## EARNESTLY CONTEND FOR THE FAITH WHICH WAS ONCE DELIVERED UNTO THE SAINTS, JUDE 3

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## THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM – RESTORATION TO WALK AND LIVE IN CHRIST

Isaiah 1:26, "And I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counsellors as at the beginning: afterward thou shalt be called, The city of righteousness, the faithful city."

The Lord "downloaded" this verse of Scripture to my spirit very early Sunday morning. It woke me up and as He began to impart revelation and understanding to me, I knew I needed to get up and record what He was showing me so that I wouldn't miss even the slightest detail. It was awesome!

I'm sharing this with you just as I received it from the Lord along with Scriptural confirmations.

This verse is paramount to understanding more fully God's plan and strategy for His children to live victoriously, productive, and as instruments of righteousness while here on earth in the midst of a fallen, perverse, and wicked world system, that others may be delivered and that He may be glorified in them.

In order to authenticate a vision, a revelation, or a dream, its context and relevance to other aspects and teachings of God's Word must be considered or it stands in danger of being from "another spirit" and developing into false teaching and "doctrines of devils" deceiving God's people by attractive lies. All of God's Word is relevant in some form, every "jot and title" and is extremely important to the whole.

Isaiah chapter one reveals the rebelliousness of God's people Israel and chapter two speaks of the kingdom of God being triumphant in times of great evil and rebelliousness as the "Day of the Lord" approaches. Chapter three then reveals the coming judgment of the Lord and God bringing judgment or true justice to deliver His people and His creation from all evil... etc. forever. Hallelujah!

How does this passage and teaching relate to us today? (Gal 3:29)

Isaiah 1:26 speaks of restoring God's government system for His people before they petitioned Him that they might have a "kingdom" and an earthly "king" like the other nations of the world. This kingdom is to be headed up by the Messiah (vs 24) and begins with the first advent of Jesus Christ (cf. Isa 32:1-2).

Isaiah 1:24 (..."I will ease me of mine adversaries") refers to Christ being "eased" and "comforted" and "joyed" at the most victorious results of His redemptive, sacrificial death, and resurrection with power, victory, and authority over the powers of darkness, evil, Satan, and the world (Heb 12:2).

Vs 24 (... "and avenge me of mine enemies") refers to Christ's obvious hatred and vengeance against corruption, evil, and injustice in warring against them and in destroying the works of the devil (1Jo 3:8) by preaching the gospel of the kingdom, casting out demons, and healing all manner of sickness and disease among the people (Mt 4:23), and in equipping His followers to do the same (Lu 9:2; 10:19).

Vs 25 ("I will turn my hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy tin"), reveals on the one hand, the enormous compassion of our Lord displayed in the fullness and power of salvation. On the other hand, it reveals that the walk of the believer with Christ must be a holy walk, a righteous walk, and will be tested and tried to purify, settle, and establish the believer in true holiness without which no man shall see God (Heb 12:14; Rev 3:19; Mal 3:1-3; Mt 3:11-12; 1Co 10:13).

Vs 24-26 Reveal Jesus bringing and manifesting His kingship and kingdom on earth beginning at His first advent, ministry, sacrificial death, and subsequent resurrection from the dead with great power. Now in vs 26 the Word of God reveals the divine plan and strategy to care for, establish, and equip His followers for the continuance of the work of Christ on earth while waiting for His second coming (cf. John 17).

Isa 32:1-2 "Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in judgment. And a man (King Jesus) shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land." This kingdom which is "not of this world" is fully operative today on earth with great power in the lives of faithful children of God (cf. Isa 1:26).

Vs 26 (..." I will restore thy judges as at the first") Judges here represent the original apostles, prophets, kings, and chosen vessels of God who wrote the inspired Word of God in both the Old and the New Testaments. It actually refers to the unchangeable, inerrant Word of God Itself (John 12:48; 2Pe 1:21).

Vs 26 ("... and... counsellors as at the beginning") Counsellors here represent genuinely Holy Spirit baptized and called of God men and women who operate in the anointing of the five-fold ministry gifts (Eph 4:10-16) who are committed to Christ and His Word, originally delivered to the saints (Jude 1:3).

Vs 26 The word "afterward" now turns our attention ahead to the events concerning the second coming of Christ when Christ shall come with great power and glory to pour out God's wrath to destroy evil and this wicked world system. He will then set up His kingdom headquarters in Jerusalem and begin His rulership over all the kingdoms of this world, using His faithful followers to reign with Him.

The rapture described in 1Th 4:13-18 delivers the faithful and obedient child of God from God's fierce wrath (1Th 5:9) described in Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week (Da 9:27), (the seven year tribulation period) where God will purge the earth with indescribable righteous indignation stated as so terrible that if the time were not shortened no flesh could stand (Rev 4-19). God's people are to manifest the kingdom of God on earth until caught up in the rapture. 1Th 4:13-(18) "Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

Vs 26 ("afterward thou shalt be called, The city of righteousness, the faithful city") The terms here describing a city refer to Jerusalem or the holy city. Jerusalem, today of course, is far from righteous and is just as wicked as any other city and people of the world. Numerous times in OT passages when Jerusalem is mentioned the context will also include the people (Judah and/or Israel) with the city. We understand then that when Jerusalem and the inhabitants are considered righteous and faithful, that could only mean (after the end time) when Christ has set up His earthly rule in the city of Jerusalem.

Vs 27 The word "Zion" also means "the city of God" – "the city of David" – "the people of God," it also includes those who accept Christ during the tribulation period who shall suffer severe persecution and martyrdom during that time. The city will be purged and cleansed at Christ's second coming.

Vs 28 clearly says that disobedient believers, sinners, and those who forsake the Lord will be consumed by God's just wrath at Christ's second coming. Jesus says, "Be of good cheer." 1Jo 5:4 "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."