

Jude 8-11

8 Yet in the same way these men, also by dreaming, defile the flesh, and reject authority, and revile angelic majesties. **9** But 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!” **10** But 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. **11** Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain, and for pay they have rushed headlong into the error of Balaam, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

A Battle for the Truth...Doctrinal and Moral Fidelity...Against Apostate False Teachers

Jude 3...contend earnestly for the truth

Jude 4...A battle inside the church...the infiltration of apostates

4 For 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.

Jude 4...crept in...unnoticed

Jude 12...Hidden reefs in your love feasts

Apostasy...

Defecting from, departing from the Truth

Hearing the Gospel, knowing the Gospel, professing the Gospel,
abandoning the Gospel

May well entail a deceiving facade of fidelity, a superficial veneer of righteousness...but inner corruption pervades

Matthew 23:25-28...“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside they are full of robbery and self-indulgence. **26** You blind Pharisee, first clean the inside of the cup and of the dish, so that the outside of it may become clean also.

27 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness. **28** So you, too, outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

Key aspects of this apostasy...

Willful

Secretive

Manipulative

Destructive

Consider 2 Peter 2:1-3

1 But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. **2** Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; **3** and in *their* greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

Note the severity of judgment which accompanies apostasy

Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 84. What doth every sin deserve?

A. Every sin deserveth God’s wrath and curse, both in this life, and that which is to come.

Eph. 5:6; Gal. 3:10; Lam. 3:39; Matt. 25:41

Q. 83. Are all transgressions of the law equally heinous?

A. Some sins in themselves, and by reason of several aggravations, are more heinous in the sight of God than others.

Ezek. 8:6, 13, 15; 1 John 5:16; Ps. 78:17, 32, 56

Jude 4...Destined for Judgment...those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation

Jude 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.

Jude 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

Jude 7...headed for the punishment of eternal fire

And Jude 13...headed for black darkness

Note parallels in 2 Peter 2:4-10...

4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment; **5** and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; **6** and *if* He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing *them* to ashes, having made them an example to those who would live ungodly *lives* thereafter; **7** and *if* He rescued righteous Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men **8** (for by what he saw and heard *that* righteous man, while living among them, felt *his* righteous soul tormented day after day by *their* lawless deeds), **9** *then* the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment, **10** and especially those who indulge the flesh in *its* corrupt desires and despise authority

Structure of Jude 5-11...the “unmasking” of the spiritual enemies of Christ and His Church

Jude 5-7...3 cases of apostate judgment...the certainty of judgment

Jude 5...Israel...the Lord...subsequently destroyed those who did not believe

Jude 6...Angels...kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day

Jude 7...Sodom and Gomorrah...exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire

In each case there is certain destruction by God

Consider also Jude 10,12,13 and 14b,15

Jude 10...But 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

Jude 12...autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted

Jude 13...wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever

Jude 14b,15...“Behold, the Lord came with many thousands of His holy ones, **15** to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.

Jude 8...3 characteristics of apostate nature...the cause of judgment

Defiled...Immoral (NASB “defile the flesh”)

Defiant...Impudent (NASB “reject authority”)

Derisive...Impious (NASB “revile angelic majesties”)

Jude 11...3 cases of apostate influence

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

The way of Cain

The error of Balaam

The rebellion of Korah

Let's focus on Jude 8-10...

Jude 8... "Yet in the same way"...a key transition and interpretive expression

In each case cited, we see Defilement, Defiance and Derisiveness

Jude 5...Israel

Jude 6...Angels

Jude 7...Sodom and Gomorrah

Kim Riddlebarger on Jude 8...the characteristics of the apostates

"While Jude utilizes Old Testament redemptive history as well as apocryphal legends (like that in the Book of Enoch), to make his point about the inevitability of God's judgment upon false teachers, in verse 8, Jude tells us of their specific sin. "Yet in like manner these people also, relying on their dreams, defile the flesh, reject authority, and blaspheme the glorious ones (ESV)." Just as the Israelites doubted God's promise, just as the angels left heaven, and just as Sodom and Gomorrah flaunted their licentiousness, so too, the false teachers who ("in like manner") have crept into these churches and are using the grace of God in order to sin, have brought themselves under God's condemnation. Jude is making a point similar to the one made by Paul in 1 Corinthians 10:4 when Paul speaks of God's judgment upon the faithless Israelites in the wilderness as examples to us today. "Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did."

