



**How Sneaky Are False Teachers?  
Service and Worship is All About Them  
They Just Want to Use Us  
Jude 11-16**

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When we were last together, we finished up as we were discussing the three additional examples that Jude provides us of what we need to be on the lookout for. Specifics to assist us in our spiritual discernment of those who show up in the fellowship looking really good at first and sounding as if they are in line with what we teach, but then they head off one direction or another. They just use us.



Jude 11

“Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain, and for pay they have given themselves up to the error of Balaam, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.” (NASB 2020)

So, we have looked at those who went the way of Cain into self-righteousness and designing a God of their own to worship. We have also seen that heretics, false teachers and those headed that direction are cash oriented. These are the leaders, and there are way too many, who have multimillion dollar mansions because they believe they deserve it. They have all of the toys, cars, planes, buildings because they believe they deserve it. They have the large staff on hand to take the work they no longer want to do as it distracts from their main goal of empire building and cash to support it.

And then there is Korah. An example of the ultimate destination of those who do this. So, what did they do? Korah and his crew, all Levites, but not priests, had grown dissatisfied with the way God had things laid out concerning the Tabernacle there in the wilderness.

They didn't like their jobs, they didn't like the leadership, and they didn't like what God's word said about who leads worship and who doesn't. Worship wars are not new. We are viewing the origin here in the Old Testament.

Korah and his crew believed they could have it, their way and they were willing to rebel to get it. How Genesis 3 can you be?

In Numbers 16, Korah led a rebellion against Moses. He convinced another 250 other Levites to join him and then as a group, led them in a direct confrontation with the man God had selected to lead the nation, Moses. Korah rebelled against God, and he also rebelled against the way God wanted to operate, who He wanted to use, and how. Where Cain was into false religion, and Balaam was into false ministry and cash, Korah is into false worship and outright rebellion against God's authority.

Worship, Korah thought, was all about the one offering up worship. But when that is the motivation, then pride is central, not the Lord.

You would think he had learned the lesson provided earlier with two of Aaron's sons who essentially did the same thing. Trying to expand their sphere of influence and adding to what, for them, was an approved form of worship with their idea of this would be good too. This form of worship, the adding to in the flesh, is referred to by God as strange fire.

Yes, worship wars, and it isn't just about songs and singing, begin in earnest with Korah and the crew over incense; but Nadab and Abihu pointed the way when they did the same thing.

Leviticus 9:23–10:3

“Moses and Aaron went into the Tent of the LORD's presence, and when they came out, they blessed the people, and the dazzling light of the LORD's presence appeared to all the people. Suddenly the LORD sent a fire, and it consumed the burnt offering and the fat parts on the altar. When the people saw it, they all shouted and bowed down with their faces to the ground. **Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu, each took his fire pan, put live coals in it, added incense, and presented it to the LORD. But this fire was not holy, because the LORD had not commanded them to present it.** Suddenly the LORD sent fire, and it burnt them to death there in the presence of the LORD. Then Moses said to Aaron, “This is what the LORD was speaking about when he said, ‘All who serve me must respect my holiness; I will reveal my glory to my people.’ ” But Aaron remained silent.” (GNB)

The Tabernacle is completed, the priests have been consecrated, and the time for dedication had arrived. “Aaron was in his priestly robes, as were his sons, and the whole scene was all in order according to the



plan of God. Then suddenly, as the people were waiting to start things, the fire of God was kindled on the altar. It was a spontaneous combustion. All the people saw this sign of God's presence and broke forth with great shouting. There was great excitement and boundless emotion at the realization that God was present among His people. Then the two sons of Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, took false fire and put it in their incense burners. They started to offer this incense before the Lord inside the Holy Place, when Scripture says that fire came from the altar and consumed both Nadab and Abihu (Leviticus 10). It's my belief that Nadab and Abihu got caught up in the emotion and the excitement of the moment. They were going to demonstrate to the people their position as priests and how important "we are." As a result, they were consumed." (Smith 2000, Kindle Location 729)

Worship is all about the one who is worthy of worship. It is about the Lord, it is not about you and me. If we turn it into that, it is indeed strange fire. And it is not all about singing and who and how it is done.

