

Lesson 12 – November 20
2 Peter 2:1-13, Jude 16-25

On Guard

Rome

Our Living Hope

FBC Woodville
Sunday School Class
Michael G. Maness
see
PreciousHeart.net/SS

- | | | | |
|-------|---------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. | Sept 4 | Living Hope | 1:1-12 |
| 2. | Sept 11 | Be Holy | 1:13-25 |
| 3. | Sept 18 | Building Our Faith | 2:1-10 |
| 4. | Sept 25 | Living as Strangers | 2:11-25 |
| 5. | Oct 2 | Living in Relationship | 3:1-12 |
| 6. | Oct 9 | Always Ready | 3:13-22 |
| 7. | Oct 16 | Equipped to Live | 4:1-11 |
| 8. | Oct 23 | When Ridiculed | 4:12-19 |
| 9. | Oct 30 | Alert Living | 5:1-14 |
| <hr/> | | | |
| 10. | Nov 6 | Being Useful | 2 Pet. 1:1-11 |
| 11. | Nov 13 | With Trust | 2 Pet. 1:12-21 |
| 12. | Nov 20 | On Guard | 2 Pet. 2:1-13, Jude |
| 13. | Nov 27 | With Anticipation | 2 Pet. 3:1-18 |



Peter's Last Farewell

1. *LIVE* Your Eternal Life
2. Until the Morning Star Rises
3. False Prophets—Dog Vomit
4. Look for the New Heaven

Lesson Author's Theme

God's Word is the only standard of truth in our world.

Jude 1-4	Secret Agent Perverts Deny Christ
Jude 5-7	God Destroyed Evil
Jude 8-10	Dreamers Self-Destruction
Jude 11-15	Twice Dead Wandering Stars
2 Peter 2:1-3 & Jude 16	Exposed – Secret Agents
Jude 17-19	Predicted – Jesus Predicted Scoffers
Jude 20-25	Countered – Build Yourself Up—Pray
2 Peter 2:4-9	God Spared Not Angels
2 Peter 2:10-13	Blaspheming like Animals
2 Peter 2:14-16	Adulterer Seducers like Balaam
2 Peter 2:17-22	Entangled Mud-wallowing Dogs

Notice, 2 Peter 2 *INTO* Jude??

- ü Think well of Author
- ü If 1 & 2 Peter & Jude *must* go in 13 wks
- ü Jude aligns w 2 Pet. 2
- ü Themes are similar
- ü Both have Angels & **STRONG** metaphors
- ü Both Condemn False Teachers **STRONGLY**

What if we look at them
as **TWO** letters?

Two SMALL letters

Underlying Theme – under God's Sure Word

Beware of Satan's Secret Agents

Jude

Jude 1-4	Secret Agents Pervert Grace to Immorality
Jude 5-7	God Destroyed Evil
Jude 8-10	Dreamers Self-Destruction
Jude 11-15	Twice Dead Wandering Stars
Jude 16	Exposed – Secret Agents
Jude 17-19	Predicted – Jesus Predicted Scoffers
Jude 20-25	Countered – Build Yourself Up—Pray

If we
group these

2 Peter 2

2 Peter 2:1-3	Exposed – Secret Agents
2 Peter 2:4-9	God Spared Not Angels, Nor Sodom
2 Peter 2:10-13	Blaspheming Like Animals
2 Peter 2:14-16	Adulterer Seducers like Balaam
2 Peter 2:17-22	Entangled Mud-wallowing Dogs

and look at the
TWO letters

as TWO letters

Here's what
we have ...

Alternate Title

Satan's Secret Agents



Parts I & II

Underlying Theme – under God's Sure Word

Beware of Satan's Secret Agents

Jude 1-4	<u>Secret Agents Pervert Grace</u>
Jude 5-7	God Destroyed Evil
Jude 8-16	Dreamers & Twice Dead Wandering Stars
Jude 17-19	Predicted – Jesus Predicted Scoffers
Jude 20-25	Countered – Build Yourself Up—Pray

Jude

2 Peter 2:1-3	<u>Secret Agents Deny Christ's Work</u>
2 Peter 2:4-9	God Spared Not Angels, Nor Sodom
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2 Peter 2

Immediately See—TWO letters to TWO groups

Underlying Theme – under God's Sure Word

Beware of Satan's Secret Agents

Jude 1-4

Secret Agents Pervert Grace

Jude 5-7

God Destroyed Evil

Jude 8-16

Dreamers & Twice Dead Wandering Stars

Jude 17-19

Predicted – Jesus Predicted Scoffers

Jude 20-25

Countered – Build Yourself Up—Pray
“snatch” from fire with FEAR

2 Peter 2:1-3

Secret Agents Deny Christ's Work

2 Peter 2:4-9

God Spared Not Angels, Nor Sodom

2 Peter 2:10-13

Blaspheming Like Animals

2 Peter 2:14-16

Adulterer Seducers like Balaam

2 Peter 2:17-22

Entangled Mud-wallowing Dogs
“Better” they had NOT known

Furthermore,
Start Different:
Secret Agent
work is different

End Different:
Jude *redemptive*
Peter NOT
redemptive

It is a **stretch** too big to make
Jude a **continuation** of 2 Peter 2

Actually, **REVERSE** takes place:
Jude is **TWEAKED** in 2 Peter 2

Prophets in their second jobs



Key Verse 2 Peter 2:9

**The Lord knows how to
rescue the godly from trials
and to hold the unrighteous for
punishment on the day of judgment.**



Alternate Title

Satan's Secret Agents



Parts I & II

Beware of Satan's Secret Agents

Jude 1-4 Secret Agents Pervert Grace

¹ Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ ... to those who have been called, who are loved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ ...

