

Fullness of Time
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The Egyptians too had been terrified at the spectacle of the flaming mountain and the tidal wave. But when they saw the Hebrews making their way across the sea, they started after them again. With shouts and cracks of their long whips they drove their horses on, down to the shore of the sea, down to where the rocks of the sea's floor lay bare behind the great wave.

But just as they had reached the very middle of the sea, just as the terrified Hebrews saw them coming on, the mountain shuddered, shooting blazing coals into the dark sky. The earth swayed, and the great wave of water turned and came swirling back upon them.

For a few minutes the dark water was filled with struggling movement, while horses and men were rolled over and over by the might of the water's strength. Man and beast cried out and struggled for a moment before they were buried in the depth of the sea. Where they had been there was nothing.

Moses turned to the people. "Give thanks to God!" he cried. "Give thanks to God!"

Then everywhere throughout the throng the people echoed the words that Moses said, until what he said was like a great song that burst forth from a hundred throats.

*I will sing unto the Lord,
for He hath triumphed gloriously:
the horse and his rider He hath thrown
into the midst of the sea.*

Again and again they sang it.

*The Lord is my strength and my song,
and He is become my salvation.
The Lord is a man of war;
the Lord is His name.
Pharoah's chariots and his host
hath He cast into the sea;
his chosen captains also
are drowned in the Red Sea.
The depths have covered them:
they sank into the bottom as a stone.
Thy right hand, O Lord,
is become glorious in power;
Thy right hand, O Lord,
hath dashed in pieces the enemy.*

Again and again they sang it, for no one slept all the night through.

And at last Miriam, the sister of Moses, took timbrel in her hand and began to dance, and other women of the camp danced with her. They danced until the morning sent long fingers of light across the eastern sky.

Text: Jude 1: 1-25 ASV

Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are called, beloved in God the Father, and kept for Jesus Christ: Mercy unto you and peace and love be multiplied.

Beloved, while I was giving all diligence to write unto you of our common salvation, I was constrained to write unto you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in privily, even they who were of old written of beforehand unto this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. Now I desire to put you in

remembrance, though ye know all things once for all, that the Lord, having saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not. And angels that kept not their own principality, but left their proper habitation, he hath kept in everlasting bonds under darkness unto the judgment of the great day. Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them, having in like manner with these given themselves over to fornication and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the punishment of eternal fire.

Yet in like manner these also in their dreamings defile the flesh, and set at nought dominion, and rail at dignities. But Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing judgment, but said, The Lord rebuke thee. But these rail at whatsoever things they know not: and what they understand naturally, like the creatures without reason, in these things are they destroyed. Woe unto them! For they went in the way of Cain, and ran riotously in the error of Balaam for hire, and perished in the gainsaying of Korah. These are they who are hidden rocks in your love-feasts when they feast with you, shepherds that without fear feed themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn leaves without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots; Wild waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, for whom the blackness of darkness hath been reserved for ever. And to these also Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, Behold, the Lord came with ten thousands of his holy ones, to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their works of ungodliness which they have ungodly wrought, and of all the hard things which ungodly sinners have spoken against him. These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their lusts (and their mouth speaketh great swelling words), showing respect of persons for the sake of advantage. But ye, beloved, remember ye the words which have been spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; That they said to you, In the last time there shall be mockers, walking after their own ungodly lusts. These are they who make separations,

sensual, having not the Spirit. But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And on some have mercy, who are in doubt; and some save, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh. Now unto him that is able to guard you from stumbling, and to set you before the presence of his glory without blemish in exceeding joy, to the only God our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and power, before all time, and now, and for evermore. Amen.

Family and neighbors took offence with Jesus' teachings. The Gospel of Matthew reminds us, by the sea of Tiberias, Jesus spoke to great multitudes in parables; because seeing they see not, and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joseph, and Simon, and Judas? His sisters, are they not all with us (Matthew 13: 55-56 ASV)? The Gospel of Mark adds; And they were offended in him (Mark 6: 3 ASV). The Jews took up stones again to stone him. Jesus answered, Many good works have I showed you from the Father; for which of those works do ye stone me? The Jews answered him, For a good work we stone thee not, but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God (John 10: 31-33 ASV). But the seed was planted. You just read what Jesus' youngest brother wrote after His death and resurrection. Judas saw signs and repented choosing divine destiny. He understood!

Have you seen Florida folk walk on the floor of Tampa Bay on the television? What act of God made that possible? Did a hurricane cause the water to drain from the bay and come rushing back more deep than usual? The Lord uses natural phenomena along with the Holy Spirit to engage your faith. He is still teaching with parables. Do you understand the Fullness of Time?