

## IT'S HOW YOU FINISH!

Dr. Roger Barrier

Jude 5-10

S-1467

Jude is the story of people who commit apostasy—those who fall away from Jesus Christ. We examined in verses 1-4 Jude's encouragement for us to fight earnestly for the Christian faith when it is under attack from apostates.

He gave us an overview of three things we can do to begin the battle.

1. Understand your relationship with Jesus Christ.
2. Get a firm grip on the tenets of the Christian Faith.
3. Let nothing compromise your living for Christ.

This morning we will examine verses 5-10. These verses are about starting and finishing well. Jude is enunciating at least three major principles.

*Principle #1: A Great Start Matters Little When Followed By A Poor Finish (Jude 5-7).*

Jude chooses three examples to demonstrate that even those who have received the greatest privileges may still fall away—with great devastation.

1. God destroyed the Israelites who had enough belief to leave Egypt but not enough to enter the Promised Land. (Jude 5).

Read Numbers 13-14; 1 Corinthians 10:1-12 and Hebrews 3:16- 4:1-2.

2. God chained in Hell the angels who left their proper place in Heaven (Jude 6).

Read Isaiah 14:12 and 2 Peter 2:4.

3. God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah for sexual deviations and sins (Jude 7).

Read Genesis 19 and Hebrews 10:38-39.

*Principle #2: We Are Imagining Things If We Think That Our Behavior Doesn't Affect Our Finish (Jude 8).*

Notice the poetry scheme in reverse.

These people are dreaming when they claim that defiling the flesh, ignoring authority and blaspheming the glories won't hamper their lives.

*Principle # 3: A Great Finish Is Accomplished By Careful Attention To Godly Things (Jude 9-10).*

Whatever is out of their experience and learning they disregard as worthless and irrelevant. Spiritual things and values have no place in their lives.

They allow themselves to be corrupted by what they do understand. What they do understand are their basic animal instincts.

Read Matthew 24:10-13.

The Book of Hebrews clearly demonstrates that it's not how we begin but how we finish that demonstrates whether or not we are Christians. The true test of Christianity is not how we start but how we finish!