

# SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

## LESSON 5



Contend  
for the faith  
which was  
once delivered  
to the saints  
Jude 1:3

## THE JUDGMENT OF APOSTATES

*Scripture Text: Jude 15*

**Jude 15** pertains to the Judgment. In the lesson text, Jude is still quoting the Prophet Enoch. The fact that Enoch had such clear insight about the final judgment shows that this is a truth of such importance to God that He wanted all of human history to have an awareness of it.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil (Ecclesiastes 12:14).*

### Judgment for All

**To execute judgment upon all.** When the Lord comes, He will come as a judge. **2 Timothy 4:1** says, “I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick [those alive] and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom.” Christ will judge both saint and sinner. “For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ” (**Romans 14:10**). **Matthew 25:32** states that all nations shall be gathered before Christ. In others words, all mankind—alive or dead—will be there on that day.

Some teachers of religion try to use part of **2 Peter 2:9** (“to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished”) and part of **2 Peter 3:7** (“the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men”) to teach that only the “unjust” and “ungodly” will ever come into judgment. One writer has said that the Greek word for *judgment* in our text, *krisis*, is never used in regards to believers, but this is not so. **1 John 4:17** tells us, “Herein is our love made perfect, that we [the saints] may have boldness in the Day of Judgment.” The same Greek word, *krisis*, is used here just as it is in **2 Peter**.

### Are You Ungodly?

**To convince all that are ungodly . . . of all their ungodly deeds . . . they have ungodly committed, and . . . ungodly sinners.** In **verse 15** the word *ungodly* is used four times. It is used to refer to the condition of the people: *all that are ungodly*. It is used to describe what they have done: *ungodly deeds . . . ungodly committed*. Finally, it is used to describe their spiritual state: *ungodly sinners*. What do all these descriptions tell us? They tell us that the spiritual condition of a person’s heart dictates his deeds. Read **Matthew 12:34** and **Mark 7:20-23**. If a person is *ungodly*, he will commit *ungodly deeds*. **Romans 7:17** says it this way: “Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.”

Remember, **Jude 15** was written in the context of refuting apostasy. So regardless of the claims made by apostates, apostasy is not godly. No matter how much influence people have or how respected they are, if they have succumbed to the spirit of apostasy, they are *ungodly sinners*! Certainly, not everyone who is affected by apostasy is an apostate, but those who become apostates are *ungodly sinners*. God is taking note of them and recording their *ungodly deeds*, because a day of reckoning is coming.

Now let us study the phrase *to convince*. The Greek word for *convince* is *exelegcho*. It means “to convict fully.” The Emphatic Diaglott translates it, in this text, as “to convict.” Remember, Christ is coming back as a judge. “For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son” (**John 5:22**). All the evidence has been recorded and is irrefutable. When Christ comes, He will be the One to hand down all convictions and sentences.

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### Degree of Destiny

**To execute judgment upon . . . their ungodly deeds.** Look now at the criterion, or basis, for *judgment*. Man's *judgment* will not be based on the state of his soul or his spiritual condition. That has already been determined. How do we know? Remember, **Jude 14** said "Behold, the Lord cometh with . . . his saints," and this verse says "To execute judgment." So, it is obvious that before the beginning of the final Judgment, the saints will already be known as such.

Prior to the Judgment, the final state of all deceased souls was determined at death. **Luke 16:19-31** shows us that before the Resurrection and the Judgment, the rich man went to hell, and Lazarus went to "Abraham's bosom." Jesus told the repentant thief, in **Luke 23:43** that he would be with Him in paradise. When one dies, the state of the soul is immediately sealed. It is either saved or lost (see **Ecclesiastes 11:3**). A man's eternal destiny is determined by the state of his soul at his death or at the Second Coming, whichever one comes first. The final Judgment only determines the degree of his destiny based on his *deeds*.

The reason final *judgment* does not occur immediately after death is that the influence and works of our lives live on until time stops. We cannot be given a proper reckoning until then. (Jude has been dead for around twenty centuries, but his works are still benefitting us as recently as today.) We will be judged according to the *deeds* we have done. This is verified throughout the Scriptures (**Psalm 62:12, Ecclesiastes 12:14, Matthew 16:27, Romans 2:6, and 1 Peter 1:17**).

The degrees of reward or punishment will be based on a person's knowledge, his deeds, and his actions. **Matthew 23:14** speaks of "greater damnation." **Hebrews 10:29** mentions "sorer punishment." **Luke 12:47-48** tells of "many stripes" for some and "few stripes" for others. Since Christ will pass sentence on us based on our deeds, we ought to give serious consideration to whatever we do and say. **Revelation 22:12** states, "And behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be."

### JUST A THOUGHT

**A deed might seem small to the doer, but it could have a big impact on the recipient.**