

Memory Verse

Jude 2

May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to
you.

GRACELIFE



CHURCH

JUDE

**Defend the Faith,
Grow in Grace**

**Pt. 1 – Introduction and
Importance for Today**

This is a little book with a big punch!

I want to *give principles* for you to learn how to spot false teachers and their teaching by *equipping you with truth!* I will **get specific**, and want you to *learn and discern* what to beware of in any group, church, ministry, pastor, teacher, etc. These principles are needed, not just *discerning theology*, but in life.

A. Summary

The prince and the power of the air, the god of this age, the devil, is the father of lies is **real!** But many Christians neglect, or forget, that there are ***false teachers in the church***. These range from the ***overt false teachers and their teaching***, to ***covert false teachers and their teaching***. The **only way** to be protected against lies, is to **know the truth**.

A. Summary

There is a *connection between Jude and 2 Peter*. Some believe Jude wrote first, and Peter borrowed from him, and others say Peter wrote first and Jude borrowed from him. It could be *these examples given were widely known in Israel*, so **both** Peter and Jude used them. Either way, *both wrote about false teachers*. Peter **warns of them coming**, and Jude says **they are here!**

A. Summary

One reason why *Jude*, and *other Scripture* were written is to *warn believers about false teachers*. Jude pulls no punches when it comes to *exposing these individuals*, and uses amazing illustrations to explain their character, motivations, and teaching. They are *clouds without water* and *trees without fruit* in verse 12. He uses **sets of 3's**.

Jude 1, 2, 4, 8 and more.

B. Jude's Name and Date of Writing

1. Jude's Name

The Greek word is "*Judas*," but because of Judas Iscariot, his *name was shortened* to Jude. "*Judas*" was a common name in *first century Israel*. Historically, it went back a few hundred years to the time known as the Maccabean revolt. The *Maccabees rejected the influence of Greece, Greek culture and language* and more.

B. Jude's Name and Date of Writing

There are 6 men named Judas in the New Testament. There was an Apostle named Judas, or Thaddeus (*Luke 6:16, John 14:22, Acts 1:13*) and some in church history say he wrote this letter. It is more likely the **writer is the brother of Jesus**, because the writer does not claim Apostolic authority, so it wasn't the Apostle Judas.

Mark 6:1-3 - Jesus went out from there and came into His hometown; and His disciples followed Him. 2When the Sabbath came, He began to teach in the synagogue; and the many listeners were astonished, saying, "Where did this man *get* these things, and what is *this* wisdom given to Him, and such miracles as these performed by His hands? 3"Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, and brother of James and Joses and **Judas** and Simon? Are not His sisters here with us?" And they took offense at Him.

B. Jude's Name and Date of Writing

John 7:5 says none of Jesus brothers believed in Him! *Mark 3:21* says His family thought He was out of His mind! The writer of James, also His brother and pillar in the early Jewish Assembly, and Jude, *did not trust in their brother as their Lord and Savior until after His resurrection.*

Judas, or Jude, *believed in Him and wrote this epistle.*

B. Jude's Name and Date of Writing

2. Date of Writing

There is *no indication of the specific date of writing*. He does **not mention** the fall of Jerusalem and the Temple, which occurred in **70AD!** *If* it was written after that, it is **very odd** he does not mention it. Scholars estimate this was written *between 60-70AD*, between 30-40 years after Jesus.

