

## THE BOOK OF JUDE – THE ACTS OF THE APOSTATES – Part 5

### JUDE'S DOXOLOGY

#### Jude verses 24-25

***“Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.”***

The word “doxology” means “A hymn of praise to God.” Many hymn books include The Doxology, that is, the traditional Doxology written in 1674 by Thomas Ken. The words are:

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
- Thomas Ken 1674

Jude’s concluding words are, like our traditional Doxology, pithy and praiseful. He saves the best for the last. He closes his letter, in which he challenges Christians to warfare on behalf of the faith, by praising the Author of that faith, “God our Savior.”

Jude’s brief letter was written to Christians:

- To remind us that we are *“called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ”* (v.1);
- To enlist us to *“earnestly contend for the faith”* (v.3)
- To caution us about false teachers *“who have crept in”* (v.4);
- To alert us to the truth that *“the Lord comes to execute judgment upon the ungodly”* (v.15)
- To assure us that God is able *“to keep you from falling.”* (v.24).

Jude saved the best to the last. The closing two verses of Jude’s short letter are the best known and most quoted of his epistle. This doxology is perhaps the most often quoted benediction used at the conclusion of church services. When my wife was graduated from her secular high school, at age 17, she was asked to pronounce the benediction at the end of the graduation ceremony. She read Jude’s benediction in verses 24 and 25.

Jude’s little letter has as its main theme *“contending for the faith.”* (v.3) Every Christian should be involved in the faith fight and should be able to say at the end of life, as did the apostle Paul, *“I have fought a good fight .... I have kept the faith.”* (2 Timothy 4:7)

The faithful believer is one who:

- Commences in the faith;
- Contends for the faith;
- Continues in the faith;

- Communicates the faith, and
- Concludes this life in the faith.

It is the conclusion of a life of faith that Jude is writing about in verses 24 and 25. In this his doxological benediction, Jude strikes 5 chords in these two concluding verses. First,

### THE GOD IN THESE VERSES

***“Now unto him ..... the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.”***

#### **A. The God Who is Solitary - *“the only .... God”***

1. This truth is declared in the 1<sup>st</sup> of the 10 Commandments: *“You must not have any other god but me.”* (Exodus 20:3 NLT)

2. This truth demolishes the claims of pantheism. (*“Pan”* the Greek word for *“all.”*) Pantheism teaches that *“all is God”* – that God and the universe are the same.

3. This truth destroys the claims of polytheism. (*“Poly”* is the Greek word for *“many.”*) Polytheism teaches that there are many gods.

How could there exist more than one true, living all-present, all-wise, all-powerful God? If there were a plurality of such Gods, would they not cancel out one another? And, since there is only one true, living all-present, all-wise, all-powerful God, why have lesser gods been created by creatures of the Greater God? There is but two answers: gross ignorance of their Creator and/or willful rebellion against Him.

#### **B. The God Who is All-Wise – *“the only wise God”***

The false teachers about whom Jude warns us, claim to have special wisdom. Jude says, *“These speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally....”* (v.10)

Paul writes of God All-Wise:

- *“O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!”* (Rom. 11:33)
- *“To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen.”* (Rom. 16:27)
- *“Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.”* (I Tim. 1:17)

If we want to be exposed to God’s wisdom, we have but to expose ourselves to God’s Word, for it is that wisdom of God which He has chosen to reveal to us, congealed on paper with ink!

#### **C. The God who is Our Savior - *“God our Savior”***

The solitary, all-wise God is our Savior! If our Savior is not God, we have no Savior! Repeatedly God is called our Savior. Examples are:

- I Tim. 1:1 – *“Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope.”*
- I Tim. 2:3 – *“For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour.”*
- Titus 1:3 – *“...the commandment of God our Saviour...”*
- Titus 2:10 – *“...that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.”*
- Titus 2:13 – *“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.”*
- Titus 3:4 – *“...the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared...”*
- II Peter 1:1 - *“...the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.”*

“It is not enough to say that Jesus Christ is “a Savior,” or “the Savior”; we must say that He is “our Savior – my Savior.” (Wiersbe, Jude v.25)

#### **D. The God Who is Glorious and Majestic - “be glory and majesty”**

To Him is ascribed “glory.” “Glory” refers to dignity and honor; “majesty” means “greatness.” These terms suggest that which is worthy of awe, praise, and worship.

#### **E. The God Who Has Dominion and Power - “dominion and power”**

“Dominion” is from “kratos” {krat'-os}, and means “might, power, strength.” “Power” is from “exousia” {ex-oo-see'-ah}, and refers to “authority, jurisdiction, liberty, power, right, strength”.

These words focus upon the sovereignty of God. The use of these words demonstrates that Jude recognizes that it is God who rightly deserves and exercises authority over all.

In the model prayer in Matthew chapter 6, Jesus said to pray, *“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.”* (v.13)

We should willingly bow and acknowledge, in the words of Rev. 4:11 - *“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.”*

#### **F. The God Who is Present and Permanent - “both now and ever.”**

He is not only in the present, but in eternity past and future!

### **THE GUARANTEE IN THESE VERSES**

*“him that is able to keep you from falling”*

#### **A. The Guarantee of God’s Ability.**

*“him that is able to keep you”* (KJV)

*“Able to keep”* – The word “keep” in the Greek language is a military term meaning “to garrison about.” The greatest Guard and Garrison is God! How could one be more safe and secure?

God's ability is also stressed by Paul in his "doxology" in Ephesians 3:20: *“Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.”*

Paul's own personal testimony is: *“I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.”* (II Tim. 1:12)

### **B. The Guarantee of Our Security.**

*“who is able to keep you from falling away”* (NLT)

Jude reminds the believers to whom he is writing that, even though there were those in his day, and there would be those in the future who would fall away, that is apostatize, that we serve a God who is able to keep us from falling and failing utterly.

