

Jude Episode 7

Welcome back, let us pick up with the 4th triad in **Jude 4**.

Jude 4

For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

Triad 4: “ungodly people,” “who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality,” and “deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.”

What does it mean to be ungodly? Let us just say, one does not have to be a raging sinner to be ungodly. It literally just means one who is destitute of reverential awe of God, as in those who hold to a form of godliness although they have denied its power (clearly demonstrated in how they live). Such ones are always learning yet never able to come to the knowledge of the truth; as a result, they end up opposing the truth because to them it all seems too impossible, too difficult and demanding.¹

Sadly, people cling to their religion despite its impotency for it does not result in their freedom from sin or in the peace and rest which they so desperately desire and which they are promised. Accordingly, they fight the truth or else they would have to admit they believe a lie. Therefore, like good Christians, they buy more books, study harder, attend more conferences, get involved in more ministry hoping to find the magic formula that will make Christianity work for them. They fight to control their sin, become accountable to others, and they tend to stay busy enough that they never are forced to stop and consider the true quality of their life. The delusion and denial in which many believers live is astounding.

Accordingly, this idea of the “ungodly” captures a full spectrum of people, from the fleshly wicked to the most religious and pious; therefore, we must not be fooled by appearances, positions, titles, fame, success, worldly glory, nor religious heritage or experiences. Remember, great proclamations of faith and great works on behalf of God are meaningless to God.

What Does Matter to God?

The Spirit is clear, all that matters is a faith which manifests itself in God’s *agape* love—a love that can only be produced by the Spirit of God. After all, God is *agape* love. Hence, the one who does not now possess *agape* love, does not know God.² Yes, it all comes down to knowing Him—or more specifically, knowing Him by His name. It is how we abide in a reciprocal relationship

¹ **2 Timothy 3:5-8**

² **Galatians 5:6; 1 John 4:8, 16**

where we know Him, and He knows us, and the undeniable proof of it all is when His love is produced from our lives. *“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.”*³

Therefore, to distinguish the ungodly religious from those who let God live in and through them, we must learn to recognize the fruit of the Spirit which is *agape* love in all its various facets: *joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.*⁴

Denying Jesus’ Mastery and Sovereignty?

The ungodly deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. This phrasing is quite interesting. The words “Master” and “Lord” tie together both the concept of our being a bondservant and that of our Lord (**Adonai**) overseeing all the details of our lives. The Greek word that is used for “Master” is where we get our word “despot” or absolute ruler; and the Greek word for “Lord” means supreme in authority (completely sovereign).

YAHWEH ADONAI IS THE ABSOLUTE RULER WHO GOVERNS ALL THE AFFAIRS OF OUR LIVES. TO DENY THIS IN ANY WAY (WHETHER IN WHAT WE PROFESS OR IN HOW WE CHOOSE TO LIVE), IS TO ABIDE IN APOSTASY.

For example, few people will ascribe total responsibility for all the affairs of their life to **Yahweh Adonai**. Hence, they deny His absolute unqualified sovereignty over their lives. Most people believe He is only kind-of sovereign. When it comes to the good things, the blessings, they are all in, and when it comes to the difficult things, they may be mostly in, but what about when it comes to the abject evil in their lives that is done to them, to those they love, or the abject evil which they themselves do? Most are not willing to ascribe ultimate responsibility to **Yahweh Adonai**. They must blame someone else or something else. It is why so many live as victims.

Those who deny Jesus’ mastery and sovereignty will on-the-one-hand say that Jesus is Lord, but on-the-other-hand when evil happens say that He allowed it and will use it for His good, but that He did NOT CAUSE it, as God would not do that. It is all a religious sleight of hand because they do not want to tell people that our God who loves us is the same God who hurts us, and He uses all manner of creation to accomplish those wounds, even evil people and evil beings who do evil things.⁵ Yet, “Who is there who speaks, and it comes to pass unless **Adonai** has commanded it? is it not from the mouth of the Most High that that both good and evil (**Ra**) go

³ **1 John 4:7-8**

⁴ See **Galatians 5:22; 1 Corinthians 13:4-8**

⁵ See **Deuteronomy 32:39; Job 5:18; Amos 3:6; Hosea 6:1; Isaiah 30:26, 45:5-7**

forth.”⁶

This name of God, **Yahweh Adonai**, speaks of His role as the ultimate Master, the Sovereign Lord, the one who is in control of all things all the time, without exception.⁷ He has authority and power over all flesh,⁸ and all things are from Him, by Him (or through Him) and to Him—**ALL THINGS!**⁹ This would include the good that is done in this world and the evil; YES, that means the good we have done and the evil. In fact, He even blatantly states that He is the one who created evil. What a shock!