Part I



³ ... compelled to write ... urge you to contend for the faith

⁴ For certain individuals whose condemnation was written about long ago have **SECRETLY SLIPPED IN AMONG YOU**. They are ungodly people, who **pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.**

What is often **OVERLOOKED** or ignored

Is the **CLARITY** of the **DEVIUSNESS** ...

NO mention of False Teachers ... Jude slams **IMMORAL**
Jude **SLAMS PERVERSION** of grace ... denying Christ



Jude 1-4 Secret Agents Pervert Grace

The of **CLARITY** of the **DEVIOUSNESS** ... is easy to see

Hard ... hard to explain ... No one seems to know what to do with these verses

First—Jude and Peter

do **NOT** want a **Spanish Inquisition**

both do **NOT** desire **Salem Witch Trials**

Love & Trust in the Church are so precious

Love & Trust in one's FAMILY are precious **JEWELS**

Yet from the start of the church, for 2,000 years,
we have TWO books that warn of **SABOTEURS**

No accident ... these are motivated by Satan
to degrade the Church and Deny Christ—simple

REST of Jude explains how truly **EVIL** these **SABOTEURS** are





Jude 1-4 Secret Agents Pervert Grace

That is ... what is Jude's purpose?

Verse 3, Jude is “**compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith**” ---- **WHY, WHY, WHY?**

Verse 4, **For certain individuals whose condemnation was written about long ago have SECRETLY SLIPPED IN AMONG YOU.**

They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.

Jude spends the REST of his small book explaining just how **ROTTEN these **SABOTEURS** are**

Noting God's history with such ...

as though the saboteurs were a hopeless inevitability ...

In closing, Jude said, *if they can*, fearfully, **SAVE SOME**





Jude 5-7 God Destroyed Evil

⁵ Though you already know all this ... remind you ... Lord delivered his people out of Egypt, later destroyed those who did not believe.

⁶ And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their proper dwelling—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.

Not sure what this means ...

Fallen Angels—TRULY—yet
“chains” can be spiritual “fetters”

Darkness itself is a “chain”



Fallen-Angel, 1866, engraving by Gustave Doré (1832-83)



Jude 5-7 God Destroyed Evil

⁷ In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an **EXAMPLE** of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire.

Notice:

EXAMPLE for
punishment of
ETERNAL FIRE

Darn serious ...

SEX causes more
trouble than its worth

Perversion yielding an

ETERNAL Death Penalty of FIRE—very, very clearly

Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah by John Martin, 1852





Jude 8-16 Dreamers & Twice Dead Wandering Stars

⁸ In the very same way, on the strength of their dreams these ungodly people pollute their own bodies, reject authority and heap abuse on celestial beings.

⁹ But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not himself dare to condemn him for slander but said, “The Lord rebuke you!”

¹⁰ Yet these people slander whatever they do not understand, and the very things they do understand by instinct—as irrational animals do—will destroy them.

Victory of St. Michael by Raphael (1483-1520)





Jude 8-16 Dreamers & Twice Dead Wandering Stars

¹¹ Woe to them!

**They have taken the way of Cain;
they have rushed for profit into
Balaam's error**

Numbers 22-24, to Balaam's credit, he
REFUSED to lie about God ...

Yet, in Num. 31:16 *and* Rev. 2:14
Balaam "taught" King Balak

**how to entice the Israelites with
food offered to idols & sexual immorality**

Balaam and the Ass, 1626
by Rembrandt van Rijn





Jude 8-16 Dreamers & Twice Dead V

¹¹ they have been destroyed in Korah's Rebellion.

Num. 16, Korah vs. Moses ... *not good*

God sent FIRE to destroy Korah and 250
leaders and chiefs who fought Moses

Dathan and Abiram whined about it ...

God split open the ground ...

good bye Dathan and Abiram

God KILLED those who fought Moses!

At the least ... these *killings* mean **BEWARE**
if you think you want to attack God's anointed

David never faltered there

Death of Korah, Dathan and Abiram
by Gustave Doré, 1865





Jude 8-16 Dreamers & Twice Dead Wandering Stars

Then waxing poetic ...

Jude tears into them

¹² These people are blemishes at your love feasts, eating with you without the slightest qualm—shepherds who feed only themselves.

They are clouds without rain, blown along by the wind; autumn trees, without fruit and uprooted—twice dead.

¹³ They are wild waves of the sea, foaming up their shame; wandering stars, for whom blackest darkness has been reserved forever.





Jude 8-16 Dreamers & Twice Dead Wandering Stars

14-15 Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about them:

“See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones to judge everyone, and to convict all of them of all the ungodly acts they have committed in their ungodliness, and of all the defiant words ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”

Whole is quote from 1 Enoch 1:9

Enoch took from Deut. 33:2: “LORD came from Sinai ... he shined forth from mount Paran, and he came with ten thousands of saints: from his right hand went a fiery law for them.

