

(vv1-11) *'For certain men have crept in unnoticed ...ungodly men...'* God has pronounced eternal judgment upon all apostates. They possess sinful character traits that truly stand out: *'filthy dreamers...defile the flesh ...despise authority...speak evil...brute beasts...'*

(vv12,13) Jude gives five vivid word pictures revealing the character and destiny of the *'certain men'*:

1. *'spots' ('hidden rocks')* – unseen danger
2. *'clouds without water'* – no refreshment
3. *'trees without fruit'* – barren profession
4. *'raging waves'* – ungovernable, boisterous
5. *'wandering stars'* – worthless for navigation

(v12) **WORD PICTURE #1** *'These (certain men) are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear...'* The Greek word is *'spilas' {spe-lā's}* ~ a rock in the sea, ledge, reef. The early Christians often met for a common meal where everyone would bring something to share, called Agape (Love) feasts. This helped the poor who often would have nothing otherwise. When the *'certain men'* came they were serving themselves, eating greedily, while others went hungry. Paul wrote to Corinth about such evilness: **1 CORINTHIANS 11:17-34** the Agape feasts were meant to help those in need, but apostates were causing them to be a shipwreck.

(v12) **WORD PICTURE #2** *'...clouds they are without water, carried about of winds...'* apostates promise spiritual life and refreshment, but in reality they are barren of such ability. They leave those listening to them in a dry place, disillusioned and discouraged. **MATTHEW 12:43** these *'dry places'* that apostates make everywhere they go are places that evil spirits are said to wander through. **JOHN 7:37-39** what an infinite contrast when we look at Jesus Who gives us *'living water.'* What an encouragement it is for us to come to Him and stir others to do the same. **ISAIAH 55:1-12** only Jesus and the Word of God can irrigate our lives spiritually.

(v12) **WORD PICTURE #3** *'...trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots...'* the third word picture is quite detailed and very graphic concerning the apostates who secretly crept into the church. The Greek grammar speaks of late autumn trees as they are at the close of autumn: dry, leafless, and without fruit. What a vivid picture of false brethren! **MATTHEW 7:13-23** Jesus wants us to be fruit inspectors when it comes to knowing the difference between a false brother and a true believer. Jesus says to these apostates: *'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who*

*practice lawlessness!'* Jude declares these apostates to be *'twice dead'* meaning that they never knew Jesus and are dead in sin and one day will be resurrected and eternally dead: **REVELATION 20:11-15** the *'second death'* is when unbelievers will be eternally separated from God and cast into the Lake of Fire. Very humbling words that we must take seriously as we cast the Word of God into this fallen world. **PSALM 1:1-6** *'And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season...'* the utter contrast between the believer and the apostate. The apostates will be *'plucked up by the roots'* according to Jude. God wants us to be rooted in Him: **JOHN 15:1-8; COLOSSIANS 2:1-6.**

(v13) **WORD PICTURE #4** *'Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame...'* apostates are loud, active, and destructive; the end result will be to their shame and disgrace **ISAIAH 57:20,21; PSALM 93:3,4** the LORD wins! **PHILIPPIANS 3:17-21** while the unsaved glory in their shame, the believer is to look for Jesus. **REVELATION 21:1-7** *'...no more sea...'*; one day all evil will be eternally ended.

(v13) **WORD PICTURE #5** *'...wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.'* Whether shooting stars or meteors, these stars are worthless for navigational purposes, again this is quite an illustration of what chaos false teachers produce in the church. You cannot get spiritual direction from these deceivers; they will be eternally damned if they do not repent and turn to Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins.

**SUMMARY:**

It is essential for us to *'earnestly contend for the faith'* because of these apostates who are waiting to shipwreck the faith of many. (v11) shows us the motion of the deceivers: *'gone (walked) in the way of Cain... ran greedily after the error of Balaam...and perished in the rebellion of Korah.'* (vv12,13) they are *'carried about... fruitless...uprooted... dead... shame ...reserved darkness forever.'* Destructive movements!

**Contrast apostates with Jesus:**

- dangerous rocks...**the Rock of our salvation**
- Clouds with no blessing...**Jesus comes with the clouds**
- Trees of death...**the Tree of Life**
- Restless troubled sea...**leads beside still waters**
- Wandering stars, darkness...**Jesus is the Bright and Morning Star!**

**ISAIAH 48:18-22; ACTS 11:22,23** Cling to Jesus and follow Him! Stay in His Word! Rejoice in Him!