

WHAT FALSE TEACHERS ARE LIKE

JUDE 8-16, 19

* So far in this epistle, we have noticed that Jude has...

- a. Exhorted his readers to “contend earnestly for the faith” (Jude 3)
- b. Made mention of “ungodly men” who have “silently come in” (Jude 4)
 - 1) Men who “turn the grace of our God into a license to practice immorality”
 - 2) And who “deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ”
- c. Reminded them of examples of God’s righteous condemnation in the past. (v 5-7)
 - 1) The nation of Israel in the wilderness
 - 2) The angels who sinned
 - 3) The cities of Sodom and Gomorrah

In today’s study we want to consider Jude’s description of these “dreamers.”

I. THEY “SLANDER” (8-11)

A. “celestial beings” (8-9)

1. “Celestial beings” can refer to angelic beings, or those in positions of authority.
2. In either case, these men would not hesitate to speak evil.
3. To illustrate the folly of their behavior, the dispute over the body of Moses is given:
 - a. Michael, the archangel, dared not bring a railing accusation against the devil.
 - b. Saying only “The Lord rebuke you”
 - c. How foolish, then, for these “dreamers” to slander those in authority

B. “against whatever they do not understand” (10- 11)

1. Unafraid to speak evil of celestial beings, they do not hesitate to speak evil of things they know nothing about!
2. And what they know naturally, in that they corrupt themselves!

¹² But these men blaspheme in matters they do not understand. They are like brute beasts, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like beasts they too will perish. (2 Pet 2:12)

3. In conducting themselves in this manner.
 - a. They have gone in the way of Cain

1) Whose works were evil (1 Jn 3:12)

2) Who did not act out of faith (Heb. 11:4)

b. They have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit

1) Who loved the wages of unrighteousness (2 Pet 2:15-16)

2) Who put a stumbling block before the children of Israel (Rev 2:14)

¹⁴ Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality. (Rev 2:14)

c. They have perished in the rebellion of Korah

1) A rebellion that was openly against Moses and Aaron. (cf. Num 16:1-45)

2) But was really against the Lord Himself (cf. Num 26:9)

II. THEY DEFILE THE FLESH (12-15, 19)

A. They were “blemishes” in the love feasts. (v. 12)

1. Feasting “without fear, serving only themselves”; they were also “sensual persons”

2. They took advantage of brother’s hospitality to engage in their lustful thoughts.

3. They were 'sensual' as opposed to being spiritual.

B. Their depravity is illustrated. (12-13)

1. "Clouds without rain, blown along by the wind"

a. Offering promise of blessing

b. But not leaving any

2. "Autumn trees without fruit and uprooted—twice dead"

a. Barren when fruit should be expected

b. But even worse, beyond fruit-bearing because they are dead and cut off from any source of nourishment

3. "Wild waves of the sea, foaming up their shame"

a. Like the flotsam and jetsam spewed by the waves

b. So their shame comes forth by their words and behavior

4. "Wandering stars for whom blackest darkness has been reserved forever"

a. Shining for a moment

b. But without direction or orbit, they will eventually be gone forever!

C. Their condemnation was prophesied long ago. (14-15)

1. By Enoch, the man “who walked with God; and he was not, because God took him” (cf. Gen 5:24)

2. Enoch prophesied of the Lord’s Coming...

a. Coming with ten thousands of His saints (cf. 1 Thess 3:13; 2 Thess 1:7)

b. Coming to execute judgment on all (cf. 2 Thess 1:8-9)

c. Coming to convict all who are ungodly.

1) Of their ungodly deeds committed in an ungodly way

2) Of things spoken against the Lord by ungodly sinners

III. THEY ARE “GRUMBLERS AND FAULTFINDERS” (16, 19)

A. Evidenced by the way they speak.

1. We have seen that they were quick to speak evil, contrary to apostolic teaching

2. Jude’s description of them as “murmurers, complainers” also shows a lack of respect for apostolic authority (cf. 1 Co 10:10; Ph 2:14)

3. Their use of flattery likewise was condemned by the apostles (cf. Ro 16:17-18)

B. Evidenced by the way they walk.

1. “Walking after their own lusts,” as “sensual persons,” clearly this was a rejection of apostolic authority and teaching (cf. 1 Pet 2:11; 1:14)
2. The same was true in “causing divisions” (Rom 16:17-18)

The last phrase of v. 19 truly sums up the condition of these “filthy dreamers”: “...having not the Spirit.”

They “defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil...” (Jude 8)

CONCLUSION

They demonstrate that they are walking “after the lusts of the flesh,” not “according to the Spirit” (cf. Gal 5:16-23)

The end of these “ungodly dreamers” is clearly stated in the Scriptures...

As emphasized by the apostle Paul: “those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God” (Gal 5:21)

As stated by Peter: “...to whom the gloom of darkness is reserved forever.” (2 Pet 2:17)

As stated by Jude: “...for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever” (Jude 15).