**Jude’s Warning:**

Opening:

- Last Sunday – Eric – attack on the Church from the outside.

- Preached from James

- Still relevant today, as we are under constant attack from the world

- Eric touched on another type of attack. An attack on another battle front. From the inside.

- Preaching from Jude. May be a short letter, but lots to digest. Therefore breaking it up into two sections. Lord willing – complete another day .

Pray:

Scripture Reading Jude 1:1 -16 **Slide 2-8**

- Written in the mid 60’s, about 30 to 35 years after Christ’s death and resurrection

- Already a concern about false teachers creeping into the Church

- Even a cursory look at what is taught in churches around the world show that this letter is just as appropriate to us, as it is to the early Church.

- Not saying that we have false teachers within Knysna Baptist, but we must be vigilant, we must prevent them from entering.

**1: Contend!**

Message was very important to Jude.

Initially wanted to write to us about our common salvation, but he felt it necessary to write to us to contend for our faith that was once and for all delivered by the saints.

vs 3 uses very strong language:

necessary - Greek word implies that he was compelled to do so out of distress

c;ontend - to fight

**Why did he feel it was necessary to fight?**

**Jesus Saves and Destroys!!**

3 EG’s

1: **Slide 9**

Vs 5b: that Jesus, who saved a people out of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.

Jude is referring to when the Israelites rebelled against the Lord in the Wilderness (Numbers 14). The Israelites had escaped the wrath of the Egyptians and trekked through the wilderness. During this time, they had seen the His saving power, they had seen the miracles, but they did not believe that he could conquer the inhabitants of the Promised Land and deliver it to them. If they believed that He was He is the One and only true God, they would have believed that He was capable of saving them. But they didn't believe. They rebelled. And that entire generation perished in the Wilderness, except for Caleb and Joshua. And the same thing is going to happen to those who don’t believe in the saving power of Christ today. They are going to be destroyed, just as that generation of Israelites.

Position of privilege (God’s Chosen Race) to destruction

Footnote: We see that it was Jesus who saved the Israelites out of Egypt. But how could He do that? The Israelites left Egypt hundreds of years before Jesus was born to Mary? How could he exist before he was born? Because He is God. Jesus always was and always will be God.

2:

Vs 6: And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling (i.e. they rebelled against God), he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgement of the great day

The angels had a position of privilege and are now kept for judgement

3:

Vs7: just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.

Genesis 13: Abram and Lots men were fighting and they decided to split up. In vs 10 we read that Lot decided to the Jordan valley, because it was well watered everywhere like the garden of the Lord, in the direction of Zoar, where he finally settled in Sodom. He chose the Jordan Valley, because it was a beautiful, lush area, good for his cattle – this was a good are – an area of privilege, if you like. And what happened to Sodom and Gomorah? In ch19 we read how the Lord destroyed it – He rained sulphur and fire down on it, completely destroying it.

An area of privilege to destruction.

**Jesus Saves and Destroys!!**

Right there we have a foreshadowing of the Gospel

**Compare to John 3:16 Slide 10**

For God so love the world that he gave his one and only Son (Jesus), that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

The Cross

**And John 3:18** Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

**2: Jude’s fear or creeping shepherds**

Q: What was Jude’s concern? Fight against what? Against whom?

A: That certain people (false shepherds) had creeped into the Church unnoticed. And they were perverting the grace of our God (salvation) into sensuality and denying Jesus Christ as Master and Lord (paraphrasing vs 4)

Jude describes them for us in vs 12, using strong language:

* Hidden reefs at your love feasts (incl. Lord’s supper)
* Feast on you without fear (without fear of the Lord)
* Shepherds feeding themselves (personal gain)
* Waterless clouds, swept along by winds (promise of rain/prosperity, but deliver nothing)
* Fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted (“ ”)
* Wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame (wild, fleshly , ungodly)
* Wandering stars (misleading)

**Slide 11**

Summary v16: Grumblers, malcontents (not satisfied with what is given to them), followers of their own sinful desire, loudmouth boasters, showing favouritism to gain advantage

**3: Church (all) to discern:**

Q: Who’s responsibility is it to protect the church from false Shepherds? Who’s responsibility is it to protect KBC from false shepherds – from false teachers standing up here preaching to you?

