CONFLICTED LOVE:  
ATTRACTED AND REPULSED  
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Jude 14-16

Our study of Jude has raised many questions: “Don’t you believe in once saved always saved? Don’t you believe in eternal security?” Yes, but, it sure sounds like Jude doesn’t! Think about this: If you cannot lose your salvation, then there is no such thing as apostasy—and the book of Jude is all about apostasy.

There seem to be two valid streams of teaching in the Bible. One stream says that nothing can ever take a Christian out of God’s hand. We are safe and secure for eternity. Once saved always saved. The other stream says that Christians can fall away and end up in Hell.

If we look carefully at Jude’s letter, even he alludes to the complexity. In verse one he assures us that we are “kept in Jesus Christ”. But in verse 24 he opens the door for another possibility: “to Him who is able to keep you from falling.” I have deliberately not tried to settle the issue until we reach verse 24, two Sundays from today, and have the benefit of all of Jude’s teaching.

Here is a simple outline of Jude:  
Jude 1-2: Introduction and Blessing  
Jude 3-4: Crisis Identified: Apostates have crept in among you.  
Jude 5-16: Apostasy and Judgment Described  
Jude 17-23: Proper Christian Response  
Jude 24-25: Most Beautiful Blessing in the Bible

Today, in Jude 14-16, we see the last set of descriptions and warnings before Jude tells us, in verses 17-23, how to respond to the threat of apostasy in our church and in our lives.

**JUDE 14-15: GOD IS ATTRACTED TO A GODLY LIFE AND REPULSED BY AN UNGODLY ONE.**

**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.”**

Jude caps his denunciation of apostates with a prophecy which goes back to the time before the Flood! Just 7 generations from Adam, Enoch foresaw a judgment coming upon ungodly people who had raised God’s ire. Enoch pronounced this prophecy 900 years before the flood came.

This ungodly lifestyle is in stark contrast to the godly lifestyle of Enoch himself!  
Read Hebrews 11:5.

About the time Enoch pronounced this prophecy he had a son. Enoch was given the amazing revelation that when his child should die, every living creature upon the earth would be destroyed by a universal flood. So, he named his child, “Methuselah,” which means, “when he is dead, it shall come.”

Is it any surprise that Methuselah was the oldest man who ever lived? Here is a picture of grace and mercy at work. Read 2 Peter 3:9.

Jude uses this prophecy as a touchstone to describe both the Old Testament (Daniel 7:10) and the New Testament teaching that Jesus will be accompanied at His 2nd coming by huge numbers
of angels—and Christians (Matthew 25:31).

Jude’s word for judgment is *krisis*. See the same word utilized in Luke 10:14; Hebrews 10:27; and 2 Peter 3:7. When we stand before God to be judged it will certainly be a crisis! Jesus declared that no believer would ever come into judgment—*krisis*. Read John 5:24. The word used to describe what happens to Christians is the word *Bema*. Read 2 Corinthians 5:10.

“Great White Throne” is the term used to describe the judgment of nonChristians. Read Revelation 20:11-15. The basis for this judgment is the gospel of Christ. Read Romans 2:16.

Two lessons stand out here:

JUDE 16: APOSTATES DON’T LIKE GOD SO THEY MAKE UP A GOD THEY CAN LIKE.

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.*

• *These apostates are grumblers.*
These murmurers remind us of the grumbling of the people of Israel against God. Read Exodus 15:24; 17:3 and Numbers 14:26-29.

• *These apostates are fault-finders.*
Grumbling is directed against God; fault-finding is directed against His followers.

• *These apostates follow their own evil desires.*
The Greek word for “evil desires” is the same word used in the parable of the sower to describe the thorns which choke out the seed. Read Mark 4:18,19.
Becoming a Christian means that a person changes allegiance and decides to “follow the Lamb wherever he goes.”

• *These apostates boast about themselves.*
They were denying that when Jesus came, it would mean trouble for them. Once people think that they are free from scrutiny by God, they feel free to cut themselves loose from His standards.

• *These apostates flatter others for their own advantage.*
The most dangerous flatterer is the person who misleads about spiritual status, and who tells lies about God because he wants the hearer on his side.

Two lessons stand out here:
1. Once we cease to believe in the God the Bible reveals, we will feel free to indulge ourselves by making a god in our own image.
2. We cannot lower God’s standards in the hope that if the terms are easier, more people will repent.