*“Enoch Taken Up” in 1728 *Figures de la Bible*,
illustrated by Gerard Hoet (1648–1733)*





Jude 8-16 Dreamers & Twice Dead Wandering Stars

¹⁶ These people are discontented grumblers ... their mouths utter arrogant words, flattering people for their own advantage.

So much nicer than Peter ...

Jude 17-19 Predicted – Jesus Predicted Scoffers

¹⁷⁻¹⁸ But you, dear friends, remember what was predicted by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ ... “In the end time there will be scoffers walking according to their own ungodly desires.”

¹⁹ These people create divisions and are unbelievers, not having the Spirit.

Satan's Secret Agents are

hard-working **SABOTUERS**





Jude 20-25 Countered – Build Yourself Up—Pray

20-21 But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

Then Jude is also more redemptive than Peter ... *listen closely:*

22 Be merciful to those who doubt; 23 save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.

Good passage ... and your quarterly links this with 2 Peter ...

However, this is **NOT** in 2 Peter ...

Peter makes no such offer ... extends NO quarter to Secret Agents

Jude extends cautious mercy—with fear—to “snatch” back



Jude 20-25 Countered – Build Yourselves Up—Pray

Jude closes his dear letter with confidence in God

24 To HIM who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy
25 to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

Notice “**WHO**” is able to keep you “from stumbling”—**God!**

Peter in chapter 1 went to great lengths to explain the “great and precious promises,” their participation in God’s eternal life ...

And, if they add to their “Faith ... Love” and have these in abundance, they were PROMISED to be fruitful in ...

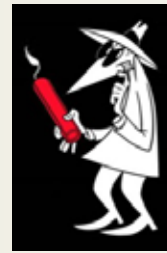
Born-again Knowledge of God

Jude vs. 2 Peter 2

Jude



1:4, secretly slipped in
1:8, blaspheme glorious ones
1:10, blaspheme ... do
not understand
1:16, great swelling words
1:4, condemnation was written
about long ago
1:7, Sodom and Gomorrah
1:9, Archangel Michael ... did not
himself dare to condemn



2 Peter

2:1, secretly bring in
2:10, revile angelic majesties
2:12, reviling ... have
no knowledge,
2:18, great swelling words
1:2-3, judgment now of a long
time lingereth not
2:6, Sodom and Gomorrah
2:11, angels ... do not heap
abuse on such beings

Beware of Satan's Secret Agents



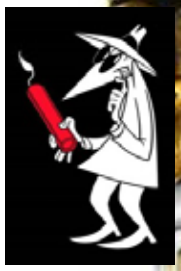
Satan's Secret Agents Part I

Jude 1-4	Secret Agents Pervert Grace
Jude 5-7	God Destroyed Evil
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Satan's Secret Agents Part II

2 Peter 2:1-3	Secret Agents Deny Christ's Work
2 Peter 2:4-9	God Spared Not Angels
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Beware of Satan's Secret Agents

In many ways, Jude introduces us to the *DEVIOUSNESS*

Peter takes *DEVIOUS* to a **HIGHER LEVEL OF HORRIDNESS** ...

Condemning them more seriously ... even LESS redemptively!



Let us recall just a little



False Teaching?

Let's recall just a tad ... an itsy bitsy bit

Three parts to False Teaching already touched

1st – *Book of Enoch* influenced 1st Century

2nd – Church Heresies and Two Church Councils

early church dealt with False Teaching STILL touches us today

3rd – Other Religions *FALSE—NO Living Hope*





1st – Book of Enoch

6th Oct 9, Always Ready, 1 Peter 3:13-22



18-20a Point to Christ's Work – Christ Preached to Spirits

Peter is crystal clear:

Spiritual Realm IS REAL

18 For Christ also suffered for sins for all ... after being put to death in the fleshly realm but made alive in the SPIRITUAL REALM.

19-20 In that state He ... PROCLAMATION TO THE SPIRITS IN PRISON
who in the past were disobedient, when God patiently waited in the days of Noah while an ark was being prepared.

NO ONE questions the “Spiritual Realm”

Yet, in A.D. 100, PART of the Spiritual Realm
came from *Book of Enoch*



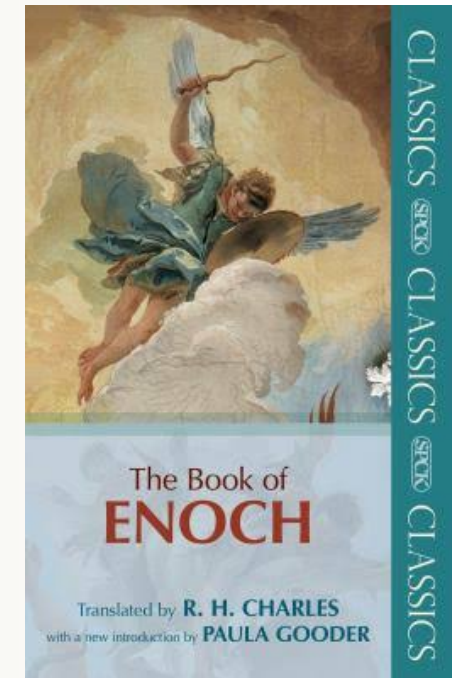
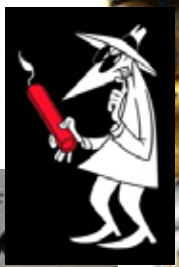
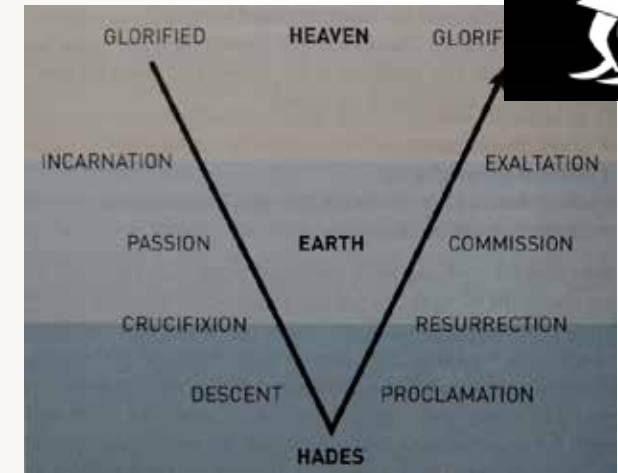
18-20a Point to Christ's Work – Christ Preached to Spirits

