

Through the Bible

JUDE

Zac Poonen



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Jude

IN THIS BRIEF LETTER, WE ARE EXHORTED TO STAND TRUE TO THE LORD IN THE MIDST OF ALL THE COMPROMISE AROUND US.

JUDE ACTUALLY WANTED TO WRITE ABOUT SALVATION (1:3). BUT AS HE BEGAN TO WRITE HE FELT THE BURDEN OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TO WRITE ABOUT SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.



STANDING UP FOR THE TRUE FAITH IN THE MIDST OF COMPROMISE IS A GREAT NEED IN CHRISTENDOM TODAY AS WELL, BECAUSE SOME DECEIVERS HAVE CREEPT INTO THE CHURCH UNNOTICED (1:4).

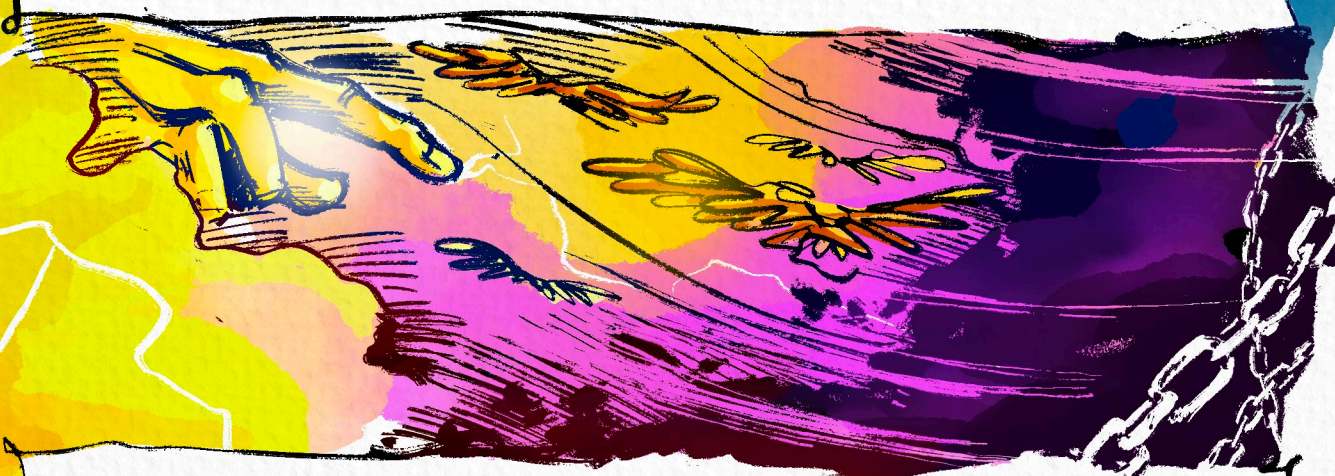
HOW DID THEY CREEP IN? BECAUSE THE ELDERS -- THE DOORKEEPERS -- OF THE CHURCH HAD GONE TO SLEEP.



