

ATTRACTED AND REPULSED
JUDE 14-15
S-1469

- SLIDE #: Turkey was not ready for the crisis that devastated the populous areas just west of Istanbul last week as the earth began to shake unmercifully. The ground undulated like a waterbed disturbed from its calm serenity by a child jumping on to play. Buildings collapsed by the hundreds, bridges collapsed, roads and sidewalks crumbled, and people died by the thousands—9,000 as of Friday—and at least 35,000 still buried and dying if not dead by now in the rubble.

Turkey was not ready for a crisis of such magnitude.

We viewed pictures of buildings not up to earthquake code. Shelters weren't ready. Not enough rescue crews. Can't call 911 and get help. In America pedestrians look at a crisis and rescue crews say, "Get back. We don't need your help. You are in the way. Get out of here." In Turkey they begged people to help. "Get your shovel and come dig."

They were not prepared for the crisis which faced them.

Jude, in verses 14-15 mentions such a coming crisis.

- SLIDE #: Jude 14-15: Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: "See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him."
- SLIDE #: Jude 16: These men are grumblers and faultfinders; they follow their own evil desires; they boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage.

May I summarize the two statements Jude is making:

In verses 14-15 he says,

- SLIDE #: "God is attracted to a godly life and repulsed by an ungodly one."

Then in verse 16 he says

- SLIDE #: "Apostates don't like God so they make up a god they can like."

Too much sermon—like last week. Today we will examine verses 14-15 and next week we will see verse 16 in a sermon called *Church Killers*.

- SLIDE #: "God is attracted to a godly life and repulsed by an ungodly one."

We are all like that.

God says that a beautiful Christian life is like a sweet smelling aroma rising up to His nostrils.

Or, I might say, "a beautiful Xn life is like the fragrance of a juicy steak grilling on the barbecue—or chicken breast.

What is the opposite of that juicy, grilled aroma? Well, I know.

Julie and I on vacation and returned home to open the refrigerator door. Compressor failed—best we could figure at least two weeks earlier. The putrid, decaying meat aroma was overpowering. Had to tie on bandanas to go near the open door.

Teenagers know what this is like. Get teens to write anti-smoking ads.

Cowboys at rodeo chewing tobacco. Spits in mud. Then the horse has to step in it! Then comes

the sing-song: *Tobacco: Tumor causing, teeth staining, smelly, puking habit.*

Then there is that teenaged guy who sees that intriguing, captivating, stimulating, teenaged girl. He goes over to investigate. As he approaches, he notices her nicotine-stained fingers, sees her hand shaking to hold her grip on a smoking cigarette—and he turns gracefully on his heel and walks disgustedly away.

•SLIDE #: “God is attracted to a godly life and repulsed by an ungodly one.” We understand this. Now we can go on to verses 14-15.

•SLIDE #: Jude 1:14-15: Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: "See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him."

Jude caps his denunciation of the apostates prophecy which goes back to a prophecy made by a man named Enoch just seven generations after Adam.

Enoch pronounced this prophecy about 900 years before the flood came.

What is unusual here is that while Enoch is a character in the Old Testament, this prophecy is not found in the Old Testament.

This quote is from the Jewish intertestamental book, 1 Enoch.

1 Enoch was a well-known book in the first century. It was one of Jude's favorites. He has already made several references to it, I just did not point them out.

It is crucial to note that Jude does not refer to 1 Enoch as Scripture; that is, the critical word *graphe* (Scripture) is not used here. Since it is here we know Enoch spoke it.

Four times in this passage Jude quotes Enoch using the word “ungodly.” He says it so many times it becomes a rather awkward thing to read. Nevertheless we cannot mistake his meaning.

This strong word describes a total moral and spiritual breakdown, “impiety in thought and act”.

Listen, it is in a time of crisis that our true inner character will come out.

Titanic? Children to bed, preacher preaching, musicians playing, faking parenthood

Bronwyn live with myself

Testing bowl: SC hurricane; y2k,

Be like Bron; When all is stripped away, you want to be able to live with yourself. When you stand before God, you want your heart to beat at a pure pace.

•SLIDE #: “God is attracted to a godly life and repulsed by an ungodly one.” We understand this.

The contrast here is between these ungodly people back before the Flood and--

•SLIDE #: Enoch himself! Enoch was a godly man. This godly man was selected to pronounce the prophetic judgment upon the ungodly people.