Charles Swindoll's view, Jewish Tradition, Large Quarterly are tied—**cosmologically**—to Gen. 6:1-4
“Sons of God” came to women ... and 1 Enoch

One problem is: Sons of God & Nephillim
in 1 Peter are **LIVING TOGETHER**
in the times of **BOTH** Noah and Joshua!

Giants of Nephillim are Large, but not angel-sized
big in Numbers when 12 spies saw Sons of Anak,
who were a part of the Nephillim

1 Peter 3 and Gen. 6 brings into play the
“**Book of Enoch**” or “**1 Enoch**” ... nearly **ALL**
agree that this book influenced Peter and
1st century Judaism (2 & 3 Enoch too—not as much)





18-20a Point to Christ's Work – Christ Preached to Spirits

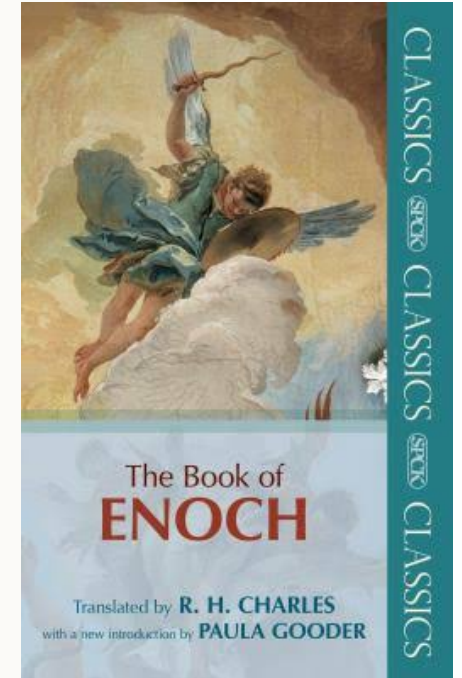


Book of Enoch – five sections, after the first on the fall of the Watchers, remainder describes Enoch's visits to heaven in the form of travels, visions and dreams, and his revelations.

1. **Book of the Watchers**, vv. 1–36, who fathered Nephilim, Giants in Gen. 6 !!!
2. **Parables of Enoch**, vv. 37–71
3. **Astronomical Book**, vv. 72–82, also called Book of the Heavenly Luminaries (frags. in **Dead Sea Scrolls**)
4. **Book of Dream Visions**, vv. 83–90
5. **Epistle of Enoch**, vv. 91–108

And ... to grapple with the Book of Enoch ...

We must look briefly at this extraordinary Man of God





Lineage of Enoch ...

Gen. 4—God curses Cain who flees to Nod, builds city
Adam, at 130, has son, Seth ... in Adam's "own image"

Gen. 5—Seth begets ... begets ... Enoch ...
Enoch "walked with God 300 years"

Enoch is taken up

Enoch > Methuselah > Lamech > Noah @ 500 has 3 sons

Gen. 6—Sons of God (Elohim) married daughters of men
intermarriage between Cainites & Sethites

Heb. 1:7—In speaking of the angels he says,
"He makes his angels spirits."

Matt. 22:30—At resurrection ... neither marry nor are
given in marriage ... we shall be like angels in heaven.



Figures de la Bible
1728 illustrated by
Gerard Hoet



18-20a Point to Christ's Work – Christ Preached to Spirits

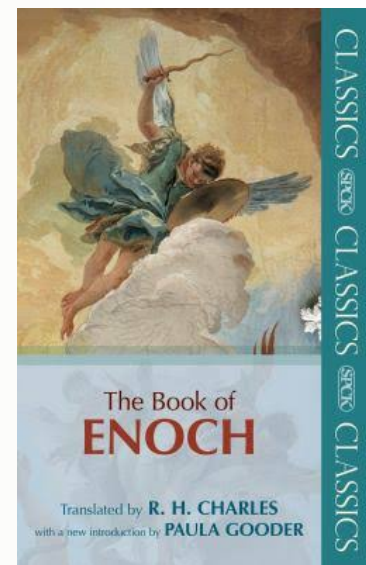


Book of Enoch was accepted in some of church
it provided a LOT of superstition
It provided SOME crude views of cosmology