Isaiah 45:5-7

I am **Yahweh**, and there is no other; besides Me there is no God. I will gird you, though you have not known Me; that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that there is no one besides Me. **I am Yahweh, and there is no other**, the One forming light and creating darkness, causing peace {in the Hebrew: **shalom**} and creating evil {in the Hebrew: **Ra**}. I am **Yahweh** who does all these.

In that regard, as our **Adonai**, He is the one who chooses what comes into our lives and what He takes away from our lives. He chooses who comes into our lives and who He takes away from our lives. He determines it all. He even determines the steps we will take, the paths we will walk, and along with **Yahweh Raah**, all the places (or pastures) where He leads us to find our home, our family, our friends, our jobs, our love, our pain, our troubles, and so on.

Simply said, with **Yahweh Adonai**, there is nothing random or arbitrary, as He works out **Plan-A** which He has established from before time for each of us. It has already been written in His book.¹⁰

And being God, dwelling outside of time, **Yahweh** has already seen it all, for He knows it all. He knows the beginning from the end.¹¹ With that said, the one thing He does not do is violate our personal sovereignty, our ability to choose to honor Him or choose to deny Him and walk away from Him. It is our choice. Yet, He has ordered, or predestined, all things according to His foreknowledge; therefore, He purposes all things in accordance with our choice—the choice He

⁶ See also **Lamentations 3:1-18, 37-38**

⁷ **Genesis 15:2, 8; Exodus 23:17, 34:23; Deuteronomy 3:24, 9:26; Joshua 7:7; Judges 6:22, 16:28; 2 Samuel 7; 1 Kings 2:26, 8:53; Psalm 68:20, 69:6, 73:28, 140:7; Isaiah 7:7, 25:8, 28:16, 49:22, 50:7, 61:1, 11; Jeremiah 1:6, 2:22, 7:20, 32:17; Ezekiel 2:4, 3:11, 27, 6:3, 11:7, 8, 13, 16, 17, 21; Amos 3:7, 8, 4:2, 5, 7:1, 2, 4, 5, 6; Obadiah 1; Micah 1:2; Habakkuk 3:19; Zephaniah 1:7, Zechariah 9:14**

⁸ **John 17:2**

⁹ **Romans 11:36**

¹⁰ See **Psalm 139:1-16; Ephesians 1:4**

¹¹ See **Isaiah 46:9-10**

knows we will make given the set of circumstances He establishes for us.¹²

Again, there is nothing random or arbitrary in our lives, even the choices we make. **Yahweh Adonai** has ordered all things. Yet, when we ascribe responsibility for the evil that happens in our life to the instruments which **Yahweh Adonai** uses to implement His will – to Satan, the demons, to bad people, to evil institutions and governments – we deny His sovereignty. Likewise, when we take credit for the good things that we do and for all our accomplishments, we deny His sovereignty and do not abide with Him as our Master and absolute Despot.

What does it look like to live with an understanding of **Yahweh** as our **Adonai**? Jesus is clear, it is living without worry, trusting our Father for all things, and living like a little tiny child¹³—as one who is 100% needy for God in all things, all the time—trusting that He is our “**I AM**” just as His name declares.

The ungodly however fundamentally deny that Jesus is our “**I AM**,” and that we can personally know Him and experience Him as our Master and Lord. Now they do not deny it in the theological sense, they will absolutely agree with the words, and sing the songs proclaiming this truth and worshiping Jesus as the Lord. After all, most everyone within the religion of Christianity calls Jesus their Lord; yet far too many deny His Mastery and Lordship in how they choose to live and by what they ascribe to others instead of to **Yahweh**.

Is the “Ungodly” a Reference to “Believers”?

Jude says that these people have “crept in.” This means they were (and are) part of the visible church. Moreover, people were following their leadership and teaching, hence, the warning against apostasy. Thus, we can assume they prayed the sinner’s prayer, attended Bible studies, prayer meetings, love feasts, and all the normal church related activities. They surely profess to belong to Christ, and they may even be convinced they belong to Christ, just like those who call Jesus “Lord,” and do all sorts of powerful, but unauthorized or lawless, acts in His name.¹⁴

In the specific context of **Jude**, the “ungodly” applies to those believers who have fallen from grace—been cut off from Christ.¹⁵ We must always remember that how a person lives—the fruit of their lives—exposes what they believe, notwithstanding their great and sincere professions of faith, their religious education, and their “godly” works. This is the reason Jesus told us to beware of false prophets who come to us in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. We are to know them by their fruit (not by their works).¹⁶ Thus, if one’s faith is not expressed in *agape* love, then we ought to be alarmed, for like wolves they will ravage the weak, it is just a matter of time.