•SLIDE #: Enoch appears in Genesis 5:21-24. Let's read his story: “When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah. And after he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Enoch lived 365 years. Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.”

This verse means that Enoch did not die, but, like Elijah, was transported directly to heaven.

A little girl described this experience to her mother. “Mamma,” she said, “one day Enoch and God

took a walk together. They walked and they talked and they walked until Enoch said, "Oh, my God, it is getting late. I'd better go home." And the Lord said, 'Enoch, we've been walking so long together, I believe we're closer to my home than to yours. Why don't you come home with me tonight?' So Enoch went on home with God."

- SLIDE #:** Why did God take him on to Heaven? Hebrews 11:5, reads, "By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God."

Our Father is attracted to a beautiful, lovely life.
SAINT STORY

Now I want to show you something beautiful.

- SLIDE #:** Genesis 5:21: "When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah."

After he became the father of Methuselah, he walked with God.

I am sure that during the first sixty-five years of his life, Enoch was certainly a man of God, but then something happened which caused him to enter into a closer fellowship with the Lord. He had a son.

Sometimes just having a son will draw us closer to God. We begin to think about values we want to pass on to our children. But there is more here.

When this child was born, Enoch was given the amazing revelation that when this child should die, every living creature upon the earth would be destroyed by a universal flood.

That was when God inspired this godly man to make a prophecy about a coming time of ungodly men on earth. "God will come with his angelic host to judge all the ungodly acts of all the ungodly people, etc."

- SLIDE #:** So, he named his child accordingly. "Methuselah" means "when he is dead, it shall come."

As Enoch watched his son grow, every time this strange name was spoken, the terrible prophecy of God was repeated: "When he is dead, it shall come." The life of all men hung upon the life of this one baby, this one boy, this one man, Methuselah.

- SLIDE #:** According to the chronology of Genesis 5, it happened exactly as God prophesied. When Methuselah died, judgment from God was sent. The fountains of the deep opened up and the rains began for the next 40 days. (Tradition says that he died seven days before the Flood).

Now let me teach you a lesson. Who was the oldest man who ever lived?

- BUILD SLIDE #A:** Methuselah.

How old did he live to be?

- BUILD SLIDE #B:** 969 years. See the lesson. Let's talk for a moment about

- BUILD SLIDE #C:** Grace and mercy.

Here is a picture of God's grace. God extended the life of Methuselah for 969 years to provide maximum opportunity for men to repent and turn to God.

For 120 years before the fulfillment of the prophecy inherent in the name Methuselah, Noah went about as a preacher of righteousness amid the godlessness of his time, warning of the coming

Flood.

Grace is when we receive what we don't deserve.

Like the other evening Julie and I were dining at a Mexican restaurant here in town and in walked Kelly Glover. We talked for a while and then she got a take out order and departed. We waited and waited to pay our bill. The waiter never brought our check. Finally, I caught his attention and asked for it. "But, it is already paid." "What do you mean?" "The lady you were talking to paid it for you." "Well, how about the tip?" "She paid that, too."

Wasn't that nice? What a graceful thing for her to do. Grace is when someone gives you what you don't deserve.

Grace is different from mercy. Mercy is when you don't get what you do deserve!

English history records one of the assassination plots against the great Queen Elizabeth I was foiled when attendants discovered a woman dressed, as a boy page, hiding in the closet of the queen's bedroom one night before she retired for the evening. They confiscated the long, wicked-looking hair pins she had intended to plunge into queen's heart.

Immediately thrust before the queen for judgment, knowing that her case was hopeless, humanly speaking, she threw herself down on her knees and pleaded with the queen to have compassion on her and give her mercy.

Queen Elizabeth looked at her coldly and the following exchange occurred: "If I give you mercy, what promise will you make for the future?"

The woman looked up and said, "Mercy that has conditions, mercy that is bound by precautions, is not grace at all."

Queen Elizabeth caught the idea and replied, "You are right. I grant mercy and pardon without conditions."

History tells us that the queen had no more faithful, devoted servant than the woman who intended to take her life.

For 969 years God granted grace and mercy to the ungodly people of the earth. He gave them what they did not deserve—time to repent—and held back from giving them what they did deserve—judgment.

But, seven days after Methuselah died, the time for grace and mercy were over

•SLIDE #: And the crisis began, the rain began to fall. Judgment had come.

The same thing is going on in our generation.