1 Enoch was **scripture** in Epistle of Barnabas (16:4) and
several Church Fathers

- ✓ Athenagoras
- ✓ Clement of Alexandria
- ✓ Irenaeus & Tertullian

c. A.D. 200



Later Church Fathers denied 1 Enoch – as legend,
like Paul Bunyan and his Blue Ox ... LOT of Superstition

Some wanted to exclude Jude because it quotes from 1 Enoch

POINT: It is **CLEAR** that 2 Peter used Jude
2 Peter & Jude **ARE** Scripture ... *not 1 Enoch*



2nd – Heresies in the Church

Major Heresies crept into the Church



<i>A.D.</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Heresy</i>
100	Docetism	led to Gnosticism ...	Jesus' body ILLUSION , pure spirit
190	Adoptionism	Theodotus	Jesus virtuous man ADOPTED by God
190	Sabellianism	Noetus	Father, Son, Spirit 3 CHARACTERS of 1 God NOT three distinct "persons"
210	Manichaeism	Mani	DUALISM – good & evil equal, material evil
300s	Gnosticism	<i>several kind</i>	DUALISM – material vs. spiritual
380	Apollinarism	Apollinaris	Jesus human body, DIVINE mind
320	Arianism	Arius	Jesus NOT divine, CREATED by Father
430	Monophysitism	Nestorius Patriarch of Constantinople	Christ's divinity DOMINATES human

These are **CHRISTIAN** controversies ... of course, there are others

All Religions NOT accepting Christ are Radically FALSE

Two Church Councils

FOUR Major Councils

- 325 Council of Nicaea
- 381 Council of Constantinople
- 431 Council of Ephesus
- 451 Council of Chalcedon



Council of Nicaea fresco, Sistine Salon, Vatican

let's just look at two

325 Council of Nicaea

- ✓ Constantine called 1,000 Bishops from East, 800 from West
- ✓ Arianism condemned – AFFIRMED Jesus God in the Flesh
- ✓ Ordination – Dignity of Clergy
- ✓ Readmission of those who denied Christ in persecutions
- ✓ Constantine ordered Bibles printed

Two Church Councils

451 – Council of Chalcedon

- ✓ near Byzantium > Constantinople
> Istanbul in Turkey today
- ✓ Reaffirmed prior Three Councils
- ✓ Trinity Confirmed in **STATEMENT** accepted
by **MOST** of the church today

**We ... confess ... our Lord Jesus Christ,
the same perfect in Godhead and also
perfect in manhood; truly God and truly man ...
consubstantial with the Father according to the Godhead, and
consubstantial with us according to the Manhood; in all things like unto
us, without sin; begotten before all ages of the Father according to the
Godhead, and in these latter days ... born of the Virgin Mary ...**

1517 Protestantism and Rise of Baptists in 1700s define MORE



Council of Chalcedon, 1876
by Vasily Ivanovich Surikov

3rd – Other Religions FALSE—No Living Hope

Compare with Islam's Fatalism

- ✓ Islam = “submission” – Muslim = “one who submits”
- ✓ Kabba = House of Allah, Muslims face it for prayers
- ✓ Five Pillars of Islam:
 1. Shahadah – creed & confession
*There is no god but God;
Muhammad is the messenger of God.*
 2. Salat – 5 daily prayers at specific times
 3. Zakkah – almsgiving
 4. Ramadan Fasting – for whole month
 5. Hajj – the pilgrimage to Mecca
- ✓ All is in sync – prayers reflect being IN SYNC with nature
- ✓ ALL is SETTLED with ALLAH *and* they are NOT sure WHAT is settled
- ✓ One's fate/future is dependent upon “will of Allah,” his mercy

Yes, they face a
Black Box!



No *LIVING* HOPE at ALL

Buddhism's Four Noble Truths:



Dharma Wheel
8-fold Path

1. Dukkha: Craving/No Satisfaction = **Life of Pain**
2. Reincarnation: repeated life, Karma, repeated life
Karma = essentially *you GET what you GIVE*
3. Cessation of Pain in attaining Nirvana
Nirvana = “blown out” = freedom of peace
4. Path to Cessation in Nirvana = Eight-fold Path:
 1. Right View in afterlife
 2. Right Resolve, give up home
 3. Right Speech, truth, kindness
 4. Right Conduct, no killing, etc.
 5. Right Livelihood, simple
 6. Right Effort
 7. Right Mind
 8. Right Concentration

5 Hindrances, 7 awakenings



So ... if you Live Bad = **Bad Karma** = **Next Life you're TOAD**

No *LIVING* HOPE at ALL

1 Peter 1:3-5 – Our Living Hope

Worst of all ...

Islam and Buddhism are **WRONG ... Denial = Damnation**

NO TRUTH to their essential beliefs

In America, we believe in freedom of religion ... “right” to be wrong

NATURE of religion is exclusive ... each excludes **ALL OTHERS**

Islam denies divinity of Christ ... Buddhism denies personal God

Judaism is *STILL LOOKING* ... Atheism denies all spirituality

NO HOPE ... No Where

No *LIVING* HOPE at ALL

None have as clear or more beautiful Scriptures

Beware of Satan's Secret Agents



2 Peter uses three words from Jude NOT found elsewhere in N.T.

2 Peter at times appears to IMPROVED upon Jude's language

False Teachers – same purpose as Jude, but for different reasons

Peter more FORCEFULLY condemns False Teachers

2 Peter 2:1-3	Secret Agents Deny Christ's Work
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Part II

2 Peter 2:1-3 – Secret Agents Deny Christ's Work



¹ But there were also **false prophets** among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. **They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who BOUGHT THEM—bringing swift destruction on themselves.**

Like Jude ... even BETTER than Jude

Peter is explicit in **CLARITY** of the **DEVIIOUSNESS**

Peter calls them what they ARE: False Teachers

And worse, these are not just **IMMORAL**

These DENY Christ!—NOTHING worse they can do!!