From Jesus.

John 4:23-24

"But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. **God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.**" (ESV)

Remember that, by God's design, we're worshipers. Worship isn't first an activity; worship is first our identity. That means everything you and I do and say is the product of worship. So the treasures (things that have risen to levels of importance in our hearts) that rule the thoughts and desires of our hearts will then control the things that we do. (Tripp 2012, 101)

And, as we see with Korah, when the flesh is the source of that, it isn't worship.

For Korah, his pride got in the way. He did not see his importance as being equal to that of the High Priest, so he wanted to redefine worship to be around him. "We attach our identity, meaning, purpose, and inner sense of well-being either to the earthbound treasures of the kingdom of self or to the heavenly treasures of the kingdom of God." Call it worship wars. (Tripp 2012, 101-102)

The reality though, we are to worship Biblically, as Jesus tells us, in Spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24).

Nadab and Abihu allowed the emotion of the moment to overcome the order that had been determined by the Lord. There are those today who would teach that when we are baptized and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we lose control, that is not true. Self-control is one of the evidences of the fruit of the Spirit in the life of the believer.

Galatians 5:22-24

**"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control;** against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires." (ESV)

Again, worship wars are not only about contemporary music versus the older hymns. It is not about formal liturgical church with, stand up, sit down, and so on versus informal study as we do. It also involves our heart when we gather together to study His word. That is worship. When we pray alone with the Lord, that is worship. Everything we do can indeed be done in worship and thankfulness to the Lord for what He has done or just done for us.

When it comes how we do church, if we sing and what we sing. That is also a part of what Korah wanted to change.



I have been involved peripherally with worship wars since I was saved. Upbeat music, with a sound doctrinal message was integral to my spiritual growth. Just like the grand old hymns were integral to the spiritual growth of many others. My Grandpa Ike sang louder than anyone else on this planet when he sang How Great Thou Art.

The problem though arises when our pride prevents us from considering what new believers, using what they know and from the square they are coming from, produce worship music. Doctrinal soundness is easy enough to deal with as long as discipling is taking place. But the music will indeed reflect what they have been listening to BC.

You see, when someone comes to Christ and they are musicians, they are not given the spiritual gift of appreciation for old hymns, there is no such gift. I did not wake up the morning after I was saved and say, man, I just can't get enough of Bach's church music. Give me that old time Gregorian chant. Silly, yes, it is.

But this divided the camp in Israel and divides churches today. Let me give you an example, Christafari performs reggae Christian worship and music. Their ministry has seen hundreds of thousands come to Christ. Personally, I love it. Their music is intended for the heart, not the commercial marketplace of Korah.

But the commercialization of worship music is a multibillion-dollar business. There are indeed those who produce music who have the same attitudes that Korah had, they are artists and performers and put on an excellent show, but where is their heart, really? And there are still those who simply want to worship the Lord as well.

Those with the unchecked Korah mindset are turning worship into worshiptainment. We are seeing this continuing as a point of division in the body today.

Jude, great choice here. The Bible is our guide for this. Korah strayed away from the guide and moved to pride. So, what is it we need to concentrate on. Joseph Coleson tells us.

"The principles of worship aren't difficult to discover. The Bible is not only a book of worship but also a book on worship.

- All Worship Is God-Centered. The derivation of our word worship is the Old English word for worth-ship. We certainly aren't the worthy ones; He is (Rev. 4:11; 5:9, 12).
- Worship Is an Offering. This follows logically: If worship is all about Him, then it really doesn't matter how much I get out of it. What matters is how much I put into it (Revelation 5:12).
- Worship Is Work. Again, a logical progression: if I'm the giver, there's work to be done. I'm to be active...Liturgy means "the work of the people," and every church, even among the so-called non-liturgical churches, has a liturgy. It has work for the people to do in every service.
- Worship Is Grounded in Scripture. Not only is Christ truth, but God's written Word is truth too (John 17:17). There we find revealed the One whom we worship, and there we find how best to worship Him.
- Worship Is Both Adoration and Celebration. "Praise the Lord!" is the message of Psalms 146–150, as well as scores of other scriptural exhortations. In fact, the Psalter alone contains more than two hundred calls to praise. But the Bible balances praise with reverence, celebration with adoration." (Coleson 2007, 129-131) How awe filled are we?