Jude uses Enoch's prophecy as a touchstone to remind us of the coming judgment in the age in our generation.

•SLIDE #: 2 Peter 3:9: The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

God is now extending grace and mercy to mankind. But judgment is coming on the ungodly in our world.

Now let's talk about this coming judgment.

•SLIDE #: Jude 14-15: Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: "See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him."

Both the Old Testament (Daniel 7:10) and the New claim that Jesus will be accompanied at his 2nd coming by huge numbers of angels and by the saints (Matthew 25:31).

•SLIDE #: Jude's word for judgment is *krisis*.

When we stand before God to be judged it will certainly be a crisis!

Who will be judged? Enoch said simply, "all", but the Holy Spirit has enlarged upon this in scores of passages throughout the Bible.

There are numerous judgments mentioned in the Bible: Angels, fallen angels, the earth, the nations, cities, Christians, Nonchristians—which occur at different times and places.

Jude is specifically referring here to the judgment of the ungodly, the apostates, nonchristians.

•SLIDE #: This Judgment is specifically called in the Bible the Great White Throne Judgment. Revelation 20:11-15 describes the judgment and conviction of the ungodly dead.

•SLIDE #: Revelation 20:11-12: Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.

•SLIDE #: Revelation 20:13-14: The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death.

•SLIDE #: Revelation 20:15: If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

The Book of Life is the listing of all the persons who settled their cases with God before they died. Not one person at the Great White Throne has their name in the Book of Life. No Christian will be judged here. Christians settled their case out of court with God a long time ago.

If your name is not in the Book of Life, you will be judged on your behavior, how good and bad you were on earth. God will look in the books of works at your life. It is not, more goods than bads, or if you have a certain number of good works, you make it. The issue is, have you ever done just one thing bad. If you have you are judged as being unfit for Heaven and cast in punishment into the Lake Of Fire (Hell).

In the choir of life it is easy to fake the words, but someday each one of us will have to sing solo before God.

Let me show you something both merciful and graceful: Jesus declared plainly that no believer would ever come into judgment *krisis*.

•SLIDE #: John 5:24: "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned (*krisis*); he has crossed over from death to life.

A Welsh poem tells how shortly after the creation God held a review of all the heavenly bodies He had created. One by one the sun, moon, stars, and planets all passed by. And as they paraded before Him, their Maker greeted each one with a smile. But when the earth passed,

God blushed.

That is what happened before the Flood. The Bible says that God saw the wickedness of the earth and repented that He had ever made mankind on it.

“All have sinned.” Every one of us. All are condemned.

In John 5:24 we have a declaration of the gospel—how to go to Heaven. How to avoid the Crisis of Judgment at the Great White Throne.

God looked at the sin-filled earth and knew the judgment that would come—so He devised the gospel (or good news plan).

God Himself would put on a body and come to earth and take sin’s punishment for all mankind. So Jesus died on the cross in our place and whoever believes in the Father’s plan in surrender, commitment, and like a marriage relationship to Jesus Christ, has sins forgiven and will never come to crisis.

We live in a wicked world. You would not be surprised to know that we have had to put restraining orders on people who have threatened to disrupt the church on Sunday. Had police officers stationed here at times. Just taking wise precautions.

You would probably not be surprised to know that my life has been threatened on occasion—three times to be exact. The first time it happened, about 15 years ago, Charlie Taylor gave me his bullet-proof vest. When I signed on to preach when I was seven years old, I never imagined that one day I would preach in a bullet proof vest. It can be done. Charlie’s old vest has 13 sermons on it.

Casas is blessed to have numerous officers who have watched over this church and me as the need arises.

I tell you this carefully—and for a reason. On differing occasions in the past, three swat team members, who will remain nameless for obvious reasons, were watching over me. And before the service or sermon, or meeting was to begin gave me very explicit instructions of what to do in varying circumstances. At one point in the instructions, each said, “You jump behind me. I will take the bullet for you.”

Like the movie, *Dave*, when Dave asked the body guard if he would take a bullet for him.

You can not imagine how humbling that experience is. Every time I see one of those men around here I look at them in a little different way than I do all the rest of you.

Thanks to you three and all the others.

That is what Jesus did. He said, I will take the bullet for you.” That’s what He was doing on the cross. I’ve looked at Jesus with different eyes ever since that day, at the age of seven, when I received Him my savior from my sins. My case will never come to court.

