

FEBRUARY 2016 “Not Your Average” Bible Study Reading

WEEK FIVE (Jan. 31-Feb. 6) – THE LORD’S COMING

- **Read Jude 3-16** Reflect on Jude 14-16.

As Jude continues his description of the false teachers, he refers to a prophecy by Enoch. The Old Testament records very little information about Enoch (see Gen 5:18-24). The prophecy Jude mentions is found in the book of 1 Enoch, part of a collection of Jewish and Christian writings known as the “pseudepigrapha.” How does Enoch’s prophecy in Jude 14-15 describe the Lord’s coming?

Jesus spoke about the coming of the “Son of Man” in Matthew 25:31-46. What is the purpose of the coming of the Lord in these passages? On what is God executing judgment? What is the significance of God’s judging both deeds and words? What steps can you take to ensure that both your works and your words are righteous?

How does Jude describe false teachers in Jude 16? Which sin in the list stands out to you? Do any aspects of this description apply to you? How can you be intentional about avoiding the sins on this list? How can you be proactive about pursuing God and the things that please Him?

WEEK SIX (FEBRUARY 7-13) – A REMINDER

PRAY THAT GOD WILL MAKE YOUR CHURCH UNIFIED IN HIS PURPOSE.

- **Read Jude 5-19** Reflect on Jude 17-19.

After discussing the false teachers, Jude addresses his audience directly in Jude 17. Note how he addresses the recipients of his letter. What do you think he means when he calls them “beloved” or “dear friends”? Compare this term with his description of them in Jude 1.

Jude reminds his audience about the apostles’ prediction that ungodly scoffers would come into the community. Earlier Jude had said that the false teachers crept in “stealthily” or “unnoticed” (v.4). How do you think the reminder would have encouraged Jude’s audience? Do prophecies fulfilled in the Bible encourage your faith? In what way?

When Peter speaks of the apostles’ prediction that scoffers would come, he gives more details about their derision. Read 2 Peter 3:2-7. Why does Peter say people will scoff? How do people mock Christianity today?

How does Jude describe the scoffers in Jude 19? Paul often warns against those who create division within the church (see Rom 16:1; 1 Cor 1:10; 3:1-9; 12:24-26; Titus 3:10-11). Why do you think the New Testament letters stress the importance of unity within the church? Would you characterize your church as united or divided? How can you pray for unity? What actions can you take to foster unity in your community?

WEEK SEVEN (FEBRUARY 14-20) – INSTRUCTIONS

PRAY FOR SPIRITUAL MATURITY AS YOU SEEK TO BUILD YOURSELF UP IN FAITH.

➤ **Read Jude 17-23** Reflect on Jude 20-23.

As he closes his letter, Jude gives his readers some instructions in Jude 20-21. How would these instructions have helped Jude's audience guard against false teachers? What are ways you can build yourself up in faith? How can others help you do so? How can you help build up others in their faith? What role does prayer have in this?

What is the relationship between the two instructions Jude gives in Jude 21 (compare 1 John 4:9)? Read John 14:10 and 1 John 2:15; 3:17. What do these verses say about being in God's love? How can you ensure that you are keeping yourself in God's love?

In Jude 20-21 Jude refers to all three members of the Godhead ("the Holy Spirit," "God" and "Lord Jesus Christ"). What features does Jude attribute to each one? How often do you think about each member of the Godhead? How are you "praying in the Holy Spirit" (v. 20)? How do you "keep" yourself in the love of God (v. 21)? How are you "waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ" (v. 21)?

Jude lists three ways of reacting to others in Jude 22-23. What are they? What does it mean to "have mercy on those who doubt"? How does that differ from having "mercy on others with fear"? Can you think of someone in your life who is in one of these groups? How should you reach out to this person?

WEEK EIGHT (February 21-27) – DOXOLOGY

PRAY THAT GOD WILL GIVE YOU A GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF HIS GLORY, MAJESTY, POWER AND AUTHORITY.

➤ **Read Jude 1-25** Reflect on Jude 24-25.

Instead of a benediction or final greetings (compare 1 Corinthians 16:23-24 and Heb 13:24-25), Jude closes his letter with a doxology. A doxology is a liturgical formula of praise ascribing glory and honor to God. How does Jude describe God in his doxology/ Why is glory due to Him?

What aspects of Jude's doxology show God's concern for us? How does God help protect you from stumbling? Can you think of an example where God has done this in your life? The Greek word for "blameless" (amomos) is often used in the Greek Old Testament to refer to an unblemished sacrifice (see Num 6:14). The word is used in the New Testament to describe Christ's perfect sacrifice (see Heb 9:14 and 1 Pet 1:19)/ How does Christ's sacrifice allow us to stand blameless before God's glory?

There are several other doxologies in the New Testament.

- Romans 11:36; 16:25-27
- Ephesians 3:20-21
- 1 Timothy 1:17
- Revelation 5:13

What are some similarities among these doxologies? What are some differences? Try composing your own doxology. What attributes of God would you include? Why are these attributes important to you?