C. Outline

1-2 - Greetings

3-4 - Warning about False Teachers

5-7 - God's Judgment on Sinners

8-16 - God's Judgment on False Teachers

17-23 - Grow in Grace

24-25 - Doxology

D. Why is This Important Today

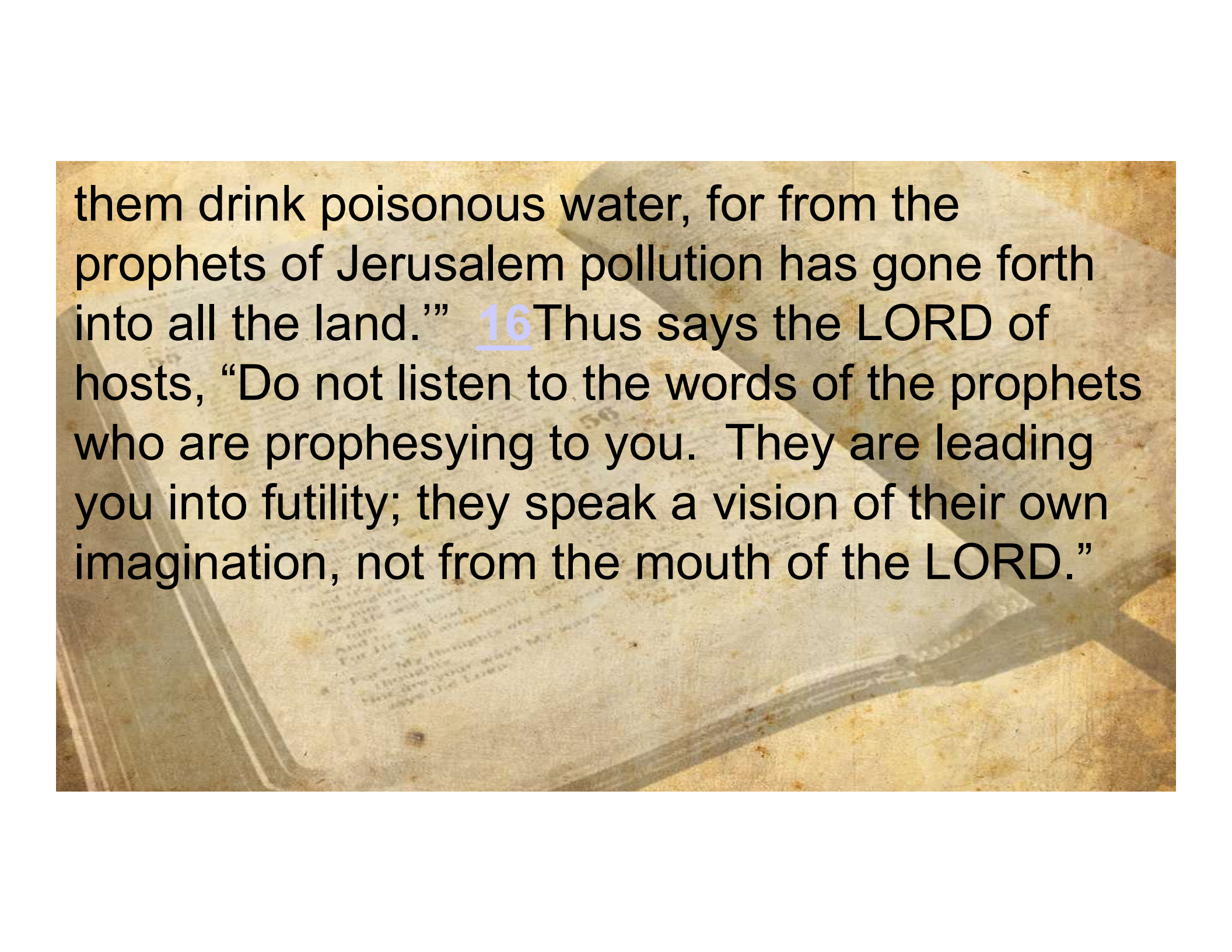
What we will discuss goes against the grain of much of what we hear in the world and church. Many say, "Don't judge or you will be judged," taking out of context *Matthew 7:1*. While we are **never** to **judge self-righteously**, Jesus calls us to make righteous judgments (*John 7:24*), particularly about Biblical truth.

D. Why is This Important Today

Judging righteous judgment is deciding to say and do what God says is right and doing it His way. It is about *choosing one thing over another thing*.