The angels, in a perfect environment, did not keep themselves from falling away. What makes us think that, without divine aid, we can keep ourselves from falling away, living as we are, in an imperfect environment?

The phrase *“to keep you from falling”* has a two-fold meaning:

- First, it means to protect us from final defection from the faith and,
- Second, to keep us, as we daily walk with Him, from falling into sin. It was in this last sense that Jesus taught us, in the model prayer, to pray, *“Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil....”* (Matt. 6:13)

Our faith must cooperate with God's power if we are to keep from stumbling and falling. The Christian's security is pledged by God, our Father; God, our Savior and God, the Holy Spirit. The triune God guarantees the eternal salvation of those who place their total trust for salvation in Jesus Christ alone.

The words of the hymn “How Firm a Foundation” is a source of great assurance for Christians. The last verse says:

“The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose  
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;  
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no never, no never forsake.”

### **Illustration**

A mountain climber in the Alps had come to a perilous gap in the ice where the only way to get across the chasm was to place his foot in the outstretched hands of his guide who had crossed the chasm ahead of him and was reaching back to assist him. The man hesitated as he looked down into the crack in the ice where he would certainly fall hundreds of feet to his

death if he made a misstep. Seeing his hesitation, the guide said, "Do not fear, sir; in all of my years of service as a guide my hands have never yet lost a man!"

Trusting souls, having committed themselves into the hands of the Heavenly Father, need never fear for His hands have never lost one of his children!

Jude's concluding words assure the security of the Christian. We who are saved will be forever safe! God wants His children to have the joy of the assurance of salvation. Our assurance is proof that we are trusting the Trustworthy One.

We either have eternal security by trusting God or continual insecurity by distrusting God. Which will it be?

### THE GRACE IN THESE VERSES

*"and to present you faultless"*

*("and will bring you with great joy into his glorious presence without a single fault." NLT)*

- Are you presently faultless?
- When we engage in honest and serious introspection, do we see ourselves without fault before God?
- Are there any inconsistencies between profession and practice?
- Are we everything we ought to be as children of the Heavenly Father?
- Is there room for spiritual growth?
- When we look at other Christians do we see any faults in them?

The statement that our Savior will present us *"faultless"* before the throne in heaven raises the question, "How can this be?" The answer is: "Because of God's grace!" It is by the grace of God that we are saved from the penalty of sin; it is by the grace of God that we will be saved from the presence of sin and will eventually appear before the very throne of God!

On earth we are not *sinless*. However, if we are truly born again, we will *sin less* as we grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (II Peter 3:18) Having said that, we are aware that while in this body of flesh, no one of us has reached the state of perfection. How then can we be presented before the holy God upon His throne as flawless? Answer: It is because of and by His amazing grace!

The church of which we are a part will be presented *"faultless."* Eph. 5:25-27 repeats this promise in these words: *"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish."*

Yet again, O, the wonder of it! Yet again, Paul writes in this vein: *"And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled in the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and*

*unreproveable in his sight: If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel....*” (Colossians 1:21-23) All because of God’s amazing grace!

“Through many dangers, toils and snares,  
I have already come;  
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.”

**THE GLORY IN THESE VERSES**  
*“before the presence of his glory”*

Earlier Jude had written of the *“glory and majesty”* of God and now he writes of the glory in which we shall share.

**A. We Will see His Glorious Person.** *“the presence of His glory”*

On the Mount of Transfiguration, Matthew said that Jesus was, *“transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.”* (Matt. 17:2)

John said, *“....and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father....”* (John 1:14)

Jesus prayed, *“Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me....”* (John 17:24)

We shall gaze upon His glory one day! This is the ultimate goal of redemption – *“We shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.”* (I John 3:2)

**B. We Will be in a Glorious Place.** *“before the presence of his glory....”*

Heaven is called “The Glory”; Peter said that when he was on the Mount of Transfiguration, *“....there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.”* (II Peter 1:17-18)

“I am going home to glory someday,  
For the Savior my sin debt did pay;  
Heaven’s glories are beyond compare,  
Because the Glorious God is there!”  
- JdonJ

**THE GLADNESS IN THESE VERSES**  
*“with exceeding joy”*

It will be a joyful day for at least two reasons:

**A. Jesus Will Be Joyous.**

The Lord Jesus will rejoice for He it is who presents His blood-bought Bride, the Church, *“with exceeding joy.”* Sometimes we believers concentrate upon the joy that will be our experience

when we get to heaven and lose sight of the truth that Jesus will be joyous in that day!

How did Jesus endure the cross? Hebrews 12:2 tells us: *“who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross.”* I believe that one thing that gave joy to Jesus on the cross was that He knew that He would lead captives to sin and Satan free and deliver those who would place their faith in Him. Joyous Jesus!

### **B. We Will Be Joyous.**

We who constitute the Bride of Christ will be filled *“with exceeding joy.”* Then too, God will say to certain ones, *“Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord.”* (Matt. 25:21)

Because of who God is, He is able to bring us into the presence of His glory *“with exceeding joy.”* The Greek word translated *“joy”* means literally, *“with exultation,”* like those who leap for joy!

At Christmastime we sing, “Joy to the world, the Lord is come!” Joy came from the presence of God to earth at the incarnation; however, when we are presented *“faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy”*, it is joy returning into the presence of the One Who is the Source of true joy! If heaven is anything it is a place of joy.

## **CONCLUSION**

Jude ends his little letter with one final word: **“Amen.”** The word “Amen” is from a Hebrew root and means, *“Firm, surely, so be it, verily.”* That is, “You can count on it!”

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