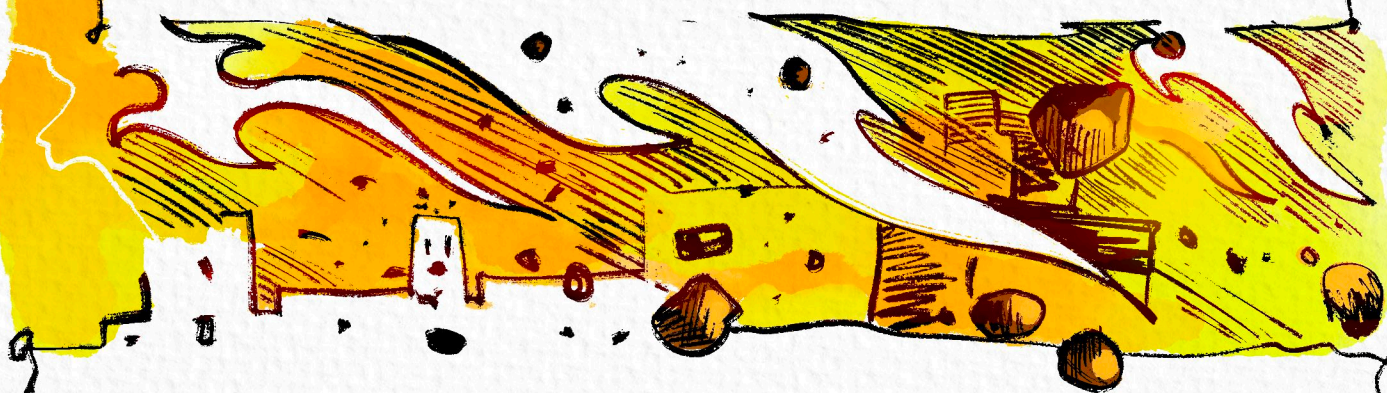
PEOPLE **CREEP** IN TO CHURCHES TO LEAD BELIEVERS **ASTRAY** AND TO TURN THE **GRACE** OF GOD INTO **LICENCE** TO **SIN**. THERE ARE MANY CHRISTIANS WHO LIVE BY THAT **FALSE UNDERSTANDING** OF **GRACE** TODAY.



AND SO JUDE REMINDS THEM ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO THE PEOPLE WHO CAME OUT OF EGYPT. THEY WERE **SYMBOLICALLY SAVED**. BUT THEY **NEVER ENTERED CANAAN**. THEY **PERISHED** IN THE **WILDERNESS**.



THEN JUDE GIVES **ANOTHER** EXAMPLE. THE ANGELS IN **HEAVEN** WERE **HOLY**. BUT WHEN SOME OF THEM DID NOT STAY WITHIN THEIR **BOUNDARY** BUT WENT INTO **STRANGE SINS**, **GOD THREW THEM OUT** AND "KEPT THEM IN **ETERNAL BONDS** UNDER **DARKNESS** FOR THE **JUDGMENT** OF THE **GREAT DAY**" (1:6).