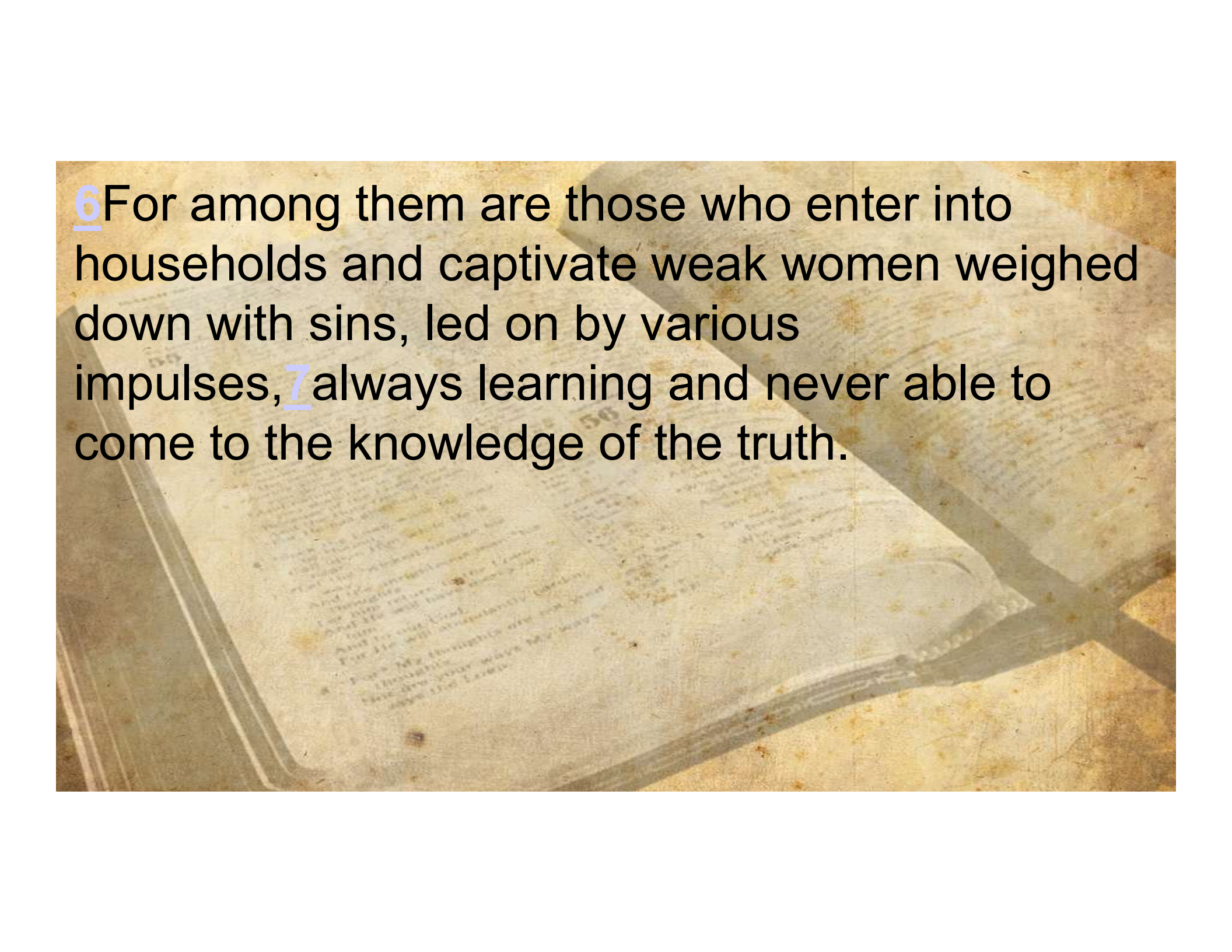
Deuteronomy 13, 18:20-22, Jeremiah 23, Ezekiel 13, Matthew 23, Galatians 1:6-9, 1 Timothy 6:3-10, 2 Timothy 3:1-9, Titus 1:10-16, 2 Peter 2, 1 John 4:1-6, and more are very clear!

Jeremiah 23:9-24 – Selected verses: 14“Also among the prophets of Jerusalem I have seen a horrible thing: The committing of adultery and walking in falsehood; and they strengthen the hands of evildoers, so that no one has turned back from his wickedness. All of them have become to Me like Sodom, and her inhabitants like Gomorrah. 15“Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts concerning the prophets, ‘Behold, I am going to feed them wormwood and make



them drink poisonous water, for from the prophets of Jerusalem pollution has gone forth into all the land.” **16** Thus says the LORD of hosts, “Do not listen to the words of the prophets who are prophesying to you. They are leading you into futility; they speak a vision of their own imagination, not from the mouth of the LORD.”

2 Timothy 3:1-9 - But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. 2For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, 4treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5**holding to a form of godliness**, although they have denied its power; avoid such men as these.

An open, aged book with yellowed pages and visible text. The book is laid flat, and the text is overlaid on the pages. The text is in a serif font, with the first letter of each line being a large, blue, underlined number. The background is a soft, warm light, suggesting a window or a lamp. The book's spine is visible in the center, and the pages are slightly curved. The overall tone is historical and scholarly.

6For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses, 7always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

D. Why is This Important Today

God is **very serious** about *false prophets* and *those who proclaim lies as truth*. Sadly, we have lost this in the church, because we want to be “*tolerant, inclusive, and don't want to say anyone is a false teacher.*” While some discernment ministries go too far, we *cannot let excess overshadow the fact that we must call out false teachers and their teaching.*

D. Why is This Important Today

Caution!

There are **times** to speak up and there are **times** to shut up, and wisdom is needed. *Discernment must be based in love.* Love for God, love for people, love for the truth and truth said in a *loving but uncompromising way.* Love warns of error, and we spot lies by knowing the truth.

D. Why is This Important Today

This is **not** about secondary or tertiary issues. There have been and will be disagreements about church government, ones view of Melchizedek, or the sons of God in *Genesis 6*, or spiritual gifts, *unless someone takes it to a heretical point*. There are things we can **disagree on, discuss, or debate**, but not **divide over**. I'm talking about *primary things...*

D. Why is This Important Today

This is not "*balancing*" grace and truth, but having **both**, because that is what it means to be like Christ. *John 1:14* says He was *FULL* of *grace and truth*. He was both **full of grace** and **full of truth**! If we are to *become more like Christ*, some of us need to understand God's grace more. Others need to understand God's truth more. **All of us** *need to understand His grace and truth more.*