Acts 2:43

"Many miracles and wonders were being done through the apostles, and **everyone was filled with awe.**" (GNB)



Back in the day, worship music was monotone. It went by the term, Gregorian Chant. Now that was worship. But then some guy thought you could add notes. He did but his music was considered satanic at first. And here is the thing, worship is not just singing. It is where our heart is as we gather together to study His word. It is how we conduct ourselves as His people, and on and on.

You see, Korah's rebellion is no different than entire denominations throwing the Bible out, changing the meanings of various words and trying to turn God into an amorphous being with no reference to the terms we see in the Hebrew and the Greek.

Korah would be popular today and most likely in one of the mainline denominations that have rejected all things Biblical.

Korah was not a priest. None of those following him were priests either. They were Levites and they had specific roles and jobs which were needed to make the Tabernacle work.

This is no different than the body of Christ. We all have various gifts and ministries that the Lord has given us and where, as we minister together in Him, we see His blessing on what we do. But when someone new shows up and thinks their gifting is superior to yours, the rebellion they bring with them begins.

This has been a source of church splits for centuries. Yes, there are indeed those times where it is best to separate and do ministry separately. Paul and Barnabas are examples of that, but their division was not due to sin, it was a disagreement on strategy of the Spirit.

But I have witnessed, more than once, the Korah's of the deacon board rebel against the Pastor and kick the Pastor out in favor of someone who will do what they want.

As God eliminated Korah, He did the same with the rebellious deacons as two of those churches I am familiar with, no longer exist.

Korah and his squad wanted to take over; "lured on by pride they rose up against Moses and Aaron, and setting aside God's anointed, sought to force their way into His presence as priests to worship before Him without divine warrant or title. This is what is everywhere prevalent to-day. Independent and inflated with a sense of their own self-importance, vain men openly rebel against the authority of the Lord as Apostle and Priest, and dare to approach God as worshipers apart from Him, and ignore His claims." (Ironsides 1931, 31) Think Laodicean church.

It is tough to worship the Lord in a church that does not teach the Bible or even recognize the fact that Jesus Christ is God. It is tough to truly believe we have entered into the throne room to worship and praise the King when those leading worship music are simply performers and it is being encouraged by external performance-oriented props such as lighting, fog machines, dancers and the attempt to create a performance ambiance. Worship is not singing in a darkened room to a performance; it is the realization that we are in the presence of our King and realizing who He is, and what He has done for each of us.

For some today, worship is done by lying face down on the ground before Him. Yes, some of us cannot physically do that, but do we go into our prayer closet, the place we meet God, and worship?

Korah rebelled against God and God's anointed. And let me be really clear, Moses was God's anointed, specifically selected by God. This does not mean that all High Priests were God's anointed. Some were, but not all. Not all of the King's were God's anointed. But as a believer, we are all anointed, yep all of us. We discovered that in our study of 1 John.



1 John 2:20–21

“But **you have an anointing from the Holy One**, and you all know. I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth.” (NASB 2020)

You have, present active tense, an anointing from the Lord right now. That means you received an anointing from Him at a point in time and you continue to have that anointing and there is never a time as a believer where you will not have that anointing. The Holy Spirit is in you.

The word translated anointing is χρίσμα (chrisma).

“When the community is assaulted by antichrists it can resist only in the power of the Spirit, the χρίσμα, 2:20, 27. The use of this term, which means “anointing oil,” implies that the community is anointed with the Spirit, this being the basis of the fact that it belongs to Christ. χρίσμα imparts to the community its comprehensive knowledge—οἶδατε πάντα (2:20)—which confers on it the clarity of faith and judgment and the assurance in life and decision that come from its relationship to God. This statement about the χρίσμα of the community is directly connected with what Christ says about the παράκλητος in Jn. 16:8–10, 13 f. The community has received the χρίσμα as a power which remains in it and gives it comprehensive and reliable instruction, 2:27.” (Grundmann, et al. 1964-, 572) And He is a person as well.

