

Jude: Defend the Faith

Enemy Agents

Jude 1:8-10

May 14, 2023

HDBC

Some false teaching and false teachers are easy to spot. In the early 70's it was not hard to recognize members of the **Unification Church** or the **Hare Krishnas**. Even today some are easy to spot.

A Lutheran church stood at 400 S Logan Street in Denver since the early 1900s. In April of 2017, the church became a place of worship for the followers of a brand-new religion: ***Elevationism***, dedicated to the spiritual benefits of cannabis.

It's only fitting that the home of the International Church of Cannabis is in the mile high city. Elevationism does not have any specific dogma, nor does it require conversion from other religions, so long as its adherents recognize cannabis as a sacrament. This is a **false teaching that is obvious**. But there are other heresies that are not so easily recognized. Some have crept into the church.

LifeWay Research & Ligonier Ministries did a survey that revealed some alarming things. Falsehoods that too many Christians have embraced.

People have the ability to turn to God on their own initiative. 82% Agree

Individuals must contribute to their own salvation. 74% Agree

Jesus is the first and greatest being created by God. 71% Agree

The Holy Spirit is a force, not a personal being. 56% Agree

God accepts the worship of all religions. 48% Agree

My good deeds help to earn my place in heaven. 39% Agree

God will always reward faith with material blessings. 37% Agree

Even as early as Jude's time, false beliefs had crept into the church. This had potential to cause great harm to the church and to believers. So, Jude, using a straight-forward approach calls for bold action in dealing with those who were leading others to believe wrong doctrine. He has already pointed out the great danger of believing the wrong things, following wrong leaders, and living the wrong way. Remember the illustrations? Israel, Fallen Angels, Sodom, and Gomorrah. **His purpose is not to give a history lesson**, but to warn them.

Enemy agents have **crept** into the church and were a grave threat to believers. They still are today. In verses 8-10 Jude reveals four things about them.

1. They have a faulty source of truth

By dreaming. The false teachers claimed to have visions from God as their sources of truth. They were creating their own theologies out of their own imaginations. This is a faulty and dangerous source of truth. **Anything** you trust as the anchor of your theology other than the Word of God will lead to bad beliefs and bad actions. That's why our **attitude and action when it comes to the Bible** is so important.

We need to see it for what it is.

- 1) Inerrant revelation from God to people. Without error.
- 2) Sufficient guide for life. It lacks nothing essential to life.
- 3) Relevant to my daily life. Practical.
- 4) Corrective, instructive, empowering.
- 5) Transcends cultures, generations, and situations.

We need to read it for what it does.

- 1) Leads us to salvation.
- 2) Reveals the will of God.
- 3) Produces spiritual maturity.
- 4) Guards us from spiritual wandering.
- 5) Brings hope and assurance in the chaos of a broken world.

Beware of anyone fails to use the Bible as the source of their truth.

2. They lead people into sin *They defile the flesh.*

Defile was used to dye something such as clothing or glass. It also can mean *to pollute, to contaminate, to corrupt.* In the Bible **to stain with sin.** It speaks of **moral defilement** often sexual sin. **See verse four.** They were teaching that the grace of God was a license to sin. In doing so they were leading people to become “stained by sin.” This teaching was keeping people from becoming and remaining pure in Christ. **Bad theology leads to wrong living.** **You can't live the truth while following lies.**

3. They reject authority

Again, we look back to verse four. Notice the last phrase. **They deny the Master and Lord.** In other words, they are rejecting Jesus, as the primary authority over their lives. Jude also indicates they were rejecting earthly authorities, as well. In other words, they were without accountability.

Reject means **to destroy, to annul, to consider meaningless.** They have chosen to be on their own. To answer to no one, even Christ.

You probably heard the story of a couple of battle ships which were on maneuvers. The story has the ring of fiction but has been circulated as true.

Two ships had been at sea in heavy weather for several days. The visibility was poor with dense fog, so the captain remained on the bridge keeping an eye on all activities. Shortly after dark, the lookout on the wing reported,

“Light, bearing on the starboard bow.”

“Is it steady or moving astern?” the captain called out.

“Steady, Captain,” which meant they were on a collision course with that ship.

The captain then called to the signalman, “Signal that ship: ‘**We are on a collision course, advise you change course twenty degrees.**’”

The reply, “**Advisable for you to change course twenty degrees.**”

The captain said, “Send: “I’m a captain, change course twenty degrees.’”

“**I’m a seaman second-class,**” came the reply. “**You had better change course twenty degrees.**”

By that time the captain was furious. He spat out, “Send: ‘**I’m a battleship. Change course twenty degrees.**’”

The reply, **I still advise you to change course, I’m a lighthouse.**

The authorities in our lives are like lighthouses. They are there to protect us from danger. The ultimate authority in our lives is Jesus. He is our lighthouse. When He says *change course*, we would do well to change course.

