

Wheelersburg Baptist Church 11/24/91  
Jude 11-13 "Red Alert in the Church"

**Intro:**

The book of Jude is a book of warning. Jude puts the church on Red Alert.

Discuss: What's the danger Jude pinpoints?

A: Apostacy

V 3 "Beloved . . . it was needful . . . to exhort. . . contend for the faith"

V 4 "For their are certain men crept in unawares"

What is true of Apostates? In v 4, Jude gives us several stark characteristics of the apostates that plagued the church. They are Subtle Men, Predicted Men, Ungodly Men, Grace-perverting Men, and Lordship-denying Men.

What happens to apostates? Jude tells us in vv 5-7. Three dreadful examples from the past reveal their impending judgment: The Unbelieving Israelites (5), The Fallen Angels (6), The Immoral Cities of the Plain (7).

Q: "Well that's the OT. What are apostates like in the church age?"

A: Jude describes them in vv 8-16.

1. Jude describes their Crime (8-13).
2. Jude describes their Condemnation (14-16).

Two weeks ago, in Jude 8-10, we saw 4 crimes that apostates commit.

- I. Apostates are Polluters (8).
- II. Apostates are Proud (8).
- III. Apostates are Poisonous (8-9).
- IV. Apostates are Presumptuous (10).

Tran: That's where we left off the last time. But Jude's not done describing the crime of false teachers.

Q: Why study Jude? We don't face the same problem Jude addressed, do we?

Illust: It concerns me the lack of discernment Christians have when it comes to the preachers they'll listen to on TV, the literature they'll read, the ministries they'll support, etc.

Illust: Conversation this week with Gary Exman about United Methodist denomination. I told him about the funeral service for my cousin a couple of years ago, where the minister basically assured everyone that they'd end up in heaven. No preaching of salvation thru faith in Jesus Christ alone. Gary told me, "To be ordained in our denomination that he must have at one time ascribed to the fundamental tenets of the faith. . ."

The problem of apostacy is real today. And you need to be on guard.

How? Jude shows us.

Q: What are false teachers like?

**Proposition: In vv 11-13, Jude uses 2 types of illustrations to display the ugly crime of false teachers.**

- I. False Teachers resemble Infamous Individuals (11).
  - A. Cain
  - B. Balaam
  - C. Korah
- II. False Teachers resemble Inconsistent Images (12-13).
  - A. Sunken Rocks (12)
  - B. Waterless Clouds (12)
  - C. Fruitless Trees (12)
  - D. Raging Waves (13)
  - E. Wandering Stars (13)

**I. False Teachers resemble Infamous Individuals (11).**

Notice how Jude begins this section.

V 11 "Woe unto them!"

He sounds like Jesus! He announces divine judgment that awaits false teachers. He pronounces the severe consequences for their forsaking the true message of the gospel. Woe to them!

What tragic words. . .

And why? V 11 "for. . ."

Jude wants us to know that false teachers have a track record. To show us what they've done, Jude digs into Israel's history book, and retrieves 3 illustrations of infamous individuals. These illustrations show us what the apostates have done:

1. They've gone.
2. They ran greedily.
3. They perished.

Listen carefully. The mistake of the false teachers in Jude's day was this. They made a series of wrong choices. Wrong choices. They didn't reject the truth all at once. But slowly and subtly. They didn't receive the truth of God's Word with faith.

Application:

A. Cain

V 11 "They have gone in the way of Cain"

What did Cain do?

See: Genesis 4

Q: What was the way of Cain?

1. Rebellious, instead of Obedient (3, 5)
2. Obstinate, instead of Repentant (5b)
3. Hardened, instead of Teachable (6-7)
4. Violent, instead of Loving (8)
5. Defensive, instead of Compliant (9)
6. Cursed, instead of Blessed (11)

Q: How are false teachers like Cain?

What was Cain? The first murderer. He murdered Abel's body. So false teachers murder the souls of others. How do they do it?

By the things they teach people.

What was Cain's problem? MacArthur put it this way--Cain didn't care about what God wanted. Apparently Cain knew that God required a blood sacrifice. But Cain didn't care. What did Cain think? "I'm going to do what I want. That'll be good enough. I don't buy the idea of redemption by blood. I think it's a matter of ethics. If you're a good man, and do what's right, God will accept you."

Listen. Cain knew the truth, and chose to reject it.

Application: There are lots of pastors in Liberal churches today that are just like Cain. Cain rejected God's requirement of a blood sacrifice. And so do they. They deny that the death of Jesus was a substitutionary atonement for sin. Who do they say Jesus was? Merely a martyr who gave his life for a cause. He's not a Savior from sin--there is no such thing as sin. He is our Example.

Illust: Musical "Jesus Christ Superstar" presents Jesus this way

### B. Balaam

V 11 "ran greedily after the error of Balaam"

Who was Balaam? Num 22-25. A prophet. The king of Moab, Balaak, didn't want the Israelites to take the land of Canaan. So he hired Balaam to curse Israel. But instead of cursing, a blessing came out of his mouth.

Balaam sounds like an OK guy right? That's not the end of the story.

Q: Do you remember what the Israelites did with the Moabites?

A: Num 31:9 They took the Moabite women to their camp.

The Israelites committed immorality and idolatry at Baal-peor. Why did they do it?

