

Jude Verses 8-16
Feckless Christianity

“In contrast to conventional warfare, terrorism presents a uniquely serious threat for two primary reasons. First, terrorists operate clandestinely. They are relatively few in number, remain hidden, and certainly do not wear uniforms. Their plans remain secret until the day they strike, making their attacks very difficult to counteract. Second, terrorists are usually willing to die for their cause (often suicide as they carry out their objectives). They are eager to sacrifice themselves for the sake of their mission. Thus the prospect of even the severest human punishment, such as the death penalty, does not deter them. If they are thwarted, they must be unmasked and apprehended before they act. Otherwise it will be too late.

*The same features that make political terrorists so dangerous in the world make apostate teachers even more dangerous in the church. Because they often come disguised as angels of light (2 Cor. 11:14) or wolves in sheep’s clothing (Matt. 7:15), **apostates are difficult to identify**. And, because of their own self-deception, they willingly (albeit unwittingly) embrace their own eternal ruin for the sake of their poisonous lies, in destroying souls, they themselves commit spiritual suicide. (MacArthur)*

“I have noticed that pastors speak about the armor of God but give comparatively little attention to refining one’s skills with the sword. Over the last few decades, it seems obvious to me that the church has grown weaker and more feminized. We don’t handle the Word of God like a sword anymore; we handle it like a butter knife, something harmless. Christians shrink from framing our mission as war at all. We’d rather woo than fight. But Paul knew how to persuade, knew how to speak with appeal, and still he said, ‘I have fought the good fight’ (2 Tim. 4:7). He told Timothy to ‘fight the good fight of faith’ (1 Tim. 6:12). He even reached for the language of military enlistment: ‘No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him’ (2 Tim. 2:4, NASB). Paul uses language of war because he discerned the reality of active warfare in which the believer is engaged.

The old saying still holds: ‘Better to be a warrior in a garden than a gardener at war.’ The trouble is, right now we’ve got a whole lot of people who’d rather garden while the war goes on around them. Soldiers who aren’t trained for warfare, who’d rather stay comfortable and complacent, get themselves or the men next to them killed.” (Paul Bock)

Vs. 8 *“In the very same way”* connects these men who had slipped in to lead believers astray with false teaching as committing the same kinds of sins the Israelites committed in the desert through idol worship and sexual immorality, the fallen angels committed by abandoning their heavenly home and committing sexual immorality, and the men of Sodom and Gomorrah committed by going after strange flesh. Behind all this was pride and a blatant disregard for the

holiness of God. Having little passion for the holiness of God equates to having little passion for one's own holiness.

“dreamers” *“The Greek word occurs elsewhere in the NT only in Acts 2:17, and there refers to prophetic dreams. The Septuagint employs the same verb to describe false prophets... Jude is therefore referring to men who falsely claim to have visionary revelations to justify their teachings and actions.” Hillyer*

“pollute their bodies” Literally their physical bodies (**sarx=flesh**) The Israelites, angels and homosexuals of Sodom and Gomorrah polluted their bodies through sexual immorality.

1 Cor. 6:16 *And don't you realize that if a man joins himself to a prostitute, he becomes one body with her? For the Scriptures say, “The two are united into one.”*

“reject authority” Ultimately, it was God's authority that was rejected. Having slipped in, they no doubt worked to undermine the authority of pastors and elders by deceiving them also. Their aim was to gain authority over the church. Keep in mind that the Progressive/Liberal movement, Red/Green movement, and Woke movement's Satan led desire is to not only change the mindset of the church, but to also gain authority over it. Are you up for the battle?

... the Red-Green coalition is an alliance of convenience between leftists, including progressives, socialists, and communists, on the one hand, and, on the other hand, Islamists, Muslims who actively pursue the political goals of Islam, such as Islamic supremacism and the punishment of those non-compliant with Islam. mindingthecampus.org Philip Salzman

“The word ‘authority here’ (Kyrioties) comes from the same root as the word ‘Lord’ (Kyrios), and Jude has already told us that the false teachers ‘deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord [Kyrios] (vs.4).’ Almost certainly, then, Jude means that the false teachers throw off the Lordship of Christ and/or of God.’ Moo

“slander” (blaspheme) celestial beings (glories)” There are many interpretations for what this means. It seems, in the context of 2 Peter 2:10-12 and Jude 9, that they, feeling spiritually superior over them, were mocking the fallen angels for what they had done.

2 Peter 2:9-10 *This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the flesh and despise authority. Bold and arrogant, they are not afraid to heap abuse on celestial beings; 11 yet even angels, although they are stronger and more powerful, do not heap abuse on such beings when bringing judgment on them from the Lord.*

Vs. 9 Two kinds of angelic beings are mentioned, the archangel Michael, who is chief among the good angels and Satan, who is chief among the fallen angels.