Those that have the Son have the Life ...

No man comes to the Father but through me ... **NEED MORE?**



2 Peter 2:1-3 – Secret Agents Deny Christ's Work

These are not just *IMMORAL*, yes, they are that, too ...

Peter is NOT Jude ... Peter hammers these *mercilessly*

Peter gives them NO Quarter ... no reprieve ...

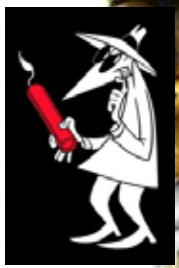
² Many will follow their depraved conduct and will bring the Way of Truth into disrepute.

Peter's Secret Agents are worse ...

³ In their greed these teachers will exploit you with fabricated stories. Their CONDEMNATION has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.

Greed and more to come ... with what “hanging over” them?

Condemnation!



2 Peter 2:1-3 – Secret Agents Deny Christ's Work

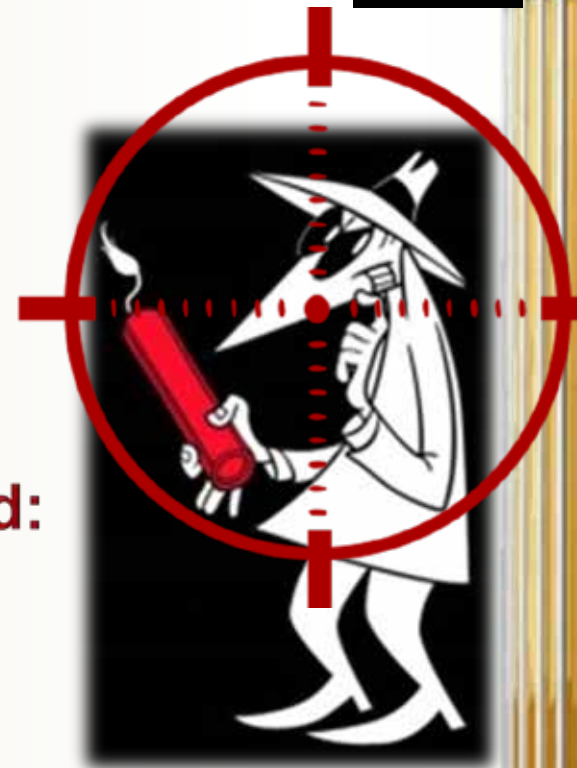
Please notice—there is NO Direct Action for the Christian to even correct, set straight Secret Agents

Except for Jude's redemptive note "snatch" with fear, which is easily directed to followers ... with fear

Peter's Secret Agents are worse ...

Matthew 13:24-29, Jesus said, "Kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: But while he slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat.... Servants, '... gather them up?'

But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.... in harvest I will say ... "Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them...."



2 Peter 2:1-3 – Secret Agents Deny Christ's Work



Unlike Jude, though, Peter has a larger purpose

This is just Chapter 2 of a LARGER letter ...

sandwiched between two stupendous chapters of his Last Farewell

Look at 2 Peter 2 – *it COULD stand alone*

For Peter, part of the BEST
of the Christian life ...

His PRECIOUS Last Words

The Christian LIFE is
so much MORE than

So VERY much MORE
than False Teaching Dogs

Peter's Last Farewell

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| 1. <i>LIVE</i> Your Eternal Life | 1:1-11 |
| 2. Until the Morning Star Rises | 1:12-21 |
| 3. False Prophets—Dog Vomit | 2:1-13 |
| 4. Look for the New Heaven | 3:1-18 |

Secret Agents Perverting Grace ... gonna happen ...

2 Peter 2:1-3 – Secret Agents Deny Christ's Work



Peter INSERTS as part of last testament ...

These, too, are precious words ... hard words ... still precious

Words for adults . . . that even the most seasoned find hard

Of course ... these agents are NOT teenage passion gone astray

nor two adults whose passions swirled afar ...

Nor are these agents adults who, confused, fought the pastor

Nor are they confused PASTORS who miss the “Baptist” truth

Pete wrote LONG before “denominations” existed ...

These ARE words that dig deep into the DEPRAVED mind!

2 Peter 2:1-3 – Secret Agents Deny Christ's Work



Peter INSERTS as part of last testament ...