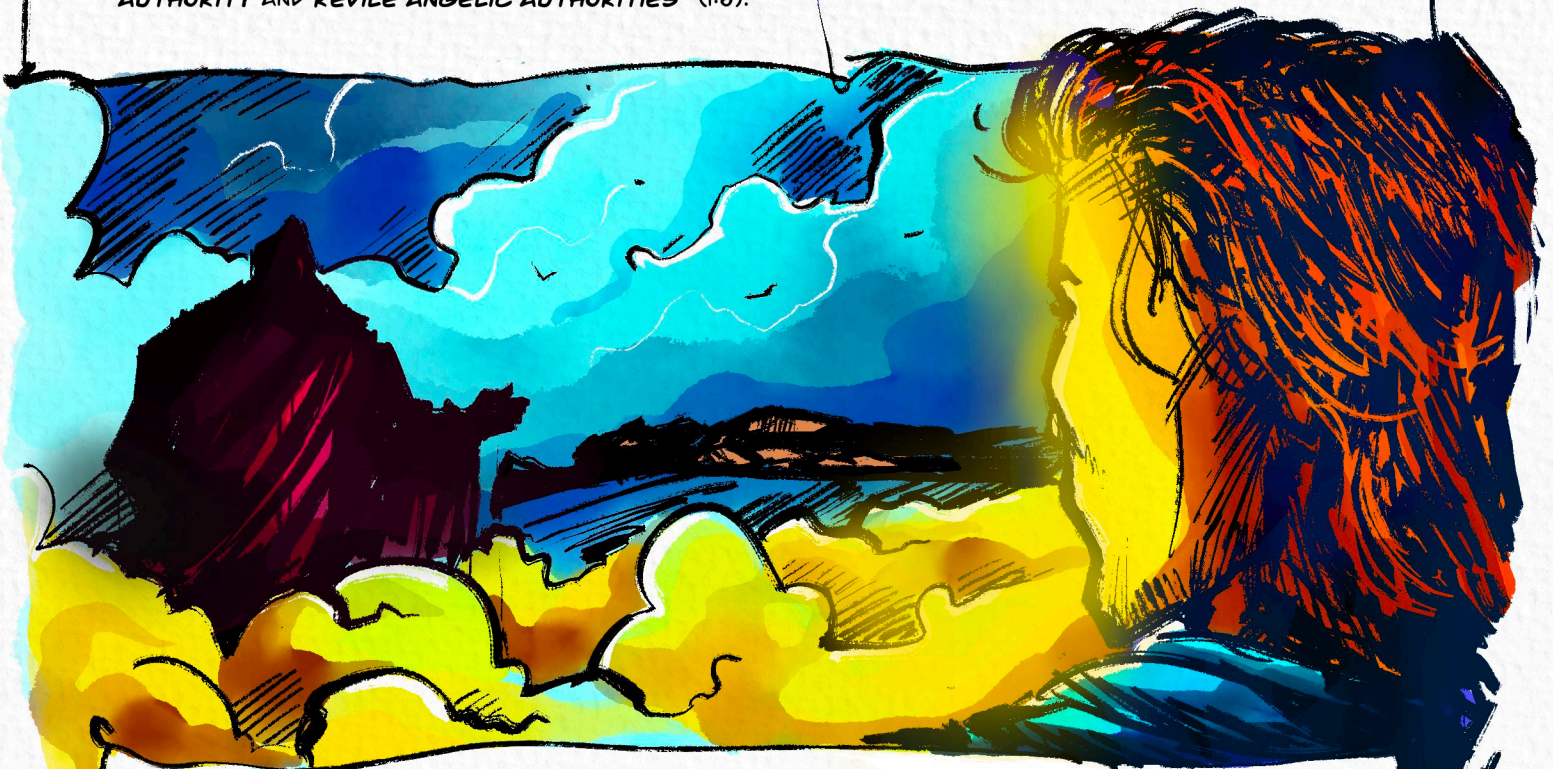


THEN JUDE GIVES A **THIRD** EXAMPLE -- **SODOM** AND **GOMORRAH** AND THEIR NEIGHBOURING TOWNS "INDULGED IN **LUST** OF EVERY KIND, INCLUDING **LUST** OF **MEN** FOR **OTHER MEN** AND THEY WERE **DESTROYED** BY **FIRE** AND THEY **CONTINUE** TO BE A **WARNING** TO US THAT THERE IS A **HELL** IN WHICH **SINNERS** ARE **PUNISHED**" (1:7 - LIVING).



THE ANGELS CAME AND WARNED THESE PEOPLE, BUT THEY WOULD NOT LISTEN. IN SPITE OF ALL THESE WARNINGS, FALSE TEACHERS WHO MAKE GRACE A LICENCE FOR SIN, GO RIGHT ON LIVING THEIR EVIL, IMMORAL LIVES AND "REJECT AUTHORITY AND REVILE ANGELIC AUTHORITIES" (1:8).

YET ANOTHER CHARACTERISTIC OF THOSE WHO LIVE ACCORDING TO THE FLESH IS THAT THEY REJECT SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY.



THE ARCHANGEL MICHAEL WHEN DISPUTING WITH THE DEVIL ABOUT THE BODY OF MOSES DID NOT PRONOUNCE A JUDGEMENT AGAINST HIM BUT MERELY SAID, "THE LORD REBUKE YOU" (1:9).



BUT JUDE SAYS, "FALSE TEACHERS SNEER AT THINGS THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND, AND LIVE BY ANIMAL-INSTINCT AND THUS DESTROY THEMSELVES" (1:10).

AND IF THOSE WHO "CLAIM TO BE GOD'S CHILDREN" DO THAT, THEN THEY ALSO HAVE BECOME LIKE UNREASONING ANIMALS. JUDE SAYS, "WOE UNTO THEM" (1:11).



