

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

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

Chapter 7- The Profile of the Heretics **Jude 5-7**

89. The Profile of the Heretics Part 5

WOSM Monday 03/10/08

Welcome again my beloved in Jesus Christ. We are continuing our verse by verse “Journey” through the Epistle of **Jude** and today I want to continue to examine what Jude taught about “The Profile of the Heretics”. So, let’s read verses 5-7 of Jude again together:

5 Now 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.

6 And 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,

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

Now on the last broadcast, we saw how that in these three verses, Jude was comparing the heretics to three Old Testament groups in order to give us a clear profile of both their activities and God’s wrath against them.

We saw God’s Vengeance upon those Jews who were apostate; those angels who were apostate and the Gentile cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. These powerful passages with its three dramatic illustrations of apostasy, is a sobering reminder of the ultimate fate that awaits those who try to attack the Faith. In addition, these verses also provide a fitting motivation for believers as we continue to earnestly contend for the Truth. And it also serves as a solemn warning

to anyone who intellectually knows that the Gospel is right but who chooses to walk away from it.

We need to take Jude's warnings seriously, dear friends, and we need to comprehend that God is very angry at those who seek to pervert the right way of the Lord. The way that God's Word is handled today is frightening to me. I hear flippant comments made about serious eternal issues and it really bothers me that we can laugh and tell jokes about the things that God judges people over. I really believe that part of the reason that we can make light of these things is one of the signs that we are living in the last days.

Today we are plagued with a gross lack of the fear of the Lord. We have become bold in our arrogance and bold in our sin and bold in our plans and bold in our attitude about what God will and will not do- and that is a terrible sin. One of the ways that we sin like this all the time and think nothing about it, is in our attitude about our lives and our future plans.

God said that we are not to even declare what we will or won't do tomorrow because we are not in charge of tomorrow. Let's read **James 4:13-16:**

13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit."

14 Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are *just* a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.

15 Instead, *you ought* to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that."

16 But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil.

James tells us that to ignore God and to make our *own* plans regardless of God's Will and then to rejoice in our own plans is not just something that shouldn't be done- but it is evil. This kind of thinking goes on all the time and when I saw it in my own life- it frightened me. This is an arrogance that is very evil in God's Eyes, but is accepted in our own eyes. And because we are more interested in what we can get out of God than what we can do for God- we don't see God's Word as something that should govern not just our Church life- but also our personal and private lives as well.

James said that we should always say, “**If the Lord wills**” when we speak of the future- especially when we speak of our own personal future plans. By prefacing all of our future plans with the statement, “**If the Lord wills**”, we are doing several things:

1. We are acknowledging the Sovereignty of God- that God is in charge of the future and that unless God desires that something happen- it will not happen. This is a very good thing for us to do because it keeps our minds and hearts in right relationship with God. Because we live in such a materialistic and self-centered culture- we tend to allow the world to rub of on us. By saying, “if the Lord wills”, we are renewing our minds by God’s infallible Word and thus, we are helping to keep ourselves away from sinful thinking and sinful activity.
2. We are also acknowledging that no man is in charge of the future and that no man can control the future. Our future and thus all of our future plans are in God’s Hands and unless God gives us the Grace and the ability to do that which He has commanded- we will not be able to even live another day- much less accomplish our own plans.

Now it is perfectly understandable that unsaved; unwashed; unregenerate souls would care anything about saying, “If the Lord wills” when making their future plans- but it is inconceivable that Christians would be so arrogant. Brothers and sisters, let us all humble ourselves to God’s Sovereignty and not just *include* God in your plans- but ask for God’s Will in your future Plans.

Beloved, Jude tells us that the heretics creep into the Church while the leadership of the Church is asleep and not standing guard as faithful watchmen on the walls. So we need to make sure that as leaders in the House of God- we are faithfully watching; faithfully guarding; and faithfully protecting the sheep from those who would come in to deceive and draw away.

To ignore Jude’s warnings in these verses or to minimize their impact on our modern lives, brings forth consequences that are terrifying. Let’s continue to uncover the profile of the heretics by reading verse 8 of Jude:

Yet in the same way these men, also by dreaming, defile the flesh, and reject authority, and revile angelic majesties.

Now notice that Jude begins this 8th verse with the phrase, **“Yet in the same way”** And this is an important transition which further unlocks the significance of the previous three verses. Remember that Jude said in verses 5-7 that the heretics display the very same character traits as did apostate Israel; apostate angels and the perverted population of Sodom and Gomorrah.

And by Jude using this phrase, **“Yet in the same way”** here to begin the eighth verse- he is telling us that in the same way that these three groups acted like they did and did what they did and were who they were- so too, the heretics will be just like them.

Now notice also in verse 8 what Jude says next because it is very key to unlocking the Truth about all heretics. Jude goes on to call the men who creep into the Church to twist the Truth, men who **“defile the flesh, and reject authority, and revile angelic majesties.”** And Jude says here that these people do this evil work **“by dreaming”**.

