Almont Vineyard Church

Week 4 Faith Under Fire

November 15, 2026

Opening Monologue

Welcome to the sermon resource portion of the AVC app. Here you will find spiritual reflections, commentary, and devotional questions connected to this week's sermon. These resources are designed so that each person can dig deeper into God's Word as it was shared in the sermon. Enjoy diving into God's great and wonderful Word.

All good things must come to an end, and honestly, this Jude sermon series—*Faith Under Fire*—has been eye-opening when you get into the details. In just 25 verses, Jude delivers a strong and direct condemnation of the false teachers who had infiltrated the church. He does this at a level not seen in any other New Testament letter. Just when you think he has said everything, he continues—as you will see and hear in this week's sermon.

Have you ever met someone who claims to be a Christian, yet nothing in their life reflects any real form of Christianity? Think about that person, and then imagine someone ten times worse. That is the kind of person Jude is describing.

Scholar Terry L. Wilder notes that these apostates "were arrogantly committing sexual immorality. They rebelled against authority and took the side of demons. They were the worst of the worst." Their shameful hypocrisy and dangerous spiritual trajectory stand out. Jude goes beyond all other New Testament epistles in his relentless and passionate condemnation of these apostate teachers.

This week we will dive deeper into this powerful epistle. It clearly calls out the devil and his demons, yet it also reminds us that Jesus is coming back. We will look at His precious promises connected to His return. We will also be encouraged by the doxology to stand firm in our faith in Jesus Christ and to defend His Word.

Come and join us this Sunday to be encouraged and equipped.

Rev. Brad Standfest

To Listen to this week's Sermon: "Week 3 Series: Faith Under Fire" Go to the Sermon tab here in our APP or use the links to our website or YouTube Channel where you can also listen to our Sermons:
Web: https://www.almontvineyardchurch.org/media
You Tube: https://www.youtube.com/@almontvineyardchurch

Key Sermon Text

Jude 8-11
https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jude%208-11&version=NIV

Jude 12-13
https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jude%208-11&version=NIV

Matthew 24:30-31
https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2024%3A30-31&version=NIV

John 14:1-3
https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2014%3A1-3&version=NIV

Revelation 22:12 […] 22:20
https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%2022%3A12&version=NIV
https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%2022%3A20&version=NIV

Jude 17-24
https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jude%2017-24&version=NIV

Spiritual Reflection

Don't Be Misled

We live in a world that constantly bombards us with truth claims, ideas, and information. Honestly, much of what comes at us on a daily basis is non-biblical. Think about the material you take in each day—how much of it is truly godly or spiritually formed by the Bible, the Holy Spirit, or prayer? That percentage varies from person to person depending on profession, habits, and other factors. The bottom line is clear: a great deal of evil, empty, or non-spiritual content flies at our ears and is processed through our minds.

When Jude wrote his epistle, he understood the cultural norms surrounding the church and the influences that press upon people. So when false teachers entered the sacred gathering of God's people and began leading others astray through blatant acts of the sinful nature, he did not hold back. He was direct, in-your-face, and uncompromising in calling these apostates out.

We must remember that Jude is writing about people who claimed to be Christians yet were attacking the church and using it to pervert the gospel of Christ. These individuals were "dreamers" who claimed superior secret knowledge that supposedly gave them authority. Jude compares them to uncontrolled animals—an image that brings to mind a wild creature driven by disease or madness, dangerous and beyond restraint.

Sometimes the people we are most inclined to trust turn out to be the deepest betrayers. How, then, do we identify individuals like those Jude describes?

First, we must line up any claim—especially claims about dreams, visions, or special revelation—with the actual Word of God. If someone says they had a dream in which God told them to commit sexual immorality, adultery, or any other sin, a clear red flag should go up. That may sound extreme, but it is not an overstretch of the text. These people were engaging in some of the deepest forms of sexual immorality. They were misusing God's name, claiming prophetic authority from their dreams, and leading others astray.

The conversation about "celestial beings" is debated among theologians. After studying the text and various scholarly perspectives, I believe Jude is describing people who had opened their minds to dark, underworld influences—what we would today recognize as satanic influence. In modern terms, these individuals were

operating under the spirit of the adversary. The language Jude uses is severe enough that their practices align with what Scripture elsewhere condemns as witchcraft and rebellion against God.

Bruce Barton identifies three specific indictments Jude levels against these false teachers in verses 8–11. First, Jude calls them "dreamers," referring to their reliance on dreams and visions as sources of authority. He charges that they pollute their own bodies by following their sinful desires, even into sexual immorality like the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah. These teachers promoted the false idea that Christian freedom exempted believers from moral constraints.

Second, they reject authority—whether that of church leaders, angelic powers, or God Himself—living only to please themselves while dismissing any coming judgment. Third, they slander celestial beings. Barton notes the scholarly debate: some argue these are good angels whom believers should respect for their position and authority, and that the false teachers were flouting belief in the power of Christ and God's messengers. Others, drawing from 2 Peter 2:11, suggest the celestial beings are fallen angels, and the false teachers slandered spiritual realities they did not understand, perhaps by taking Satan's power too lightly.

In contrast to Michael's restraint toward Satan, these false teachers slandered celestial beings and spoke abusively against what they did not understand—despite claiming superior secret knowledge that supposedly gave them authority. That claim actually revealed profound ignorance. Jude reinforces his warning through three historical examples (Cain, Balaam, and Korah) of men who lived as they pleased and were punished. These examples illustrate attitudes typical of false teachers: pride, selfishness, jealousy, greed, lust for power, and disregard of God's will.

The call is straightforward: do not be misled. Test every claim against Scripture. Guard your mind and heart. Stand firm in the truth of Jesus Christ.

