

## 09. The Book of Jude—1:12-19

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a message by Pastor Phil Ballmaier  
(4/23/20)

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As we have noted in previous studies—Jude is calling Christians to “**earnestly contend for the faith**” against apostates (those who once professed faith in Jesus and the Christians faith but have now turned from it).

In the section we are currently looking at, he is identifying for us the *characteristics* of apostates.

In verses 8-11, he describes “who” they are:

1. **They’re dreamers—v.8a**
2. **They defile the flesh—v.8a**
3. **They reject authority—v.8b**
4. **They speak evil of dignitaries—v.8c-10**
5. **Gone in the way of Cain—v.11a**
6. **Run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit—v.11b**
7. **Perished in the rebellion of Korah—v.11c**

And then after Jude provides a description of ‘who’ apostates are—he then goes on to describe ‘what’ they are:

1. **Spots in your love feasts—v.12a**
2. **Clouds without water carried about by the winds—v.12b**
3. **Late autumn trees without fruit twice dead pulled up by the roots—v.12c**

In late autumn, the trees in an orchard are full of good fruit ready to be harvested and enjoyed—food that is nutritious and life sustaining. Now, I’m not a dendrologist or arborist—if you were to put me in an orchard in the winter, I couldn’t tell you an apple tree from an oak tree.

However, in the Fall I could easily identify an apple tree (or any other fruit bearing tree) from a non-fruit bearing tree simply by looking at the fruit hanging from its branches.

Jesus took this simple principle and applied it spiritually with regard to false prophets when He said—

### **Matthew 7:15-20 (NKJV)**

<sup>15</sup> "Beware of false prophets...<sup>16</sup> You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup> Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. <sup>18</sup> A good tree

cannot bear bad fruit, nor *can* a bad tree bear good fruit.<sup>19</sup> Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.<sup>20</sup> Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

Those who are true ‘prophets’ (those who speak for God and declare His Word) bear fruit because they are themselves ‘rooted’ in God’s truth.

**Psalm 1:1-3 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> Blessed *is* the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; <sup>2</sup> But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. <sup>3</sup> He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.

**Colossians 2:6-10 (NKJV)**

<sup>6</sup> As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, <sup>7</sup> rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. <sup>8</sup> Beware [of apostates and false prophets] lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. <sup>9</sup> For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; <sup>10</sup> and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

Apostates offer people counterfeit ‘fruit’ that looks good and nutritious but in reality has no life in it. All **real** fruit contains the seeds that produce more fruit.

A true prophet of God (teacher, pastor, evangelist) will bear fruit in the sense that their teaching will bring forth new life (the life of the Spirit)—people will get saved and lives will be transformed. But also, their teaching will strengthen believers in Jesus—those who already have the life of God within them.

**“Twice dead, pulled up by the roots” (v.12c)**

*“No matter how much of the Bible the false teachers may quote, the seed is not producing fruit in their own lives or through their ministries. Why? Because they have no spiritual roots. They lack spiritual life.”*

**Matthew 15:13 (NKJV)**

<sup>13</sup> But He answered and said, "Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted.

Apostates are **“twice dead”** in the sense that they are spiritually dead and someday will be judged and “uprooted” (removed) from the earth thru physical death.

**Psalm 52:5 (NKJV)**

<sup>5</sup> God shall likewise destroy you forever; He shall take you away, and pluck you out of *your* dwelling place, And uproot you from the land of the living.

**Proverbs 2:22 (NKJV)**

<sup>22</sup> But the wicked will be cut off from the earth, And the unfaithful will be uprooted from it.

**4. Raging waves of the sea foaming up their own shame—v.13a**

**“Raging waves”**

I don't know about you, but my wife and I love sitting on the beach and looking at the waves as they come and crash onto the shore. I said we love to "look at" not that we love to be on or in the ocean—especially in a storm!

Jude is describing the damage caused by the waves of the ocean to the shoreline during a bad storm—and how it relates to apostates that 'blow into' a church like a storm at sea, and the damage they cause to the Body of Christ when they eventually move on.

One pastor and author put it this way—

*"The fruit of these men was like the foam or scum at the seashore. Jude has in mind the ugly shoreline after a storm has washed up all sorts of driftwood, seaweed, and debris."*

Scripture often uses the "sea" as a symbol for those who do not know God—

**Isaiah 57:20-21 (NKJV)**

<sup>20</sup> But the wicked *are* like the troubled sea, When it cannot rest, Whose waters cast up mire and dirt. <sup>21</sup> "There is no peace," Says my God, "for the wicked."

**"Foaming up their own shame"**

Commentator William MacDonald—

*"They are raging waves of the sea, ungovernable, boisterous, and furious. For all their noise and motion, there is nothing to show but the foam of their shame. [In other words] They glory in what they should be ashamed of and leave nothing of substance and value behind."*

Peter said of these apostates—

*"...they speak great swelling words of emptiness—[and] they allure through the lusts of the flesh..."* (2Peter 2:18)

**5. Wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever—v.13b**

When Jude says that apostates are 'wandering stars'—the Greek word for 'star' means "a luminous body".