THEN JUDE GIVES THREE OTHER EXAMPLES FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT -- **CAIN**, **BALAAM** AND **KORAH**. **CAIN'S** PROBLEM WAS **JEALOUSY**. HE WAS **JEALOUS** OF HIS **YOUNGER** BROTHER ON WHOSE SACRIFICE GOD HAD SENT A FIRE, **ACCEPTING** IT.



IT IS **RARE** TO SEE AN **ELDER** WHO IS **EAGER** TO PUSH HIS **YOUNGER** BROTHERS **FORWARD**.

INSTEAD, I HAVE SEEN **ELDER**S WHO SIT ON THEIR **THRONES** AND WATCH WITH A **JEALOUS** EYE SOME ANOINTED **YOUNGER** BROTHERS WHO THEY FEAR WILL BE A **THREAT** TO THEIR **AUTHORITY** -- AND THEY SEEK TO **SUPPRESS** THEM IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE.



THE SECOND EXAMPLE JUDE QUOTES IS **BALAAM**. HIS PROBLEM WAS **COVETOUSNESS** AND THE **LOVE** OF **MONEY**. **BALAAM** **PREACHED** MANY GOOD THINGS -- EVEN ABOUT THE **COMING** OF THE **MESSIAH** (NUMBER 24:17). BUT HE ALSO **RAN** AFTER **MONEY**

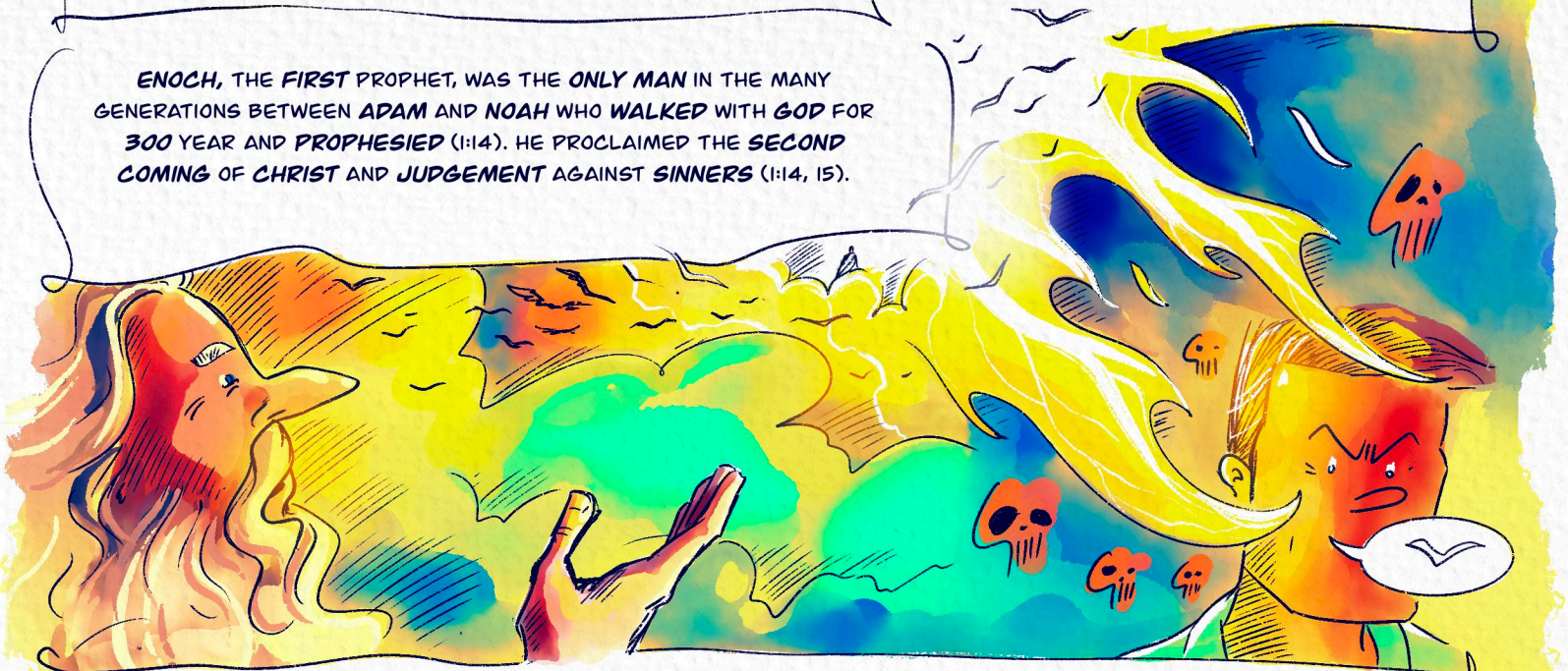
THIRPLY, JUDE SPEAKS ABOUT **KORAH**. HIS PROBLEM WAS **REBELLION** AGAINST **AUTHORITY**. IF YOU DON'T AGREE WITH A **GROUP**, **LEAVE** IT AND **GO** **ELSEWHERE**. **START** **ANOTHER** **GROUP** IF YOU LIKE, BUT **NEVER** **CAUSE** **REBELLION** ANYWHERE.



