit the way they are supposed to be is because they have been **deceived** by false teachers into believing that getting and having more and more money is God Blessing instead of sin? Jesus also said, "But **seek first** the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto to you." Matthew 6:33 **Emphasis mine.**

2. What is the second thing Jude calls himself in v.1 _____

5 But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.

Here is a small homework assignment. Check your exhaustive concordance that is keyed to your English translation and look up the word James in the New Testament. Come to class to defend who was Jude's brother. _____

6 And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;

3. To whom was Jude addressing his letter? v.1 _____

Why do you think the "called" after they were saved are left here upon the earth? (Give Scripture to support your answer) _____

7 as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

Mercy only appears four times in our New Testament as part of a "greeting"; however, they all have one thing in common they all precede a warning against false teaching. 1 Timothy 1:2; 2 Timothy 1:2; Titus 1:4; 2 John 3.


4. When Jude started to write this letter what was the subject he was going to write about? v.1 _____

8 Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries.

5. What did the Holy Spirit guide him to write about? v.1 _____

9 Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a

6. How many times had The Faith been delivered to men? v.3 _____

How would you go about answering someone today who would try to tell you that he had (or his group had) received new revelation about "The Faith" and now it is more complete? _____ 

reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"

¹⁰ But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves.

¹¹ Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

¹² These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving *only* themselves. *They are* clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots;

¹³ raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.

¹⁴ Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints,

(Give Scripture to support your answer) _____

7. Today the "Emerging Church" doesn't believe that all we need to do is to love everybody and say we believe in Jesus, i.e. we are just one happy family. The emphasis is supposed to be upon "unity" and doctrine (teaching) should not separate us. If you have read through the book of Jude, do you believe Jude would agree with this? _____ Explain your answer. Please document with Scripture. _____

8. Why does Jude say they need "to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints?" v.4. _____

9. Do you believe as a CHRISTian today that you should follow the same instruction? _____ Explain your answer, please document with Scripture. _____

10. What does Jude say will be the end of these "certain men"?

11. Does Jude say these are baby CHRISTians? v.4 _____ Does Jude say these are CHRISTians who are seeking "unity" at the cost of setting aside the Word of God? _____ What does he say about these men? _____ →

15 to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”

16 These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage.

17 But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ:

18 how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts.

19 These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit.

20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,

12. Was Jude giving them “new” information that they knew nothing about? v.5 _____ How do you know that? _____

Jude liked to arrange his thoughts in groups of three. Read vs. 5-7 and see what this group of three is talking about. Write out your conclusion. _____

13. Who does Jude mention first in v.5? _____

14. Who does Jude mention as his second illustration in v. 6. _____

15. Who did Jude pick, under the direction of the Holy Spirit as his third illustration in v.7 _____

Jude’s first illustration in question 13 is clearly understood by those who know their Old Testament. On the other hand the second illustration is not so simple. There are basically two different views that are held on this Scripture. This was discussed in our study on 2 Peter 2, beginning with page 28 and question 30, going through page 35, question 39. Please refer to your study on 2 Peter 2. One word of caution: remember that one of the common explanations concerning Genesis 6:1-3 is dependent upon having Peter’s and Jude’s passages to change the original meaning of Genesis 6:1-3.

16. To what does Jude say Sodom and Gomorrah had given themselves over to? v. 7 _____

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

22 And on some have compassion, making a distinction;

23 but others save with fear, pulling *them* out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.

24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present *you* faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

25 To God our Savior, who alone is wise, *be* glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.

17. What does Jude say Sodom and Gomorrah serve as an example? v. 7 _____

In Genesis 19:1-27 you can refresh your memory about the judgment that came upon Sodom and Gomorrah as well as the story of Lot and his family.

18. What application does Jude make of what he has just said to the “dreamers” (false teachers) he has been talking about? v. 8 _____

19. What are the second and third accusations that Jude makes regarding these false teachers in v.8?

a. _____

b. _____

20. What is the context of your answer to “a.” in question 19? _____

Make an application to your answer in question 20, in the light of Hebrews 13:17. _____

Your author can think of a situation where a CHRISTIAN would not have to comply with your answer to question 21; however, he would have to sin in order to do so. Can you think of what that situation would be? _____

21. What wouldn't Michael the archangel do in v. 9? _____

Have you ever heard anyone rebuke the devil in Jesus name? _____ In the light of Jude 7 and the instructions in James 4:7 did the person who said these things go beyond Scripture? _____ Did he/she add to the Scripture? _____ Do you recall in our past study that someone added to the Scripture? _____ If you do where was it and who did it? _____. Why would a person doing this today think that it was the thing to do? (Give at least two reasons) _____

22. Unlike Michael the archangel, why do these false teachers speak evil of things the Word of God teaches? v. 10 _____
23. What does Jude "liken" them to in verse 8? _____
24. What does Jude say they are doing to themselves in verse 8? _____

What are they obviously trying to do to those who listen to them? _____

Give a reason or reasons why a baby CHRISTian could be taken in by anyone like this? _____

Do you believe you know enough Scripture that you would not be affected by the error taught by "false teachers?" _____ Explain your answer. _____

Below is an error taught by a "false teacher" that every one who has been a CHRISTian for six months should be able to handle biblically. You will be asked in class to read your answer, please come prepared. If you cannot answer the question biblically then you definitely need to get into a study on the Basics of the CHRISTian life, as taught in the Bible so you can "give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason for the hope that is with you with meekness and fear." 1 Peter 3:15. Before I give you the question and the verse I am reminded of a

In your estimation did you answer the question biblically? ____ Do you believe you would have answered the question biblically in such a way that the "false teacher" would have to admit that John 14:28 does not go against the biblical doctrine of the Trinity or Triunity of God? _____ If your answer was "no" then what caused your difficulty? _____

In my haste I have forgotten one option. Do you believe that the Bible teaches the doctrine of the Trinity or Triunity of God? _____ Now there is one other question that I need to ask, Do you know what I am talking about when I use the word Trinity? _____ If you answer "yes" write down what the Word Trinity means so you can give it in class, if you are called upon. _____

25. In Jude 11 we have our next group of three, what are they?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

Read about your answer to "a" in Genesis 4:3-8; Hebrews 11:4 and 1 John 3:11, 12. I have read these Scriptures.

26. Why did your answer to "a" kill his brother? _____

27. What was the problem between the two of them? _____

28. When confronted by his Creator what did he do? _____