¹² See **Romans 8:28-29**

¹³ **Matthew 6:25-34, 18:2-4**

¹⁴ **Matthew 7:21-23**

¹⁵ See **Galatians 5:4; Romans 1:22; Revelation 2:4-5 (they had left and had fallen)**

¹⁶ **Matthew 7:15-20**

Jude 19 says these false teachers, do not **now** have God's Spirit,¹⁷ which indicates that they have fallen from grace. It is just like what happened to the "believers" in Ephesus and Galatia whom Jesus called to repentance.¹⁸ Therefore, these false teachers may claim to be true believers, but they do not belong to God, for those who do not have the Spirit of God living in them are not His.¹⁹

Moreover, **Jude 4** says they have always been marked for condemnation, which is a statement on the sovereignty of **Yahweh Adonai** who knows all things—the beginning from the end.²⁰ He knew the choices they were going to make and therefore He marked them for condemnation sometime in the past and that mark continues to define their relationship to God.

This brings up the uncomfortable reality that a true believer is one who is **now** believing—it is a present and ongoing reality.²¹ Jesus told a parable about 10-virgins, 5 of whom continued to fill up their lanterns with oil (symbolic of the Holy Spirit) and were let into a marriage feast when the groom arrived. These represent the Called, Chosen, and Faithful.²² The other 5 virgins were waiting for the Groom (just like the others, they had dedicated their lives only to him), but they let the oil which they once had ran out (these represent the Called) and they were subsequently prevented from joining the marriage feast, all the while crying out Lord, Lord. Tragically, the Groom replied, "Truly I say to you, 'I do not know you.'"²³

Therefore, the reference to the ungodly and those who pervert the grace of God and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ, can apply to those who perhaps even now call Jesus Lord and who are even now highly active in their service of Him, and who are spiritual virgins in that they are not worshiping other gods. And this is the reason the Spirit gives us such a strong **WARNING**. He does not want anyone falling prey to the seductions of these false brethren, following in their footsteps, perpetuating their heresy of goodness, which leads to apostasy.

One of the clues we are to look for is whether our leaders and teachers deny in word and deed, our Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

¹⁷ "devoid" or "do not have" is rendered in the *present active participle*

¹⁸ **Revelation 2:4-5; Galatians 5:1-6**

¹⁹ **Romans 8:9**

²⁰ "marked" is rendered in the *perfect passive participle*

²¹ To "**now** and continually believe" is not a behavior-based concept. For instance, there have been times, during some of my deepest suffering, where I was furious with God, upset at what He was doing in my life. I expressed every bit of my protest to Him, even telling Him that I thought He was mean, cruel, and was going way over-board. But the point is that I came to Him, I expressed myself to Him, and in so doing such expressions of fury were a pure act of worship. I was holding Him responsible; thus, in the depth of my soul I believed He was **Yahweh Adonai**. Again, it is not about doing things right. To "**now** and **continually**" be believing, we must look only to **Yahweh Adonai**, whether we agree with what He is doing or are in abject disagreement. In time, He will be the one to move our hearts into alignment with His will if we **now** and **continually** look only to Him.

²² **Revelation 19:7-9**

²³ **Matthew 25:1-12**. See also (click to follow link): [Error! Reference source not found.](#)

Strategies of the Enemy to “Creep In”

The **Codex** gives us insight into the enemy’s strategies to slip those into the church with heretical teaching, tempting others to apostatize.²⁴ Satan had a plan to destroy the church in Antioch and ultimately all the churches throughout Asia. The target of the attack was one of the “pillars” of the church, Peter the famed apostle. The idea was that if the enemy could successfully compromise Peter, then his compromise and deception would quickly spread like poison to all the other believers.

Here is how it played out. Paul was living and ministering in Antioch when Peter came to visit him and the other brethren in that city. When Peter first arrived, he feely ate with the gentile believers who, not being Jewish, do not bother with circumcision. But later when some Jewish “believers” came (friends of James the apostle, as in the James of Peter, James, and John), Peter would not eat with the Gentiles anymore. He had become afraid of what these “believers” would say if they found him eating with “unclean” gentiles. As a result, other Jewish believers in Antioch followed Peter in his hypocrisy – even Barnabas, the great encourager, was influenced to join their hypocrisy.

Satan’s plan was working, but God had a counter plan. He ensured that Paul was in the mix. When Paul, who was also a Jew, saw that Peter and the others were not following the truth of the Good News (that our commendation with God comes by grace through faith and not by works of the law), he confronted Peter right there in front of all the others and he publicly rebuked Peter for his hypocrisy. This completely disrupted the plans of the enemy.

Imagine what could have happened if Paul were not present. As it was, Peter's moment of succumbing to this religious temptation, by what Paul calls false brethren,²⁵ led a group of believers’ to instantly set aside the faith which had been once and for all handed down to the saints. If unchecked with truth, this religious lie would have spread like wildfire and caused chaos and division not just in the church at Antioch but in all the other churches. Imagine; this one incident alone could have disrupted the church for centuries to come.