If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, you have in you right now, the Holy Spirit. For those wanting an anointing of the Spirit, news flash, you already have it, present possession. The question, are we in relationship or have we grieved Him and limited His use of us?

Are we presently filled and empowered with the Holy Spirit or are we sitting on the outside wondering what to do because I don't think I can worship like that, in Spirit and in truth. Is it all about Him or us?

For Korah and his gang, all of those who decided to rebel against God, against God's word, God's order and those who He has chosen to use and place into places of authority. God Himself will defend them and deal with the rebellion.

Numbers 16:31–33

“And as soon as he had finished speaking all these words, the ground under them split apart. **And the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the people who belonged to Korah and all their goods. So they and all that belonged to them went down alive into Sheol, and the earth closed over them, and they perished from the midst of the assembly.**” (ESV)

So again, we have three views of what it is false teachers are in to, and how they come to the surface.

“So in these three pen-pictures from the Old Testament we see three leading characteristics of the false teachers. Like Cain, they were **devoid of love**. Like Balaam, they were prepared in return **for money to teach others that sin did not matter**. Like Korah, they were **careless of the ordinances of God and insubordinate to church leaders**. It is not without significance for Jude's purpose that each of three Old Testament characters taught others to sin, and each met with ruin.” (Green 1987, 201) Jude continues.

Jude 12–13

“**These are the ones who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, like shepherds caring only for themselves**; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted; wild waves of the sea, churning up their own shameful deeds like dirty foam; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of darkness has been reserved forever.” (NASB 2020)

Potlucks are not anything new. It appears that they were an opportunity for fellowship in the early church.





We see in Acts that there was daily serving of food taking place resulting in waiters being appointed (Acts 6:1-6).

Included in that group were Stephen and Philip, whom we read about elsewhere in Acts.

We also see that the church in Corinth had augmented the Lord's Supper with a common meal. But that meal had been abused by some of those more well off in the body. This resulted in correction from Paul.

1 Corinthians 11:20–22

"When you come together, it is not the Lord's supper that you eat. For in eating, each one goes ahead with his own meal. One goes hungry, another gets drunk. What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I commend you in this? No, I will not." (ESV)

"The problem is simply this: when they eat the Lord's Supper, they divide along socioeconomic lines. Each one eats his or her own supper, and those who have plenty ignore those who have little or nothing. This indifference to others shows contempt for the church of God and dishonors Christ's self-giving sacrifice, which the Supper commemorates." (Garland 2003, 533) Don't tell me I can't have any of Mrs. Unruh's casserole.

Both of those examples not only show that eating and fellowship goes along with worship and the word, but also reflect clear corrections to issues that were being encountered.

But Jude reports to us that in the process of becoming part of the flock and eating with the flock, there was something else going on.

Eating together then, as now, is an opportunity to get to know someone. For the early church, this was done in addition to the celebration of the Lord's Supper. Agape love is the theme as the body shares together in the love of Christ. Indeed, this hallmark of agape love that Jesus said would be the main mark of His church, has indeed begun to reflect that by the time Jude is writing.

In the middle of this joyous time of fellowship, sharing and communion as well, are these hidden heretics. The term he uses reflects the grave hidden danger that comes along with them.

Some translations reflect that they are stains in the meal. The word used in the Greek here by Jude is σπιλάδες (spilades) and means a rocky hazard hidden by waves, a rock washed by the sea, a (hidden) reef...it is characteristic of the σπιλάδες that they cannot be seen, and hence a ship can be wrecked on them before any danger is suspected... that which soils or discolors, spot, stain. (Arndt, et al. 2000, 938)

In the context of Jude and what he has been writing about, I like the idea that these people are like rocks just under the surface of the water.

Just as today, if you want to really fellowship with and get to know someone, have lunch with them. In the culture of the day, it was also the place that strong social bonds would be created.