Now before you get all out of sorts with me- I want to remind you that this term was inspired by God the Holy Spirit and not Blair Bradley. Jude calls the very same men who creep into the Church; the very same men who twist the Scriptures; the very same men who teach what they don't know; live ungodly lives; are bold and arrogant about their sin and apostasy; Jude calls these men- **“by dreaming, defile the flesh, and reject authority, and revile angelic majesties.”**

Now it is interesting to note that in most every instance in the New Testament where the word, “dream” is used- it comes from the Greek word, *onar*. But Jude used another word here that is only used one other place in the New Testament. The Greek word, *enupniazo*, is used here in **Jude 8** and in **The Acts 2:17&18**, so let's read that passage:

17 'AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS,' God says, 'THAT I WILL POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT ON ALL MANKIND; AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS;
18 EVEN ON MY BONDSLAVES, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN, I WILL IN THOSE DAYS POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT And they shall prophesy.

Now there are many interpretations of this verse, but there are some facts about these two verses that cannot be disputed. First of all, the Apostle Peter said in verse 16 that the Holy Spirit falling on the people in the Upper Room at that time was the fulfillment of **Joel 2**. Peter said about the 120 being filled,

The Acts 2:16b

... this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel:

Now whether or not that same gift is falling today is not the subject of this particular teaching on Jude. I will be happy to go into that subject on another broadcast, but I want to stick with the subject at hand.

Peter said, that those people being filled with the Holy Ghost at that time and in that place was the fulfillment of **Joel 2**. When Peter was quoting the prophet Joel in **Acts 2:17**- he used the same word to describe dreams that Jude used in verse 8. And as I mentioned earlier- this word, *enupniazo*, was only used twice in the entire New Testament- here in **The Acts 2:17** and in **Jude 8**.

We need to know that the word, *enupniazo*, was not used to describe just *any* kind of dream- it wasn't even used to describe dreams that God used to speak to man about- like the dreams that warned Joseph, the foster father of Jesus and the three wise men. Those dreams came from the word, *onar*.

No, this word that was used by both Peter and Jude was used to describe *special* dreams that were used by the prophets to develop Doctrine.

So, Jude uses this term, “**by dreaming**” to describe these ungodly men. This term is showing us that the *special* dreams that the heretics had were Doctrinal in nature and they were wrong; bad; corrupt; and, in many cases, were perverted in nature.

By Jude using this term here- he is telling us that these evil men place their dreams as the highest order of their so-called communication from God. The result of elevating their dreams to this high level is that many of these people are even willing to ignore the Bible if their dreams and the Bible don't jive together. Beloved, Jude is telling us that these filthy dreamers reject the Word of God based upon their deceptive teachings that came forth from impure and demonized minds. Beside a

few very notable exceptions like Joseph- the Old Testament almost always associates dreamers with false prophets. Let's look at **Deuteronomy 13:1-5:**

1 "If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder,

2 and the sign or the wonder comes true, concerning which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods (whom you have not known) and let us serve them,'

3 you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams; for the LORD your God is testing you to find out if you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

4 "You shall follow the LORD your God and fear Him; and you shall keep His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him, and cling to Him.

5 "But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has counseled rebellion against the LORD your God who brought you from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, to seduce you from the way in which the LORD your God commanded you to walk. So you shall purge the evil from among you.

And let's also look at **Jeremiah 23:25-32:**

25 "I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy falsely in My name, saying, 'I had a dream, I had a dream!'

26 "How long? Is there *anything* in the hearts of the prophets who prophesy falsehood, even *these* prophets of the deception of their own heart,

27 who intend to make My people forget My name by their dreams which they relate to one another, just as their fathers forgot My name because of Baal?

28 "The prophet who has a dream may relate *his* dream, but let him who has My word speak My word in truth. What does straw have *in common* with grain?" declares the LORD .

29 "Is not My word like fire?" declares the LORD, "and like a hammer which shatters a rock?

30 "Therefore behold, I am against the prophets," declares the LORD, "who steal My words from each other.

31 "Behold, I am against the prophets," declares the LORD, "who use their tongues and declare, '*The Lord* declares.'

32 "Behold, I am against those who have prophesied false dreams," declares

the LORD , "and related them and led My people astray by their falsehoods and reckless boasting; yet I did not send them or command them, nor do they furnish this people the slightest benefit," declares the LORD .

We need to understand here that in verse 4, Jude calls these people, “**certain persons**”, so Jude was not saying that everyone who is off base in their doctrine is a heretic and he also was not saying that someone is a heretic simply because his theology is inconsistent. And it is also important to say here that Jude is not saying that all dreams are bad; or that all dreamers are bad; or that dreams cannot or should not or will not ever have a godly and spiritual component to them.

No, Jude was talking about specific people who creep into the Church for the specific purpose to deceive and to destroy the Church. Jude says that these people have supernatural revelations given to them- only not from God. They have dreams that they use to develop Doctrine; they hear voices; they have visitations; and Jude says that these men were ordained for condemnation.

Well, I’m out of time for today- 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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