WHOM HE SAVED, HE DESTROYED

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INTRODUCTION

A. TEXT: "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." (Jude 5).

B. SETTING:

- 1. This is a very graphic warning to those who have been saved by God, not to so live as to be destroyed by God.
- 2. We hear much today about the Love and Grace of God...and we should.
- 3. But...we cannot afford to overlook the justice and judgment of God.
- 4. Remember the words of the Holy Spirit through Paul: "Behold then the goodness and severity of God; toward them that fell, severity; but toward thee, God's goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off." (Romans 11:22).

A PARADOX

A. IS THIS A CONTRADICTION OR A PARADOX?

- 1. How can God both Save and Destroy the same people?
- 2. Did He do it at the same time, or at different times.
- B. THE DOCTRINE OF "ONCE SAVED, ALWAYS SAVED".
 - 1. How can it be in view of Jude's warning?\
 - 2. Same thing taught by Paul in <u>I Cor. 10.</u> (See more later)
- C. TWO QUESTIONS....ANSWER GIVEN.
 - 1. Can God Destroy?
 - a. People don't like to think about this.
 - b. Like those described by Peter; "They wilfully forget" (II Pet. 3;5).
 - c. Answer—seen in what happened to Israel.
 - 2. CAN GOD SAVE?
 - a. The obvious answer in the illustration given...The deliverance of the children of Israel.
 - b. People like to remember and talk about the Saving Power of God.

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HOW GOD SAVED

A. THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL.

- 1. Out of Egyptian Bondage.
- 2. They were slaves and without power, to save themselves.
- 3. God heard their cry....Saw their need.
- 4. God so loved them that he saved them (Hosea 11:1, 4). "When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.....I drew them with cords of a man, with bands of love: and I was to them as they that lift up the yoke on their jaws; and I laid food before them."

B. GOD SAVED US - THE ONES TO WHOM JUDE WROTE.

- 1. Out of the Bondage of sin. Power of Darkness (Col. 1:13).
- 2. We were slaves, and without the power to defeat Satan and save our self.
- 3. God heard our cry....saw our need; "..ye were at that time separate from Christ, alienated from the common wealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of the promise, having no hope and without God in the world." (Eph. 2:12).
- 4. God so love us....John 3:16.

C. AS ISRAEL OBEYED AND FOLLOWED THEY WERE SAVED.

- 1. As we obey God (Heb. 5:9).. "he became unto all them that obey him the author of eternal salvation."
- 2. "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." (Luke 9:23).

JUDE'S POINT

A. GOD DESTROYED THOSE WHOM HE HAD SAVED!

- 1. Our Question Why Did He Destroy Them??
- 2. If He loved them....And He did...How could He then Destroy Then???

B. THE ANSWER GIVEN BY THE WRITER OF HEBREWS.

- 1. "For who, when they heard, did provoke? Nay, did not all they that came out of Egypt by Moses? And with whom was he displeased forty years? Was it not with them that sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that were disobedient? And we see that they were not able to enter in because of unbelief." (Heb. 3;16-19)
- 2. DISOBEDIENT....UNBELIEF caused them to be destroyed.

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OUR WARNING

- A. THIS WAS WRITTEN TO CHRISTIANS...Those Whom God had Saved.
 - 1. It is obvious that some were in danger of being destroyed.
 - 2. Look at the list of things given that would cause one to be destroyed.
- B. THESE EXAMPLES GIVE US A WARNING TODAY.
 - 1. Angels that sinned...v. 6.
 - 2. Sodom and Gomorrah fornication v. 7.
 - 3. Those who defile the flesh and rail at dignities.
 - 4. Cain, the sin of Balaam, v. 11.
 - 5. Korah tried to lead Israel against Moses (Divide into groups).
 - 6. Our example, "written for our admonition," (I Cor. 10:11).

CONCLUSION

- A. BECAUSE GOD DESTROYED THE DISOBEDIENT WE SHOULD....
 - 1. "Contend earnestly for the faith" v. 3.
 - 2. Be constantly reminded of those He Destroyed v. 5.
- B. GOD CAN- AND DOES DESTROY THOSE WHOM HE LOVES.
 - 1. In <u>Hosea 11:1, 4</u>; we read of God's love for Israel.
 - 2. The in verse 8; "How shall I give thee up, Ephraim? How shall I cast thee off, Israel? ...my heart is turned within me, my compassions are kindled together." God wept over Israel!!
- C. "O Israel, return unto Jehovah thy God for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity. Take with you words, and return unto Jehovah; say unto him, Take away all iniquity and accept that which is good; so will we render as bullocks the offering of our lips." (Hosea 14:1-2).
 - 1. All that God asked them to do was to say "I'm sorry...."
 - 2. "I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely; for mine anger is turned away from him. I will be as the dew unto Israel; he shall blossom as the lily, and cast forth his roots as Lebanon....." (Hosea 14:4-8).
- D. Never had so many been offered so much...for so little...and they turned it down!!
 - 1. God loved themSaved Them!
 - 2. They left God.... "Disobedient, Unbelief... And God Destroyed Them!
 - 3. Where Are We Today??