

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH  
IN THESE LAST DAYS

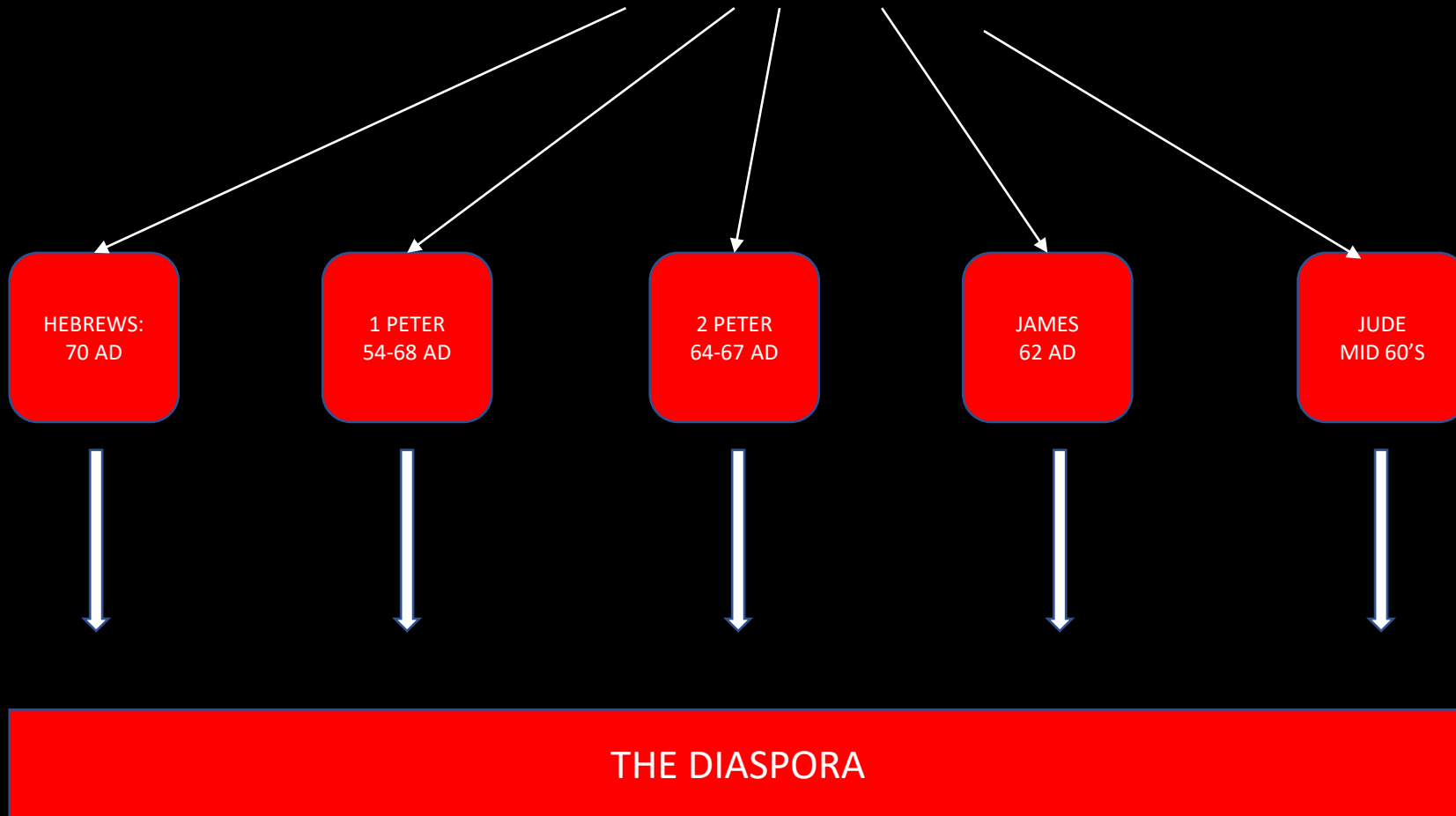
VERSE BY VERSE STUDY

JUDE

AUGUST 2021

SESSION IV

# THE JEWISH EPISTLES



# ARC OF TIME

## THE CHURCH AGE: REVELATION 2-3

EPHESUS

SMYRNA

PERGAMOS

THYATIRA

SARDIS

PHILADELPHIA

LAODICEA

APOSTOLIC CHURCH  
30-100 AD

PERSECUTED CHURCH  
100-313 AD

ROMAN EMPIRE CHURCH  
313-600 AD

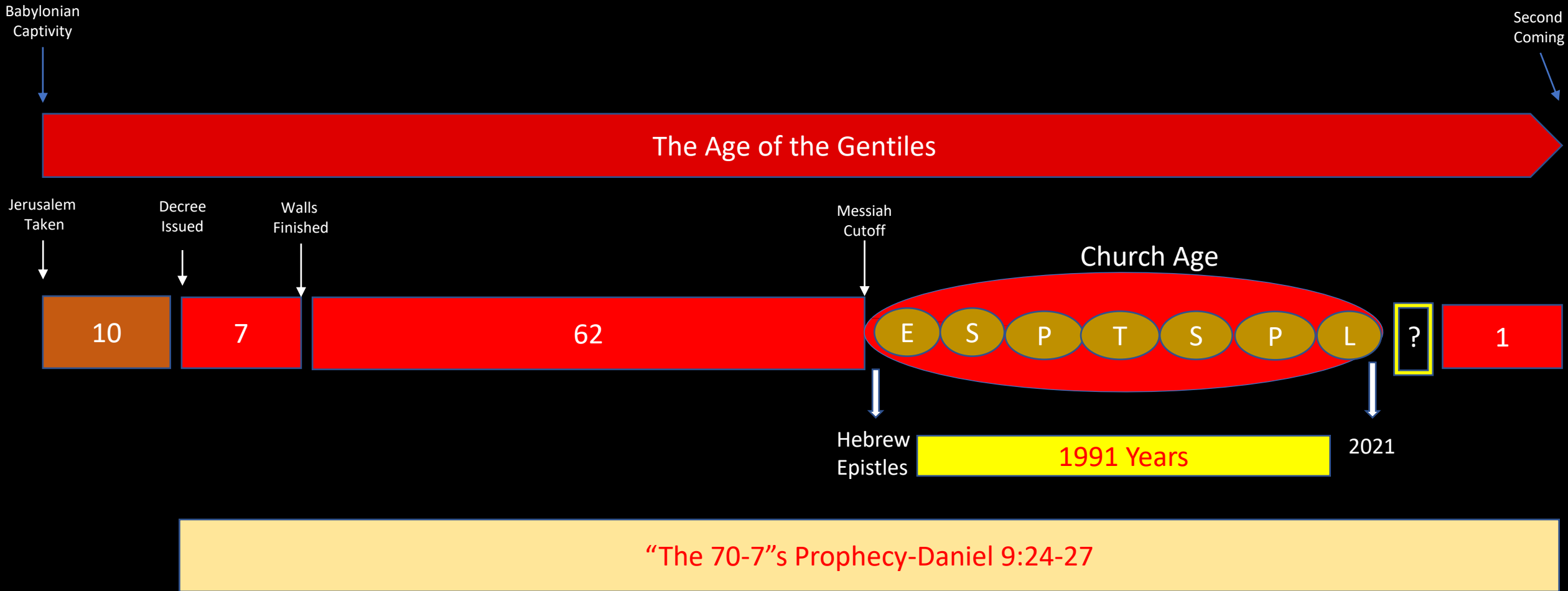
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH  
600-1517 AD

REFORMATION CHURCH  
1517-1648 AD

MISSIONARY CHURCH  
1648-1900 A D

APOSTATE CHURCH  
1900-? AD

# Arc Of Time: The Times of Jacob's Troubles



# Scripture Forewarning!

- **The Time of the End**
  - The battle would intensify exponentially
  - That indeed the Grace Changers would appear to have gained the victory:
  - But fear not: because this too is part of God's plan.
  - Remember the Church is the battleground and in the battle is where the soldiers of Christ and the false will manifest themselves.
    - A question which came to me. "How do you know who's who within the church?"
    - The answer: "By how they engage or not engage this battle."
- **This is what Jude is all about: Jude gives us, the true children of God clues as to what to look for**

# Jude's Corollary: The False Teachers:

- They are forever stirring up discontent within the congregation
- They tell us we are missing something God has for us
- And untrained minds begin to consider their words while forgetting scripture
- The Bible teaches believers that we have everything we need in the reality of what we receive in Jesus Christ
  - <sup>2</sup> Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, <sup>3</sup> as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, (2 Pet. 1:2-3 NKJ)

# Impact

- **Their impact in the Church:**
  - They come in or rise up:
  - Ridicule; disparage what the church and her leaders are trying to do.
  - Come in or rise up to assert their own agenda, which has at its base their prime directive of feeding themselves rather than feeding the flock..
  - Like true false teachers, they see the flock not as an entity that needs to be fed and cared for, but as a food supply.
  - Seek to change the course and direction of the course the church is traveling.
  - They come with big promises but never deliver
  - Rock the church with scandal after scandal.
  - When they have done their work, they just move on.
- **And in the end what is their work?**
  - To discourage the flock, to discourage the leadership and thus cause a course change
  - And thus, they make shipwreck of the faith of some and many times even make shipwreck the vision of the church.

