

# Commentary on Jude

By Craig Paardekooper

Jude is a short book consisting of a single chapter. It is found at the end of the Bible, immediately before the book of Revelations.

## Jude and Enoch

A curious fact about the Book of Jude is that it is the only place in the New Testament that quotes from the Book of Enoch. Enoch was a prophet who lived before the Flood of Noah – the Flood is described as a global cataclysm brought on by God for the sinfulness of mankind. Enoch prophesied about this Flood, and his prophecies were recorded in the Book of Enoch from which Jude quotes. Considering that Revelations is the New Testament apocalypse, it is therefore significant that the Book of Jude immediately precedes Revelations, and talks about the previous global apocalypse.

And the reality of the previous apocalypse suggests the certainty of the future one. More information about Enoch and the Flood can be found here - [Enoch](#)

Jude not only reminds us of this previous apocalypse, but draws our attention to features that link it with the apocalypse in Revelations.

## Jude's Message

The message of Jude can be broken down into 2 parts –

1. Past judgements
2. Coming judgement

## Past Judgements

Jude is all about judgement – and gives 3 previous examples –

1. The Exodus
2. Sodom and Gomorrah
3. Enoch and the flood

*<sup>5</sup> Though you already know all this, I want to remind you that the Lord<sup>[a]</sup> at one time delivered his people out of Egypt, but later destroyed those who did not believe.*

*<sup>6</sup> And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their proper dwelling—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.*

*<sup>7</sup> In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire.*

## Coming Judgement

Then Jude quotes from the Book of Enoch about a prophecy of the coming of the lord –

*<sup>14</sup> Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about them: “See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones <sup>15</sup> to judge everyone, and to convict all of them of all the ungodly acts they*

*have committed in their ungodliness, and of all the defiant words ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”<sup>[9]</sup>*

### **Characteristics of the Judged**

Jude describes the characteristics of those who were judged -

- Unbelief
- Abandoning duty- rejecting authority
- Sexual immorality and perversion, pollution of the body
- Slander and condemning others
- Lack of understanding – irrationality – instinct based cognition
- Not being your brothers’ keeper
- Rushing for profit
- Grumblers and fault finders
- Following their own evil desires
- Boasting about themselves
- Flattering others for their own advantage
- Scoffers
- Creating division amongst God’s people
- They follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit

### **Enoch and the Flood**

Enoch lived during the seventh generation from Adam. So from the Creation Week until Enoch were 7 generations. Enoch prophesied about the Flood that God would bring upon that world, and this Flood occurred 1656 years after the Creation Week. So just as the world was created in 7 days, so it was destroyed after 1656 years =  $777.77 \times 777.7$  days. (taking each year as 365.256 days)

This destruction was followed by an exponential decrease in lifespan over the subsequent 1000 years, evidenced in the king lists of ancient China, India, Mesopotamia, Greece and Egypt.

Ussher chronology dates the Flood to 2348 B.C. Immediately after the Flood, God made a covenant with Noah – the NOACHIC COVENANT.

### **Abraham and the Destruction of Sodom**

God called Abraham out of Mesopotamia to go to Canaan, and promised that his descendants would inherit the land. Ussher chronology dates this event to 1921 B.C. God made a covenant with Abraham, the ABRAMIC COVENANT, and at that time God sent angels to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah, to prepare the land ready for His holy people.

So the covenant with Abraham was 427 years after the covenant with Noah

## **Moses and the Exodus**

We are told that the Exodus occurred 430 years, to the day, from the time that Abraham entered Canaan. At this time, God judged the Egyptians - sending 10 plagues upon them until they allowed the Hebrews to go free. Ussher chronology dates the Exodus to 1491 B.C. At this time, God made a covenant with the Israelites – the MOSAIC COVENANT.

## **Periodic Judgements**

The Exodus occurred 430 years after Abraham entered Canaan. Similarly, Abraham entered Canaan 430 years after the Flood.

So these three events, and the covenants associated with them, were each separated by a period of 430 years.

## **Kingdom of God**

Following the Exodus, the Israelites did not gain complete control of the land of Canaan until the reign of David, which began 437 years after the Exodus. At this time God made a Covenant with the descendants of David – the DAVIDIC COVENANT - promising that his descendants would have an eternal kingdom IF they maintained God's laws. In the Bible, the Davidic kingdom is regarded as synonymous with the kingdom of God, since it was a time when God's will was enacted and Israel prospered.

## **Divided Kingdom**

However, after David's reign, his son Solomon and the subsequent kings of Israel turned away from the worship of YHWH, and Israel became divided between a Northern Kingdom with a capital at Samaria, and a Southern Kingdom with a capital at Jerusalem. This idolatry persisted through out the 40 years of Solomon's reign, and throughout the 390 years of the subsequent kings until the Babylonian Captivity, when kingship ended in Israel....a period of 430 years !!

In 590 B.C., 4 years before the siege of Jerusalem by the Babylonians, Ezekiel prophesied the coming siege and was instructed to lay on his side and eat rations for 430 days, representing the 430 years of Israel's idolatry.

## **The Coming Judgement**

So you can see that the judgements/covenants are each separated by 430 years – which brings us to a discussion of the coming judgement spoken of by Enoch. Jude quotes from the Book of Enoch - where it says that at those angels who rebelled before the Flood would be imprisoned for 70 generations until their judgement.

The Gospel of Luke provides a list of all the generations from Adam to Christ. Enoch was the seventh generation after Adam – Christ was the 77<sup>th</sup> generation – so there were 70 generations between Enoch and Christ – so the judgement upon the angels was expected to occur in Christ's generation. The number of days from Enoch to Christ is  $(3012 + 30) * 365.256 = 1,111,111$  (seven ones). Curiously, the Exodus falls exactly half way –  $(3012 - 1491) * 365.256 = 555,555$  days.

## **Revelations**

When we turn to the next book, Revelations, we find a record of that final judgement. Curiously, it too depicts a period of tribulation lasting  $430 + 430 + 430$  days = 1290 days, to be followed by a series of Judgements before the establishment of the Kingdom of God.

1290 days is a day for each year from Noah to David.

## **Summary**

Jude talks about 3 previous judgements, each separated by 430 years and each associated with a Covenant.

He then refers to the Flood, in Enoch's time, and to the prophecy of Enoch that a judgement upon the angels would occur 70 generations after his time. This happens to fall in the generation of Christ.

Finally, when we look at Revelations, we find that the time of Tribulation is  $430 \times 3$  days.

## **References**

1. [Enoch](#)
2. [Covenants](#)
3. [Davidic Covenant](#)