

# PARCHMENT

AND HE SAID UNTO ME, WRITE: FOR THESE WORDS ARE TRUE AND FAITHFUL.

REVELATION 21:5



*Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. Jude 3.*

## TELL ME, WHAT ARE THE STAKES?

In the second last book of the Bible are the writings of Jude. Preceding the book of Revelation - in which vital prophecies are given for the last days - Jude offers us an earnest entreaty to avoid apostasy and stand unshakeably by the side of truth.

Jude comprises only one chapter. Yet it's a chapter in no wise to be missed. As manifest by our opening verse, Jude 3, our author was deeply moved by the message he was given. Notice the words used in the foreword of this text. Jude states: it is with "all diligence" and "need" that he "exhorts" us this day.

If it was not of utmost necessity, Jude would not have written even this shortest of letters. But he did. Why? Because it concerns a faith that's too precious to be taken lightly. A destiny too significant to forget. If Jude was only one verse long, then in my opinion, this verse would be it. Three times Jude stresses the importance of the battle we find ourselves in. Three times he declares the depth of his plea. And what is his tremendous appeal? What is it that he finds so needful to write, even if only one chapter in length? That "ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints".

It's a call which every one of us has heard before. In every chapter of the Bible, either explicitly or implicitly, God is calling on men to champion the present truths of their generation. Though today, even God's

continual and repetitive entreaties fail to awaken true import in their readers. Like the Israelites of old, His words are heard, agreed upon, and soon enough, forgotten. Thus, in the writings of Jude, God seeks to revitalise the single most important doctrine in all the Bible. With great diligence and need, He reminds us of our duty to defend the character of "the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ". Through Jude, he states: My beloved, contend earnestly for the faith. The stakes are far too high.

In the very next verse, Jude explains the cause for his concern.

"For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ." Jude 4.

Without a doubt, Jude's message is one of timeless resonance. Have not men crept into the church today, denying the Father as the one true God? Have not men turned the grace of our God into lasciviousness, by claiming that He sent only a metaphorical son to save us?

Over 4000 years ago, Enoch was given a prophetic vision of the last days on Earth. Sister White



expounds: “he saw the corrupt state of the world at the time when Christ should appear the second time”. And what was it that he saw? “A boastful, presumptuous, self-willed generation...denying the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ, and trampling upon his blood, and despising his atonement.” {PP 85}

Surely, we are approaching that very time. A time marked by the widespread denial of the character of God the Father and His only begotten Son, Jesus, our Lord. It's a denial which tramples upon His very blood.

To me, there seems to be no false doctrine that so despises Christ's atonement as the doctrine of the trinity. There can be no sacrifice on behalf of the Father in giving us a metaphorical son. There can be no love revealed in that transaction. By contrast, the Beloved of Christ states: “in this was manifested the love of God towards us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him”. 1 John 4:9.

Most certainly, Jude's exhortation is underlined by a profound awareness of the cost of rejecting gospel truth. As John 3:18 propounds: “he that believeth not is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God”. Like Jude, John bears the call: My Beloved, defend the faith. The stakes are far too high.

Moreover, in commentary of the last days, Sister White confirms: “all kinds of theories will be presented to divert the minds of men and women from the very truth that defines the position we can occupy with safety in this time”. To this she adds: “the only hope of our churches is to keep wide awake...Now is our time of test and trial.” {YRP 125}

As the apostle Paul once set forth, today is the day of salvation. Though more false doctrines are sure to creep in, “preach the word...reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine”. 2 Timothy 4:2.

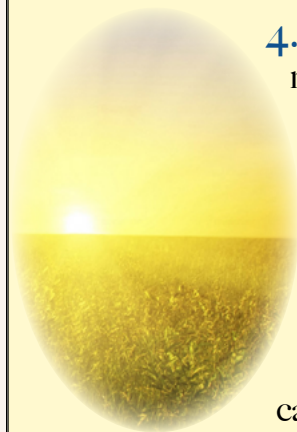
My beloved, be diligent. The stakes are far too high.

## 12 VITAL FACTS ABOUT VITAMIN D

1. The healing rays of natural sunlight cannot penetrate glass. This means that you cannot generate vitamin D while sitting in your car or at home.

2. It's nearly impossible to get adequate amounts of vitamin D through diet alone. Exposure to natural sunlight is the only reliable way to generate vitamin D in your body.

3. The further away you live from the equator, the longer sun-exposure times you need to in order to generate sufficient vitamin D. Canada, the UK and most American states are considered far from the equator.



4. People with dark skin may need anywhere from 20 - 30 times as much exposure to sunlight as fair-skinned people, in order to generate the same amount of vitamin D. That's why prostate cancer is epidemic amongst black men - it's caused by a simple, yet widespread sunlight deficiency.

5. Vitamin D is crucial for calcium absorption in the intestines. Without sufficient vitamin D, your body cannot absorb calcium, rendering calcium supplements useless.

6. A chronic deficiency in vitamin D cannot be reversed overnight. It takes months of supplementation and sunlight exposure to rebuild the body's bones and nervous system.

7. Even weak sunscreens (SPF:8) inhibit your body's ability to generate vitamin D by 95%. This is the reason sunscreen products actually cause disease; they lead to a critical vitamin D deficiency in the body.