

Prelude to Jude and Revelation Episode 4: 1 John 5:19

One of the biggest complaints about the Bible, and in that regard to Christianity, is that it contains language that is divisive, exclusive, and does not leave room for diversity of thought or belief. Hence, instead of gathering all peoples of the world together under some unifying banner, it tends, by nature, to separate and divide.

For example, Jesus said: *“I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through me.”*¹ In making this declaration, Jesus drew a line in the sand and said probably one of the most exclusive and intolerant spiritual statements ever uttered. In fact, it is for this statement alone that many critics say they do not believe in or accept the gospel of **John** as being authentic. Yet their criticism has nothing to do with the facts regarding the original manuscripts; rather, their arguments are emotional and directed at the “intolerable” statements contained therein.

Think about Jesus’ claim; it establishes a worldview that does not fit into the modern movement towards globalism and syncretistic tolerance. It draws hard lines in the sand and purposely separates one group from another. Accordingly, we who believe in Jesus find ourselves in an increasingly hostile environment as our worldview simply does not, and will never, align with the philosophies, religions, or practices of this world. We truly stand in division.

This brings us to another epic verse with a similar divisive and exclusive proclamation, which provides for us a prelude to our studies in **Jude** and **Revelation**.

1 John 5:19

We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one (or literally, *“the whole world in the evil now chooses to lie.”*)

¹ John 14:6

John says that we know we are **NOW** of God (and that is a statement of fact).² Whereas, “lies in the power of the evil one” indicates a personal choice (it is rendered in the *middle* voice). Those who now lie in the power of the evil one had a part in determining that reality, whether they realize it or not.³ And being in the *indicative*, it is a statement of incontestable fact. With that said, this is a statement regarding a person’s position not their character.

Thus, everyone who is **not now** “of God” is **now** of the evil one. Or, better said, they have chosen to now live under the power, dominion, and control of the evil one; again, whether they realize it or not. It is a binary equation, with no middle ground. Just like when Jesus said, “*He who is not with me is against me.*”⁴

There Is No Middle Ground.

By **not** choosing to **now** be “of God,” a person has by default chosen to **now** be surrendered to the power of the evil one. A person does not have to knowingly choose to be in the kingdom of evil to be in the kingdom of evil. They just must choose to **not now** be “of God.” And this brings forth the intensity of the **WARNING** (remember, this is directed to those in the household of God).

The Spirit is indicating that there are those who are deceived, who live in delusion, and have unwittingly outstretched and prostrated themselves toward the banner of wickedness instead of to God and His banner of righteousness. “*We are of God*” contrasts those who have chosen to become like a little child and look to **Yahweh** to be their’ **I AM**⁵ with those who profess Jesus, but practically live as if they are their own god, their own “I Am,” proven by their reliance upon their own goodness, wisdom, strength, leading, provision, and so on (of course, all in Jesus’ name).

As believers, if we decide to trust in our own wisdom and our goodness to navigate our way through this life, even though we surround ourselves with all the paraphernalia of Christianity, we have chosen to make our abode in this world and thereby fall under the dominion and rule of

² “we are of God” is rendered in the *present active indicative*.

³ “lies” is rendered in the *present middle indicative*.

⁴ **Matthew 12:30**

⁵ See **John 1:12** and **Matthew 18:3**

the evil one. **We have chosen!** And those who now and continually make their abode in this world, those who seek to find their purpose, meaning, and security in this life, despite all their religious proclamations that Jesus is their Lord, will die along with those who love this world, as both are living subjected to a rule of wickedness.⁶

It is far too easy to get caught up in trying to make this life work in terms of school, jobs, money, relationships, fun, success, and so on, and forget that we are aliens and strangers in this world who have been sent into the world to do the will of the Father and to fulfill all the good works in which He has prepared for us to walk.⁷ In reality, nothing else matters!

Yet too many of us are still trying to be friends with those in world (especially the world of religion) by sheepishly joining them in their darkness instead of drawing them into our light.⁸ And still others are trying to redefine relationships between those in the light and those in the darkness into some co-existent grey, just so they can get something that they think they need from those relationships. But that never works; it is just a recipe for disaster, emptiness, loneliness, pain, despair, and a set up for apostasy.

