

Jude Sounds the Alarm

⁴for certain persons have crept in unnoticed,
 those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation,
ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness
 and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

Two key descriptions of:

- They turn God's Grace into licentiousness.
 - Behavior – What do they live like?
- They deny Jesus Christ as Lord and Master.
 - What do they believe about Jesus
- By their lifestyle they deny Christ's Lordship.

Titus 1:16 says,

“They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed.”

Jude goes on to show four examples of their evil:

-Judgment, Behavioral, Historical, and Metaphorical.

I. Examples of Historical Judgments

God's judgment of those who knew the truth and rejected it:

1. Israel

⁵Now I desire to remind you, though you know all things once for all,
 that the Lord, after saving **a people** out of the land of Egypt,
 subsequently **destroyed** those who did not believe.

2. Angels

⁶And **angels**, who did not keep their own domain,
 but abandoned their proper abode,
 He has kept in **eternal bonds under darkness**
 for the **judgment** of the great day,

3. Sodom and Gomorrah

⁷just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them,
 since they in the same way as these [fallen angels]
 indulged in gross immorality
 and went after strange flesh,
 are exhibited as an example
 in undergoing the **punishment of eternal fire.**

These examples from history show what false teachers can expect in their future.

II. Examples of Evil Behavior

⁸Yet in the same way [as Israel, angels, sodomites]
 these men, also by dreaming,
defile the flesh, and reject authority,
 and revile angelic majesties,

1. Immorality and Apostates

Defiling the flesh...

Jude describes those who reject Jesus' Lordship by the way they live.

They live immoral lives by following their dreams, visions and extra-biblical revelations, which give them license to break God's laws.

We live in the "Me-Too" era. Where so many are blowing the whistle on the abuses they have experienced from those who have abused their power. Imagine what the Judgment Day will reveal!

The Bible says, "Be sure, Your sins will find you out!"

What is moral purity? Sanctification – set apart for God.

Paul wrote, "...the body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body... Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but he immoral man sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body." (1 Cor. 6:13b, 18-20).

2. Rebellion and Apostates.

...Reject authority

1 Samuel 15 gives the story of Saul who became proud and decided to do things his own way. He was supposed to completely destroy the Amalekites, along with all the spoil. Instead he insisted that he did follow the Lord's instructions, but had saved the best as a sacrifice to the Lord.

Then the prophet answers him,

Samuel said, "Has the Lord as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams.

For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He has also rejected you from being king." (1 Sam. 15:22-23).

God has set up authority as a protection from the realm of Satan, (like an umbrella protecting us from the rain). When someone gets out from under authority (**Rebellion**) they expose themselves to demonic influence just as if they had become involved in divination or witchcraft.

Insubordination is setting oneself up as the authority, becoming one's own god. So much of idolatry happens as we put someone or something else in the place of God.

The first commandment is

"You shall have no other gods before Me." (Exodus 20:3).

Someone may add, "*including yourself...*".

Jude's apostates abound with rebellious attitudes and incomplete obedience.

3. Reviling

...Revile angelic majesties

Jude writes of Michael's example:

⁹But **Michael the archangel,**

when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses,

did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, '*The Lord rebuke you!*'

¹⁰But these men revile the things which they do not understand;

and the things which they know by instinct, like unreasoning animals, by these things they are destroyed. (Vs. 9-10)

To revile is to speak evil of someone. To speak abusively, disrespectfully.

The false prophet may feel he can speak out against fallen angels or demonic realm; but the example of Michael, the highest of the holy angels was to refrain from verbally judging the vilest enemy of God.

Jerry Bridges, writes on *The Sins of the Tongue*:

“In this category, we must also include the lying, slander, critical speech (even when true), harsh words, insults, sarcasm, and ridicule. In fact, we would have to say that any speech that tends to tear down another person – either someone we are talking about or someone we are talking to – is sinful speech.”¹

These false prophets, Jude says, “revile angelic majesties” in their prideful speech.

III. Examples of Evil People

Jude’s comparisons with historical figures of infamy show what these men are like, compared to their evil doppelgangers from the past.

Types of Evil persons from the OT.

¹¹**Woe to them!** For they have gone the way of Cain,
and for pay thy have rushed headlong into the error of Balaam,
and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

1. The way of Cain

Cain chose wickedness over goodness, then murdered his brother.
Cain is synonymous with evil.

2. The error of Balaam

Balaam (Numbers 22-24) is a picture of the classic ‘Prophet for profit’

He was hired by Balak, the leader of Moab, to curse the children of Israel. When he was about to do so God told him to bless Israel. The result was that he was in trouble with Balak and would loose out on all the money he was offered. So instead he gave Balak counsel to use the women of the land to seduce the men of Israel, and then God would curse them.

¹ Jerry Bridges, *Respectable Sins*, (Navpress: Colorado Springs, 2007), p. 159.

Balaam received his money. Israel fell for it and were in trouble with God. Later on Balaam was killed (Numb. 31:8) in an attack of Israel against the kings of Midian led by Moses. He is forever remembered for his duplicity and greed – selling his prophetic gift for money.

3. Rebellion of Korah

Korah held a priestly position under Moses and Aaron. He was a leader of a rebellion in which he organized others against Moses' leadership and was swallowed up by the ground along with all his followers. So false teachers and their followers will be judged by God.

IV. Metaphors that describe apostates

Descriptive Images

Jude's use of metaphor brings a picturesque association describing these men, showing why they cannot be trusted nor included in the fellowship.

¹²These are the men who are hidden reefs in your love feasts
 when they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves;
clouds without water, carried along by winds;
autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted;
¹³wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam;
wandering stars,
 for whom then black darkness has been reserved forever.

1. Hidden Reefs

- destructive to the fellowship; narcissistic manipulators.
- fearlessly *caring only for themselves*
 - They are dangerous and need to be avoided like a ship avoids rocks at sea

2. Clouds without water

- all talk; no fulfillment of their promises.
- Useless, clouds without rain are like a wells without water.
- Driven by wind – out of control, chasing winds of doctrine
- Novelty – always something new!

3. Autumn Trees without fruit

- no fruit in their lives or their followers.
- Unlike those who are abiding in Christ and bear much fruit

Jn. 15:4,5

- no spiritual roots (Col. 2:6-7)

-doubly dead, uprooted

4. Wild Waves

- Not the theme park but the crashing high-tide waves of a storm.

– Their shame or ‘disgrace’ is like foam of the waves – their end product.

5. Wondering Stars

– forever they inherit darkness – perpetually lightless.

Wandering stars that have moved out of their orbit, so sin takes us off course until we are totally lost.

Review:

Jude has identified the apostates are who are endangering the church in four ways: By examples of Judgment, Misbehavior, Historical individuals, and by Metaphors from nature.

Why did Jude write this letter?

So that we will ... **contend earnestly for the faith...**

What is Jude’s solution?

Become strong in the faith.

Knowledge, prayer, fellowship, anticipation of Christ’s Return,
and reliance on God’s power to bring you safely home.