

Introduction to Jude and Revelation: Episode 2

He's Always Been Talking to Me!

To the surprise of many, the Bible is written primarily to instruct and educate those within the household of God. In fact, extraordinarily little of its message is directed to those on the outside. Rather, **Yahweh** instructs those He has brought into His own household, warning them not to choose to live in unbelief, like those in the pagan nations, for the consequences of unbelief are dire.

Apart from the narrative in *Genesis* regarding the origins of humanity, the rest of the Bible predominantly deals with God's relationship amongst those He has called, contrasting those within His own household. He juxtaposes those who will inherit the promise (those who are now and continually betting their lives on His name **Yahweh** and are even now choosing to be dependent upon Him for all things all the time) with those who are **NOT** now believing and will not inherit the promise.

This contrast starts with Cain and Abel; Ishmael and Isaac; Esau and Jacob; Korah and Moses. It then escalates into the division between the masses who left Egypt and who were prevented by God from entering the Promise Land with Joshua and Caleb who were the only 2 from the original group that were permitted to enter; Saul and David; Israel and Judah; and, in the New Testament, Judas and the disciples; and those who are called into the household of God but choose to live like slaves, servants,¹ in contrast with those who are Called, Chosen, and Faithful who choose to live like sons.²

Keep in mind, unbelievers do not need to be warned of falling away into apostasy or of failing to enter the believers rest, since they simply do not belong to God's household, and, by definition, exist in a fallen state. The warnings of falling away and apostasy are given to those who belong, to those who have a place, to those who must dig down deep in their soul and decide every day if they will live their lives as slaves of God, in the image of Ishmael (a son of the bondwoman), or as sons of God, in the image of Isaac (a son of the free woman). After all, God has made it clear

¹ Note: The *Called* entered God's household by belief, however, they failed to now and continually believe.

² **Revelation 17:14**

that the son of the bondwoman (those holding in any way to the covenant given at Mount Sinai) will not be an heir with the son of the free woman, whose covenant comes from Mount Zion (the Jerusalem above).³

In that light, what we learn from the Old Testament narrative is that many people start the journey of faith. However, when God does not do for them as they thought He would, or as they had been told He would, they complain, get bitter, and eventually wallow and die in unbelief. And holding tightly to their religious practices does not save them. They eventually die in the wilderness never able to enjoy the promise of abundant life.

Still others abandon their faith altogether, as they turn to other gods or to the things of this world to find their answers and to navigate their way through this life.⁴ Either way, both groups die never experiencing the Promised Land.

IT IS ONLY THOSE WHO ARE NOW AND CONTINUALLY CHOOSING TO BE BELIEVING THAT YAHWEH IS THEIR I AM, THEIR SUFFICIENCY FOR ALL THINGS ALL THE TIME, WHO ENTER THE PROMISED LAND AND GET THE OPPORTUNITY OF ENTERING HIS REST.

Hebrews 3:18-4:3

And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient? So we see that they were not able to enter **because of unbelief**. Therefore, let us fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it. For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard. For we who have believed enter that rest, just as He has said, "AS I SWORE IN MY WRATH, THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST," although His works were finished from the foundation of the world.

³ *Galatians 4:21-31*

⁴ *See 1 Corinthians 10; Hebrews 3-4*

The overarching message of **Jude** and **Revelation** is quite simple, **Yahweh's** called, chosen, and faithful ones walk by faith according to the leading of the Holy Spirit, and they now and continually believe (bet their lives upon the fact) that **Yahweh** is their **I AM** – their exclusive source of all that is needed for life and godliness.⁵ Accordingly, they dig down deep in their soul and, through the power and working of the Holy Spirit, become convinced that God loves them, accepts them, and that there is nothing they can do to ever earn His blessing and favor, for they already have it.

In the same manner, by the power and working of the Holy Spirit, they eventually stop trying to manage and control their “sin” and they settle on the reality that **Yahweh Tsidkenu**⁶ is their only righteousness. Therefore, all that God requires of them is to now and continually believe that He is **Yahweh** (with all its implications), and that He is a rewarder of those who now and continually seek Him.⁷

In addition, they allow God to help them choose (despite what they feel or think) that His plans for their lives, the paths that He has established for them, are good, pleasing, and perfect, no matter how difficult the path or the extent of their wounding.⁸ They have chosen to believe that God is not only the sovereign over their lives (as all things are from Him, through Him, and to Him⁹), but that He is by nature good and only does what is good. They understand that He must complete His promise to strip them of all that is not Him so He can live in and through their lives.¹⁰

Yahweh's called, chosen, and faithful ones are those spiritual virgins who follow the Lamb wherever He leads¹¹ and who are even now and continually choosing to come out of the great tribulation.¹² They follow whether He leads them down a pathway of evil (Hebrew, “Ra”) or a

⁵ **2 Peter 1:1-11**

⁶ **Jeremiah 23:5-6**

⁷ **Hebrews 11:6**

⁸ **Romans 12:2**

⁹ **Romans 11:36**

¹⁰ See **Galatians 2:20**

¹¹ **Revelation 14:4**

¹² **Revelation 18:4**, “come out” is rendered in the *present middle participle*.

pathway of peace (Hebrew “Shalom”). They trust that He is **Yahweh Raah**, their loving Shepherd,¹³ and that every place He leads them is good, pleasing, and perfect,¹⁴ even the places of sacrifice and death (imaged in the lamb who they follow).