We must always remember that the enemy lives to steal, kill, and destroy.⁹ The enemy is literally seeking out those whom he can devour.¹⁰ He is not seeking out those whom he already controls, as that would be senseless. Rather, he is seeking out those whom he wants to control and devour—those who say they “believe” in the name of Jesus, but are **not now** looking to Jesus to be their’ **I AM**.

Judgment

Our God is a consuming fire,¹¹ and **Yahweh Mekoddishkem** (**Yahweh** who sanctifies and makes us holy) and **Yahweh Qanna** (**Yahweh** who is jealous) will bring real-time judgment into our lives to highlight the choice we have to either live as if He is our **I AM** or to live as if we have

⁶ *Luke 6:46*

⁷ *John 17:18; 1 Peter 2:11; Ephesians 1:11, 2:10*

⁸ *Matthew 6:22-23*

⁹ *John 10:10*

¹⁰ *1 Peter 5:8*

¹¹ *Hebrews 12:29; Deuteronomy 4:24, 9:3; Isaiah 33:14*

something to offer to God.

Though judgment, **Yahweh** goes to war against every belief within our soul, whether hidden or exposed, that stands in opposition to Him now being our **I AM**. And one day He will expand that war to everything in the heavens and on the earth that stands in opposition to Him ruling as the **I AM**. This global war is what we see depicted in the **End Times** narrative.

1 Peter 4:17-18

For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And "If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"

During the first century, an intense warning of this "*consuming fire of judgment*" was given to the Hebrews who were mingling Law with God's grace. The Spirit told them that "*The Lord will judge His people. It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*"¹² Failing to heed this warning, God literally brought a devastating judgment of fire on those believers who clung to the world's system of religion. Through the instrument of the Roman imperial forces, this judgment brought about death and the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple, as well as the obsolescence of the entire Levitical system of worship.¹³

It was just a small picture, however, of the judgment that God will bring on a global scale in the **End Times**. Accordingly, **1 John 5:19** provides a much-needed **WARNING** and sets the stage for **Jude** and **Revelation**, both of which deal with serious and cataclysmic judgment of those who now and continually make their abode in this world.

Let me personalize this. If you do not have a place for this truth to rest in your head or your heart (the truth that all who are not **now and continually** bound to God are now under the dominion of the evil one), then you are going to have a difficult time receiving the message of

¹² **Hebrews 10:30-31**

¹³ **Hebrews 8:13**

Jude and **Revelation**. These are not easy books. They are about division, separation, and a definitive demarcation within the household of God between believers who choose to let God live in and through them and believers who think, feel, and claim they are living for God. This relational dynamic presented in **Jude** and **Revelation** is a very disturbing and quite alarming. However, this is to be our worldview as it is a Biblical worldview. We may not like it, but it is what the Spirit declares to the churches.

I know this speaks a truth that many in our families, friends, and those in our workplace and community would not like to hear. And, if they did hear it, they would probably hate us, find a way to dismiss us, or even oppress us for our intolerant beliefs. But there is no way around these truths which are revealed both in and about Jesus Christ and all those who call Him the Lord.

The story in **Jude** and **Revelation** gets ugly fast. But as I stated before, the story is not so much about the outside world and their evil, as it is about the inside world of Christianity: life within the household of God. The key antagonists, whom John and Jude write about come from within the church—from those who claim to belong to Jesus Christ, some even claiming to be apostles.

