

# Contend Earnestly For the Faith Which Was Once For All Handed Down to the Saints

## An Expository Study of the **Epistle of Jude**

### Chapter 14- A Further Description of the Heretics **Jude 16** 155 A Further Description of the Heretics Part 1

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WOSM Tuesday 06/10/08

Welcome again my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the **Epistle of Jude** and today I want to begin a new section and look at what Jude taught about "A Further Description of the Heretics." So, let's open our Bibles and read **Jude 16** together:

**These are grumblers, finding fault, following after their *own* lusts; they speak arrogantly, flattering people for the sake of *gaining an advantage*.**

Now this is the last verse that Jude uses in his Epistle that describes the heretics. And so, we need to take heed to this verse and understand what Jude is teaching here and what these inspired Words actually mean so that we may recognize false teachers when we confront them.

Now after this verse- from here on out to the end of this Epistle- Jude never again mentions the heretics- but he turns his comments and encouragement to the believer.

Now in this verse- Jude lists five separate descriptions of the heretics that we need to examine. Jude describes the false teachers who creep into the Church to deceive the simple as having five characteristics. They are:

1. Grumblers
2. Those who find fault
3. Those who follow after their own lusts
4. Those who speak arrogantly
5. Those who flatter people for the sake of gaining an advantage

So, by God's Grace, let's examine these five descriptions- one at a time- so that we may understand what God the Holy Spirit inspired Jude to say to us.

## 1. Grumblers

Jude says that those who bring in false doctrine will be grumblers. Now the Greek word that was translated into English as "murmurers" here is *gongustees*, which means: *one who grumbles; or mutters in a semi-articulate speech*. So, this description that Jude gives us about the evil men who sneak into the Church to bring in damnable teachings has a dual meaning. Firstly, it means those who grumble. Now unlike today, grumbling in Bible times was considered to be a sin- especially in the New Testament Church where God's Grace had been so wonderfully poured out. The writers of the Bible considered complaining and murmuring and griping and belly aching to be a result of being discontent with what God had done or with what God has said or with something that God had not done or said. So, the act of grumbling shows us a heart that is not in accord with God. So, in every case where grumbling is used in Scripture- it is a very bad thing. Let me give you one very startling example.

Back in **Numbers 11**, we read an amazing account of how God viewed murmuring. The children of Israel began to murmur against Moses and so by default- they were murmuring against the Lord that had sent Moses- because they had become unsatisfied with eating manna all the time.

Now in order to understand what this was all about and why this type of murmuring was so evil- we must understand a little background information first. The children of Israel had been slaves for 400 years. They were beaten and misused for 400 years. They were bought and sold, and they were made to make bricks for the Egyptian leaders for 400 years. So, God remembered his Covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and God raised up Moses to bring the children of Israel out of bondage. So, Moses went in at the command of the Lord and demanded that Pharaoh set the people free. Pharaoh refused and God hardened his heart and so began a series of plagues that God sent upon Egypt to force Pharaoh to let the people go.

By these great plagues, God humiliated the greatest nation on earth in full view of the world and God brought this once mighty nation to its knees and after the first born were all killed- Pharaoh let the children of Israel go.

And not only had God brought these people freedom from 400 years of slavery- but the children of Israel spoiled the Egyptians when they left. The Egyptians were so glad to see these people leave- that they gave them gold and rings and riches so that when the children of Israel walked out of Egypt's bondage- they were the victors and not the victims.

So, millions of Jews walked away from Egypt in a great victory that has thrilled the hearts of all men in every nation throughout time.

And as they walked out- a cloud went before them. When the cloud moved- they moved. When the cloud stayed still- they pitched their tents and rested. And there was this rock that rolled along behind them. And when Moses spoke to this rock- water gushed out and the children of Israel could drink. And every single morning God had rained down angel's food called manna which was laid out on the ground for them to pick up. They didn't have to plow a field or plant seeds or grow a crop- but they could eat manna everyday courtesy of the room service provided by Almighty God.

Soon Pharaoh saw that he was mocked and sent his army after the children of Israel. This army was sent- not to reason with Israel- nor was it to bring them back to Egypt. No, this army was sent to destroy every Jew that was alive.

And so, when Moses saw the mightiest army on earth coming after him- he sought the Lord. What was God's solution to this terrible dilemma? He told Moses to keep silent and hold up a stick! That's right, God told Moses that he would see the salvation of the Lord by not speaking and by holding up his staff. So, Moses did that and God sent an East wind that blew all that night to divide the Egyptian army and the camp of God's children.

Now while the wind was blowing all night- God had sent a pillar of fire that divided between the two nations and after the Red Sea was parted- Moses instructed the people to walk through the Red Sea on dry ground. And after all the Jews were passed over, God pulled the pillar of fire back into the sky and the army of Egypt pursued after the

Jews. And when the army of Egypt was in the midst of the sea- God closed the waters around them and they all died.

