

Jude 1:8-12a

Announcements:

- General Groups in the Foyer (men's, women's, marriage, home groups, truth project, sports, Young Adults, Foundations, etc) - go meet the leaders and register for one today!
- Local Outreach Fair Next Week - Learn how our church is making an impact locally, hear from them, ask questions, and learn how you can get involved. (pregnancy, prison, fostering, etc)
 - After the third service! Light refreshments...

Please open to Jude Chapter 1 (need a Bible? Chairs near you...)

- Last time: The Danger Signs: Israelite Unbelief, Angelic Rebellion; and Societal Immorality
- This time: Further details/insights on why "necessary/compelled to write" something urgent...

Message Title: Shipwrecking Reefs!

- Comes straight from v. 12: "These are spots (AKA: "Reefs / Rocks!") + v. 13 raging waves!
- Mutiny Below Deck (verses 8-10)
- Wrecks Already Charted (verse 11)
- Danger in the Harbor (verse 12a)

The Costa Concordia (Image) Remember? January 2012, Italy, 4,000+ people, hits a rock (32 died)

- No storms, calm seas, and the rock was charted on the map for a long time. (shore salute!)
- Image: close to shore for false safety; lighthouse & navigational lights: Now, rescue boats...

Connecting Language...

V. 8 - Likewise also (yet, in the same manner...) (homoios mentoi)

- Jude is connecting the examples from the last two weeks. We should see similar themes...
- From ancient history to modern pews... ...character, heritage, and current dangers.

Mutiny Below Deck (verses 8-10)

V. 8 - These dreamers

- These men (refers back to v. 4 - ungodly men, crept in unnoticed. morality & authority!)
- Dreamers (enypniazomai) - "to dream; divine dreams; contextually: used to justify an impious course of conduct, or to be beguiled with sensual images..." [these men, being dreamers]
 - Not that they once had a dream, but this is their ongoing mode of operation...
- The Old Testament has some warnings in the same kind of thinking for false prophets...
- Deut 13:1-3, CSB - "If someone who has dreams [a dreamer of dreams] arises among you and proclaims a sign or wonder to you, and that sign or wonder he has promised you comes about, but he says, 'Let's follow other gods,' which you have not known... do not listen to that prophet's words or to that dreamer. For the Lord your God is testing you to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul..." - notice that even the dream or sign can come true, but the man is still not of God!
- Jer 23:25-32, CSB - "I have heard what the prophets who prophesy a lie in my name have said: 'I had a dream! I had a dream!' [but] I am against those who prophesy false dreams... telling them and leading my people astray with their reckless lies. It was not I who sent them..."
- Now this is not to knock all dreams or visions, some are from God. But it can be abused!

- **Dangerous language** - "God told me; I feel like the Lord is saying; God gave me a revelation, or vision" you must marry me, meditate instead of doing dishes! - **Be careful using or hearing**
 - Modern-day "so-called prophets" claim "a Word from God" (**David Koresh - Waco Cult**)
- Jude's day - **claimed visionary revelation from God** to **justify their teaching and conduct...**
 - But it's **not verifiable or in line with** the **already authoritative Word of God.** (**Acts 17:11**)

V. 8 - **Triad alert!** - **3 marks of a mutineer!** (all three, **present active** = **ongoing willful lifestyle!**)

- **(All on one slide)**
 - **Defile the flesh (bodies)**
 - **Reject (defy) authority**
 - **Speak evil of glorious ones**

And, notice the order: **dreams/visions over Scripture, compromising in sin, rejecting any corrective authority**, then finally, **open contempt for holy things...**

V. 8 - **Defile the flesh** (pollute their bodies)

- **Defile (miaino)** - "to stain, dye with another color, contaminate, soil, pollute" + **flesh** (body)
 - **Ceremonially** = to make **unclean**. *To render unfit for the presence or use of God*
 - Likely = **sexual immorality** (based on **Sodom/Angels** and **turning grace into lewdness**)
 - **Scallywags** encourage belligerent pirate-like activity ...in the church!