In other words, these books deal with all manner of apostasy, heresy, wrong belief, unbelief, spiritual manipulation, deception, and corruption which starts right at home, within the household of God. These books focus on that poisonous root of unbelief that spreads and causes many to fall.¹⁴

The reason judgment begins with the household of God is that it separates those who are making the choice to now and continually, in the most practical of ways, bet their lives on who **Yahweh** says He is and who He says we are from those who are not. Judgment is the threshing instrument that divides the wheat from the chaff.¹⁵

For those who are looking to Jesus to be their “**I AM**,” they will have their faith proven out through judgment. They will be refined as gold in a furnace, and their faith will be purified resulting in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.¹⁶ They will be those who

¹⁴ **Hebrews 12:25**

¹⁵ **Luke 3:17**

¹⁶ **1 Peter 1:7; Revelation 3:18**

are delivered from the dreaded “**time of testing**” which is soon come upon the whole earth.¹⁷

Whereas those who do not embrace His judgment, but in response dig deeper into their religion to sort things out with God, will be just like those believers in Jerusalem and Judea who were warned that if they went back to “religion,” they would face God’s consuming fire of judgment. And, by the way, they did; none escaped.

Judgment is not easy; it is painful and reaches places we did not even know existed within our soul. But God wants to purify us and eliminate every enemy to Him that lies deep within our being, the worst being the woman who rides the beast—our religion. He wants to strike and eliminate from our being everything that could cause us to rely upon anything or anyone other than Himself (especially ourselves and visages of God that we created in our own image).

**JUDGMENT IS GOD’S MERCY ON OUR LIVES INTENDED TO ALLOW US TO KNOW
AND EXPERIENCE MORE OF YAHWEH, MORE OF TRUTH, MORE OF LIFE.**

Judgment reveals that we belong to His household, and in this we can take comfort.¹⁸ Moreover, since judgment is the pathway to our escape from the future “**time of testing**,” we must learn to embrace what **Yahweh** is doing in our lives. If we let His judgment work its purposes, we will be known as those who are called, chosen, and faithful.¹⁹ As Solomon once said, “*Consider the work of God (or accept the way God does things), for who is able to straighten what He has bent?*”²⁰ In other words, we need to be **willing** to go along with His judgment.

Therefore, I urge you to not be distressed over the difficulties in your life, as if what He is taking you through is too hard and impossible to survive. Remember, He has provided us everything we need for life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him. Moreover, with each temptation, He provides us a way of escape so we might be able to endure it.²¹ Thus, no matter the difficulty, we must never choose to turn to our religion to find comfort.

We need to take **1 John 5:19** to heart and never find ourselves in that place where our fears

¹⁷ **Revelation 3:10**

¹⁸ See **Hebrews 12:4-11**

¹⁹ **Revelation 17:14**

²⁰ **Ecclesiastes 7:13**

²¹ **1 Peter 4:12-19; 2 Peter 1:1-3; 1 Corinthians 10:13**

and our pain provide access in our lives to the enemy. That is something from which **Yahweh Yasha** is attempting to save us. We all know what it is like to live under the enemy's rule and control, we have all experienced it, and I am sure that we all hate it.

Therefore, we must make the real-time choice, by the power and working of the Holy Spirit, to hate all evil, and thereby be **willing** to let God remove from our being everything that is not of Him. Hence, He asks us to present ourselves to Him as a living sacrifice so He can kill what needs to be killed. This is an acceptable act of worship.²² And it is through this presentation of our lives to Him that we become **willing** to let Him crush our pride and our maniacal desire to rule over our own lives.

WE MUST CHOOSE TO LET JESUS BE OUR WAY, OUR TRUTH, AND OUR LIFE.²³

The subject matter of both **Jude** and **Revelation** is intense and unrelenting. The lines are drawn between true believers and so-called believers; between sons and slaves; between those who live and dwell in the Promised Land and those who live and die in the wilderness; between those who are involved in a bloody and messy war, allowing God to clear out all His enemies which dwell within their soul, and those who have decided that the task is simply too hard and requires too much, and therefore choose instead to get busy serving God.

Through **Jude** and **Revelation**, we will learn what it means to live as an alien and stranger in this world; what it means to be separated by God for God, to be a vessel through which He will live; what it means when He says that we will be hated for His name's sake by those who are fully convinced they dwell in the light and are doing a service unto God.²⁴

And let us keep in mind, it is now time for judgment to being with the household of God! And if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?²⁵

²² **Romans 12:1**

²³ **John 14:6**

²⁴ **Matthew 6:23; John 16:2**

²⁵ **1 Peter 4:17**