Sources #1 & 5

Avoid Witchcraft

While some scholars debate the precise nature of the apostates described in Jude 8–10 (and even further into the chapter), the portrait is clear and sobering. These individuals had slipped into the church and were operating from a fundamentally inverted spiritual posture. Rather than submitting to God's authority, they "rely on their dreams, defile the flesh, reject authority, and slander celestial beings" (Jude 8, NIV). Jude calls them "dreamers," pointing to their use of dreams and visions as self-generated sources of revelation and authority. Combined with the sexual immorality that marked them, this pattern strongly indicates they were dabbling in the occult practices strictly forbidden in Scripture. Satan is not someone with whom we communicate or negotiate. By these despicable acts they opened doors that brought spiritual havoc.

Many people in our society treat such things as harmless fun—playing with a Ouija board, casting spells "for fun," consulting palm readers, or reading horoscopes. Scripture, however, declares these practices detestable to the Lord. What we sow, we reap. When we toy with the devil and deliberately open those doors, he is all too willing to enter and wreak destruction in our lives. As Christians we must protect ourselves and refuse to be persuaded that palm readings, horoscopes, or any form of divination are somehow permissible. We are called to stand our ground and stand bold.

The contrast Jude draws is instructive. When the archangel Michael contended with Satan over the body of Moses, he refused to pronounce a reviling judgment. Instead he simply said, "The Lord rebuke you!" (Jude 9,

NIV). Even in direct confrontation with evil, Michael deferred to God's authority rather than exercising independent spiritual power. The false teachers, by contrast, arrogantly assumed authority they did not possess, slandering celestial beings and trusting their own dreams over the revealed Word of God.

To avoid this trap requires the cultivation of spiritual discernment. Paul instructed believers to "test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil" (1 Thessalonians 5:21–22, NIV) and to evaluate prophetic claims carefully. Religion is always vulnerable to demonic distortion, both communally and individually—through visions and voices that inspire destructive acts or create a false sense of spiritual significance. This is why the discipline of discernment matters: we must "test the spirits to see whether they are from God" (1 John 4:1, NIV). Practically, this means prioritizing Scripture and the established teaching of the church over private revelation, examining whether spiritual experiences produce the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control), and remaining suspicious of any claim that elevates personal experience above God's Word or encourages moral compromise.

Biblical teaching on witchcraft is unambiguous: it represents a fundamental rejection of God's authority and an attempt to manipulate spiritual reality through human power. The law prohibited anyone who "practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead" (Deuteronomy 18:10–11, NIV). Such practices were considered detestable to the Lord—serious enough that God used them as grounds for driving out entire nations (Deuteronomy 18:12). The core issue is not mere superstition but spiritual rebellion. Samuel equated rebellion with the sin of divination and arrogance with the evil of idolatry (1 Samuel 15:23), revealing that witchcraft functions as a competing claim to divine authority.

All forms of divination were sworn enemies of true religious belief centered on the one true God. The true believer accepts what God has destined rather than attempting to change or control it through magical means—a posture that stands in complete opposition to faith. Witchcraft involves the attempt to control the physical and spiritual world through magical incantations, charms, and rituals, a posture fundamentally incompatible with submission to God's will. Significantly, sorcery is uniformly associated with idolatry throughout Scripture, indicating that those who practice it have replaced trust in God with reliance on occult forces. God strongly warned His people against divination, witchcraft, and sorceries precisely because He hates such practices; they stand against His divine will and authority. The New Testament maintains the same stance: witchcraft is listed among the acts of the sinful nature, and those who live like this "will not inherit the kingdom of God" (Galatians 5:19–21, NIV). Those who practice magic arts are among those whose place is "in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death" (Revelation 21:8, NIV; cf. Revelation 22:15).

The biblical response is decisive faith in God's sovereignty. The Lord assured His people that neither divination, witchcraft, nor sorcery would ultimately prevail against those He has called to His name. He Himself has the power to destroy witchcraft and dismantle its spells (Micah 5:12).

Core Forbidden Practices (Deuteronomy 18:10–12, the most comprehensive list)
These are the detestable practices Israel was not to imitate from the surrounding nations:
- Sacrificing a son or daughter in the fire
- Practicing divination
- Practicing sorcery
- Interpreting omens
- Engaging in witchcraft

• Casting spells
• Being a medium
• Being a spiritist
• Consulting the dead

“Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD, and because of these detestable practices the LORD your God will drive out those nations before you.”
— Deuteronomy 18:10–12 (NIV)

Additional supporting witnesses include:
• “Do not turn to mediums or seek out spiritists, for you will be defiled by them. I am the LORD your God” (Leviticus 19:31, NIV; cf. 19:26; 20:6, 27).
• “When men tell you to consult mediums and spiritists, who whisper and mutter, should not a people inquire of their God? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living?” (Isaiah 8:19, NIV).
• King Saul’s consultation of the medium at Endor and its disastrous consequences (1 Samuel 28).
• Manasseh, who “practiced sorcery, divination and witchcraft, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the eyes of the LORD, provoking him to anger” (2 Chronicles 33:6, NIV).
• The Ephesian believers who publicly burned their sorcery scrolls (Acts 19:19).
• God’s own declaration that He will be “quick to testify against sorcerers” (Malachi 3:5, NIV).

In short, the consistent testimony of Scripture is that these practices are detestable to the Lord, defile those who engage in them, and constitute works of the flesh that exclude people from the kingdom when persisted in. Believers are directed instead to inquire of the living God, to test every spirit, and to stand firm in the authority of His Word. What the culture dismisses as harmless entertainment, Scripture treats with deadly seriousness. We do well to do the same.

(Sources #3, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19 & 21)

Commentary on Main Texts

Jude 8-25

In the very same way, these dreamers pollute their own bodies, reject authority and slander celestial beings. Jude called the false teachers *dreamers*, referring to their use of dreams and visions for sources of their prophecy. Drawing from his three analogies above, Jude indicted the false teachers in three areas:

1. *They pollute their own bodies*. Like the citizens of Sodom and Gomorrah, they follow wherever their sinful desires lead them, even into homosexuality. Peter wrote that they followed “the corrupt desire of the sinful nature” (2 Peter 2:10 NIV), referring to sexual promiscuity, looseness, and licentiousness (v. 4). These people taught that Christian freedom placed believers above moral rules. No one living in such a way should attempt to speak for God. By doing so, these false teachers brought great judgment on themselves.