Furthermore, they now and continually believe that they are aliens and strangers in this world – they simply do not belong.¹⁵ Hence, **Yahweh Mekoddishkem**¹⁶ (the God who separates them, or makes them holy) will do everything it takes, as **Yahweh Qanna**¹⁷ (the God whose name is Jealous) goes to war with them for them to safeguard them from forming any sort of entrenched attachments to this world. This is usually quite disruptive, aggressive, and violent even. And as **Yahweh Sabaoth**,¹⁸ He will call on His angelic servants, both angels and demons, to carry out all His purposes in their lives.

To Now and Continually Believe

I keep utilizing this phrase, “to now and continually believe” or “to be found believing.” That is because throughout **Jude** and **Revelation**, the commands, exhortations, requests, and pleas for **Yahweh’s** children is that they **now and continually believe** (I call this “active belief”). To believe is almost always rendered in the *present* tense and as a *participle*.

In other words, a saving faith is not a result of a one-time expression, a reaction to a great teaching, nor is it a temporary reality; rather, it is a decision to, now and continually, bet our lives on the truth that **Yahweh** is our **I AM**. Hence, the command to believe in the name of Jesus, whose name is **Yahweh**.¹⁹ It is a now and ongoing experience.

This is just another way of saying that the Called, Chosen and Faithful bet their life upon the fact that **Yahweh** (and not themselves, or anyone or anything else) is their sovereign, their Master, their shelter, their shepherd, their healer, their provider, their peace, their constant companion—the one who is always there, their only righteousness, the one who sets them apart,

¹³ **Psalm 23:1; Hebrews 13:20; John 10:11,14; Ezekiel 34:11-13; 1 Peter 2:25**

¹⁴ **Romans 12:2**

¹⁵ **Hebrews 11:13; 1 Peter 1:1, 2:11**

¹⁶ **Exodus 31:13**

¹⁷ **Exodus 34:14**

¹⁸ **1 Samuel 1:3**

¹⁹ **John 17:11 (John 17:6, Philippians 2:9)**

the one who is jealous for them, the one who utilizes the hosts of heaven (both angels and demons) to work out His purposes in their life, and the one who saves them or leads them into freedom (both in this life and in the age to come).²⁰

For most, living in active belief is a lengthy and hard process whereby God teaches us **WHY** we can believe in Him and **HOW** to believe in Him alone. This does not happen just because we said a prayer of faith. That prayer brings us into His household, but once in His household, we must learn (over time) to let Him help us choose to no longer live as fearful slaves, but as His sons, as His royal priesthood, as His own personal possession.²¹

Hence, that is the purpose of all that He directs, allows, and commands for our lives. He knows we will not get it right away, He knows the journey is going to be messy and filled with much sin and failure, after all, failure is a necessary part of the learning process and our sin is just the tool which He uses as a spotlight to show us the deep areas of wrong belief and unbelief in our souls.

But His goal is that, over time, we come to dig down deep in our soul and choose to now be believing in His name (**Yahweh**)—now and continually. Thus, all that He allows and directs in our life is to transform our heart, mind, soul, and strength such that we are always found to be in a state of believing!

With that said, **Yahweh** never forces those He called to be believing that He is their **I AM**. And since death is the vehicle to life, what He does as **Yahweh Mekoddishkem** and **Yahweh Qanna** causes many chose to hide in fear, to protect themselves from Him, and even to run from Him. Sadly, they love the delusion and would rather live as slaves with rules to follow which instructs them how to be good for God than live as sons who roam in **unrestrained freedom**, notwithstanding their sin and failings.

Again, this is the whole purpose of the **WARNINGS** in **Jude** and **Revelation**. These warnings help us see that living as slaves within His household is a perilous existence. Although trying hard

²⁰ **Yahweh** (rooted in the **Hayah**—the **I AM**), **Yahweh Nissi**, **Yahweh Raah**, **Yahweh Rapha**, **Yahweh Jireh**, **Yahweh Shalom**, **Yahweh Shammah**, **Yahweh Tsidkenu**, **Yahweh Mekoddishkem**, **Yahweh Qanna**, **Yahweh Sabaoth**, **Yahweh Yasha** (the name, Jesus).