In saying this, Jude is not referring to a *fixed* star like the North Star which sailors used to plot their course and guide them to their destination. No, rather Jude has in mind a 'shooting (wandering) star.'

A shooting star is a small meteor that enters earth's atmosphere and is set on fire becoming (for a short time) a luminous body in the sky—but is quickly burned up and turns to ashes.

The same applies to apostates spiritually speaking—like today's celebrity pastors and TV evangelists who are 'stars' that light up the 'sky' in certain Christian circles with their flamboyance, persona and their 'bigger than life' personality.

But like shooting stars—they provide no 'fixed point' that Christians can use to help guide them to their destination in heaven—there is nothing stable about them—they're wandering, unstable people.

They're not rooted and grounded in God's truth and are always being carried about by new winds of doctrine.

They can't say like Paul, *"follow me as I follow Christ"*, since that would require a life of stability, commitment and purpose—and so in that regard, they are useless spiritually speaking to really help anyone walk with Jesus.

➔ Pastor Chuck's 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks illustration

I am now in my 40<sup>th</sup> year of ministry, and I have seen this scenario played out many times. I have seen men come out of nowhere and burst onto the scene as stars in the *"heavens of Christendom"*.

I have seen them on TV, heard them on radio and read articles written about them extolling them as if they were Christian 'rock stars'. And yet I have also seen them fall thru scandal, and their 'ministries' disintegrate into 'dust' and disappear from view.

One author said regarding this:

*"It is disturbing to read histories and biographies and see how 'the mighty have fallen.' For a while they seemed to be lights in the darkness but in reality—they were actually of the darkness and have fallen into oblivion and are no more."*

Even though these false teachers may seem like bright stars today (for a time)—Jude reminds us that God has reserved for them a place in the outer darkness—a place of eternal judgment:

**Matthew 25:30 (NKJV)**

<sup>30</sup> And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Which is the very theme that Jude transitions into:

**Jude 1:14-15 (NKJV)**

<sup>14</sup> Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, <sup>15</sup> to execute judgment on all...

But before we look at verses 14 and 15 and the judgment of God that will come upon all apostates and false teachers—let's finish looking at their characteristics.

**Jude 1:16, 19 (NKJV)**

<sup>16</sup> These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage...<sup>19</sup> These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit.

**"grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts"**

Jude earlier mentioned Korah who grumbled and complained against Moses for not allowing him and other Levites (Dathan and Abiram) to burn incense to God like Aaron and his sons. (Finish)

Charles Spurgeon said—

*"You know the sort of people alluded to here, nothing ever satisfies them. They are discontented even with the gospel. The bread of heaven must be cut into three pieces, and served on dainty napkins, or else they cannot eat it; and very soon their soul hates even this 'light bread'. There is no way by which a Christian man can serve God so as to please them. They will pick holes in every preacher's coat; and if the great High Priest Himself were here, they would find fault with the color of the stones of His breastplate."*

Apostates are always murmuring, complaining and grumbling about how they're being cheated out of ministry or overlooked by those in authority and not given their rightful place in the church as leaders. Of course, this is nothing more than carnality and pride rooted in their own lust for power and prestige—seeing as they love the praise of men.

This has always been and continues to be a characteristic of apostates—they are always convinced of their own moral and spiritual superiority and how—they should be the pastor or a leader in the church instead of the man God has chosen.

And, as Jude and Peter said, because they are gifted communicators (every con-artist and charlatan can impress with great swelling words of emptiness)—they sweep people into their 'orbit' with flattering words—like Absalom did in stealing the hearts of the people in his attempt to overthrow his father David. (Explain)

But make no mistake about it—their flattery is always insincere and designed to benefit themselves at the expense of those who believe them to be wonderful (and sincere) men of God.

**Jude 1:19 (NKJV)**

<sup>19</sup> These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit.

The Greek word translated '**sensual**' is *psychikos*—a word that means "soulish" or "worldly"—and speaks of a person who lives to satisfy the body's appetites—just like an animal (hunger, thirst, sex etc.)—a two-dimensional creature.

One pastor said—

*"Sensual in this context has nothing to do with sexual attractiveness. It describes the person who lives only by and for what he can get through his physical senses, and he lives this way selfishly. His motto is, "If it feels good, do it" or, "How can it be wrong if it feels so right?"*

It's the same Greek word that is translated "*natural*" in 1 Corinthians 2:14—

**1 Corinthians 2:14 (NKJV)**

<sup>14</sup> But the natural [unsaved] man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

This Greek word is also used by James when he contrasts the wisdom of God with the wisdom of the world—

**James 3:15 (NKJV)**

<sup>15</sup> This wisdom does not descend from above, but *is* earthly, sensual [psychikos], demonic.

Once again, these false teachers and apostates that Jude speaks of come across as very impressive people who have great wisdom—but it's all an act—a demonic deception.

