

Homework
Session Two: Jude's History Lesson

1. As we think about a glass of water tainted with strychnine, we consider the importance of keeping the Word of God pure. Read the account of Paul and Silas preaching at Thessalonica and Berea in Acts 17:1-14.

a. According to Acts 17:5, how did the Jews in Thessalonica react to their message?

b. How did the Jews twist the situation around in verse 7?

c. In verse 10, we read that Paul and Silas went to speak to the Jews in Berea. In your own words, what godly characteristics can you describe about the Jews there?

d. Think about the fact that Jude is addressing apostasy within the Christian church. Looking back on the Thessalonian Jews in Acts 17, what characteristics might point to eventual apostate behavior?

“Jude’s History Lesson” consists of three events he wished his readers to recall: situations regarding the Israelites, the angels, and the ungodly. The next series of questions will relate to these three stories.

2. **THE ISRAELITES.** Read Numbers 13:1-33. Write down exactly what God said in verse 2 according to your Bible. Then paraphrase what was said by the leaders in verses 27-29.

3. What action did Caleb take in verse 30? How did the other leaders/spies respond to him? Generally speaking, why is it easier to be persuaded by a group of people rather than an individual who stands alone?

4. Read Numbers 14:1-10. Verses 1-4 describe how the children of Israel reacted to the spies' report. What are some emotions they exhibited?

5. Moses and Aaron had a very different response. Why?

6. What are the instructions Joshua and Caleb gave to the people? What was the congregation's response?

7. Let's take the lesson of the Israelites into today. Reflect on your own attitude and behavior within your home church. Write a prayer to God inspired by your reading of this story.

8. **THE ANGELS.** Read 2 Peter 2:4 and 9. (The content between these verses is important, of course, but 4 and 9 are the beginning and concluding thought in summary.) Also Read Revelation 12:7-9. Make note of your personal observations within these verses.

9. The angelic function as God's agents and messengers, and execute His decrees. Read the following verses and in your own words describe their responsibilities.

a. Psalm 34:7

b. Daniel 10:12-14

- c. Isaiah 6:1-4
- d. Matthew 2:13
- e. Luke 1:13-19
- f. Acts 5:17:19

10. In Luke 12:35-48, Jesus tells the disciples the difference between faithful and evil servants. In verse 48 he says, *“When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required.”* Now consider Jude 6. Why do you think there are angels who have been reserved in these eternal chains until the Day of Judgment?

11. **THE UNBELIEVERS.** The *Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible* states that “Sodom became known in biblical literature as the supreme example of a wicked city, and its destruction was used as a warning of judgment on those who sin against God...” Read the following verses and describe how Sodom is depicted OR write down your own insight.

- a. Deuteronomy 29:23
- b. Jeremiah 49:18
- c. Zephaniah 2:9
- d. Matthew 10:15
- e. 2 Peter 2:6

12. Read Romans 1:18-32 and answer the following.

- a. To whom is the wrath of God revealed?
- b. Verse 23 states, *“they...became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man - and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.”* Can you give an example of how this exists, even now?
- c. Verses 24, 26, and 28 repeat the use of the term, *God gave them up/gave them over to* various behaviors. Why did God do that?
- d. From the extensive list of sins mentioned in verses 29-31, what in your opinion do these sins have in common?