2. They *reject authority*. This "authority" could refer to church leaders, angelic powers (as below), or the Lord himself. Most likely, the false teachers rejected the authority of all of these. They lived to please themselves and dismissed the prospect of a Second Coming and judgment by God.

3. They *slander celestial beings*. These "celestial beings" (also translated "glorious ones") may refer to church leaders, angels, or fallen angels. Many scholars say that Jude was referring to the good angels. While angels are not to be worshiped, they ought to receive respect and awe because of their position and authority. Jude may have been describing the false teachers' flouting of belief in the power and authority of Jesus Christ and of God's messengers, the angels. Just as the men of Sodom insulted angels (Genesis 19), these false teachers were insulting God's angels. These scholars take verse 9 to mean that the archangel Michael did not dare to slander even Satan; how arrogant that the false teachers would dare to slander God's holy angels!

In light of the comparable verse in 2 Peter 2:11, the celestial beings mentioned here most likely are the fallen angels—the guilty celestial beings who deserve condemnation. The false teachers "slandered" the spiritual realities they did not understand, perhaps by taking Satan's power too lightly. Thus, the statement in verse 9 that the archangel Michael did not dare to slander Satan himself shows the arrogance of these false teachers.

Jude was emphasizing that the false teachers were immoral, insubordinate, and irreverent. Jude hardly needed to say more. The believers had no reason for listening to or following such people.

But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring a slanderous accusation against him, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!" Michael's title, *archangel*, a term found only here and in 1 Thessalonians 4:16, reflects the ranking of angels that was part of Jewish tradition. The Bible regards an archangel as a high or holy angel appointed to a special task. In Daniel 10:13, 21 and 12:1, Michael is a mighty angel. This incident mentioned by Jude is not recorded in Scripture, but it can be found in an ancient book titled, "The Assumption of Moses." The story, obviously known to the early believers, explains that the archangel Michael had been sent to bury Moses' body. Deuteronomy states that "Moses the servant of the Lord died there in Moab, as the Lord had said. He buried him in Moab, in the valley opposite Beth Peor, but to this day no one knows where his grave is" (Deuteronomy 34:5–6 NIV); however, there is no mention of this struggle for Moses' body.

According to "The Assumption of Moses," when Michael prepared to do his task, he began *disputing with the devil* over Moses' body. Satan is a fallen angel. He is real, not symbolic, and is constantly fighting against those who follow and obey God. The story explains that Satan said Moses' body rightfully belonged to him because Moses had committed murder (see Exodus 2:12). He said that he had rights over all the earth and that Moses' body fell under that category as well. While Michael had every reason to expose Satan's lies, *he did not dare to bring a slanderous accusation against him*. Michael, instead of using his own authority, left the matter in his Master's hands, saying simply, *"The Lord rebuke you!"* He did not rely on his own power and authority.

Jude wanted the believers to understand that if even archangels are careful about how they address other powers, even evil ones, how much more should mere people watch their words when speaking of celestial powers, good or evil. If even a powerful angel of God did not dare to speak a judgment on God's behalf, then neither should the false teachers claim to speak for God when they knew nothing about him.

FIGHTING THE DEVIL

SRA is the acronym given to a wide range of heinous activities called Satanic Ritual Abuse. Specifically, these activities include animal and human sacrifice, immoral acts, and harm to children done by alleged satanists.

SRA is the topic of several recent best-selling religious books, beginning with author Mike Warnke and continuing through Lauren Stratford and others, who outlined their SRA experiences in riveting, graphic prose. In many cases, how-ever, including the two just cited, these books are filled with exaggerated events and imaginary encounters. Investigators who uncovered the lies were themselves accused of deceit and duplicity, but their findings were never challenged. SRA enjoyed a wave of hysteric popularity, and authors sold fantastic stories, but as a result publishers blushed and a somewhat skeptical public audience grew to wonder, "Who can you trust?"

Jude teaches two lessons, which the SRA fad underscores: (1) Don't get fascinated with the details of the devil. Avoid conversation with Satan. Nothing good comes from it. Let the Lord God handle the devil. (2) In your avoidance, realize that deceit is at the very heart of Satan's character, and be guardedly skeptical about what you hear. Count on God's Word for truth, and on Satan's words for nothing at all.

Yet these men speak abusively against whatever they do not understand; and what things they do understand by instinct, like unreasoning animals—these are the very things that destroy them. In contrast to the archangel Michael's refusal to slander even Satan himself (v. 9), the false teachers slandered celestial beings (v. 8) and spoke abusively *against whatever they do not understand*. Many of these false teachers claimed to possess a superior, secret knowledge that gave them authority. They considered themselves to be the only ones to truly "understand" God. Yet by their slander, they revealed not superior knowledge, but profound ignorance. In fact, for all their pride, they were no better than *unreasoning animals*. Their only understanding was *by instinct*—how to fulfill their sexual desires. While claiming superior knowledge and status, these false teachers had only the most basic knowledge—how to fulfill their lust. They had no understanding beyond that of the animals; their status was not above the rest of humanity, but was, in reality, below it.

Their refusal to heed God's voice left them enslaved to sin and their sinful passions. The only things these men truly understood were the passions and lusts that enslaved them. Even though they claimed to be able to indulge themselves without retribution, eventually they would be destroyed by those sins.

Woe to them! They have taken the way of Cain; they have rushed for profit into Balaam's error; they have been destroyed in Korah's rebellion. Jude reminded his readers of three classic examples of men who had lived as they pleased and had been punished for doing so. These stories illustrate attitudes that are typical of false teachers—pride, selfishness, jealousy, greed, lust for power, and disregard of God's will. No wonder Jude exclaimed *Woe to them!* Their grave errors would result in complete destruction.

