

The New Testament Church
The Book of Jude #10 – Jude 1:16-19; (2nd Peter 3:1-14; Isaiah 61:1-3)
Embracing the Judgment of God: Beauty for Ashes
March 16, 2025 - Pastor Paul Jehle

I Review of Jude - called to contend as well as continue in the faith

- A. Book of Jude - a summary of truths preparing the early Church for a “test” of evil rising
- B. A review of lessons one through four – Jude 1:1-13
 - 1. **Called** to faith and family – first test in Kingdom manifestation – Jesus is our example
 - 2. **Contend** - opposition causes us to clarify our beliefs (apologetics) – for original gospel
 - 3. **Continue** - overcome sinful obstacles by living under authority – a submissive attitude
 - a. Walk in the way of the cross rather than the “way of Cain” – lust of flesh - pleasure
 - b. Embracing godliness with contentment rather than greed – lust of eyes – power
 - c. Cultivating God’s presence through humility vs. pride of life – spiritual pride
 - d. Protected from detours by koinonia – community, participation – fellowship
 - e. Seeking a walk with God that is prepared for the Lord’s return - maturity

II Continuing in Faith – Judgment: *Beauty for Ashes* - Jude 1:16-19; 2nd Peter 3:1-14; Is. 61:1-3

- A. v. 16 - *These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts, and they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage.*
 - 1. Grumblers – a “murmurer” – one who complains sullenly
 - 2. Complainers – “blaming fate” – discontent – why me?
 - 3. Walking according to lusts – captive to our pleasures
 - 4. Great swelling words – “immoderate, boastful, excessive, pompous, bulging over”
 - 5. Flattering to gain advantage – “wonder, admire” – but in an idolatrous way...
- B. v. 17-18 - *But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts*
 - 1. Words spoken before – from Paul – 1st Timothy 4:1-5; and 2nd Timothy 3:4
 - 2. Mockers (deride, scoffers) in the last time; and Peter (see 2nd Peter 3:3-14)
 - a. *Where is the promise of his coming? ...all things continue as they were from creation*
 - b. In other words, there is no such thing as God intervening in judgment - consequences
 - c. Ignorance of previous judgment of God – particularly of Noah’s Flood (1656 AM)
 - 1. Early geologists interpreted sedimentary rocks and fossils as evidence of Flood
 - 2. Early 19th century – due to Darwin, Marx and others - *uniformitarianism*
 - 3. Mount St. Helen’s eruption (1980) demonstrated *catastrophism* (God’s judgment)
 - d. The heavens and earth are preserved by the Word of God, reserved for judgment
 - e. *What manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness...* which
 - f. *...hastens the coming of the day of God – maturity rises as we approach His return*
 - g. *...looking forward... be diligent... found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless*
 - 3. The example of the Flood is God’s redemption – beauty from ashes (judgment)
- C. v. 19 – *These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit.*
 - 1. Sensual persons – living by “one’s animal nature” – sinful nature can be quite evil
 - 2. Causing division – emphasizing differences over what unites people, discouraging faith
 - 3. Not having the Spirit – not born again, or acting like one is not born again...
- D. Example of St. Patrick – God turned his ashes into beauty – powerful ministry (see back)

The Geological Example of Beauty for Ashes
How Mt. St. Helen's Eruption of May 18, 1980

brought to the forefront that catastrophe's can lay sediments and petrify rocks quickly

The standard interpretation at Yellowstone National Park, Petrified Forest National Park is:

Sediments are laid and rocks are petrified by:

1. A volcanic eruption or similar catastrophe, wood fills with water, no oxygen
 2. Silica-rich fluids soak into the wood buried in ash
 3. It crystallizes as solid materials
 4. The high pressure and *long length of time* forms petrified wood.
- (thus, millions of years of slow petrification of wood and layers of sedimentary rock)

Mt. St. Helen's demonstrated that it could happen in a matter of minutes, hours and days

1. A better explanation of vertical tree trunks crossing sedimentary layers
 2. A clearer understanding of how wood at the base of Mt. St. Helen's became petrified quickly
 3. Now, some of the signs in the National Parks are reflecting a shorter time period!
- (The beauty of creation after the Flood and around Mt. St. Helen's depicts "beauty from ashes")

St. Patrick's Day; An example of Beauty for Ashes

1,564th Commemoration tomorrow, March 17 (Patrick died 8 or 9, March, 461 AD)

Confessions:

1 - My name is Patrick. I am a sinner, a simple country person, and the least of all believers. I am looked down upon by many. My father was Calpornius. He was a deacon; his father was Potitus, a priest, who lived at Bannavem Taburniae^[Nota]. His home was near there, and that is where I was taken prisoner. I was about sixteen at the time. At that time, I did not know the true God. I was taken into captivity in Ireland, along with thousands of others. We deserved this, because we had gone away from God, and did not keep his commandments. We would not listen to our priests, who advised us about how we could be saved^[Nota]. The Lord brought his strong anger upon us, and scattered us among many nations even to the ends of the earth. It was among foreigners that it was seen how little I was.

2 - It was there that the Lord opened up my awareness of my lack of faith. Even though it came about late, I recognised my failings. So I turned with all my heart to the Lord my God^[Nota], and he looked down on my lowliness^[Nota] and had mercy on my youthful ignorance. He guarded me before I knew him, and before I came to wisdom and could distinguish between good and evil. He protected me and consoled me as a father does for his son.

3 - That is why I cannot be silent - nor would it be good to do so - about such great blessings and such a gift that the Lord so kindly bestowed in the land of my captivity. This is how we can repay such blessings, when our lives change and we come to know God, to praise and bear witness to his great wonders before every nation under heaven....

A slave at 16 years of age; what were the wonders that God did through him (from age 35 to 65)?

- Established 300 churches, with more than 120,000 converts (sometimes whole villages at once)
- Miraculous healing, laying on of hands for empowering of the Spirit, even raising of the dead
- Established churches and schools by compiling the *Liber Ex Lege Moisi* - the Law of God
- One time God produced a fog to shield him from the King who was going to ambush and kill him