But this lie that we must do something, anything, to be commendable to God did not stop with this one Satanic attempt. Satan pressed on, and now this lie has spread all throughout the religion of Christianity, in various nuanced forms, by the men and women who we would otherwise think are such godly leaders. So many teachers say we must be saved by grace, but then they tack on a whole list of “dos-and-don’ts” that we must abide by to maintain our place, position, favor, blessing, our experience with God, as well as our acceptance by others.

THIS IS A DIFFERENT GOSPEL THAT PERVERTS THE GRACE OF GOD.

Thus, many have become, and many will become “ungodly,” notwithstanding the fact that they have said the sinner’s prayer and are engaged in all manner of religious acts, duties, and

²⁴ See *Galatians 2*

²⁵ *Galatians 2:4; Matthew 7:21-23*

proclamations. Their works will be declared to be unlawful.²⁶ It is as if they believe Christianity is some equation where they have got roughly 90% of it, and God's grace and His lordship helps them out with the remaining 10% (or whatever percentages their view of their circumstances and their personal goodness and abilities dictate).

For example, they refuse to believe that Jesus is **Yahweh Tsikdenu**,²⁷ their personal righteousness. As a result, they are always trying to be good for God, trying hard to stop sinning, and judging others who do not do it as well as they do.

The result is they create a new law which works as a substitution for, or an addition to, grace. This new law focuses on one's ability to:

- Be obedient to God.
- Serve faithfully.
- Give faithfully.
- Be active in ministry.
- Control one's lust and penchant for sin.
- Do nothing to impact the Church's witness to the lost.

The list could go on and on, but hopefully you get the point. The law always places the burden on our backs to do it right, i.e., to be "good" Christians. It is all a sensual perversion and incontinence that leads us to follow a different way that pretends to be the good news but is not the Good News. As such, many are fooled by those who twist and change the truth concerning Christ.²⁸

In contrast, the Good News clearly says that our **unrestrained freedom** is found by our **willingness** to let God cause us to bet our lives on the truth:

- That **Only God is Good**.²⁹
- That **Yahweh Tsikdenu** is our only righteousness.³⁰
- That God is pleased only by our faith.³¹
- That we are not required to "do" anything to be good for God. He wants only that we actively believe in His name, and thereby are **willing** to offer our lives up as a living sacrifice so that He can transform us into His image, freeing us up so that He who is good can do His good works in and through our lives.³²
- That if we walk by faith in the Spirit, we **will not** carry out the deeds of the flesh.³³
- That we walk in the same way Jesus walked, doing only what our Father tells us to do,

²⁶ Jesus says that there will be a GREAT apostasy. See **Matthew 24:10; 2 Thessalonians 2:3; 1 Timothy 4:1**

²⁷ **Jeremiah 23:5-6, 33:16; Isaiah 45:24; Romans 3:22; 1 Corinthians 1:30**

²⁸ **Galatians 1:6-7**

²⁹ **Mark 10:18; Luke 18:19**

³⁰ **Jeremiah 23:5-6, 33:16; Isaiah 45:24**

³¹ **Hebrews 11:6**

³² **Romans 12:1-2; Galatians 5:22**

³³ **Galatians 5:16**

going only where He tells us to go, and saying only what He tells us to say, and then only **when** He tells us to do such things.³⁴

Good, sincere, heat-felt, and well-meaning intentions are meaningless to God, and there is no extra credit given for trying hard because it all comes down to the source. If what we do and say derives from the Spirit living in us, then it is good because He is good. But if not, it is stained and corrupted, regardless of our good intentions or the positive outcomes. **The source matters, the source is everything!**

Whether a person means to or not, if they hold to any demand aside from grace, they deny our only Master and Lord Jesus Christ. The Spirit is quite emotional about this issue. He even declared that those who wanted just **one** little addition to grace, one little nip, to be circumcised, ought to finish the job, i.e., not just stop at the foreskin, but sever the whole thing. Now that is extreme.³⁵

**GRACE IS NOT JUST FOR THOSE AREAS WE THINK WE NEED HELP.
GRACE IS INTENDED TO COVER EVERY ASPECT OF OUR LIVES, ALL THE TIME, AS
YAHWEH IS OUR 100% PROVISION – OUR I AM -- FOR OUR EVERY NEED.**³⁶

I have stressed this point about law versus grace because, in this next part of **Jude**, the Spirit addresses apostasy in the Old Testament. He uses these examples as a poignant **WARNING** for us all who are Called into His household to live by grace and not fall prey to perversions of grace.

³⁴ **1 John 2:6; John 3:34, 4:4 (literally his hands were bound to go to Samaria), 5:36, 9:4, 10:25, 37-38, 14:10-11, 24, 17:8**

³⁵ **Galatians 5:12**

³⁶ **2 Corinthians 12:9**