These, too, are precious words ... hard words ... still precious

Christian ... there are those NOT content to stay home

Christian ... there are those BENT on COMING to you—to *deceive!*

Secret Agents DETERMINED to Pervert the Grace of God

Worse—there's *NOTHING much*, YOU, *Christian can do!*

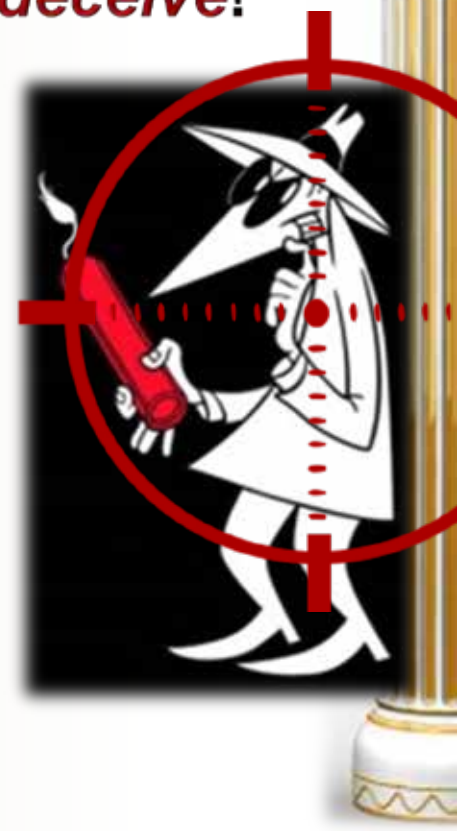
Peter does NOT institute a Spanish Inquisition!

Listen closely to what Peter DOES SAY ...

Precious, even stupendous words ... GOD KNOWS!

Just as in the PAST ... those God does *NOT KILL* Himself

They will be destroyed in and of themselves—all together.



2 Peter 2:4-9 God Spared Not

Peter takes aim

Fires off FOUR salvos

like a Battleship broadside



Peter does *NOT* like false teachers



2 Peter 2:4-9 God Spared Not Angels, Nor Sodom



Peter fires off FOUR salvos of shots ...

Very much like a Battleship firing a broadside ...

1st Salvo is on Angels, Noah, Sodom & Gomorrah ...
with LOT being SAVED

2nd Salvo is on those who curse Angels & blaspheme
like wild crazy rapid animals

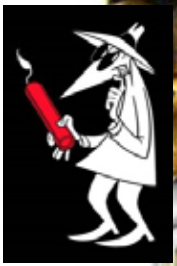
3rd Salvo is on adulterers, seducers, even Balaam-like
angry “shepherds” sold to highest bidder

4th Salvo is to ALL THE ABOVE ... like no other ...

- ❖ far from Jude, Peter BLASTS—it would have been BETTER they had **NEVER KNOWN Christ !**
- ❖ those Mud-wallowing Dogs – *no quarter given*



2 Peter 2:4-9 God Spared Not Angels, Nor Sodom



Peter fires off FIRST Battleship broadside salvo ...

4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them in chains of darkness to be held for judgment;

5 if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others;

6 if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly;

7 and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the depraved conduct of the lawless ⁸ (tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)—

could elaborate on these ... just KNOW ... GOD takes life too

2 Peter 2:4-9 God Spared Not Angels, Nor Sodom



Aahhh ... but know also this, Peter so elegantly forwards,

⁹ if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment.

Indeed God does and will save ... or give courage ...

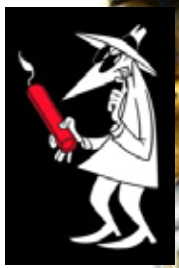
We pray He does ... but Peter's tender elegant message is:

Lord knows how to rescue the godly

And, somewhat contrary to (or less concerned) than Jude, yet STILL in harmony with Jude ... the Lord knows how

to hold the unrighteous for punishment

2 Peter 2:10-13 Blaspheming Like Animals



Peter fires off SECOND Battleship broadside salvo ...

Against those who curse Angels and blaspheme like animals

¹⁰ This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the flesh and despise authority. Bold and arrogant, they are not afraid to heap abuse on celestial beings; ¹¹ yet even ANGELS, although they are stronger and more powerful, do not heap abuse on such beings when bringing judgment on them from the Lord.

¹² But these people blaspheme in matters they do not understand. They are like unreasoning animals, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like animals they too will perish.

¹³ They will be paid back with HARM for the harm they have done.... They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their pleasures while they feast with you.

2 Peter 2:14-16 Adulterer Seducers like Balaam

Peter fires off THIRD Battleship broadside salvo ...

This time against adulterers ... seducers ... even
Balaam-like angry “shepherds” sold to highest bidder

¹⁴ With eyes full of adultery, they never stop sinning; they seduce the unstable; they are experts in greed—an accursed brood!

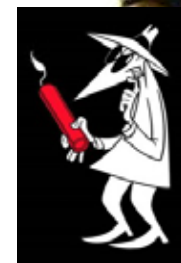
There is clarity here ... these **Secret Agents** are “accursed”

Far from wanting their redemption, Peter values the church

There ARE people we need to be afraid of ...

Message of 2 Peter is that these are Secret Agents,
acting like saints so DRAW the weak away—

foul stinking sneaky birds of PREY!



2 Peter 2:14-16 Adulterer Seducers

Continuing his THIRD broadside salvo ...

15 They have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Bezer, who loved the wages of wickedness.

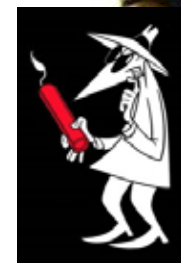
16 But he was rebuked for his wrongdoing by a donkey—an animal without speech—who spoke with a human voice and restrained the prophet's madness.

Rest any doubts you have about God's sense of humor



Balaam and the Ass, 1626
by Rembrandt van Rijn

2 Peter 2:17-22 Entangled Mud-wallowing Dogs



Peter aims his 4th Battleship broadside salvo to **ALL ABOVE**
Who are these Condemned Despicable Secret Agents?

