

Jude 1:24-25 –Doxology: Praise God

Manton, TSK, GreekLexicon, Poole, Geneva, Trapp, Robertson, JFB, Gill, Clarke, Henry, Expositor,
Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: The word Doxology (赞美词, 颂赞) is a compound word from two Greek words that mean “glory” and “word.” We translate the word to mean “praise,” but specifically, praise of God.

To praise God you must always consider 2 main points... points that Jude made. He highlighted the goodness – the caring nature of God – particularly in light of the church needing help to face its battles. And then he highlighted the greatness of God – knowing that God had the full ability to help them fight and overcome the snakes who were in the church. Today you will hear some details of the goodness and the greatness of God.

Our headings are:

Reason 1 for the doxology: The Goodness of God

Reason 2 for the doxology: The Greatness of God

Our goals are: That you will learn who your God is – his goodness to you and his greatness in his abilities- so you can have confidence as you fight against snakes in the church of Jesus Christ.

Reason 1 for the Doxology: The Goodness of God

24 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,

1. Jude urged the church to praise God because he was able to keep them from stumbling – “from falling.” It is beyond dispute that men are bound to stumble in life spiritually. Even the most surefooted (稳健的) horse will stumble.

But in what way does God support you? Of course God is powerful and is able to keep you from falling off your roof and therefore he will preserve your physical life, but that is not the context here. That is a common misuse of this passage. The context here is the preserving power of God that comes to you through Jesus Christ, a power that keeps you from falling into apostasy (叛教) and gives you the strength to fight wickedness.

1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

How humbling, and yet, how comforting this must have been for the church – knowing that God would keep her though she was being savaged (猛烈攻击) or lured into sin by the sneaky (鬼祟的) snakes!

What about today? What causes men to stumble today? Same things! We have the same people in Christendom!

a. The attackers might say: If you are not healed or if you are not rich... it is because you lack faith. Others attack and say: You should feel guilty if you are rich and feel guilty if there were poor people around you. Other might say that you are sexist (性别歧视者) if you don't support women in office in the church. Or tell young people that they are old-fashion or prudish if they don't commit adultery (奸淫) ...like everyone else does...

b. There are the lure-ers – the baiters (诱惑者) today as well- who usually water down or slightly change the doctrines of the Scriptures. They usually say: You must worship God, but since you are smart, you must decide how you worship. Or they might say: You must love others, but you have to start with loving yourself. These are baits from the wicked to secure their future, not yours.

But Jude reminds you that God will preserve you also. You don't have to compromise from fear or pressure.

John 10:28 "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. 29 "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.

John 6:39 "This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day.

2. Jude urged the church to praise God because God was able to present them faultless before his glory. Christians have already been declared to be righteous.

Job 1:8 Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, **a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?**" (耶和華問撒旦說：“你曾用心查看我的仆人约伯没有？地上再没有人象他完全正直，敬畏神，远离恶事。”）

But the obvious question is: On what basis does God in heaven declare you blameless? God declares you to be blameless if you are covered with the blood of the lamb.

Colossians 1:21 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet **now He has reconciled 22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless**, and above reproach in His sight—

You are literally washed in the blood of the Lamb. But while you have been declared righteous once for all, in the span of your life you experience God's cleansing work. Remember, God is not limited by time and doesn't see things through time. That is why he can declare you righteous...and you experience that cleansing throughout your life.

Ephesians 5:26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, **27** that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

This assurance of cleansing causes you not to fear anything as you go about living for your Savior. It is the godless who must fear. It is the godless who do fear. You can praise God.

3. Jude urged the church to praise God because when Christ presents them before God the Father, they would have exceeding joy. The end of the world will not be a terrible thing. One commentator (释经学者) described your final judgment as a "sweet interview." You would be refreshed in your heart about the greatness of your rescue from sin...and joy will overwhelm you! This is the joy that comes through Jesus Christ alone. You are in him. Praise him.

Luke 1:14 "And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth.

So be clear about this. Adam fell...he did not pass the test and brought condemnation on you...but Jesus did, the 2nd Adam, your true covenant keeper, did not fall. He kept the law so you can receive the credit.

