

When God Pulls Back the Veil

Chapter 15 New Testament Audio Lesson #87



Objective: To introduce the books of Jude and Revelation



But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

—Jude 20-21

The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.

—Revelation 1:1-2

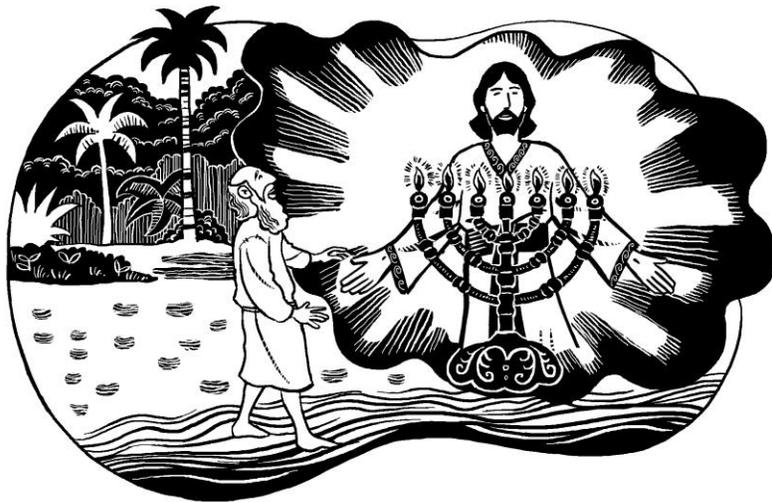
One of the shortest books in the New Testament, Jude was written by the Judas who scholars believe was, like James, one of the earthly brothers of Jesus. Jude addresses the problem of apostate teachers preaching cheap grace. These apostates were saying that God would not discipline His children. Using biblical examples, Jude makes it clear that God does not let His children do whatever they want.

Jude vividly describes the apostates as evil blemishes, fruitless trees, and wandering stars destined for darkness. He encourages the believers to reclaim the victims of the apostasy, stay true to the faith themselves, and learn to pray in the Holy Spirit.

The last book of the Bible, the Revelation, is perhaps the most difficult book of the Bible to understand. The word *revelation* is from a Greek word that means “to pull back a veil.” If it were not pulled back, we could never guess what was behind it. God revealed two areas of truth to us through prophets: the beginning, or creation, and the future. We need all of the other books of the Bible to help us understand the Revelation.

The book of Revelation begins with John on the Isle of Patmos because of his faith in Christ. Revelation is written in code, and we need the keys to break that code. The master key is the Holy Spirit. He not only teaches us spiritual things, but helps us understand and apply God's Word to our lives.

Another helpful key in breaking the code is knowledge of symbols or signs in the Bible. The Revelation is beautiful, an inspired sign language and a message from God to His people.



1. **True** or False: Scholars believe the epistle of Jude was written by a brother of Jesus and James.
2. **True** or False: Jude warns his readers about those in the Church who were teaching cheap grace.
3. True or **False**: The apostates were right about God not disciplining His children.
4. True or **False**: Revelation is filled with symbols we cannot begin to understand.

Choose all answers that apply.

5. Why did Jude not write about salvation?
 - a. He knew they understood everything already.
 - b. He was easily distracted from his purpose for writing.
 - c. He had to write about apostates who were pulling people away from the faith.**
 - d. He wanted to talk about Jesus.
6. How does Jude describe the apostates?
 - a. Wandering stars**
 - b. Brothers in Christ
 - c. Trees without fruit**
 - d. Mistaken Christians
7. What does Jude encourage the believers to do?
 - a. Build up their faith and help those who are wandering away**
 - b. Go to church every week and tithe
 - c. Do not have fellowship with the believers who had strayed
 - d. Leave the church and start a new one

8. Why was John on the Isle of Patmos?
 - a. He was old and went there to die in peace.
 - b. He had family and friends there.
 - c. He was on vacation.
 - d. He was exiled there for his faith in Christ.**

9. Why might those who organized the Bible have put the Revelation at the end?
 - a. We need the rest of Scripture to interpret it.**
 - b. They knew people would stop reading the Bible if they put the book toward the front.
 - c. The images would frighten people away from the rest of Scripture.
 - d. They did not know what to do with it.

10. What two huge events would we know nothing about if God had not pulled back the veil and showed His prophets?
 - a. The entry into the Promised Land
 - b. The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah
 - c. The beginning and the end of the world**
 - d. The flood and the ark

11. What one thing must we have in order to begin to break the code of the Revelation?
 - a. Courage
 - b. Education
 - c. Intellect
 - d. The Holy Spirit**

12. What is the other key mentioned in this study that is required to break the code of Revelation?
 - a. Scriptural information about the signs mentioned**
 - b. Scientific code developed in the last three decades
 - c. A secret knowledge about numbers
 - d. A pastor to interpret it for us



The apostates in Jude took for granted God's gift of salvation and said that God would not discipline His children for sin or disobedience. Why is it heresy to teach that grace is cheap?

Make a chart with these headings, and fill it out as we work through the book of Revelation.

- 1st column: Sign
- 2nd column: Personal revelation (ask God to show you what the sign means)
- 3rd column: The Word (list other places where the sign has appeared in Scripture)
- 4th column: Commentaries (what scholars say about it)
- 5th column: Final Conclusions (your own thoughts about it)



Thank God for His costly gift of grace and ask forgiveness if you have taken it for granted. Ask God to help you approach the book of Revelation with eagerness, humility, and faith. Thank Him that you are His beloved child. Ask Him to help you to know Him better and to trust in Him, regardless of your circumstances. Thank Him that He is your hope for this life and the life to come.

NOTES



Going Deeper

1. We cannot help but be impressed with and consider how we should personally apply and explain to others the emphasis on doctrinal purity in the closing letters of John and in the letter of Jude. How do you personally apply these letters and explain them to others? _____

2. How do you explain and personally apply the hard reality that this apostle of love, John, was very hardline in his approach to how we are to relate to those who are not teaching the right truths about the person of Jesus Christ? _____

3. In the same way, what do you believe is the personal application of the awesome, graphic ways the letter of Jude describes the people who were teaching false doctrine? _____

4. How do you personally apply and explain to others the way Jude uses the 14th chapter of Numbers and Sodom and Gomorrah to teach us about the way the character of God is like a rainbow – a spectrum of attributes from love to wrath? _____

5. In what ways would the chart assignment given for the book of Revelation help you to understand and explain to others the last book of the Bible? _____

6. Which key that breaks the code of the encrypted message from God to his people (The Revelation) explains why those who organized the Bible placed this book as the last book in the Bible? _____

7. How would you personally apply and explain to others the symbol of “The Seven Spirits of God?” _____