V. 8 - **Reject (defy) authority - mutiny against the captain!**

- **Reject authority (atheteo kyriotes)** - "disregard, set aside, nullify, or refuse" + "one who possesses dominion, rule, or authority [from Kyrios, Lord]" - **This is the theological center of this section!** You can't just **set aside the Lord Christ...** or **those He has truly appointed.**
- **I don't need to go to church... I don't need a pastor... I decide what's right!** (**Judges 21:25**)
 - Do you find yourself irritated by any type of **church correction** or **hard questions from fellow believers** (or **dismiss hard scriptures**)? - **that's worth examining**, friends...
- **Pharisees/Scribes did this.** They **set aside God's ways** for their own traditions (**Mark 7:9**)

V. 8 - And **speak evil of dignitaries** (blaspheme glorious ones)

- **Blasphemeo doxas** - "speak evil of; rail or scoff at; revile" + "splendid ones; ones deserving of honor, dignity, or majesty; a thing belonging to God" (lit: **slander the glories**)
- Jude could be making a reference to **apostles, prophets, elders**, but **likely, angelic beings:**
- **2 Peter 2:10-11, NLT** - "...especially those who follow their own twisted sexual desire, and who despise authority. These people are proud and arrogant, **daring even to scoff at supernatural beings [blasphemeo doxas]** without so much as trembling. **But the angels, who are far greater in power and strength, do not dare to bring from the Lord a charge of blasphemy against those supernatural beings...**" - **ultimate expression of their daring arrogance...**
- As **we will see in a moment**, they are **speaking evil** of **things they don't even understand.**

V. 9 - Yet **Michael the archangel**, in contending (disputing) with **the devil** (Satan, Dragon, Accuser)

- **Interesting! Peek at the Spiritual angelic world...** **Rev 12:7-9 = war.** Here: **legal dispute?**
- Some believe Jude was quoting from a document called the **"Assumption/Testament of Moses"** believed to have been **circulating around the early 1st century**, but we only have **one incomplete Latin manuscript.** - **contains hidden farewell prophecies** from Moses to Joshua?

- The fragment we have **does not contain this language**. **Origen of Alexandria** claimed (in **De Principiis, roughly 220 AD**) that Jude is quoting from this (**Clement and Didymus agree as well**)
- **Two important things here:**
- Jude is quoting, but **doesn't validate all of it**. **Paul quoted philosophers/poets** (Acts 17, Titus 1)
- We know **this account of the Devil/Michael** is **true**, because **it's authoritatively in our bible!**

V. 9 - When he **disputed (argued) about the body of Moses**

- **Deut 34:5-6** - "Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the Lord. And He buried him in a valley in the land of Moab... **but no one knows his grave to this day...**"
- **Potential reasons:** To prevent **idolatry of a shrine**; Satan claiming **because Moses sinned** and banned; God has a **special plan for Moses' body** (**Mt. Transfiguration! 2 witnesses in Rev 11?**)

Let's not get too lost in **why** they disputed, and miss the point... Jude's point is **how**.

V. 9 - Dared not bring against him **a reviling accusation** (slandorous condemnation / blasphemous judgment), but said, "**The Lord rebuke you!**" (possibly a reference to **Zechariah 3:2**)

- **Did not dare (ou tolmao)** - "not to be presumptive; not overtly bold, with verve or audacity..."
- **Michael is not weak, you would agree! A mighty battle angel. An Archangel (v. 9), or Chief Prince (Daniel 10)**. And he even has a legitimate conflict with the devil, but **leaves it in the hands of the Lord**. This takes **meekness, restraint, honor, and self-control**.
- **Two practical applications**
 - **Be careful of the language used against someone** that **God may be using** (example?)
 - **Be careful of your direct rebuking of the devil** (**better to seek the Lord...**) (**James 4:7**)

However, **unlike Michael's demeanor**, there were some **belligerent pirates** in the church...