Jude 8...these men, also by dreaming

Note Jude's choice of wording for these dreamers...an unusual term used twice in the NT

Acts 2:17...referring to Joel 2:28,29

Revelatory, prophetic dreams...visions and prophecies
In Jude's case, these men reject divine authority and claim special, personal authority as the basis for their apostate teaching

Kim Riddlebarger on the “Dreamers”

"Jude quickly moves on to give us some insight into the deceptive mode of operations of the false teachers. These men were claiming that God was revealing himself to them through dreams, and that what God was supposedly revealing to them, was the justification for their sinful actions which defile the flesh (“God appeared to me in a dream and told me it was OK to sin”). Given the fact that Jude has just mentioned Sodom and Gomorrah, most commentators see Jude’s comments as a reference to homosexuality, although Jude’s primary concern here is the intentional misuse of God’s grace on the part of those making the claim of possessing direct revelation from God. In other words, the primary issue is not the exact nature of these men’s sexual sin, but that these men were contending that God had revealed to them that their sexual immorality—in whatever form that immorality took—was not only permissible for them, but for others as well. Likewise, Paul condemns this behavior and attitude in Romans 1:32. “Though they know God's decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.”

In claiming that their dreams were revelatory—attempts to give credence to their claim that their sin was permissible—Jude says they “reject authority.” Scripture is crystal clear that sexual relations are limited to marriage, and sex before marriage (fornication), sex outside of marriage (adultery), as well as homosexuality are sinful acts. Yet, these men were claiming that God revealed to them these things were permissible. Whenever God’s word teaches one thing, and sinful men and women were claiming that God revealed to them the exact opposite, we see the depths of human sinfulness. This is what Reformed theologians call “autonomy” (self-law). Because of sin, we become a law unto ourselves. We end-up doing what Israel did in the days of the Judges: “everyone did what was right in their own eyes.” It is one thing to struggle with sin (even sexual sin), as we all do.

It is another thing to falsely claim that God revealed to us in a dream that our sexual sins are not really sins—and that God blesses what we are doing. This specious and deceitful claim is the basis for their certain condemnation.”

Consider Deuteronomy 13:1-5; Jeremiah 23:1,23-28...

Deuteronomy 13:1-5...“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.

Jeremiah 23:1,23-28

“Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of My pasture!” declares the Lord....“Am I a God who is near,” declares the Lord, “And not a God far off? **24** “Can a man hide himself in hiding places So I do not see him?” declares the Lord.“Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?” declares the Lord.**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

Consider Colossians 2:18; 1 Timothy 4:1,2...

Colossians 2:18... Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on *visions* he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind

1 Timothy 4:1,2...But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, **2** by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron

The apostates of Jude's epistle bear each of the marks of defilement, defiance and derisiveness

Defile the flesh...to stain, pollute, corrupt (sexual sin and immorality)

Consider Jude 13,16,18; 2 Peter 2:10,13,14,18; Galatians 5:19

Jude 13...wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam

Jude 16...following after their *own* lusts;

Jude 18...following after their own ungodly lusts

2 Peter 2:10...those who indulge the flesh in *its* corrupt desires

2 Peter 2:13...They count it a pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are stains and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, as they carouse with you

2 Peter 2:14... having eyes full of adultery that never cease from sin

2 Peter 2:18...they entice by fleshly desires, by sensuality

Galatians 5:19...Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality

Reject authority...

Jude 4...deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ

Jude 6...angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode

Jude 8...these men, also by dreaming

Jude 12...they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves

Jude 13...wandering stars

Revile angelic majesties...

Jude 8,9...**8** Yet in the same way these men, also by dreaming, defile the flesh, and reject authority, and revile angelic majesties. **9** But 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!”

2 Peter 2:10b,11...Daring, self-willed, they do not tremble when they revile angelic majesties, **11** whereas angels who are greater in might and power do not bring a reviling judgment against them before the Lord.

Jude 16b...they speak arrogantly, flattering people for the sake of *gaining an advantage*.

Kim Riddlebarger on “Reviling angelic majesties”

“In line with their claim to receive revelations from God, Jude accuses these men of blaspheming the “glorious ones.” This is a reference to angels as becomes apparent in verses 9-10, as Jude cites not from the Old Testament, but the apocryphal Assumption (or Testament) of Moses in verse 9. Scholars believe The Assumption of Moses was written as early as the second century B.C, or even perhaps during the years after the death of Herod (7-30 A.D.). The Assumption of Moses insists that Jews remain loyal to the Torah, despite the encroaching influence of Gentiles. Jude cites it in reference to Moses’ central role in the Assumption.