God destroyed the greatest standing army on earth at that time with water and to this day, Egypt has never recovered from that slaughter.

The point that I am making by bringing all this out is that the children of Israel saw all of this. They saw Egypt humiliated. They saw all the signs and wonders. They saw the cloud lead them. They saw the pillar of fire. They saw the Red Sea part. They saw the rock give water. They ate the manna that God gave them. And after all of this- they still weren't satisfied- and they began to complain and murmur and bellyache and they cried to Moses and said, "*Would to God that we were back in Egypt!*"

They despised everything that God had done for them. It wasn't enough. No matter what God did- it wasn't enough. They didn't appreciate the goodness of God. They were not satisfied with that which God had provided; they didn't want to eat angel's food any longer, so they began to murmur, and they cried out for flesh to eat.

And in His fury and in His wrath against their ungratefulness- God gave them what they wanted so badly- but it was to their own destruction. Let's read **Numbers 11:31-34**:

**31 Now there went forth a wind from the LORD and it brought quail from the sea, and let *them* fall beside the camp, about a day's journey on this side and a day's journey on the other side, all around the camp and about two cubits *deep* on the surface of the ground.**

**32 The people spent all day and all night and all the next day, and gathered the quail (he who gathered least gathered ten homers) and they spread *them* out for themselves all around the camp.**

**33 While the meat was still between their teeth, before it was chewed, the anger of the LORD was kindled against the people, and the LORD struck the people with a very severe plague.**

**34 So the name of that place was called Kibroth-hattaavah, because there they buried the people who had been greedy.**

Now the Bible says here that their murmuring was caused by their evil lust and their wicked ungratefulness and so God destroyed the people who engaged in this activity and who were not thankful and grateful for what God had done and with what God had provided.

Jude says that the heretics who creep into the Church will be grumblers- just like this. And they will not only *personally* be grumblers- they will not only *personally* not be content with that which God has done- but they will teach that we *all* need to be dissatisfied with the provision that God has already given and that by virtue of our Salvation- that we have the “right” to lust and covet for more and more. Now these false teachers won’t call it lusting or coveting of course- because that would tip you off- but the result is the same. The result of what these people teach is that God’s people will be dissatisfied with what God has done and with what God has provided and these people will teach all kinds of secret methods and special prayers and useful techniques that will, in effect, teach you how to twist God’s Arm into giving you what your lust craves after.

And beloved, this is the Doctrine of many of our most famous television preachers today. They call it Health, Wealth and Faith- but the Bible calls it covetousness. They call it “name it and claim it”- but the Bible calls it lusting. They call it “praying the prayer of Jabez” but the Bible calls it sin and God destroyed the children of Israel for doing the very same thing.

This ungrateful grumbling and of promoting dissatisfaction with what God has already done is the foundational theology that motivates their entire ministry- to grumble against what God has done so that we can get more. And it is extremely popular today with those who do not exercise spiritual discernment- but the Bible calls it sin.

Contrary to what the deceivers teach- Our gracious and merciful God has already promised that He will take care of those who faithfully serve Him- if we would only trust His provision. Let’s read **Luke 12:22-31:**

**22 And He said to His disciples, "For this reason I say to you, do not worry about *your* life, as to what you will eat; nor for your body, as to what you will put on.**

**23 "For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing.**

**24 "Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap; they have no storeroom nor barn, and *yet* God feeds them; how much more valuable you are than the birds!**

**25 "And which of you by worrying can add a *single* hour to his life's span?**

**26 "If then you cannot do even a very little thing, why do you worry about other matters?**

**27 "Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; but I tell you, not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these.**

**28 "But if God so clothes the grass in the field, which is *alive* today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, how much more *will He clothe* you? You men of little faith!**

**29 "And do not seek what you will eat and what you will drink, and do not keep worrying.**

**30 "For all these things the nations of the world eagerly seek; but your Father knows that you need these things.**

**31 "But seek His kingdom, and these things will be added to you.**

True born again believers do not have to go down the road that the grumblers preach about because true believers trust God that God has not forgotten them, and God will provide what we have need of . The deceivers want you to trust in your own ability to make things happen and to develop methods that manipulate Faith. But faithful preachers and teachers want you to develop your Trust in God Who alone is the source of all things that we need.

So, my beloved, we can see that the first of the five descriptions of the heretics is that they are grumblers, and we need to heed what this means so that we do not fall for their ungodly teaching. And Lord willing, we will look at the second description of the false teachers on the next broadcast. Well, I've got to stop right here. But please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our Journey through the Epistle of **Jude**. May God help us all.

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