1. *Cain* murdered his brother out of vengeful jealousy (Genesis 4:1–16). There are various interpretations of *the way of Cain*. Jude may have been referring to Cain's desire to devise another way of worship rather than the way God intended (Hebrews 11:4), to Cain's intense envy of his brother, or to Cain's selfish, evil heart that led him to murder. The apostle John wrote, "Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous" (1 John 3:12 NIV). Just as Cain murdered his brother, so the false teachers "murder" people's souls. Just as Cain did not care about his brother, murdering him out of

envy, so the false teachers did not care about their followers, willingly leading them along the pathway to destruction. Like Cain, the false teachers were defying God's authority and acting out of sinful passion.

2. *Balaam* prophesied out of greed, not out of obedience to God's command (Numbers 22–24; see also 2 Peter 2:15–16). The false teachers were following in the steps of Balaam, a man who had led many astray. A pagan king had hired Balaam, a prophet, to curse Israel. At first, Balaam obeyed God; eventually, however, his evil motives and desire for money won out. Like Balaam, the false teachers were not interested in serving God; they *rushed for profit into Balaam's error*, using religion only for financial gain and personal advancement. What was this "error"? Scripture explains that Balaam led the Israelites into immorality and idolatry (Numbers 25:1–3; 31:16). Balaam had tried three times to curse Israel, but had been unable to do so. He may have told the Israelites that God's favor rested upon them so they could live as they pleased without fear of retribution. Such a teaching was popular, but wrong. The false teachers, like Balaam, cared nothing about the God for whom they presumed to speak. They were completely consumed by the love of money. Like Balaam, they would perish (see Numbers 31:8).

3. *Korah* rebelled against God's divinely appointed leaders, wanting the power for himself (Numbers 16:1–35). Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and 250 leaders of Israel "came as a group to oppose Moses and Aaron and said to them, 'You have gone too far! The whole community is holy, every one of them, and the Lord is with them. Why then do you set yourselves above the Lord's assembly?'" (Numbers 16:3 NIV). By leading this revolt against God's divinely appointed leaders, Korah was actually revolting against God. The punishment was literally earthshaking: "The ground under them split apart and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them, with their households and all Korah's men and all their possessions. They went down alive into the grave, with everything they owned; the earth closed over them, and they perished and were gone from the community" (Numbers 16:31–33 NIV). Like Korah, the false teachers had revolted against the divinely appointed leadership of the apostles and church leaders, setting themselves up in opposition.

Through these three Old Testament pictures, Jude painted these false teachers. They were without love (like Cain), greedy for money (like Balaam), and insubordinate to God-appointed authorities (like Korah). So certain was the end of these false teachers that Jude wrote about it in the past tense: *they have been destroyed*.

These men are blemishes at your love feasts, eating with you without the slightest qualm—shepherds who feed only themselves. When the Lord's Supper was celebrated in the early church, believers would eat a full meal before sharing the bread and wine of Communion. The meal was called a *love feast* and was designed to be a sacred time of fellowship to prepare one's heart for the Lord's Supper. However, the false teachers were joining these "love feasts," becoming *blemishes* in what should have been a time of rejoicing in the Lord. They were ruining the Christians' gatherings by their very presence. The word translated "blemishes" could also be translated "hidden rocks or reefs." This ancient use of the word pictures the false teachers as dangerous, unseen rocks along a shoreline, ready to sink even the most seaworthy ship. Jude spared no words in describing the danger of these false teachers' involvement with the believers. In the worst sort of hypocrisy, these intruders who had stolen in among the believers (v. 4) were participating in the love feast while at the same time living and speaking in opposition to Christ. Not only this, but they may have been acting immorally as well, for Peter wrote that the false teachers were "reveling in their pleasures while they feast with you" (2 Peter 2:13 NIV).

They did this *without the slightest qualm* (also translated, “without fear”). They thought nothing of their hypocrisy; it never crossed their minds that they would be punished for such actions. These false teachers’ involvement in the love feasts was only to get them into the church and gain them a hearing among the believers. They cared nothing for the believers, their celebration, or the God the believers worshiped. The false teachers were like shepherds who refused to feed the sheep, but who went on *feeding themselves* (see Ezekiel 34:8; John 10:12–13). Instead of looking after others’ needs, the false teachers’ only concern was their own needs. Instead of leading others to safety, the false teachers were leading them astray.
In four vivid word pictures taken from nature, Jude further described the false teachers. First, **they are waterless clouds carried along by the winds**. The false teachers were all show but no substance. Like waterless clouds, they promised rain but floated on by without a drop for thirsty soil. While they might claim superior knowledge, the false teachers had nothing of substance to assuage anyone’s spiritual thirst.

Second, the false teachers are **autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, uprooted**. A fruitless tree in autumn may refer to a sterile tree, which was as good as dead because it produced no fruit. An *uprooted* tree was completely dead. Jude compared the false teachers to trees promising fruit but giving none. They were “once dead” because they had never taken root (they were never believers), and they had never borne spiritual fruit in their lives. They were *twice dead* because just as fruitless trees are uprooted and burned, so the false teachers would face eternal punishment.

Third, the false teachers were **wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame**. Like the wild waves that make lots of noise as they restlessly thrash about, the false teachers restlessly and loudly were spewing their teaching. Jude used the image recorded in Isaiah, “But the wicked are like the tossing sea that cannot keep still; its waters toss up mire and mud” (Isaiah 57:20 NRSV). As debris and filth caught in the foam are cast up on the shore, so the false teachers’ *shame* (referring to their shameful actions) would be “cast up” for all to see.

Fourth, the false teachers were **wandering stars, for whom the deepest darkness has been reserved forever**. For centuries, the fixed stars in the heavens have guided seafarers and navigators in travels around the earth. But *wandering* (or shooting) *stars* offer no guidance and no light. They appear bright for a few moments but shoot across the sky and disappear into darkness. The false teachers were as useless as wandering stars because they offered no direction and no light. Their teachings might seem “bright” for a while, but these teachers would find that for them the *deepest darkness has been reserved forever*. Their eternal judgment and punishment are certain; they have reservations that cannot be changed or canceled.

