



Adult Learning Opportunity
Next Steps with the Bible: Going Deeper and Growing Stronger

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October 2:

Understanding the Chapters of the Story: the Different Kinds of Books in the Biblical Library

1. Review of Week 2: Any questions or comments about the big story?

- Historical summary of the books of the Bible and how they fit together (analysis of details)
- Theological vista of the mega-message of the Bible (big-picture synthesis)
- Canon, apocrypha, and pseudepigrapha: key words in the church's reception of the Bible.
- Btw, how about Pastor Jim's message last Sunday?!
- Reading the Bible contextually rather than haphazardly ("Lucky dipping"!)!

2. Discussion of the Optional Assignment:

- Read through Jude and notice where it refers to other books of the Bible.
- *The Bible is full of itself!* Later authors built on earlier authors (inner-biblical exegesis).
 - *Quotations* (LOUD AND CLEAR, introduced, several words; cf. Matt 2:5-6 → Mic 5:2)
 - *Allusions* (softer, less clear, no introduction, fewer words; cf. Jude 7 → Gen 18-19)
 - *Echoes* (faint, maybe only a single word, debatable; cf. Jude 23 → Amos 4:11)
- Jude's references to the Bible and beyond.
 - Jude 4 → condemnation written about long ago
 - Reference to OT prophecies of judgment or to the examples that follow?
 - Jude 5 → the exodus and wandering in the wilderness
 - Exod; Num; 1 Cor 10:5-10; Heb 3-4; Ps 95
 - Jude 6 → Angels who abandoned their proper abode (?!)
 - Genesis 6; 2 Pet 2:4
 - Jude 7 → Sodom and Gomorrah, sexual immorality
 - Gen 18:16-19:38; Deut 29:23; 32:32; Isa 1:9-10; Jer 23:14; Lam 4:6; Ezek 16:46-59; Matt 10:15; 11:23; Rom 9:29; 2 Pet 2:6; Rev 11:8 etc.!
 - Jude 9 → Michael's dispute with the devil over Moses' body (say what?!)
 - OT references to Michael: Dan 10:13, 21; 12:1; Rev 12:7
 - "The Lord rebuke you": Zech 3:1-2 (God rebukes the devil for trying to accuse the high priest. Cf. Rev 12:10).
 - Moses' burial: Deut 34:1-8
 - Dispute with the devil: According to Clement of Alexandria (ca. 150-215 CE), Jude refers to an apocryphal book, the Assumption of Moses. But the reference is not found in current versions of this obscure book.
 - Jude 11 → the way of Cain
 - Gen 4; Heb 11:4; 1 John 3:12; Jude 11
 - Jude 11 → the error of Balaam
 - Num 22-24; 31:16; Deut 23:4; Josh 13:22; 24:9-10; Neh 13:2; Mic 6:5; 2 Pet 2:15; Rev 2:14
 - Jude 11 → the rebellion of Korah
 - Gen 36; Exod 6; Num 16; 26:9-11; 27:3
 - Jude 14-15 → Enoch's prophecy

- References to Enoch: Gen 5:18, 21-24; 1 Chron 1:3; Luke 3:37; Heb 11:5
- Enoch's prophecy: 1 Enoch 1:9, alluding to Deut 33:2 (God coming with myriads of angels)

- What part of the Bible is Jude most interested in?
- Does Jude *quote* the OT, *allude* to it less clearly, or *echo* it more subtly?
- Jude also alludes to the NT, at least in general, in Jude 17-18.
- Notice how much of Jude is similar to 2 Peter 2

3. Getting a Handle on the Different Kinds of Books in the Bible

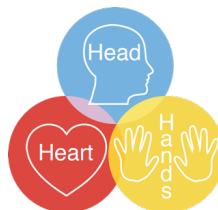
- Understanding *how* the Bible means is the basis of understanding *what* the Bible means.
- Note how each of the following make meaning:
 - **Historical** (narrative) Books
 - Episodes, heroes and villains, tests and consequences (The moral of the story: 1 Cor 10:1-13)
 - **Poetic** Books
 - Parallel ideas (not rhyming sounds) and beautiful images that *evoke* rather than *command* a response (Psalm 1:3-4)
 - **Wisdom** Books
 - Looking at life in a fallen world realistically. Take off the rose-colored glasses. (Job, Eccl).
 - **Letters** (epistles)
 - Logical arguments addressed to specific ancient church situations. Match 'em up with today.
 - **Prophetic** Books
 - Oracles from God about judgment and blessing. Preaching against sin and calling for repentance, with promises of blessing and warnings of judgment.

4. So What?

- How does all this impact our heads, hearts, and hands?



- We are richly blessed to have the Bible in our language, along with the freedom and opportunity to study and teach it. Are we using this opportunity? (Eph 5:16)
- Jude saw his church(es) in continuity with Israel as the ongoing one people of God. Israel's history is instructive for the church. Do we read the OT like Jude did?
- Jude speaks frankly and clearly about dangerous teaching and its judgment. Do we have the mental alertness and courage to follow Jude's example?
- The protestant reformers spoke of the clarity or *perspicuity* of the Bible, but they did not mean that the whole Bible was *equally* clear. All that we need to understand for salvation and life in Christ is clear (cf. 2 Pet 1:2-11), but occasionally we encounter difficult passages like Jude 6, 9, 14.



Sanctify them through your truth; your word is truth. (John 17:17)