“But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, ‘The Lord rebuke you.’ But these people blaspheme all that they do not understand, and they are destroyed by all that they, like unreasoning animals, understand instinctively.” Since those to whom Jude is writing were steeped in Jewish mysticism and apocalypticism, undue interest in angels was to be expected.

The story of Michael wrestling with the devil over Moses’ body was no doubt intriguing to many Jewish Christians in the apostolic churches, as it is with Christians today.

So, in citing from the Assumption of Moses, Jude is referring to yet another Jewish legend. This one held that when Moses died, Michael (according to Revelation 12:7, Michael is a an archangel, a chief angel) was to bury Moses' body, but then Satan opposed Michael claiming that Moses' corpse was his. Michael made no personal judgment about Satan, but reminded Satan that the Lord had already rebuked him. This is a reference to Zechariah 3:1-10 which speaks of Satan accusing Israel's high priest Joshua of failing to fulfill his priestly duties, thereby bringing YHWH's purposes into question. At that time the Lord rebuked Satan, stripped off Joshua's filthy clothes, and then placed new, spotless, priestly garments on Joshua. Zechariah 3 is a picture then, (a type) of Christ's death washing away our sin, even as Jesus's righteousness provides us with a perfect righteousness, with which the devil can find no fault.

In the legend quoted by Jude, Michael knew better than to rebuke Satan, because the Lord himself had done this while prefiguring the gospel in the account of Zechariah. Unlike Michael, Jude points out that these false teachers don't have enough sense to leave well enough alone. They claim to be speaking for God (based upon their dreams and visions), but in reality they understand nothing and utter blasphemies against angelic beings they know nothing about. These false teachers claim to be prophets and teachers who know the mind of the Spirit of God, but in actuality, these men are behaving like wild animals acting on instinct—similar to Peter's rebuke of such men in 2 Peter 2:10.

They may act piously (and pray in King James English), but don't have a clue spiritual things, nor the judgment which awaits them.”

Reviling angelic majesties and antinomianism...

Deuteronomy 33:1,2...Now this is the blessing with which Moses the man of God blessed the sons of Israel before his death. **2** He said,

“The Lord came from Sinai,
And dawned on them from Seir;
He shone forth from Mount Paran,
And He came from the midst of ten thousand holy ones

Acts 7:53...you who received the law as ordained by angels, and *yet* did not keep it.

Galatians 3:19...Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, until the seed would come to whom the promise had been made.

Hebrews 2:1-3a...For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away *from it*. **2** For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, **3** how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?

Jude 14,15...*It was* also about these men *that* Enoch, *in* the seventh *generation* from Adam, prophesied, saying, “Behold, the Lord came with many thousands of His holy ones, **15** to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”

The self-deception of the deceivers...

Jude 10...**10** But 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

Jude 19b...worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit

2 Peter 2:3...in *their* greed they will exploit you with false words

2 Peter 2:12...But these, like unreasoning animals, born as creatures of instinct to be captured and killed, reviling where they have no knowledge, will in the destruction of those creatures also be destroyed

Kim Riddlebarger on Jude 11...the three cases of apostate damage

“In fact, in verse 11 Jude pronounces a covenant curse upon these men, just as Michael reminded Satan of the Lord’s rebuke. “Woe to them!” says Jude, “for they walked in the way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error and perished in Korah's rebellion.” Again, Jude cites three more Old Testament accounts of those who rebelled against God and his gracious purposes. Jude mentions Cain, who according to Genesis 4:3-8, killed his brother Abel when God accepted Abel’s offering but not his.

Jude mentions Balaam, the prophet who spoke only as the Lord commanded (but for monetary gain), and who later led the Israelites into idolatry (when the people worshiped Midianite gods). Balaam functions as a kind of biblical prototype of those subsequent prophets and teachers who would do just about anything for money. Jude also mentions Korah's rebellion (Numbers 16:19-35). Korah led a rebellion against Moses and Aaron, but the ground opened up and swallowed Korah and his household, along with all those who followed him. The fate of these men and the judgment which came upon them was well known to all those in Jude's audience. Jude's point—the bad guys are gonna get it.”

<http://kimriddlebarger.squarespace.com/the-latest-post/category/sermons-on-the-book-of-jude>