Let me take you into the world of intelligence gathering. In the world of human resource intelligence, the goal is to develop and obtain information from a person, a source that you would not normally be able to obtain by being a stranger. So, the goal is to befriend and become part of the social network of the individual you are "grooming" as an intelligence source. You want them to believe you care for them and agree with what their problems are.



Sometimes this takes months to do or even years, and there have been those times where it took one conversation. The person you are befriending, has not idea what your true motivation is. To have them tell you the details of what they are doing at work to include those things they shouldn't be telling you at all. Or, since you are so sympathetic to their cause, they begin to open up to you about the various crimes they have committed since the reason for the crime was so compelling and you have agreed with them about that.

Jude is telling us that this is the practice of those in the service of the enemy who are these false teachers and heretics.

They appear to be part of the group, part of the body, but the reality is they are no better than hidden rocks to a ship. They will indeed bite when you do not expect it. We think that in order to deceive at this level, it would take practice as well as being totally without any conscience at all. But we are so gullible in the church, that we tend to become victims more than we should.

We want to trust and exercise agape love. That may not be their objective though. Remember the last three examples, greed and teaching others to sin is not always about money or leading others into gross sin.

I have indeed watched, with amazement, this practice taking place in the church. And I have seen it in more than one location.

There is always someone out there who is looking for more than what the word says. They are not part of the body for fellowship. They are looking for a job, or for an advantage, or for a sales opportunity. The body of Christ is not here for network marketing, please stop if that is what you are doing because we really all do see through you.

They are looking for those they can develop as allies who will stand with them when they rise to power in the church. All of this is greed.

Godless greed in Jude's sense is looking out for ourselves over others, and unfortunately, this type of greed is rampant in our churches today as well. (Bateman IV 2015, 291)

The reef could also be someone who has been around a really long time in the church and now believe that what they say, goes. Welcome to the Korah like deacon board. But sometimes these also show up as the new incoming pastor. One more reason why I really dislike the "church business model" of the bungee pastor.

The bungee pastor is the one who shows up, gets everyone excited about a building program and then leads, to the detriment of the flock, in fund raising rather than discipling. While the flock drifts away from the Lord, the bungee pastor goes about solidifying their personal mark with the new edifice that costs millions. This too is greed.

"Greed has usurped power in denominations, creating and embellishing erroneous perceptions rather than truth. Leaders build ornate and wasteful edifices costing tens of millions of dollars to stroke egos and create perceptions of personal success in God's name. Greed has demanded sacrifice of people through self-serving sermons that generate false guilt in order to maintain and advance personal kingdoms rather than God's." (Bateman IV 2015, 292) How much do they talk about giving and does it always take place with the obligatory guilt trip.

Just as it would take you a period of time to develop a good source of intelligence, by taking the time to blend in and conform to the target, there are also those teachers and pastors who do the same as well.





The reef is just under the surface. But at times, the tide goes down and the bully comes out.

Yes, the bully teacher or pastor is also another iteration of what Jude is talking about here. They have snuck in, or when you arrived, they were already there, and you assumed they had pure motives. The reality though, per Jude, is that they feast with you without fear. They know what they are doing, you and I do not, and since they are like shepherds caring only for themselves, you and I are simply the marks to be taken down in the game they are playing.

“Mission is no longer about how can we love and serve God and lead others to do the same, but rather about how we can use people to get where we want and what we want. When this type of greed infects us, then our actions become toxic to the very Christ-centered community that we were called to create.” (Bateman IV 2015, 292)

Let’s take another look at our text. These are those who truly want to shipwreck our faith for what they want.

Jude 12–13

“These are the ones who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when **they feast with you without fear, like shepherds caring only for themselves**; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted; wild waves of the sea, churning up their own shameful deeds like dirty foam; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of darkness has been reserved forever.” (NASB 2020)

The examples given here by Jude are to reflect how truly worthless these false teachers who have snuck in, these who are self-serving, truly are.

Clouds without water, carried along by winds. In the ancient world, when you see clouds, you think rain. Your crops need rain in order to grow and produce food for the next year or feed for your livestock.