Some of you need to do this today. Now. Don’t let your life go on trial at the Great White Throne.

You don’t want justice. You want Grace and Mercy. And you can have it any time before you die. Once you die the grace and mercy are over and you will be in *krisis*.

Today is the day to receive Christ.

•SLIDE #: Christians will never go to crisis. They go to the *Bema*. It is the Greek word to describe the Olympic reviewing stand where every one wins a medal.

•SLIDE #: 2 Corinthians 5:10: For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

Let me close with two words of direction: first to the Christians, and second to those of you who have not yet become Christians.

TO CHRISTIANS.

As believers, we look forward to the day of Christ's coming with eagerness and anticipation; it is the "blessed hope" that comforts us in our present afflictions and encourages us to lead a life of holiness.

But, as Jude reminds us, Christ is also coming to judge. How should this lead us to regard the vast majority of people all around us – people who do not know Christ?

"People need the Lord.". Do we really believe it? Do we believe it enough to do something about it?

Story: In 1992 a Los Angeles County parking control officer came upon a brown El Dorado Cadillac illegally parked next to the curb on street-sweeping day.

The officer dutifully wrote out a ticket, Ignoring the man seated at the driver's wheel, the officer reached inside the open car window and placed the \$30 citation on the dashboard.

The driver of the car made no excuses. No argument ensued—and with good reason. The driver of the car had been shot in the head ten to twelve hours before, but was still sitting up, stiff as a board, slumped slightly forward, with blood on his face. He was dead.

The officer, preoccupied with ticket writing, was unaware of anything out of the ordinary. He got back in his car and drove away.

Many of us are so preoccupied that we don't see the people all around us who are dead in their sins and don't need a citation. They need a savior.

Contrast that attitude with this one.

Harry Winston was one of the world's great diamond merchants. One day he watched one of his salesmen show a beautiful diamond to a rich Dutch merchant. The customer listened thoughtfully to the expert description, but he eventually turned away, saying, "It is a beautiful stone, but not exactly what I want."

Winston stopped the customer on the way out and asked, "Do you mind if I show you that diamond once more?" The merchant agreed. Winston took the stone and did not repeat anything his salesman had said. He simply spoke of the stone as an object of great beauty.

Abruptly the Dutch merchant changed his mind and bought the diamond. While they were finalizing the transaction, the buyer turned to Winston and asked, "Why did I buy it so willingly from you, when I had no difficulty saying "No" to your salesman?"

Winston answered, "That salesman is one of the best in the business. He knows diamonds, but I love them."

That is evangelism happens naturally when we love Jesus.

Louis Pasteur, the pioneer of immunology, lived at a time when thousands of people died each year from rabies. Pasteur worked for years on a vaccine. Just as he was about to begin experimenting on himself, a nine year old boy, Joseph Meister, was bitten by a rabid dog. The boy's mother begged Pasteur to experiment on her son. Pasteur injected Joseph for ten days—and the boy lived.

Decades later, of all the things Louis Pasteur could have etched on his headstone, he asked for three words: *Joseph Meister lived*.

Our greatest legacy will those in eternity because of our efforts.

TO THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE NOT YET CHRISTIANS

God wants to take your life and make it something special.

Two brothers were convicted of stealing sheep, and in accordance with the brutal punishment of the day, were branded on the forehead with the letters "S T" which stood for "Sheep Thief." One of the brothers, unable to bear the stigma, tried to lose himself in a foreign land. But people would ask him about the letters on his forehead. He wandered from place to place, full of bitterness, died and was buried in a forgotten grave.

But, the other brother, who repented of his misdeed decided to stay at home. He said to himself, "I can't run away from the fact that I stole sheep, so I will stay here until I regain the respect of my neighbors and myself.

As the years passed, he gained a reputation for respectability and integrity. One day a stranger in town saw the old man with the letters "S T" branded on his forehead and asked a native what they signified. After thinking for a little while, the villager said, "It all happened a long time ago, and I have forgotten the particulars; but, I think the letters are an abbreviation for the word, "Saint."

Yes, that is the grace and mercy of God designed to change us from the ungodliness of sin into people of honor and beauty before God.

•SLIDE #: "God is attracted to a godly life and repulsed by an ungodly one."

Then in verse 16 he says

•SLIDE #: "Apostates don't like God so they make up a god they can like."

God wants to take us all from sinful and make us someone special ST story