# Final Session: Red Flags & Response

- Tenth Triad

- **NKJ Jude 1:16** These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling *words*, flattering people to gain advantage.
  - **Grumbler/Murmurers:** “a soft, indistinct sound made by a person or group of people speaking quietly or at a distance.”
    - The Pharisees grumbled in the presence of Jesus
      - **KJV John 6:41** The Jews then murmured at him, because he said, I am the bread which came down from heaven. (Jn. 6:41 KJV)
      - These men claimed to be teachers of God’s word yet murmured against true teachers
    - The Israelites murmured in the wilderness
      - **KJV Numbers 16:41** But on the morrow all the congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron, saying, Ye have killed the people of the LORD.
  - A uniquely Jewish insult in scripture intended to convey a lack of faith in God’s word.



# Tenth Triad (Continued)

- **Complainers:**
  - **Fault finders who complain about their situation**
  - **Specifically: they complain about not being free to pursue their own lusts and desires.**
  - **They find fault and complain about teachers who challenge either or both their teachings and lifestyle.**
  - **Like children who complain about rules they don't like.**
  - **Always seem to find a reason for being critical of leadership and direction or doctrine of the church.**

# Tenth Triad (Continued)

- **Arrogant Speaking**
  - Literally means ‘of excessive weight or size’
  - They speak in excessive ways
  - This is done to flatter people in the church to gain an advantage.
  - The flattery is a device which is used to gain the trust and attraction of others within the church and once that has taken place they now begin to subtly manipulate others to their position by discrediting those they are secretly opposing.
- **Two Kinds of Lies:**
  - **Flattery:** They don't mean what they say its just a tool they use to manipulate
  - **Slander or Gossip:**

**“Now at this point in his letter, Jude has described these men in multiple levels of detail .The church is aware of their presence, their nature, their methods, their motivations, and their fate .The church no longer has any excuse for defending themselves and removing the false teachers’ influence. The question is whether they will have the courage to do so. Some will, but others will waver and may not have the spiritual maturity to see things as truly .We see that problem in the church today While some Christians are wise enough to recognize the false teachers on TV and in our local churches... Others are taken in by their smooth words .”**

**Stephen Armstrong**

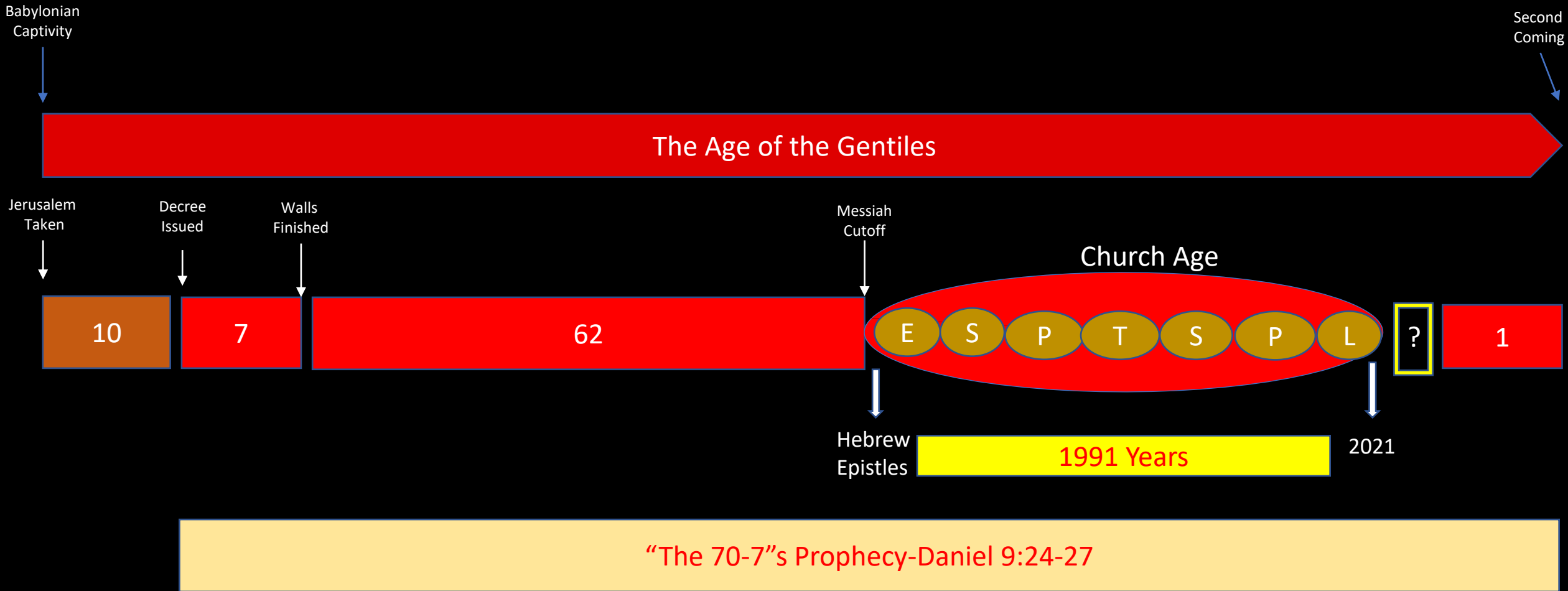
# Jude's Final Appeal (Eleventh Triad)