I used to experience this living in the central valley of California. The rain would fall on the coastal hills and the clouds would promise rain, you would even feel the wet air and smell the rain, but no rain. It stayed dry. The central valley is in a rain shadow as storms come off the Pacific. Great, what about storms coming from the east, the mountains there are the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Once again, we lived in a rain shadow.

A rain shadow is a patch of land that has been forced to become a desert because mountain ranges blocked all plant-growing, rainy weather. On one side of the mountain, wet weather systems drop rain and snow. On the other side of the mountain—the rain shadow side—all that precipitation is blocked. In a rain shadow, it’s warm and dry. On the other side of the mountain, it’s wet and cool. (National Geographic 1996-2025)

This is why there was a water project to bring in irrigation water. But the central valley is really a desert.

This is what Jude tells us about the false teachers who have snuck in and are busy ingratiating themselves with the flock. They promise refreshment, but instead, they are dry. But they made sure they got a good helping of the potato salad before anyone else did.

They sound like and act like they are Spirit Filled and empowered, but it just isn’t with the Holy Spirit.

They are frauds. They were not interested in feeding the flock, they were interested in feeding themselves, they are dry and there the greed idea shows up again.



Ever grow a fruit tree that doesn't produce fruit? I had two of the prettiest non-producing orange trees in Florida.

I did everything I needed to do to encourage them to produce fruit to include trimming. But nada. Jude is telling us that these folks are just like that, they do not produce fruit. We already know that they are not in the Spirit, so no fruit makes a lot of sense. As Christians, we are fruit inspectors. We are on the look out for, especially when someone shows up and says they are a teacher, the fruit of the Spirit.

This is difficult to do today since many times these folks sneak in via the internet in podcasts or their You Tube channel. Again, they sound good but is there fruit. I mean, they have massive ministries and reach thousands, but is anyone growing in the Lord? Even Jesus said to check for fruit.

Matthew 7:15–20

“Beware of the false prophets! They come to you wearing sheep’s clothing, but underneath they are hungry wolves! **You will recognize them by their fruit. Can people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise, every healthy tree produces good fruit, but a poor tree produces bad fruit.** A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, or a poor tree good fruit. Any tree that does not produce good fruit is cut down and thrown in the fire! **So you will recognize them by their fruit.**” (CJB)

Apostates, the false teachers Jude is warning about, want to lead you and me spiritually, but they are doubly dead.

They are spiritually dead right now, and at some point, soon, they will also be physically dead. Doubly dead. And Jude is not done yet.

Jude 13.

“**wild waves of the sea, churning up their own shameful deeds like dirty foam**; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of darkness has been reserved forever.” (NASB 2020)

Think out of control. They will swing to whatever the latest fad is. What is the latest spiritual trend. What do the pollsters tell us the people want to hear. No consistency in what they teach as they tend to move around like waves in a storm. They keep popping up because they are uncontainable.

Obviously, what we are seeing are these who sneak in, with the intent to deceive, they never do live up to the expectations we had on initial perceptions.

They are wandering stars. This is most likely not a reference to comets, or planets, or the movement of some stars on the ecliptic versus those that appear not to move at all. Jude is once again turning to the book of Enoch here.

The wicked men are like the wandering stars that are kept in the abyss of darkness for their disobedience. This is a picture directly taken from the Book of Enoch. In that book the stars and the angels are sometimes identified; and there is a picture of the fate of the stars who, disobedient to God, left their appointed orbit and were destroyed. (Barclay 1976, 195-196)

Enoch 21:1–6

“Then I visited an unprepared place. **There I beheld an awesome work: I saw neither heaven above, nor did I behold the established earth, but an unprepared and fearful place. And there I beheld seven of the stars of heaven bound and thrown into it like great mountains burning with fire.** Then I said, “For what reason were they bound, and on what account were they thrown here?” Then Uriel, who is one of the holy angels who was with me (and who went before the angels), said to me, “Enoch, for what reason do you ask, and why are you zealous for the truth? These are from the stars of heaven,



those passing by the command of the Lord. And they were bound here until the fulfillment of countless years, the time served for their sins.” (Brannan, et al. 2020, Enoch 21:1-6)

Even God uses this same term as He is having a heart to heart with Job.