It was also about these that Enoch, in the seventh generation from Adam, prophesied, saying, “See, the Lord is coming with ten thousands of his holy ones.” We know a little about Enoch from the Old Testament: “When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah. And after he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Enoch lived 365 years. Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away” (Genesis 5:21–24 NIV). Enoch was in the lineage of Jesus Christ (Luke 3:37). The apocryphal book called Enoch describes Enoch *as in the seventh generation from Adam*. He was the seventh in order because Adam was counted as the “first” in the Jewish way of recording generations. During the period between the writing of the Old and New Testaments, Enoch had become a popular figure in Jewish writing. He was thought to be a figure of the Messiah and was considered to have had expert knowledge about the heavens. The writer of Hebrews said, “By faith Enoch was

taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God" (Hebrews 11:5 NIV).

Jude was quoting from a prophecy in the book of Enoch (1 Enoch 1:9), written in the time between the Testaments (second century B.C.) and familiar to the early Christians. While this book did not become a part of the canon of Scripture, Jude considered this prophecy to be correct and authoritative, and he quoted words that were familiar to his readers and affirmed by other Scriptures. This prophecy clinched Jude's argument of future judgment. Enoch had prophesied that the Lord would return in great glory, bringing with him *ten thousands of his holy ones.* Scripture also describes Jesus returning to earth with many angels ("holy ones")—see Deuteronomy 33:2; Daniel 7:10; Zechariah 14:5; Matthew 16:27; 24:30–31; 25:31; Hebrews 12:22.

Jude continued to quote from Enoch's prophecy, saying that the Lord would return to earth **"to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him."** The word *ungodly* appears four times in this sentence, underlining the true character of the false teachers. "Ungodly" means unrighteous, lawless, the sinful conduct of people who have no respect for God (see v. 4). Their character, actions, and words will result in a guilty conviction on the day when the Lord returns *to judge everyone.* Those who believe will be saved and live forever. However those "ungodly" people who disobeyed God and have refused to believe will be convicted of their "ungodly" actions that were committed in the "ungodly" way, especially speaking *harsh words* against Jesus Christ.

Some have wondered why Jude would have quoted from a book that is now considered noncanonical ("canon" refers to the authoritative list of accepted books). The word "apocrypha" means "hidden" and refers generally to two types of writing, the Apocrypha and the pseudepigrapha. The Apocrypha refers to certain books that relate to material in some of the Old Testament books. They were approved by Jewish councils for private study but not for public reading as the Word of God. They were included in the Greek version of the Old Testament (the Septuagint), but were rejected from the Hebrew canon at the council at Jamnia. Roman Catholics approved twelve books to be part of their canon at the Council of Trent in the sixteenth century, but Luther and the Anglican church (thus all Protestants) did not accept them as the Word of God. The pseudepigrapha refers to Jewish writings that don't relate directly to the Old Testament books. These also were excluded from the Old Testament canon—the book of Enoch is one of these. These books played a key role between the writing of the Old and New Testaments and give valuable Jewish background to the New Testament. Indeed, Jude's use of the book of Enoch caused many to wonder if it should be included in the Bible. The fact that Jude quoted from Enoch does not imply that Enoch's teachings are inspired and should have been included in Scripture. For example, Paul quoted some noncanonical statements that he considered to be true. In Acts 17:28, he quoted Aratus and Cleanthes; in 1 Corinthians 15:33 he quoted Menander; and in Titus 1:12 he quoted from a Cretan poet and philosopher, Epimenides—in no case was Paul implying that all of these men's words should be considered as inspired Scripture! Jude believed the quotations to be true, but not the entire book. The words quoted by Jude are reinforced by many Scripture passages that refer to Christ's return. Jude wanted to show the certainty of the false teachers' doom.

These are grumblers and malcontents; they indulge their own lusts; they are bombastic in speech, flattering people to their own advantage. After denouncing the false teachers by calling them "ungodly" four times in the previous verse, Jude next explained four areas of ungodliness. First, as *grumblers and malcontents* they constantly found fault in everyone and everything, except in themselves, of course. They probably also

grumbled against God, discontent with life and the restrictions of God's law. Such people can never be made happy or content. When people stray from God, they may become habitual complainers, unable to see God or good in anything (see Exodus 16–17; Numbers 14–17; 1 Corinthians 10:10).

Second, they indulge their own lusts. This has already been made clear by Jude's words in verses 4, 8, 10–13, and 15. Without regard for God's laws or even for basic morality, these men shamelessly indulged their lusts, acting on their passions and desires. Their only god was self, and they worshiped that god wholeheartedly.

Third, they are bombastic in speech. This means they were boastful men, swollen with pride. They had denied Christ and spoken against him (v. 15); these bombastic words might have been their erroneous doctrines spoken loudly with the hopes of impressing others and making a name for themselves.

Fourth, these false teachers were flattering people to their own advantage. Flattery is phony, and the false teachers used it as a cover-up for their real intentions. Instead of loving people, they used them, using flattery if necessary to get what they wanted.

Jude could hardly have said worse about anyone. Sparing no words for these false teachers, he laid their attitudes, words, and actions out for all to see. He meant for the Christians to take this irrefutable evidence and decide for themselves about these men.

Jude 17-25: 17But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. 18They said to you, "In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires." 19These are the men who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit. 20But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. 21Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. 22Be merciful to those who doubt; 23snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh. 24To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy— 25to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

THE DUTY TO FIGHT FOR GOD'S TRUTH

The audience to whom Jude wrote was vulnerable to heresies and to temptations toward immoral living. Jude encouraged the believers to remain firm in their faith and trust in God's promises for their future. This was vital because they were living during a time of increased disloyalty to the faith. We too are living in the last days, much closer to the end than were the original readers of this letter. We too are vulnerable to doctrinal error. We too are tempted to give in to sin. Although there is much false teaching around us, we need not be afraid or give up in despair—God can keep us from falling, and he guarantees that if we remain faithful, he will bring us into his presence and give us everlasting joy.