²¹ **1 Peter 2:9-10**

to follow rules, regulations, practices, disciplines, and performing all manner of religious service, etc., may convince us that we are good and that we have some semblance of control and mastery over the outcomes of our lives and over our *flesh*, it is foolishness and will result in destruction.

A final thought. I am not trying to separate the wheat from the tares. That is not my job, that is all up to Jesus, as only He knows the hearts of all who have entered His household. But I do want to challenge us to consider what it is we believe, and most importantly, in whom we believe. Do we believe in a God of our own making, a God who fills-in after we have done our best, or do we receive **Yahweh** as He has revealed Himself? This is a critical question, because if we refuse to receive **Yahweh** as He has revealed Himself, then there is a good chance that we worship idols,²² have fallen prey to apostasy, and find that:

- Like those who say to **Yahweh**, "Lord, Lord did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?"²³
- Like those who are gathered out of His kingdom, the stumbling blocks, who commit lawlessness (deeds not authorized by the Father);²⁴
- Like those who were gathered into His kingdom (by a dragnet thrown into the sea), but are later separated and thrown away as evil;²⁵
- Like the sons of the Kingdom who will be cast out;²⁶
- Like the guest who came to the wedding feast with inappropriate clothing;²⁷
- Like the evil slave who says in his heart, 'My master is not coming for a long time,' and begins to beat his fellow slaves and eat and drink with drunkards;²⁸
- Like the 5-virgins who let their oil run out;²⁹

²² **1 John 5:21**

²³ **Matthew 7:21-23**

²⁴ **Matthew 13:37-43**

²⁵ **Matthew 13:47-50**

²⁶ **Matthew 8:11-12**

²⁷ **Matthew 22:1-14**

²⁸ **Matthew 24:42-51**

²⁹ **Matthew 25:1-13**

- Like the fearful servant who buried his talent in the ground;³⁰ and
- Like those who seek to enter through the narrow door and will not be able,³¹

we just might hear the words, “*Truly I say to you, I do not know you,*” and be cut in pieces, assigned a place with the hypocrites, and be thrown into the outer darkness into the furnace of fire where existence is defined by wailing and gnashing of teeth. In that place there will be all the dogs, sorcerers, sexually immoral, murderers, idol worshippers, **and all who love to live a lie because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved!**³²

FOR MANY ARE CALLED, BUT FEW ARE CHOSEN!³³

Religious Fictions

In this study, we will identify key religious fictions which have risen within Christianity, and to which many have fallen victim. Most of these fictions deal with the “**Last-Days**” and the time of the “**End**”—what we tend to call the “**End Times**.”

The Last-Days and the End Times are two vastly different things. The **Last Days**, technically, began with the coming of Jesus,³⁴ but the **End Times** is a defined term that is reserved for the final days on this earth, and is marked by betrayal, death, false teaching, false prophecy, a great apostasy (falling away), the *agape* love of many (those who once had and expressed God’s love) growing cold, the preaching of the gospel to all the nations, an unparalleled invasion of the spiritual into the physical world, and the unveiling of the man we call the Antichrist in a landmark event known as the *Abomination of Desolation*.³⁵

What is difficult, however, is that many of these **End Times** fictions are deeply rooted in other

³⁰ **Matthew 25:14-30**

³¹ **Luke 13:23-28**

³² **2 Thessalonians 2:10; Revelation 22:15, 21:8**

³³ **Matthew 22:14**

³⁴ **Hebrews 1:2**

³⁵ **Matthew 24:1-28; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5**

fictions that have been widely adopted throughout Christianity—fictions pertaining to salvation, justification (the standing of a believer with **Yahweh**), sanctification (the process by which God makes us holy or separated unto Him), as well as the myriad of duties which many say our faith demands or is at least considered to be good Christian habits.

However, since many of these fictions have been passed down for centuries and have become main-line doctrines, it is hard to sort through what is or is not fiction, especially since every fiction is rooted in some truth or partial truth. Yet, these religious narratives have dangerously, albeit largely unintentionally, set up many for apostasy.

For ease of recognition, whenever I address a fiction, a commonly accepted teaching that runs contrary to scripture, I will provide a fiction alert:

FICTION ALERT

It will likely shock many to find out how much of the widely popular **End Times** narrative is nothing more than fiction and is very dangerous, for it leaves many unawares of what it takes to even now be coming out of the great tribulation. But more on that later.

We have 2 more podcasts which focus on the introduction and foundation for understanding both **Jude** and **Revelation**. Both and these will provide you the tools or the keys to gain a proper understanding and application of prophecy related not just to the **End Times**, but throughout the biblical narrative.