THESE MEN LIKE KORAH, ARE **HIDDEN REEFS** -- HIDDEN **ROCKS** UNDER THE WATER'S SURFACE THAT SHIPS **CRASH** ON.

THEY **FOOL** PEOPLE INTO THINKING THAT THEY HAVE SPIRITUAL **GIFTS** -- BUT THEY ARE LIKE **CLOUDS** THAT GIVE **NO RAIN** (1:12).

ENOCH, THE **FIRST** PROPHET, WAS THE **ONLY** MAN IN THE MANY GENERATIONS BETWEEN **ADAM** AND **NOAH** WHO **WALKED** WITH **GOD** FOR **300** YEAR AND **PROPHESIED** (1:14). HE PROCLAIMED THE **SECOND** COMING OF **CHRIST** AND **JUDGEMENT** AGAINST **SINNERS** (1:14, 15).



IN THE LAST DAYS THERE WILL BE MANY **MOCKERS** WHO FOLLOW AFTER THEIR **OWN UNGODLY LUSTS** AND WHO CAUSE **DIVISIONS** AMONG GOD'S PEOPLE LIKE KORAH DID -- **WORLDLY-MINDED** PEOPLE WHO DO **NOT** HAVE THE HOLY SPIRIT AT ALL, BUT WHO YET **TALK** ABOUT THE **GIFTS** OF THE SPIRIT (1:17--19).

WHEN **YOU** KEEP **YOURSELF** IN THE **LOVE** OF **GOD** (1:21) THE **LORD** WILL "KEEP YOU FROM **FALLING**" (1:24).

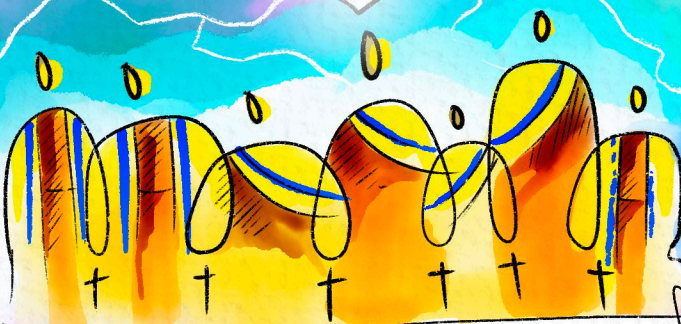


SIN WILL **NO** LONGER HAVE ANY **MASTERY** OVER YOU.