Balaam couldn't curse the Israelites. So guess what he did? He persuaded the woman of Moab and Midian to seduce the Israelites. And his evil plan worked.

See: Num 31:16

Balaam convinced the Israelites that it would be OK for them to compromise God's standard. After all, they were God's chosen people! "Go ahead and sin. Nothing will happen," he told them.

Application: So are false teachers today. They minister for a prophet. They're available to the highest bidder. They cry to people to send in their money. Although they would never admit it, they're in the ministry for what they can get out of it. To line their pockets. Just like Balaam.

Illust:

### C. Korah

V 11 "perished in the gainsaying of Korah"

"gainsaying" = lit. "against the Word"

Korah rebelled against the Word of God. Who was Korah? Moses' cousin. Now watch this. Cain ignored God's command. Balaam tried to compromise it. But Korah blatantly defied it, and rebelled against it.

How? See Num 16

Korah was jealous of Moses and Aaron's leadership. He defied them publicly. He rebelled against them. In effect he said, "We don't need priests. We don't need Moses." Acc to Num 16:3, they believed the entire congregation was holy and could enter God's presence without a mediating priest. 250 agreed with Korah and joined his rebellion.

What happened? 16:31-35 God opened the ground and swallowed Korah, and sent fire to destroy the 250 rebels!

Application: Korah is a classic example of a popular teaching today. Korah is just like those today who don't believe that man is sinful and in need of a Savior. Korah is like those who teach "the fatherhood of God", that is, that all men can come to God, whether through Jesus or Mohamed, or Budha, or whatever. God accepts everybody. He is too loving to send anybody to hell.

Is that true? See I Tim 2:5

Illust:

Tran: Jude wants us to know that false teachers resemble these infamous individuals from the past. Next, he compares them to things we can see in the present.

## **II. False Teachers resemble Inconsistent Images (12-13).**

V 12 "These ARE. . ."

Quote: "A picture is worth a thousand words."

Jude would agree. So what he does is paints 5 word pictures, one right after the other, and says, "That's just what false teachers are like!"

False Teachers resemble Inconsistent Images.

### A. Sunken Rocks (12)

V 12 "These are spots in your love feasts"

"love feasts"

The highlight of the week for the early Christians was the Lord's Day. They would meet in homes weekly for a grand fellowship meal. The rich and poor alike would gather (it was the only good meal of the week for some perhaps). It was a time of sharing. Called the "Love Feast" (communion observed at the end of the meal).

Note: Love Feasts could be abused--I Cor 11

Guess who else participated in the Love Feast? The false teachers. Jude warns in v 12b, "when they feast with you, feeding themselves w/o fear." The word "feeding" is used in Acts 20:28 to describe what Pastors are supposed to do-- "Feed the sheep." But what do false teachers do? Feed themselves. Use other people to satisfy their own lusts.

That's why Jude calls them "spots".

"spots" = rare word (only NT use); in secular greek, it means "rocks", "sunken rocks" Apostates are like sunken rocks.

Illust: like taking a boat into shallow water, where sunken rocks exist

False teachers resemble this first inconsistent image of sunken rocks. Next. . .

### B. Waterless Clouds (12)

V 12 "clouds they are w/o water"

When you see a cloud, especially a black one, what do you expect? Rain!

False teachers are like waterless clouds. You see them and think they're going to nourish you, but all they do is hide the sun (and Son!)! They don't satisfy your thirsting heart. They raise your hopes with their idle promises. They claim to be enlightened, advanced thinkers. But in the end their words are hollow and empty.

Q: How many people do you know that go to a church week after week, and leave without receiving one ounce of spiritual nourishment from God's Word?

Illust:

### C. Fruitless Trees (12)

V 12 "trees whose fruit withers"

A barren fruit tree is a real let down.

Illust:

Jesus said, "By their fruits you shall know them." See Mt 7:15-20

False teachers are barren, fruitless. And in the end they are "plucked up by the roots". In the OT to be "uprooted" was symbolic for experiencing the judgment of God."

### D. Raging Waves (13)

V 13 "Raging waves of the sea"

Have you ever been to the ocean beach? Have you ever walked on the beach and noticed what the tide brought to the shore? Besides shells, you'll often find trash and scum. The waves regurgitate the mess on the shore. They leave behind a tangled web of seaweed and driftwood and litter.

Jude says apostates are like that.

"foaming out their own shame"--Over and over and over, like the rolling tide, apostates promote their idolatrous message. And if you hear something repeated enough times, you may be inclined to think it's true. So it is that many are captivated by the repugnant message of false teachers.

### E. Wandering Stars (13)

V 13 "wandering stars"

"wandering" = "planatai" (our word "planet")

Jude is not thinking of planets, but of falling stars. That's what apostates are like. Falling stars that dart across the sky, there one moment, but swallowed up by the darkness the next.

False teachers pretend to be lights. They think they are legitimate. But it's all a pretense. And notice the consequences.

V 13 "reserved the blackness of darkness forever"

**Conclusion:**

Quote: Michael Green, 176 "In these 2 verses, then, Jude has evoked a swift, bold picture of the men he is castigating. They are as dangerous as sunken rocks, as selfish as perverted shepherds, as useless as rainless clouds, as dead as barren trees, as dirty as the foaming sea, and as certain of doom as the fallen angels."

Challenge: Jude is preventative medicine.

Discuss