Μιχαήλ Michaél Michael = *“who is like God” the first of the chief princes or archangels who is supposed to be the guardian angel of the Israelites Strong's Concordance*

*Archangel: "is not found in the OT, and in the NT only in 1Th 4:16 and Jud 1:9, where it is used of Michael, who in Daniel is called 'one of the chief princes,' and 'the great prince' (Sept., 'the great angel'), 10:13, 21; 12:1. Cp. also Rev 12:7.... Whether there are other beings of this exalted rank in the heavenly hosts, Scripture does not say, though the description 'one of the chief princes' suggests that this may be the case; cp. also Rom 8:38; Eph 1:21; Col 1:16, where the word translated 'principalities' is arche, the prefix in archangel." **

[From Notes on Thessalonians, by Hogg and Vine, pp. 142.] In 1Th 4:16 the meaning seems to be that the voice of the Lord Jesus will be of the character of an "archangelic" shout.*

1 Thess. 4:16 *For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.*

Dan. 12:1 *"At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered.*

Rev. 12:7-8 *Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. 8 But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven.*

διάβολος diábolos, dee-ab'-ol-os; a traducer; specially, Satan—false accuser, devil, slanderer. Strong's Concordance

"Michael refused to take it upon himself to pronounce judgment, for that was God's prerogative." Hillyer

- It is believed that Jude was quoting from the apocryphal book "Assumption of Moses."

Deut. 34:5-6 *So Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the Lord, 6 and he [the Lord] buried him in the valley in the land of Moab opposite Beth-peor; but no one knows the place of his burial to this day.*

Vs. 10 Ignorance is not bliss when it comes to abiding by the truth of God's Word.

- False teachers are compared to stupid animals who have no reasoning. There are many who sit under their teaching and in turn become themselves stupid in their understanding of righteousness.

The question is, is there any false teaching we hold onto? Just because a pastor, speaker or book make a convincing argument toward their view of God's truth doesn't make it valid?"

Rom. 1:21-22 *For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools*

Vs. 11 Three examples of ignorant men who chose to reason like brute beasts toward the righteousness of God.

1. Cain, Adam and Eve's son and Abel's brother. He wanted to live by his own self-centered religious ways instead of by God's way of faithfulness and righteousness. (Gen. 4:3-8)

1 Jn. 3:12 Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous.

"Many Christians are afraid of secular humanism or atheism or the world. But dead religion is far more dangerous, and sends more people to hell than anything else. These certain men were in the way of Cain, which was the way of dead religion." Guzik

"He (Jude) may be suggesting that as Cain murdered Abel, so false teachers 'murder' the souls of people." Moo

"The fact that Cain's sacrifice was unacceptable demands that God had previously told him what constituted a proper sacrifice. Cain knew that God required a blood sacrifice, but instead of obeying he invented his own form of worship." MacArthur

2. Balaam's "best friend" was a donkey who literally spoke out against Balaam for beating him. Like God speaking through the donkey, we too are to speak out against anything that would disparage or mock God's truth. (Numbers 22:21-39).

2 Peter 2:15-16 *15 They have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Bezer, who loved the wages of wickedness. 16 But he was rebuked for his wrongdoing by a donkey—an animal without speech—who spoke with a human voice and restrained the prophet's madness.*

3. Korah was a cousin of Moses. He was a Levite and Kohathite whose responsibility was to tend to the tabernacle. His sin, along with 250 others, was to rebel against Moses' authority, which was seen as treating God with contempt. Consequently, they and their families were put to death along with 14,700 others who had sided with them (Numbers 16).

- Many false teachers have huge followings who will share in their judgment because they too rebel against God's authority and treat Him with contempt.

"These three men came from quite different backgrounds" Cain was a farmer, Balaam was a prophet, and Korah was a leader in Israel. Apostasy is never confined to one group of people. 'There are apostates in the pulpit, in the palace, and in the poorhouse.' (Coder) Guzik

Vss. 12-13 Jude compares false teachers to the elements. *"His word-pictures correspond to the four regions of the physical world: clouds in the air, trees on the earth, waves of the sea, stars in the heavens.."* Hillyer

“blemishes at your love feasts” Love feasts (agape meals) were an important part of fellowship in the church. They were often served before communion as a part of the Sunday services in house churches. It provided a decent meal for the poor among them.

“The feast was similar to a contemporary potluck dinner held on the Lord’s day. Believers would gather to worship, hear the teachings of Scripture, celebrate Communion, and then share their common love in a meal (cf. Acts 2:42).” MacArthur

1 Cor. 11:20-22 20 So then, when you come together, it is not the Lord’s Supper you eat, 21 for when you are eating, some of you go ahead with your own private suppers. As a result, one person remains hungry and another gets drunk. 22 Don’t you have homes to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God by humiliating those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? Certainly not in this matter!

“shepherds who only feed themselves” means that the only ones they cared about were themselves. They did not have a shepherd’s heart for God’s people and couldn’t have cared less about their spiritual and physical wellbeing.

“clouds without rain” *“Clouds without rain is a natural metaphor for those who do not deliver what they promise... They are unstable.” Moo*

- In turn, they kept the church unstable in its stand for righteousness.

2 Peter 2:17 *These are waterless springs and mists driven by a storm. For them the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved.*

Prov. 25:14 *Like clouds and wind without rain is one who boasts of gifts never given.*

“Uprooted twice dead trees” – Like a dead tree that’s been uprooted, they were incapable of bearing the good fruit of righteous as an example for many to follow.

“The New Testament calls eschatological judgment ‘the second death’ ... So these false teachers, Jude may be alleging, will not only die physically, they will also die spiritually and eternally.” Moo

Rev. 21:9 *But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”*

“Wild waves of the sea” – They sow discord and dissension among believers by taking away their peace in Christ.

Isa. 57:20-21 *But the wicked are like the tossing sea, which cannot rest, whose waves cast up mire and mud. “There is no peace,” says my God, “for the wicked.”*

“Wandering stars” – They were unstable glory-seekers who made the church unstable in its devotion to Christ