V. 10 - But these speak evil (**scoff at**) of whatever **they do not know** (understand)

- Jude is basically calling them **immature, ignorant, lacking insight** (like a **mad blind dog barking**)

V. 10 - And whatever they know **naturally, like brute beasts**

- **Brute beasts (alogos zoon)** - "a-logos: without reason or word (irrational)" + "animal or beast"
- **Naturally know (physikos epistamai)** - "by nature, or instinct; by the aid of bodily senses" + "fix one's thoughts on, or turn one's attention to" (natural, bodily appetites!) **trust your instincts?**
- **You guys get the picture of all this language, yeah? Sharks in the water, smelling blood!**
- **This is not the Holy Spirit's leading.... This is not in line with the Word of God...**

V. 10 - In these things they **corrupt themselves** (bring about **their own destruction!**)

- **Phtheiro** - "are being destroyed, corrupted; perishing (present passive, happening to them now)" **By the very things they chase after** **What deception!** **Trading blessing for a bowl of soup!**

Culture says, follow your gut/heart "...a way that seems right to man, but ends in death" (Prov. 14:12)
Jesus says, follow me! - The Godly life is one of **denying one's self** and **being transformed/conformed!**

Three OT examples (same as last week: **be brief**; not pick at every detail, **keep the main thread!**)

Wrecks Already Charted (verse 11)

V. 11 - Woe to them! (what sorrow awaits them!)

- Woe (ouai) - "alas, woe" (a cry of grief! Similar to the sound of OT prophets ('oy)) - Woe is me.
- Jude is **not enjoying himself** here. Neither was Jesus in Matthew 23...

V. 11 - **Triad alert!** - **Three voyages that ended in disaster** (all three, arist tense)

- (All on one slide)
 - The "Way" of Cain (Genesis 4)
 - The "Error" of Balaam (Numbers 22-25)
 - The "Rebellion" of Korah (Numbers 16)

The "Way" of Cain (Genesis 4)

V. 11 - For they have gone in the way (followed in the footsteps) of Cain

- Poreuo (to go, walk, or follow) + Hodos (road traveled, course of conduct, or manner of life)
- You remember the story (Gen 4): Cain (crop) + Abel (flock) - God displeased with Cain...
 - Judgment fell in both cursing and outcasting...
- Hebrews 11:4, CSB - "By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was approved as a righteous man, because God approved his gifts..." - Num. 14 last week...
- Cain came with the **fruit of his own labor and his own righteousness**. The way of Cain is religion without faith. But not just a lack of faith, **a hidden, satanic wickedness** in his heart...
- 1 John 3:11-12 - "For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous." - **false teachers!**
 - A hate towards righteousness plays out in murderous action or speech...

The "Error" of Balaam (Numbers 22-25)

V. 11 - Have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit

- Ekcheo plane - "pour out, plunge into, or distribute largely" + "straying, deceit, or fraud"
- You remember the story (Numbers 22-25): King Balak of Moab hires Balaam to curse, but couldn't curse (God not allow), **so compromises instead...** (encourages harlotry/idolatry!)
 - Judgment fell and 24,000 people were killed... (connects to "defiling the flesh")
- For pay/wages (misthos) **A prophet for Hire!** (you?) A hireling (John 10) - **false teachers!**

The "Rebellion" of Korah (Numbers 16)

V. 11 - And perished in the rebellion of Korah.

- Apollymi antilogia - "destroyed, ruined, lost" + "opposition, gainsaying, contradiction"
 - **Coming up, or speaking against!**
- You remember the story (Numbers 16): Korah, a levite, his calling (privilege) was **not enough**... Spiritual sounding. Moses: give the censers and bring incense and let God decide...
 - Judgment fell on Korah (and those with him) earth opened and swallowed them...
 - Left proper domain and swallowed into gloomy darkness (example sounds familiar!?)
- What we've been looking at. Refusing authority & blaspheming dignitaries - **false teachers!**

Notice what all three share in common. (with the previous verses as well...)

- First, they were all operating in **rebellious sin and judged severely for it.** **Peter agrees.**
- **2 Peter 2:12-16, NLT** - "These false teachers are like unthinking animals, creatures of instinct... They scoff at things they do not understand, and like animals, **they will be destroyed**... [verse 13 removed for now...] Their destruction is their reward for the harm they have done. They love to indulge in evil pleasures in broad daylight... They commit adultery with their eyes, and their desire for sin is never satisfied. They lure unstable people into sin, and they are well trained in greed. **They live under God's curse.** They have wandered off the right road and followed the footsteps of Balaam... who loved to earn money by doing wrong. But Balaam was stopped from his mad course when his donkey rebuked him with a human voice..."
- **Only guy in Scripture that lost an argument to a donkey... Donkey was more discerning!**
- Also, they were all **among God's people in proximity.** Though **marked out for condemnation**
- **Cain worshipped at the altar. Balaam spoke as a prophet. Korah served in the tabernacle.** All three were "**among God's people...**" - This is a message for the church to **be discerning!**
 - **Anger, greed, jealousy...**
- And, **if Jude stopped there,** it would be **merely a history lesson.** We'd be comfortable leaving it there and then... But we're **meant to learn from these disasters marked out already** for us to avoid... as there is **a current issue in the church...** **Present and actively infiltrating...**