Job 38:4–7

“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, **when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?**” (ESV)

This is a reference to divine beings, angels. But here in Jude, fallen angels, in other words, wandering stars.

These stars of heaven, another name for the fallen watchers we discussed earlier, are those who wandered away and apostatized themselves as we discussed in Genesis 6. How do we know these are the wandering stars Jude is talking about, “wandering stars, for whom the gloom of darkness has been reserved forever.”

I think Peter answers that for us.

2 Peter 2:4

“For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and **committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment;**” (ESV)

This suggests that Jude is thinking of the doom of the fallen angels (of which he had spoken in v. 6), when he talks of the doom reserved for wandering stars. This conclusion is strengthened by the fact that he goes on to quote Enoch in the next verse. (Green 1987, 204)

The type of false teachers that Jude is talking about, are not people you and I are to emulate. They are bad people. They are dangerous spiritual life-threatening individuals.

Add to that that they are selfish and perverted shepherds. They are hired hands. Employees and not interested in the flock. They are only interested in what is in it for me. Way too many churches have staffs of individuals who are this.

John 10:11–13

**“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not a shepherd and does not own sheep, sees the wolf coming and abandons the sheep and runs away.** So the wolf attacks the sheep and scatters them. Because he is a hired hand and is not concerned about the sheep, he runs away.” (NET 2nd ed.)

They are as useless as rainless clouds. As dead as a tree that produces no fruit on it. As dirty as the foam we see in the waves and just as uncontrollable as well. And finally, all they can look forward to is doom, no different than what the fallen angels have to look forward to.

Jude 14–15

**“It was also about these people that Enoch, in the seventh generation from Adam, prophesied, saying, “Behold, the Lord has come with many thousands of His holy ones, to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.””** (NASB 2020)



The judgment to be sustained by those that Jude has been talking about, is inescapable. To confirm that, he quotes from Enoch.

Enoch 1:3–9

“About the chosen ones I speak now, and concerning them I take up my proverb: “My Holy Great One will come out from his dwelling place. And the God of eternity will walk upon the earth, upon Mount Sinai. He will appear from his encampment and shine forth in the power of his strength from the heaven of heavens. All will be afraid and the watchmen will believe. They will sing hidden in all the high places of the earth. And all the high places of the earth will shake; trembling and great fear will take them unto the end of the earth. And they will shake and fall; the high mountains shall break up and the high hills will be made low to slip through the mountains. They will melt like beeswax from the face of the fire in flame. And the earth will be divided, a division like grapes. As much as is upon the earth will destroy itself and judgment will be against everyone. With the righteous he will make peace and upon the chosen there will be preservation and peace. Upon them mercy will come and they all shall belong to God; and he shall give approval to them and will bless them all. He will help them all and help us; light will shine on them and he will make peace over them. **For he comes with his ten thousands and his holy ones to enact judgment against all. He will destroy everyone who is ungodly and reproach all flesh concerning all works of the ungodly: the things they did impiously, the harsh words that they spoke and all that ungodly sinners spoke against him.**” (Brannan, et al. 2020, Enoch 1:3-9)

It seems Jude accepts the historicity of Enoch as well as Enoch's subsequent prophetic statement in 1 En. 1:9 as authoritative in much the same way as he accepted the historical traditions about angels in Jude 6. (Bateman IV 2015, 307)

Jude applies the soon return of Jesus Christ as what is being referenced in Enoch 1 and when He returns, it is indeed with all the church and the heavenly host in tow.

Revelation 19:11–16

“Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.” (ESV)

Jude is saying that those he is talking about, are those who will still be here at the end of the Tribulation, again, implying they are not saved and are not in any sense of the word, Spiritual. All they have to look forward to is judgment.

Those who will not be taken in the rapture of the church will be part of the false religion rising up after the rapture and during the Tribulation. “You see, the Rapture will rupture the church—the true believers will leave the earth, and the make-believers will remain and will be here when Christ comes to judge men in that day.” Per Jude, these are all make believe believers. (McGee 1997, 866)

We will pick up here next week as Jude is not yet done with his discussion of apostates, heretics and false teachers.



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