



14 And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, 15 To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him. 16 These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage. 17 But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; 18 How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. 19 These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit. (Jude 1:14-19)

The salient point of Jude's Epistle has been to open the eyes of the believer to the evil deception of false prophets of whom the Lord has said there will be, not a few, but MANY. Of the end times, Christ says: "**And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.**" (Matt 24:11-13) This does not appear to be an INCREASING faith upon the earth, but a waning one consistent with the birds in the branches of the Mustard Tree the inquiry of Lord, ". . . **when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?**" (Luke 18:8) My impression is that faith will be a rare commodity reserved for the Remnant of His people at His Coming! Jude has told us of the proliferation of false prophets. There would not be so many false prophets if they had no followers but, unfortunately, many false professors are deceived today – perhaps far more than those who will cling to the Solid Rock which is Christ.

Now we come to another intriguing figure of the early Old Testament period – ENOCH. Perhaps there is a signification in the naming of Enoch as the seventh from Adam since the number seven is often used to symbolize a special authority and completeness of action such as, in this case, the prophecy of Enoch. 14 "**And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these.**" Enoch had great faith, so much so that he walked with God as Adam had walked before the Fall at Eden. More than any works of righteousness to which we may pretend, FAITH is the only thing that is pleasing to God. Strong Faith entails all of the rest of the works of righteousness. "**By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must**

believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” (Heb 11:5,6)

Enoch was a prophet not unlike Abel of the early dawning of the world. As Abel had done, and later, Abraham, Enoch looked to the coming of the Redeemer for the salvation of his soul. God will brood no sin in His Heaven, yet the faith of Enoch in the future promise was sufficient for God to take him from among men to be with Himself.

The main factor that is so sorely missing in the modern church is simple FAITH. We have pulpit dandies who parade before us claiming the powers to call down the Holy Ghost at their own beckon and call. They never omit to extort money from men and women desperate for healing and to see a miraculous sign. We have sign enough in the birth, life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. When He returns, there will be no doubt of His identity! There will not be horrified passengers in airliners screaming in panic at the taking of their pilot, or buses and cars going off the road because their drivers have been “raptured.” What a hoax on the professing and luke-warm Christians. How great will be their dismay to learn that they shall undergo terrors of persecution ere the end. **“For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.”** (Matt 24:24-27)

As Enoch has prophesied: **“Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”** Here, Enoch is speaking of the Lord Jesus Christ! You may be thinking that, no worry, these are all without the Church? If so, you would be wrong. If your discernment has not been so blinded by the false doctrines of modern day deceivers, you will immediately recognize that our greatest threat comes from WITHIN the Church and not WITHOUT! There has never been an idle word spoken against the Triune God that shall not be written in blazing flames on the breasts of their source. Brothers and Sisters of the Church of Christ, it is time to awaken and get serious! Serious about what? About your soul’s salvation; about truth and error; about real authentic and biblical Church worship, and the cheap shambles that pass for such in our day!

16 “These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.” What is the source of murmurings and constant contention in the Church? It is most often the sins of lust, jealousy, and covetousness. If the Church, and each of its members, is One with Christ, how can there exist dissension and division? The great swelling words of many are spoken to draw attention to their own presumed piety and self-righteousness. Remember the long prayers that they love to say in public to be seen of men? **“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.”** (Matt 23:14) This verse is so incriminating of the false prophets that they prefer to expunge it from the modern versions of the Bible – I’m sorry, I should say ‘pseudo-bible’.

Many churches have prayer meetings in which long and unending prayers are proudly voiced among the congregation. Others cannot even utter a prayer for the

volume coming from the single individual who drowns out, not only all expression, but all thought, from the minds of the other congregants. It is for this reason that we in the Anglican tradition use only those Godly and biblical prayers of the Prayer Book that will suit the intentions of all worshippers without exception – and all say communally (together). Those prayers of particular interest are those which our Lord advises to be said in our private closets. By praying as our Lord taught us in the “OUR Father” we understand that such a prayer is to be said in community. We avoid ‘prayer sermons’ of the novice layperson by observing these cardinal points of public worship. Such usurpers of worship also pay a particular interest in men and women of means who enter the church. Hear the words of St James in his Epistle: **“My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons. For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool: Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts? Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him? But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats? Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called?”** (James 2:1-7) Many churches today have ‘referral reference services’ whereby they are notified when a doctor, lawyer, or otherwise well-to-do person moves into town so that they may go the extra mile to invite them to church. This is worship of the institution itself and not of Christ.

The true Christian must separate himself from the alluring temptations and sins of the world. I will add that the wicked false professors also separate themselves, not from the world, but from the righteousness of God! **17 “But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; 18 How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. 19 These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.”** These men taunt the believer, “Come on! I am a Christian, too, but do you really believe that God created the world as presented in Genesis? Do you REALLY believe a big fish swallowed Jonah? Do you REALLY believe that Jesus was born of a virgin? Do you REALLY believe that the Bible is inerrant and wholly true?” What are your answers to these mockers, friends?