Danger in the Harbor (verse 12a)

V. 12 - These are **spots in your love feasts**

- **These are (present active) "certain, ungodly men"** (back to v. 4...)
- **Spots (spilas)** - "a rock, ledge or reef in the sea (similar to **"spiloi"** - stains, or blemishes)
- **Stains and blemishes. Disastrous hazards. Home wreckers. Ship breakers.**
 - **Dangerous reefs!** (**Homer's Odyssey (iii, 298)**) (**opening image?** **'Costa Concordia'**)
 - **Once hidden, eventually revealed...** (often in the form of **a disaster...**)
- **The big problem: Presently, actively "in your love feasts" (potlucks! w/ communion!)**
 - **Koinonia, the Lord's Supper, helping the needy, reading apostles doctrine, prayer, etc.**
- **2 Peter 2:13, CSB** - "[removed from earlier reading...] they are **spots (spiloi)** and blemishes, delighting in their deceptions **while they feast with you.**" - **pirates in the harbor!**
- **"Your"** not **"their"** - not a **cult down the street**, but **in the fellowship hall...**
- It is the **job of the elders/pastors.** (**Acts 20**) Though **all must be aware/discerning (Mt. 7)**

Two things to look out for:

V. 12 - While they feast with you **without fear (reverence)**

- **Without fear (aphobos)** = **No reverence for God. No tremor at His holiness. No humility or self-examination.** **Wow... complete disregard...**

V. 12 - Serving (caring for / feeding) **only themselves.** (**Is. 56:10-11 warns of the same...**)

- **Poimaino Heautous** - "shepherding, tending, feeding, nourishing" + "themselves" - **Piranhas!**
 - Show up with a 99c bag of chips, get first in line, and **take all the brisket leaving none!**
 - **Funny when the stakes are casserole, it's not when dealing with people's souls...**
- **This same type of issue** was **happening in Corinth...**

- 1 Cor. 11:20-22, NIV - "So then, **when you come together, it is not the Lord's Supper** you eat, for when you are eating, some of you go ahead with your own private suppers. As a result, one person remains hungry and another gets drunk. Don't you have homes to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God by humiliating those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? Certainly not in this matter!" - Communion should be **mutually holy!**

Closing:

We will take **communion together in just a moment**. Consider what Paul said next to them...

- 1 Cor. 11:27-28, NIV - "So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. **Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup...**"
- **The Table** is where we reject our flesh, submit to authority, and honor holiness. (opposite!)
- **Are you in the faith at all? Respond to the Gospel.** (or, let the elements pass you by...)
 - Better yet, **GOSPEL** (Good Shepherd vs hireling)
- **Do you need to give something to the Lord? (Cain, Balaam, Korah)** Repent fresh and new.
 - If God brings something to your mind, that's not condemnation, that's mercy!

As the **Worship Team** comes up...

- **God will hold false shepherds to account**, but **HE is the Good Shepherd!**
- An abridged reading from Ezekiel 34... (hear God's heart for you...!) (cut if time is issue)
- Ezekiel 34:2-16, 23 ESV - "Should not shepherds feed the sheep? You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fat ones, but you do not feed the sheep. The weak you have not strengthened, the sick you have not healed, the injured you have not bound up, the strayed you have not brought back, the lost you have not sought, and with force and harshness you have ruled them. So they were scattered, because there was no shepherd, and they became food for all the wild beasts... My sheep were scattered over all the face of the earth, with none to search or seek for them... Behold, I am against the shepherds, and I will require my sheep at their hand... I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out... and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered... I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak... and **I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd.**"
 - Jesus references prophetic fulfillment in John 10 as "The Good Shepherd"

Communion

1 Cor. 11:23-24, ESV - "The Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, '**This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.**'"

1 Cor. 11:25 - "In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, '**This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.**'"

PRAY - Numbers 6 Blessing!