¹⁷ These people are springs without water and mists driven by a storm. Blackest darkness is reserved for them.

¹⁸ For they mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of the flesh, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error.

KJV on v. 18, For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.

No question left—these FINE sounding Secret Agents DECEIVE!

They are *SABOTEURS* HELL-bent to pull away the weak ...

Peter HOLDS NOTHING BACK ... *doesn't like them*

2 Peter 2:17-22 Entangled Mud-wallowing Dogs



Peter continues his 4th salvo to ALL

¹⁹ They promise them [the weak] freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity—for “people are slaves to whatever has mastered them.”

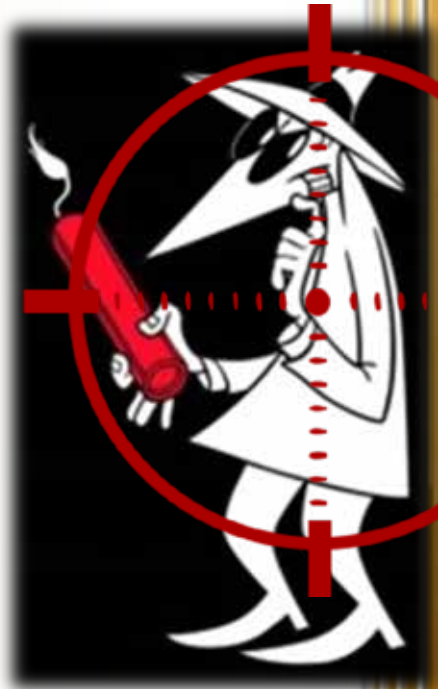
Against ALL the New Testament ...

Against ALL the principles of Selfless Love ...

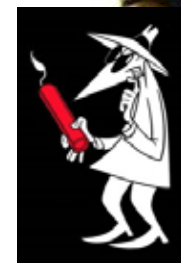
Against ALL the good in Christ ...

These most Despicable Secret Agents go after the weak ...

These are, indeed and truth, **Satan's Secret Agents** ...



2 Peter 2:17-22 Entangled Mud-wallowing Dogs



Peter finishes his 4th broadside salvo to ALL

These are Condemned Despicable Secret Agents ...

Lastly ... most severely ...

²⁰ If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and are overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning.

²¹ It would have been better for them not to have known The Way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them. ²² Of them the proverbs are true: “A dog returns to its vomit,” and, “A sow that is washed returns to her wallowing in the mud.”

Ohhh ... Peter is so elegant in his clarity!

2 Peter 2:17-22 Entangled Mud-wallowing Dogs



Peter—so elegant in his clarity ... yes, indeed and truth

There are SOME so despicable ... it is better

It is better they had NEVER KNOWN the Truth of Christ ...

Now ... what Peter did NOT say ...

- ✓ **Peter NEVER asks us to identify the Secret Agents**
- ✓ **Peter NEVER said there was anyone NOT redeemable**
- ✓ **Peter NEVER said there was NO HOPE for the weak**
- ✓ **Peter NEVER said this applied to mere disagreements on, say, the number of deacons, the color of carpet ...**
- ✓ **Peter NEVER said all will be PERFECT**
- ✓ **Peter NEVER said ALL Disagreement is wrong**
- ✓ **Peter NEVER said that all days would be pleasant sailing**

2 Peter 2:17-22 Entangled Mud-wallowing Dogs



Peter—so elegant in his clarity ...

even elegant in what Peter does NOT SAY

Rather ... what he said *before* & *after* chapter 2

Christian strategy against ALL Secret Agents is:

- ✓ Look to the Precious Promises
- ✓ LIVE the Christian Life ... Pray – Love – Serve
- ✓ Add to Faith ... character traits—*add to all LOVE*
- ✓ Living Hope ... if all these be *increasing* ... we will be most profitable in KNOWLEDGE of God

In Christian *LIVING* ...

the *Secret Agent fails* ...



2 Peter 2:17-22 Entangled Mud-wallowing Dogs



And I cannot help but think ...

We are so quiet these days ...

Dare a preacher challenge ANY false belief?

Perhaps ... just perhaps ...

Peter may have penned that fateful song ...

Instead of Simon and Garfunkel ... in 1964 ...

**Perhaps Peter wrote these wrote
these words too ...**





**Hello darkness, my old friend
I've come to talk with you again
Because a vision softly creeping
Left its seeds while I was sleeping
And the vision that was planted in my brain
Still remains ... Within the sound of silence
In restless dreams I walked alone
Narrow streets of cobblestone**





'Neath the halo of a streetlamp
I turned my collar to the cold and damp
When my eyes were stabbed by the
flash of a neon light

That split the night
And touched the sound of silence
And in the naked light I saw
Ten thousand people, maybe more





People talking without speaking
People hearing without listening

People writing songs that voices never share
No one dare ... Disturb the sound of silence

"Fools" said I, "You do not know
Silence like a cancer grows

Hear my words that I might teach you
Take my arms that I might reach you"
But my words like silent raindrops fell
And echoed in the wells of silence



FBC Woodville
Sunday School Class
Michael G. Maness
see
PreciousHeart.net/SS



All the Agents of Evil

Cannot Prevail Against

the Smallest Christian who

Mightily Loves God