But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. They said to you, "In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires." In addition to examples from the Old Testament of God's punishment of sin (vv. 5–7) and citations from prophecy about the Second Coming (vv. 14–15), Jude appealed to the believers to *remember what the apostles* had said. The words of the apostles were already being considered authoritative and on the level with Scripture. Jude's wording indicates that he was not himself one of the apostles, for he referred to the apostles as they. That the apostles had spoken these words to you indicates that at least some of Jude's readers had been contemporaries of the apostles.

Jude encouraged the Christians to remember the apostles' warnings against false teachers—and there were many. The words quoted here, "*In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires*," parallel 2 Peter 3:3. Peter wrote, "First of all you must understand this, that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and indulging their own lusts" (NRSV). The "last days" began with Christ's resurrection and will continue until his return, when he will set up his kingdom and judge all humanity. Jesus and the apostles forewarned all believers that during that interim, including the time period in which we live, "scoffers will come." To "scoff" means to show contempt for something by one's actions and language, to mock. These false teachers scoffed at the truth and taught their own lies. They despised all morality and religion. Jesus had warned against the deception of false teachers (Mark 13:21–23), as had Paul (Acts 20:28–31; 2 Thessalonians 2:1–12; 1 Timothy 4:1; 2 Timothy 3:1–5), Peter (2 Peter 2:1–3:7), and John (1 John 2:22; 4:1–3; 2 John). Because Jesus and the apostles had warned against false teachers, the church must also be prepared.

It is these worldly people, devoid of the Spirit, who are causing divisions. These false teachers should have been easy to spot. They were not godly ministers; rather, they were *worldly people*, living to please themselves and their sinful desires. They lived merely on the natural level. They loved money and attention.

They were *devoid of the Spirit*. They never believed in Christ, and they never received the Holy Spirit. Paul had written, "Therefore I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, 'Jesus be cursed,' and no one can say, 'Jesus is Lord,' except by the Holy Spirit" (1 Corinthians 12:3 NIV; see also John 14:17; 16:13). The false teachers claimed to speak for God, but they would be unable to confess Jesus as Lord because they did not have the Holy Spirit. Thus they mocked Scripture and lived shamelessly without godly fear (v. 12). See James 3:13–18 for a good test to apply to teachers to see if their teaching manifests the presence of the Holy Spirit.

They set themselves above all other Christians because of their assumed superior knowledge and understanding of their "freedom" in Christ. Those allegedly enlightened enough to join them regarded themselves as distinct and superior from others in the church. Thus, Jude condemned these false teachers for *causing divisions*.

Ironically, the very presence of these false teachers who scoffed at the apostles' teachings and at the prophecies of the Second Coming was a fulfillment of prophecy. The apostles had indicated that these false teachers would be abundant in "the last days" (see 1 Timothy 4:1–2; 1 John 2:18–26). Their presence only further assured the believers that Christ would soon return.

But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. Even as the false teachers attempted to cause divisions (v. 19), the believers (once again addressed as *dear friends*, as in v. 17) could stand against the false teachers if they followed Jude's advice in four areas. First, they must build on the firm foundation of their faith, standing strong and unified (see also 1 Corinthians 3:9–17; Ephesians 2:20–22). They could do this by staying close to other believers and by continuing in worship, including taking the Lord's Supper. As in verse 3 above, their *most holy faith* refers to the entire body of beliefs taught by the apostles and held by Christians. The believers could "build themselves up" in their faith by studying and learning the Scriptures (Acts 2:42; 2 Timothy 2:15; Hebrews 5:13–6:3; see also Ephesians 4:12–16). We should note that believers are to work together as they build themselves up as a community, as Christ's temple. It was "your faith" as opposed to the false teachers' heretical teaching; it was "most holy" because it came from the most holy God. This faith alone transforms lives and gives eternal life.

Second, Jude encouraged the believers to *pray in the Holy Spirit*, meaning to pray in the power and strength of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit prays on behalf of believers (Romans 8:26–27; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 6:18), opens their minds to Jesus (John 14:26), and teaches believers more about their Lord (John 15:26). This most likely includes, but is not limited to, prayer in tongues. Because the false teachers were "devoid of the Spirit" (v. 19), they could not truly pray and their prayers would not be heard. Indeed, they may have put aside prayer altogether, to their own detriment. Prayer is the lifeline that connects all Christians to their Savior. Believers must never stop praying.

IN THE SPIRIT

Jude urged the believers to "pray in the Holy Spirit." Real prayer takes many forms, but fake prayer lacks one essential: the Holy Spirit. Praying in the Spirit means:

• you pray to know God's mind before you insist on telling God about your opinions
• your happiness rests more in God's assurance of love and forgiveness than whether your prayers for X, Y, and Z get answered today
• your heart and mind rejoice in God, confirming that you belong to him, no matter how many struggles you face

Today, be quiet before God, ask the Holy Spirit to fill your heart, then pray. God will take your stress away and give you peace and strength for the day.

Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. Jude described a third way for the believers to stand strong against false teachers: *Keep yourselves in God's love*. This means that the believers must stay close to God and his people, not listening to false teachers who would try to pull them away (John 15:9–10). To stay in God's love is to remember that God first loved us—he took the initiative to accomplish salvation. Jesus said, "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love" (John 15:9–10 NIV). Obedience is the key. The false teachers had flouted obedience and thus had stepped out of God's love.

Fourth, the believers should *wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.* The promises will come true. Christ will return and bring his people into eternal glory with him. While believers have already received his "mercy," they must wait for the consummation of that mercy when their salvation will be made complete. Peter wrote, "You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming… . Since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him" (2 Peter 3:11–12, 14 NIV). Believers wait in confident expectation. God's promises are not "ifs" but "whens." They must know, beyond any doubt, that their Savior will soon return for them.