4. In sum, you can say that Jude was urging the church to praise God because God was good and the source of all good things for his church. Good can only come from God or from those whom God converts to be his children. Ja 1:17. **Psalm 119:68** - You are good, and do good; Teach me Your statutes.

5. When you know your own frailty (脆弱) and your proclivity (倾向, 偏好) to sin, you will better understand and appreciate the goodness of God to you.

Reason 2 for the Doxology: The Greatness of God

25 To God **our Savior**, Who **alone is wise**, Be **glory and majesty, Dominion and power**, Both **now and forever**. Amen.

1. Jude urged the church to praise God for being their Savior. And this is an interesting phrase and sets up our next sermon series from Joshua. Joshua means "God saves." Joshua is the Hebrew form of Jesus. Because of the construction of his phrase (God our Savior) some scholars take this first phrase to refer directly to Jesus.

2. Jude urged the church to praise God because God was wise. He will always be wiser than our enemies.

Romans 16:27 to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.

Wisdom is one of those communicable attribute from God that he gives to his children. With God's wisdom you can "smell the rats" and "see the snakes." If you are not a child of God, you cannot expect to have this great gift. Dangers are in front of the wicked but they don't see them. **Examples:** Consider the economic policies of Western nations. Wisdom says that economies will collapse if we keep borrowing to spend...but yet many don't see the danger. In the church, you learn to recognize dangers...like being too close with non-believers...who can lure you into sin. You have God's wisdom!

3. Jude urged the church to praise God because he was glorious and majestic.

Hebrews 1:3 who being the brightness of *His* glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, (祂是神荣耀所发的光辉，是神本体的真像，常用祂权能的

命令托住万有，祂洗净了人的罪，就坐在高天至大者的右边；）

Hebrews 8:1 Now *this* is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,

One day the whole world will see his glory and will have to confess it, but you know of Christ's glory now. What a privilege! What confidence you can have now to do the work you have been called to do. Who fear snakes when they see the glory of God?

1Chronicles 29:11 Yours, O LORD, is the greatness, The power and the glory, The victory and the majesty; For all *that* is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, And You are exalted as head over all.

God will condemn snakes that see his glory and ignore it.

4. Jude urged the church to praise God because God has dominion (might) and power (better – authority). God is infinite. This means God has no limitations. He has all power, all energy, and ability to work. He has all rule and he controls all governments in the world and in the Church. He rules in heaven and on earth.

Job 26:14 Indeed *these are the mere edges of His ways*, And how small a whisper we hear of Him! But the thunder of His power who can understand?" (“看哪，这不过是神工作的些微，我们所听于他的是何等细微的声音，他大能的雷声谁能明透呢？”)

Man can only know the outskirts of God's ability.

Genesis 17:1 - When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless.

God is able to do anything he wants and he delights to do good for his children – so you do not need to worry about pressures to sin.

Isaiah 40:28 - Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary...

These 4 things show God's Divine glory and omnipotence (全能，能力无限) .

5. Jude urged the church to praise God because would do all these good things for them forever (both now and forever). God is eternal. This means he has no beginning or end.

1Timothy 6:16 who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom *be* honor and everlasting power. Amen. (就是那独一不死，住在人不能靠近的光里，是人未曾看见，也是不能看见的，要将它显明出来。但愿尊贵和永远的权能，都归给祂！阿们。)

Conclusion:

This doxology show the goodness and the greatness of God. God has adopted you as his child through Jesus Christ. (His goodness) and he has the power to do what he has promised. (His greatness)

Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ: Now suppose someone gave you instructions to clean the house – all the details – but doesn't give you the key to go into the house, how helpful would those instructions be? No so much! Now the job is to clean his spiritual household, so God gave you 2 keys: His greatness, and his goodness. Are you using these keys? You have no ground whatsoever to fear any man, religion, or philosophy, regardless of how threatening they are. Be encouraged by these verses from Psalm 103.

2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: 3 Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, 4 Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities. 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; 12 As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. 20 Bless the LORD, you His angels, Who excel in strength, who do His word, Heeding the voice of His word. 21 Bless the LORD, all you His hosts, You ministers of His, who do His pleasure.

Finally, if you are tired of fighting against God and his Word, give up. Ask God to make you his child and forgive you. There is peace at the cross...and the blessings of Christ will flow to you.