And then Jude gives the last characteristic of these apostate deceivers—

**"They cause divisions, because they do not have the Holy Spirit within them" (Jude 1:19b)**

The word translated "**divisions**" is only found here in the New Testament and describes someone who feels superior to everyone else and therefore could never submit to another pastor or leader.

They tend to keep to themselves since they usually have rejected every church and pastor in their area—choosing to either start their own church or stay at home and have church by themselves or with their own family since every other church is corrupt and they alone are pure.

When they *are* involved in a local church, because of their pride and feelings of moral and spiritual superiority—they are notorious for sowing discord against the leadership and causing division in the church.

Of course they never see it that way—they see themselves as true servants of God (perhaps the only ones left) and they are not causing division—rather they are on a righteous mission to ‘rescue’ the sheep from an ungodly and corrupt shepherd.

**Proverbs 6:16-19 (NKJV)**

<sup>16</sup> These six *things* the LORD hates, Yes, seven *are* an abomination to Him: <sup>17</sup> A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, <sup>18</sup> A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, <sup>19</sup> A false witness *who* speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren.

**Jude 1:19 (NKJV)**

<sup>19</sup> **These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit.**

One pastor put it this way—

*“The truth is that they were physically alive but, because they had never been regenerated by the Holy Spirit, they were spiritually dead. They were religious frauds who paid lip service to faith and spiritual life but denied such claims by their actions.”*

**Titus 1:16 (NKJV)**

<sup>16</sup> They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.

**D. Christians—rejoice in that someday God will judge apostates—**  
**(Jude 1:14-15)**

**Jude 1:14-15 (NKJV)**

<sup>14</sup> Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, <sup>15</sup> to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."

Enoch first shows up in the Bible in Genesis chapters 4 and 5:

**Genesis 5:18, 21-24 (NKJV)**

<sup>18</sup> Jared lived one hundred and sixty-two years, and begot Enoch...<sup>21</sup> Enoch lived sixty-five years, and begot Methuselah. <sup>22</sup> After he begot Methuselah, Enoch walked with God three hundred years, and had sons and daughters. <sup>23</sup> So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. <sup>24</sup> And Enoch walked with God; and he *was* not, for God took him.

Enoch was the father of Methuselah and the great-grand father of Noah. It seemed that when Methuselah was born his father Enoch turned to the Lord (got saved)—and began to walk with Him.

**What caused Enoch to get his life right with God?**

We don't know for sure, but he is included in Hebrews 11, the "Hall of Faith" chapter, and held up as an example of faith.

*"Okay, but what did he put his faith in—what was the nature of his faith?"*

Well in general, he made it into Hebrews 11 for his faith in God—but in particular, for believing something God revealed to him.

I believe that this transformation in Enoch's life came in response to a revelation that God gave to him—a revelation that Enoch believed in so strongly that it brought him to saving faith and caused him to live a life of faith that lasted until the Lord took him 300 years later!

I personally believe that this revelation had to do with coming judgment! In other words, I believe that God revealed to Enoch that He was going to judge and destroy mankind because of its wickedness—a judgment we know was the Flood.

You say, *"Why do you believe that?"*

I believe it because Enoch named his son *Methuselah* which means *"dying he shall send"* or *"when he dies it shall come"*. You see, the very year Methuselah died—was the year the Flood came upon the earth.

So obviously Enoch believed a prophecy that God gave him about the coming Flood.

Furthermore, it seems that God also told him that he was going to have a son born to him and that the year his son died the flood would come—and so based on this prophecy, Enoch named his son Methuselah (*"when he dies it shall come"*)—by faith!

I have personally seen many people get their lives right with God because someone shared a prophecy or numerous prophecies with them concerning God's coming judgments upon this world.

There has never been another generation in the history of the world that has seen more end times prophecies fulfilled as we are seeing in our generation.

This is a fruitful time for evangelism because of it—and yet many churches won't touch Bible prophecy today. Many won't touch it because:

1. *It makes people uncomfortable which might cause them to leave the church.*
2. *Because they believe it takes the fire out of Christians to do God's work right now.*

The logic goes something like this—by teaching prophecy it causes people to get their eyes off of the here and now and all the work we need to do for the Lord's Kingdom on earth—and gets our eyes on some *"pie in the sky"* future Kingdom thus making us *"so heavenly minded we're no earthly good"*.

These people believe that the teaching of prophecy is counter-productive for the Church's mission to build His Kingdom on the earth right now ("Kingdom Now").

**But how did this information, this prophecy cause Enoch to live his life?**

First of all—it caused him to live a life of holiness—in that after he got saved, Enoch walked with God for three hundred years.

He walked with God a time when the world had become so evil, so immoral, and so corrupt that God had purposed to destroy mankind with the Flood.

**Genesis 6:5, 11 (NKJV)**

<sup>5</sup>Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every intent of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually. **(But Enoch walked with God)...**

<sup>11</sup>The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. **(But Enoch walked with God)**

So, the idea that prophecy—and especially end times prophecy, is counterproductive to our walk with and service for God—just isn't true!