- <sup>17</sup> But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: <sup>18</sup> how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts. <sup>19</sup> These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit. (Jude 1:17-19 NKJ)
  - Completely driven by the lusts of the flesh
  - They are out to cause divisions within the body
  - They are unbelievers.
- NKJ **2 Peter 3:1** Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in *both of* which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), <sup>2</sup> that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, <sup>3</sup> knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, <sup>4</sup> and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of creation." (2 Pet. 3:1-4 NKJ)

# Both Jude & Peter

- **Speak of Mockers**
  - Would come in “The Last days”
  - The term “Last Days” refers to the last period of our Age.
  - Therefore, both Jude and Peter were speaking of a future day when false teachers would come mocking the prospect of Christs return.
  - While these false teachers work in similar ways throughout all periods, the Christians of Jude’s day were still expecting that His soon return was just around the corner.
  - But as time stretches forward they would begin to cast doubt on Christs return.
  - That future day has arrived for us!

# Arc Of Time: The Times of Jacob's Troubles



# THE CHURCH AGE



## Laodicean age

- NKJ **Hebrews 1:2** has in these last days spoken to us by *His* Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;
- NKJ **2 Timothy 3:1** But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: <sup>2</sup> For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, <sup>3</sup> unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, <sup>4</sup> traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, <sup>5</sup> having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! (2 Tim. 3:1-5 NKJ)
- NKJ **James 5:1** Come now, *you* rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon *you*! <sup>2</sup> Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. <sup>3</sup> Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days. (Jas. 5:1-3 NKJ)
- NKJ **James 5:9** Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door! (Jas. 5:9 NKJ)

# Our Response: (Twelfth Triad)

- <sup>20</sup> But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, <sup>21</sup> keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.
  - **Building yourselves up-Most holy faith: A continuous action**
    - The emphasis is on the continuous study of Gods word and the doctrine and theology of our Faith.
  - **Relaying on the three persons of the Godhead**
    - **Praying in the Spirit: seeking the counsel of the Holy Spirit**
    - **Keep yourselves in the love of God: Gods love for us should be reflected in everything we do.**
    - **Wait for the Mercy of Christ at His return: (Live with eyes for Eternity)**



# Our Response::Strengthening Others

- **Thirteenth Triad**

- <sup>22</sup> And on some have compassion, making a distinction; <sup>23</sup> but others save with fear, pulling *them* out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh. (Jude 1:22-23 NKJ)
- Immature or Negligent Believers
- They are especially susceptible to having doubts about what is true or false
- They are always the most vulnerable
- To this group we are to show patience and mercy:
- Mercy means being understanding of their doubting, while continuing to teach the truth, expose the lies, allowing time for them to mature.

# Our Response::Strengthening Others

- <sup>22</sup> And on some have compassion, making a distinction; <sup>23</sup> but others save with fear, pulling *them* out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh. (Jude 1:22-23 NKJ)
- For some believers the deception has been too strong for them to resist and they have fallen for the false teachers/teachings.
- These are the believers who need to be saved.
- This is a very difficult task.
- They need to be thrown the proverbial life preserver.

# Our Response::Strengthening Others

- <sup>22</sup> And on some have compassion, making a distinction; <sup>23</sup> but others save with fear, pulling *them* out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh. (Jude 1:22-23 NKJ)
- This group has been so consumed by false teachers/teachings that they are now beginning to repeat it to others.
- They are not the false teachers and so they deserve our mercy as well.
- The fear refers to maintaining a distance from them.
- We must do our best to pull them out of that fire but the reality is that we will have little chance for success.
- Hence the need for distance-a sober view of the dangers.

**“So Jude says the church has to fight against the false teachers in the church in three principle ways .First we strengthen ourselves in daily disciplines of the faith, relying on God in His power .Secondly, we work to help our brothers and sisters resist the enemy’s schemes. Finally, we protect the flock by isolating those who have fallen for the lies, limiting their damage.” Stephen Armstrong**

# Jude's Confidence (Fourteenth Triad)

- <sup>24</sup> Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present *you* faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, <sup>25</sup> To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, *Be* glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen. (Jude 1:24-25 NKJ)
  - God has existed before all time
    - He is in the present now
    - He will be forevermore
    - Amen