A: We read in 1 Peter 5 1-3. Elders need to shepherd the flock. What does a shepherd do? Not only does he lead his flock to green pastures, but he also protects the flock against wolves, lions, predators.

So Elders have the responsibility to protect the congregation from false teachers.

But who elects the Elders?

Essentially it is the Holy Spirit who elects Elders, but it is the congregation who recognise them. How do we recognise them in a Baptist church? We, the members, vote them in.

So not only is it the Elders job to protect the congregation against false teachers, but it is your responsibility too.

Please note- in verse 2 we see that he addresses his letter to "those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ" - Not the Pastor, nor is it just the Elders. It is addressed to all Christians, that's you and I included.

Q: So how do we recognise these false shepherds?

A: We use the description that Jude gave us in 12-13. And to help us even more, Jude has given us examples of people/angles who have these attributes / characteristics.

**Characteristics**

In Vs 11 we read that they walk in the way of Cain

* Remember the story of Cain and Abel – Genesis 4. Cain’s jealousy led to anger, which drove him to kill his brother.

Further on In Vs 11 we read about Balaam’s Error.

* This is referring to Numbers 22.
* Remember the story of the talking donkey?
* Moabites tried to bribe Balaam a few times to curse the Israelites. Each time the Lord told him not to go. Eventually, the Lord allowed him to go. But then the Lord’s anger rekindled and he sent an angel to kill him, but the donkey saves Balaam.
* Balaam went because of greed.

Also in vs 11 there is a reference to Korah’s rebellion.

* Numbers 16 – the story of how the earth opened up and swallowed Korah, his followers and their households
* Korah raised up and rebelled against Moses and Aaron, because they were jealous of Moses and Aarons position of authority over them.

These eg’s show people who were jealous and driven by their greed and in one way or another rebelled against the Lord.

Jude contrasts them with the archangel Michael in vs 9, when he is contending with the devil over Moses’ body. Unfortunately not much is known about this account, but what we can tell from the text is what Michael said to the Devil – The Lord rebuke you. Michael could have said who lot of other things to rebuke the Devil, to pronounce judgement on him. But he didn’t overstep his authority, because God will judge the Satan and will have him thrown in the Lake of fire and sulphur.

Not only does Jude give personality traits/characteristics, but he also talks about their doctrine. **Slide 12**

Vs 4

* twist the grace of our God (salvation) into sensuality
* deny our only Master and Lord Jesus Christ.

Vs 8

* rely on their dreams (visions), claiming new revelations
* defile the flesh (ungodly)
* reject authority – Jesus, Apostles
* blaspheme the glorious ones (Angels)

Jude counters them on their false doctrines in vs 3 - …for the faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints. **Slide 13**

* The saints have recorded this message of faith, the Word for us (Bible)
* Once and for all – nothing can be added (no new revelations) and nothing can be removed.
* If someone is trying to teach you something other than what is in the Bible, they are a false teacher

How can we be sure that the person preaching/teaching that their message / their teachings is inline with the Word?

Peter gives us the answer in his second letter – 2Pet1:19 – 21. **Slide 14**

*And we have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scriptures comes from someone’s own interpretation.* *For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit*

We must study the Word. We must understand it. And we must live it. Then we will see false teachers for what they are. Peter tells us this just before he starts his teaching on false prophets and teachers.

**Conclusion: Slide 15**

So we now have a good picture of what false teachers look like. We know have a good idea of who we don’t want elected to the Eldership in KBC. But what is the Biblical model for an Elder – homework – study 1Tim3, Titus1, 1 Pet5.

As you can see, electing Elders is not a quick and easy task. It takes not only a lot of prayer and thought, but getting to know the person and their doctrine well.

**Pray**