Be merciful to those who doubt; snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh. Although the false teachers were hopelessly entrenched in their sin and Satan's grip, the believers had a responsibility to those who had fallen prey to false teaching. Scholars differ in their interpretations of these verses because the various ancient manuscripts have different readings. According to some manuscripts there are only two groups (as in the NKJV, which says "And on some have compassion, making a distinction; but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh"), while other manuscripts have three groups (as is presented in the NIV above and NRSV).

The first group consists of those believers who have listened to the false teachers and have begun to doubt God's truth. They still have reservations, so they have not yet joined the false teachers. These people are not to be ridiculed; rather, they are to be shown mercy and carefully drawn back into the church by providing them with the true teaching of the gospel. Believers who are well taught in the faith can *be merciful to those who doubt* by quietly and calmly talking with them, explaining the false teachers' error, and reminding them of the truth they had originally received. (Scholars who divide this verse into two groups say that the "snatching from the fire" phrase applies to these doubters.)

The second group has gone beyond doubting. Agreeing with the false teachers, they are on the road to destruction. They need someone to literally step in their path and *snatch* them *from the fire*. The "fire" refers to the eternal punishment awaiting the false teachers (v. 4). If we saw someone about to be burned by fire, we would quickly grab that person and pull him or her out of harm's way. That's the attitude the true believers are to have toward those sliding toward false teaching. We need to grab them and pull them away before it is too late. We need ministers and teachers who know how to refute false teaching and defend Christianity so that they can rescue the misinformed.

The third group refers to those already in the false teachers' camps—those who have already joined them. These people also need *mercy*, but believers are to mix their mercy *with fear*, that is, extreme caution. To hate *even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh* means that believers are to hate the sin, but love the sinner. Believers must never compromise on the truth or on God's commands about right and wrong. While believers might try to rescue those deceived people, they must do so without allowing themselves to become contaminated by the false teaching. This will be a difficult task, one to be undertaken with healthy fear and respect for the spiritual warfare when God's power meets head-on with Satan's power. Believers have God on their side, but they must remember not to attempt anything in their own power lest they too fall prey to the false teachers' lies.

To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy. As the letter began, so it ended—with assurance. In this great doxology, Jude stressed the mighty power of God to keep us securely in him. God *is able to keep* believers from falling prey to false teachers. Although false teachers were widespread and dangerous, although it would be dangerous to attempt to rescue slipping fellow Christians, the believers should not retreat or be afraid. Instead, they should trust God and remain rooted and grounded in him. The psalmist wrote, "For you have delivered me from death and my feet from stumbling, that I may walk before God in the light of life" (Psalm 56:13 NIV).

God can be trusted to *present* all believers before *his glorious presence*. We should praise him for this great promise. The believers could trust that God would do as he promised and one day bring them to himself. But that will not be a day of punishment (as it will be for the false teachers). Rather, it will be a day of joy, for God will present his people *without fault and with great joy*. To be sinless and perfect ("without fault") will be the ultimate condition of the believer when he or she finally sees Christ face-to-face. When Christ appears, and we are given our new bodies, we will be like him (1 John 3:2). Coming into Christ's presence will be a time of "great joy" for God and for all believers.

To the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen. Contemplating the great joy awaiting all believers and the fulfillment of God's promises of eternal glory, Jude praised God with a beautiful doxology. Jude had originally intended to write about the salvation all believers shared (v. 3); he got his chance here. This one final verse captures the

focus and goal of believers' salvation and faith. Christianity is not a series of made-up ideas or free-floating thoughts; it is faith in a person—not just any person, but *the only God* who also became *our Savior* … through *Jesus Christ*. To this God alone the believers should ascribe

- glory—God's powerful radiance, his greatness, his complete moral superiority and splendor
- majesty—God's transcendent greatness
- power—God's self-contained might, his control over the world
- authority—God is sovereign over all physical and moral laws in the entire universe

These qualities reside in God alone. Jesus Christ is our Lord, meaning that he too has all glory, majesty, power, and authority as God himself. This was true before the ages began; it is true in the present day. And it will continue to be true *forevermore*.

The prophet Isaiah wrote, "Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please" (Isaiah 46:9–10 NIV).

Sources #1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15 & 20

JESUS CHRIST'S RETURN PASSAGES

Gospels

John 14:2–3
"In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."
What it says: Jesus is going to prepare a place in the Father's house and will return to take His people to be with Him.

Matthew 16:27
"For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done."

Matthew 24:30–31
"At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other."

Matthew 25:31
"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory."

Matthew 26:64
"Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied. "But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

Mark 13:26–27
“At that time men will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.”

Luke 21:27–28
“At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Luke 12:40
“You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”

Acts
Acts 1:11
“Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

Epistles
1 Thessalonians 4:16–17
“For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.”

2 Thessalonians 1:7–10
“…when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed.”

Titus 2:13
“…while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.”

Philippians 3:20–21
“But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his
glorious body.”

Colossians 3:4
“When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.”

Hebrews 9:28
“…so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.”

James 5:7–8
“Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable

crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near."

1 Peter 1:13
"Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed."

1 Peter 5:4
"And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away."

2 Peter 3:10–13
"But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. … But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness."

1 John 2:28
"And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming."

1 John 3:2
"Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is."

Jude 14–15
"Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: 'See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him.'"

2 Timothy 4:1, 8
"In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: … Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing."

Additional from Revelation
Revelation 1:7
"Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen."

Revelation 19:11–16 (summary of the visible return as King of kings)
"I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. … On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS."

Revelation 22:12, 20
"Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. … He who testifies to these things says, 'Yes, I am coming soon.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus."

These passages collectively describe a personal, visible, glorious return of Jesus Christ, accompanied by angels and judgment, for the gathering and reward of His people and the transformation of their bodies.