4. They arrogantly challenge spiritual beings

Literally, *to rail against or to speak reproachfully*. Israel **railed** against Moses and Aaron, whom God had appointed as leaders. These men rail against *angelic majesties*. Interesting statement. A few other translations might help.

Scoff at the glorious ones. Amplified

Slander celestial beings. NIV

Speak evil of dignitaries. KJV

They did it out of ignorance. They are reviling that which they do not know anything about. That's what happens when you ignore God's Word. Their actions were like those of unreasoning animals, following carnal instincts. They are not believers and will fall into judgment of God.

Once more, Jude offers and illustration. No other reference in the Bible to this event. It does however come from another source, ***The Assumption of Moses***. This was a work familiar to the readers of the first century. Some are troubled by this because they think Jude is referring to a **lost book of the Bible**. This is not the case. **First**, it is not a lost book. You can read it today.

Second, it is not a part of the Bible. It is one of many works that were written which contain a mixture of true events and fictitious events. Some of these works are helpful but are not on the same level as Scripture because they are not inspired by the Holy Spirit. Let's dig into this historic event.

1) The Characters There are two.

A. Michael

The name means **who is like unto God**.

There are four Biblical references to this angel.

Daniel 10:13 Helped a messenger of God get to Daniel.

Daniel 10:21 Standing with messenger against the enemy.

Daniel 12:1 Seen during end time as guardian protector.

Rev. 12:7 At war against the dragon in the end times

Archangel. Found only twice in the N. T. Here in Jude and in 1

Thessalonians 4:16 (voice of the archangel and the trumpet of God).

It means **first** or **chief messenger**. Highest rank of angels.

2. The Devil

He is Satan, the adversary. The one opposes God and all who love God. He attempts to hinder everything God wants to do. Here we see him as the adversary to Michael, God's angel.

B. The Dispute

There is no Old Testament record of this event. What we know from the Old Testament is this. Just before the Israelites were to enter the promised land after spending 40 years in the wilderness, Moses went up to Mount Nebo near Jericho. From there he could look over the Jordan River into the land that he would not enter. There, he died, and the Lord buried his body without letting anyone know the location.

He was 120 years old, but his eyes were sharp, and his strength had not diminished one bit. It was simply God's time. That's it. That is all the O. T. says about it. No hint in the prophets, Psalms or anywhere else in Old or New Testaments about this dispute. All we know about it we learn here.

What we assume. God sent Michael to bury Moses body. At some point in the process Satan approached the scene and demanded the body of Moses. Why? We don't know. Declared it was unworthy of proper burial? To make it a shrine that would lead to false worship. We don't know. What we do know is there was an argument and Michael won.

There is a spiritual presence, an angelic presence that we are seldom privileged to know about. But it is there, for sure.

John Paton was a missionary in the New Hebrides. One night locals surrounded the mission station, intent on killing them. Paton and his wife prayed during that terror-filled night that God would deliver them. When daylight came, they were amazed to see their attackers leave.

A year later, the chief of the tribe was converted to Christ. Remembering what had happened, Paton asked the chief what had kept him from

burning down the house and killing them.

The chief replied in surprise. We were afraid to attack because they had seen hundreds of big men in shining garments with drawn swords guarding the mission station.

C. The Rebuke

Jude's point is that Michael, during that hostile encounter with Satan did not personally rebuke Satan. He refused to pronounce judgment, preferring instead to say, ***the Lord rebuke you.***

Remember the context. The men about whom Jude is writing were speaking negatively and arrogantly about and against spiritual beings, angels. They were bringing a reproach on the angelic host.

Jude is saying, even Michael refused to do such a thing with Satan. One as powerful as Michael refused to do so against one so vile as Satan. He is pointing out how arrogant these men were being. Michael was willing to leave the matter of rebuke to the only one able to judge all of creation and that is the Lord, Himself. If Michael weighed his words carefully when addressing Satan, how presumptuous it was for false teachers to rail against angels.

Notice the end of verse 10. Those who reject the authority and plan of God, choosing to do it on their own, will find that the sinful nature inherently within each of us will **lead to their own destruction.** What they think is personal freedom by rejecting God and his authority leads to perpetual slavery to sin and destruction. The same is true today. You may think your freedom reject Christ, scoff at spiritual truth and live your own way is liberating. In reality it will enslave you to sin and lead to your own destruction. The bible is clear, *it is appointed for men to die once, and after this, the judgment.*

Application: Don't be like them!

1. Anchor your theology on the word of God.
2. Be truthful about sin and its consequences.
3. Submit to the authority of God.
4. Respect spiritual beings, angels and demons.