
THE BOOK OF JUDE – THE ACTS OF THE APOSTATES – Part 3

THE PROPHECY OF ENOCH

Jude verses 14, 15

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

The little book of Jude has a big message. It is a message of warning to believers in Jesus Christ, that there are false prophets, ungodly persons who have made a final rejection of Jesus Christ and God's revealed truth. These persons are called apostates.

In our previous two studies we have seen something of the evil nature, intentions and methodology of these wicked persons. Their number and dangerous doctrines have increased through the centuries. However, eternal punishment awaits them. God's judgment upon them was pronounced not long after Adam and Eve exited the Garden of Eden, by a man named Enoch.

Did you know that Enoch was a prophet? We probably know Enoch best from the following statement which occurs in Genesis 5:22, *“Enoch walked with God.....”* Enoch was the seventh in the direct line of descents from Adam. The line of descent is Adam, Seth, Enos, Cainan, Mahaleel, Jared, Enoch. Enoch lived a long time ago!

Hebrews chapter 11, the Hall of Faith chapter, tells us that: *“By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, “and was not found, because God had taken him”; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.”* (Heb. 11:5)

Since that time many centuries ago time has sped noisily along. Events of great magnitude have left their lessons in the history books of the world; nation after nation has arisen and disappeared; generation after generation has marched to their graves; for over 2000 years the saints of God have been looking forward to the coming of the Lord; scoffers and skeptics have said, *“where is the promise of his coming for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.”* (II Peter 3:4)

Will Enoch's prophecy ever be fulfilled? Will the Lord come again? Are the hopes of the Church of Jesus Christ in vain? Are the scriptural references to the Lord's return to be taken seriously? Will the wicked ever be punished?

Here near the end of the Bible record and just prior to the last book of the Bible, which details many of the end time events relating to the return of the Lord Jesus Christ, is this encouraging prophecy of a saint who lived in ancient times. Let us examine his prophecy in detail.

I. THE MESSAGE ABOUT THE LORD'S RETURN. *"Behold, the Lord comes....."*

As Enoch walked with God, this end-time prophecy was revealed to him. His prophecy is twofold: first, he prophesied that the Lord would return and, secondly, that he would come to execute judgment upon these ungodly persons.

This prophecy does not stand alone in Scripture. There are many prophecies concerning the return of the Lord Jesus and all of them are in concert with Enoch's prophecy. For example:

Acts 1:11 is the testimony of the angel: *"Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."*

Acts 17:31 contains these words: *"He (God) has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."* (That is: Jesus Christ.)

Rev. 22:7 Jesus Himself said, *"Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."* Verse 12 - *"And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work."*

II. THE MANNER OF THE LORD'S RETURN.

Enoch foresaw the Lord coming *"with ten thousands of His saints to execute judgment on all..."*

Does that mean that even God's children who are alive when the Lord comes will be judged *"with flaming fire"* as Enoch predicts? The answer is that there two phases to the Lord's return.

A. His Advent.

When we think of the Lord's return remember the 2 "R's" - first, there is the Rapture and, second, there is the Revelation.

1) First, The Rapture.

The word, "rapture" does not occur in Scripture but the event is - I Thess. 4:15-18 tells us that He comes for His saints:

"For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words."

2) Second, His Revelation.

He comes with His saints as Enoch's prophecy says: *"the Lord comes with ten thousands His saints....."*

Paul wrote about this same event saying: *“The Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, ⁸ in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, ¹⁰ when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.”* (2 Thess. 1:8-10)

B. His Appearance.

1) **In glory** – *“the son of man shall come in the glory of his father with his angels.”* (Matt. 16:27)

2) **In fire** – 2 Thess 1:8 says that He comes *“In flaming fire....”*

Let us thank God for His grace that sought us, bought us and brought us that, on that dreadful day for earth dwellers, we who are the Lord’s will be up in the air with Him looking down and not down here on the earth looking up!

III. THE MEANING OF THE LORD’S RETURN. v.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.”

A. He will be glorified in his saints. 2 Thess. 1:10 *“...he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe.”*

B. He will bring to light hidden things of darkness. I Cor. 4:5 *“Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the heart.”*

C. He will judge all the ungodly. Jude v.15 tells us that He will judge all the ungodly for:
1. What they are - *“ungodly”*; 2. What they do - *“ungodly deeds”*; 3. What they say – *“all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”*

D. The result of judgment. II Thess. 1:9-10

“These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, ¹⁰ when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe....”

Summation

Jude refers to the prophecy of Enoch as a comfort for true believers who were being threatened by apostates and, at the same time, as a warning to false teachers that the Lord will have the last word. This message of Jude concerning the impending judgment of God upon apostates is clear. The judgment of God will certainly fall upon them.

We who know the Lord therefore, are to be warned, are to be warring the good fight of faith, watching and waiting for the Lord Jesus to return!

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