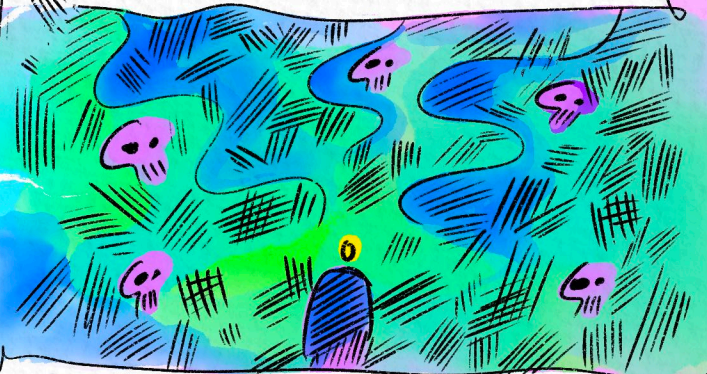


JUDE WARNS US TO BE **CAREFUL** WHEN SEEKING TO **PULL SINNERS** OUT OF THE **FIRE** THAT **WE OURSELVES** DON'T GET **POLLUTED** BY THEIR **SIN** (1:23).

JESUS WAS THE **FRIEND OF SINNERS**, HE WAS **NEVER POLLUTED**. WE CAN WALK LIKE HIM TOO.



MANY BELIEVERS CAN **KEEP THEMSELVES HOLY** WHEN THEY ARE IN THE MIDST OF **GODLY PEOPLE**.

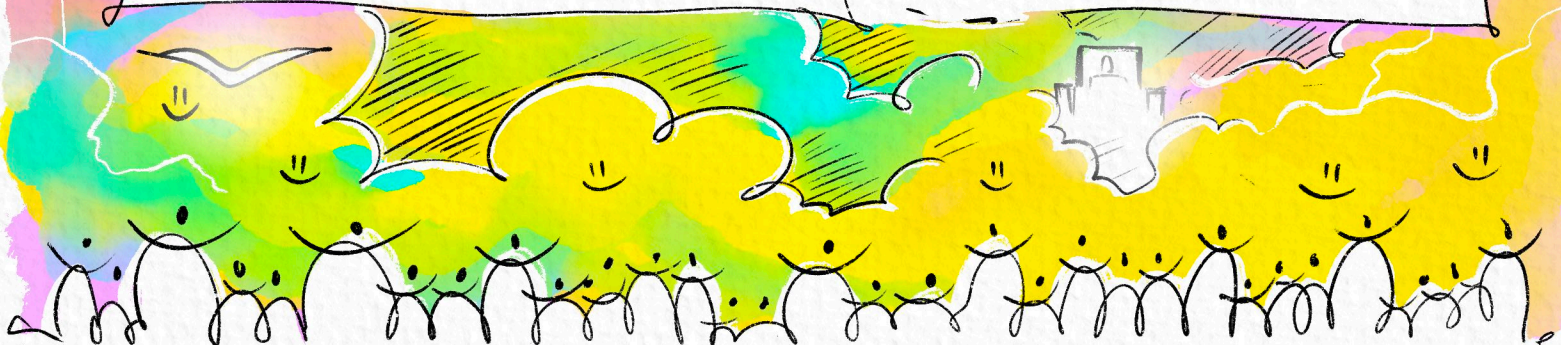


BUT WHEN THEY GO AND VISIT THEIR **UNCONVERTED** FRIENDS AND RELATIVES EVEN FOR ONE WEEK, THEY **BACKSLIDE** AND GET **POLLUTED**.



WHEN YOU ARE WITH UNCONVERTED PEOPLE WHO ARE **GOSSIPING** OR **WATCHING** SOME **DIRTY TV PROGRAM**, JUST GET UP **QUIETLY** AND **LEAVE THE ROOM**.

THEY WILL **GET THE MESSAGE** AND YOU WOULD HAVE **KEPT YOUR SPIRITUAL GARMENTS** FROM BEING **POLLUTED** (1:23).



THE LORD IS ABLE TO KEEP US FROM **STUMBLING** AND TO **MAKE US STAND** IN HIS PRESENCE, **BLAMELESS** AND WITH **GREAT JOY**.