(Source 3)

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Sermon Notes:

Week 4 Faith Under Fire Sermon Series

Good Morning & Happy Sunday to Everyone…
Before we hop into God's Word let me Share the AVC Connections…
YouTube
Church APP
FB / Website
[Let's Pray]
We are in Week 4 of our Series: Faith Under Fire
Sermon Series Symbol
We are going to Conclude our Series today and we have a lot to Cover…
Have you ever met a Person that Claims to be a "Christian" Yet Nothing in their life reflected any form of Christianity…?
I worked at Ford Motor Company for 14 Years So I met many people like this…
[The Guy – Married Man – Played the Part]
• Would quote a Bible Passage at Times
• He would tell me about a Sermon at Church
• However, the Same Guy would be telling Dirty Jokes… Cursing like a Sailor… and Bragged about Partying & Women
You May Possibly Know a Person like this…
I Share this Thought & Story as it Relates to the Book of Jude…
If You think about that Person… Now think 10 X Worse…
We are going to hop into Jude… But First let me share what Scholar Wilder says about the people Jude is exposing…
"These False Teachers were arrogantly committing Sexual immorality… they rebelled against authority and took the side of demons. They were the worst of the worst in their shameful hypocrisy and Spiritual trajectory. Jude goes beyond all other New Testament Epistles in his relentless and passionate condemnation of the apostate teachers." (Wilder, Logos Bible)
Let's Read Jude 8-11
(This is going to be Heavy)

Jude 8-11

8 In the very same way, these dreamers pollute their own bodies, reject authority and slander celestial beings.
9 But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring a slanderous accusation against him, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!" 10 Yet these men speak abusively against whatever they do not understand; and what things they do understand by instinct, like unreasoning animals—these are the very things that destroy them. 11 Woe to them! They have taken the way of Cain; they have rushed for profit into Balaam's error; they have been destroyed in Korah's rebellion.

There is So Much here it's Impossible to Exegete Everything without expanding this Series 6 more weeks…
I am going to Break down the Important Highlights…
In Modern Day Terminology… These People were Satanists…
Here are a few Key Words / Statements Jude makes in this Section:
Dreamers, Pollute Bodies, Reject Authority, Slander Celestial Beings, Unreasoning Animals…
I am not the sort of person that Remembers my Dreams… Like Some of You…

We Certainly know Biblically that the Lord Speaks through Visions & Dreams… – These people were making them up

In the Greco-Roman World… Dream Interpretation was a Paid Profession – Just like Palm Reading today…

• People were saying God gave me this Dream to do this – SIN!!

Friends… Make No Mistake about it… This is Witchcraft!! It is in the Same category as:

• Tarot Cards & Ouija boards
• Palm Reading & Horoscopes
• Crystal Ball Reading / Consulting the Dead

One Theologian Says – "They Claimed to possess Superior Secret Knowledge that gave them authority" (Barton, LABC)

This Takes us Back to V. 4… 'A License to Sin'

Slandering Celestial Beings – Celestial Beings Literally Means: "Messengers or Glories"

While there is theological Debate over this… I Believe Jude was saying these people are Communicating with the UnderWorld / Demons…

Christians we Don't have communications with Satan or His Demons – Don't Listen to His Lies

The Rebuke Goes On…

Read Jude 12-13

(Preach Thru)

Jude 12-13

12 These men are blemishes at your love feasts, eating with you without the slightest qualm—shepherds who feed only themselves. They are clouds without rain, blown along by the wind; autumn trees, without fruit and uprooted—twice dead. 13 They are wild waves of the sea, foaming up their shame; wandering stars, for whom blackest darkness has been reserved forever.

Here's the Great News… The People are going to be Judged… Jesus is Coming Back…!!

Jesus is Coming Back – Amen!!

Scripture Says

Matthew 24:30-31

30 At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. 31 And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

John 14:1-3

1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

Revelation 22:12 […] 22:20

12 Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. […] 20 He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

In Conclusion to this Series We Must remember we have a Call to Defend the Good News of Jesus and His Word…

I Encourage you with Jude's Final Words

Jude 17-24 (Read In Bible)

Closing Prayer

Devotional Questions:

1. Think about the coworker from the Ford plant (from sermon) who could quote a Bible verse and mention a sermon, yet regularly told dirty jokes, cursed heavily, and bragged about partying and women. Read Jude 8. How does that man's life illustrate what Jude means by "polluting their own bodies" and rejecting authority? Where have you seen a similar gap between someone's Christian talk and their everyday behavior?

2. Jude compares these people to Cain, Balaam, and Korah (Jude 11). Look up those three Old Testament accounts (Genesis 4; Numbers 22–24 & 31:16; Numbers 16). What common thread do you see in their motives, and how does that warn us about the danger of pursuing our own desires under a religious covering?

3. The sermon places the false teachers' claims of "secret knowledge" and made-up dreams in the same category as tarot cards, Ouija boards, horoscopes, and consulting the dead. Read Deuteronomy 18:10–12 and Acts 16:16–18. Why does God's Word call Christians to completely avoid these practices, and how does that warning help us recognize and reject the same spirit of false teaching Jude is describing?

4. Jude 12–13 uses five vivid pictures of these people (blemishes at love feasts, clouds without rain, autumn trees without fruit, wild waves, wandering stars). Which image stands out most to you, and what does it reveal about the emptiness of a life that looks spiritual but has no lasting fruit?

5. The sermon highlights the good news that these false teachers will be judged and that Jesus is coming back (Matthew 24:30–31; John 14:1–3; Revelation 22:12, 20). How does the certainty of Christ's return change the way you view the presence of false teaching and hypocrisy in the church today?

6. Read Jude 17–23 (the passage you encouraged people to read at the close). According to Jude, what are believers supposed to remember, and how are we to respond to those who are being influenced by false teachers? Which part of that response do you find most challenging right now?

7. The series ends with a call to "defend the Good News of Jesus and His Word." Looking at your own life this week, where is the Spirit prompting you to live with greater integrity so that your actions match the gospel you profess? What one practical step can you take in response to Jude's warning and hope?