



World Christian Fellowship

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Jude 10 Analogies of Apostate

Jude 1:12-13, *These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots; ¹³raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.*

Three historic apostate judgments.

- **Israel,**
- **Angels, and**
- **Sodom and Gomorrah.**

Three characteristics of apostate nature:

- **Immorality,**
- **Disobedience/ insubordination, and**
- **Blasphemy/irreverence.**

Three connections to apostate examples:

- **Cain,**

- **Balaam, and**
- **Korah.**

Three who model what these current, contemporary apostates do.

- These current ones have gone the way of Cain.
- They have rushed into the error of Balaam.
- They have perished in the rebellion of Korah.

They have followed the path that Cain followed.

They have followed the path that Balaam followed.

They have followed the path that Korah followed.

Notice the progression.

- They have gone the way of Cain,
- They have rushed into the error of Balaam, and
- They have perished in the rebellion of Korah.

The worst mistake a soldier can make is to underestimate his enemy.

Jude was determined not to let this happen to his readers.

Using all the imagination he could summon, he laboured to describe the ruthlessness and corruption of the false teachers who threatening the church

Jude searched land, sky, and sea to find the most appropriate images for illustrating their wickedness.

In the end he settled upon six powerful analogies to make his point.

1. Spots in your love feast.
2. Self-serving Shepherds
3. Clouds without water.
4. Trees without Fruit.
5. Raging Waves.
6. Wandering Stars.

1. Spots in your love feast.

Jude begins by comparing these corrupt men to “hidden rocks” (ASV; or “hidden reefs” ESV; NAS) or “spots” (KJV, NKJ)

In the case of “spots” these false teachers were human blemishes on the love feasts of the congregation.

James 1:27, *Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.*

Ephesians 5:27, *that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.*

People who have been added to the church have first been cleansed.

Acts 22:16, *And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'*

Romans 6:3-4, *Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? ⁴Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*

Those who do not walk in newness of life are a blemish upon the church's reputation and fellowship!

Hidden Rocks:

In the case of "hidden rocks" these false teachers, metaphorically, were men who by their conduct damage others morally.

Like sunken reefs which could not be seen on the surface of the water, but which would inevitably wreck any ship which struck them, so these men gave no warning of the threat which they posed.

Sadly, false teachers do not appear as they really are until the damage is already done.

Countless ships have been shipwrecked by hidden rocks.

1 Timothy 1:19-20, *having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck, ²⁰of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.*

The “love feasts” Jude mentions probably refers to the friendliness that was evident among the saints as they enjoyed a common meal together.

Early Christians derived pleasure from this kind of fellowship.

Acts 2:46-47, *So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, ⁴⁷praising God and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.*

Jude says that false teachers secretly bring in blemishes that do harm to Christian fellowship.

Remember Judas Iscariot ate with Jesus yet how he ends up.

Matthew 26:20-25, *When evening had come, He sat down with the twelve.* ²¹*Now as they were eating, He said, "Assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me."* ²²*And they were exceedingly sorrowful, and each of them began to say to Him, "Lord, is it I?"* ²³*He answered and said, "He who dipped his hand with Me in the dish will betray Me."* ²⁴*The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born."* ²⁵*Then Judas, who was betraying Him, answered and said, "Rabbi, is it I?" He said to him, "You have said it."*

2. Self-serving Shepherds

Jude compared false teachers to self-centred shepherds who *"without fear, serving only themselves"*

They are consumed with satisfying their own egos and lusts while completely ignoring the spiritual needs of those entrusted to their care.

“Without fear” suggests they were unconcerned about-facing God in judgment to account for their misdeeds.

2 Corinthians 5:10-11, *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. ¹¹Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.*

Leaders are often called “shepherds” in Scripture
Ezekiel prophesied against the shepherds (leaders) of Israel who put their interest above the interest of the flock.

Ezekiel 34:1-10, *And the word of the Lord came to me, saying, ²“Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God to the shepherds: “Woe to the shepherds of Israel who feed themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flocks? ³You eat the fat and clothe yourselves with the wool; you slaughter the fatlings, but you do not feed the flock. ⁴The weak you have not strengthened, nor have you healed those who were sick, nor bound up the broken, nor brought back what was driven away, nor sought what was lost; but with force and [\[a\]](#)cruelty you have ruled them. ⁵So they were scattered because there was no shepherd; and they became food for all the beasts of the field when they were scattered. ⁶My sheep wandered through all*

the mountains, and on every high hill; yes, My flock was scattered over the whole face of the earth, and no one was seeking or searching for them.”

⁷Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord: ⁸“As I live,” says the Lord God, “surely because My flock became a prey, and My flock became food for every beast of the field, because there was no shepherd, nor did My shepherds search for My flock, but the shepherds fed themselves and did not feed My flock”— ⁹therefore, O shepherds, hear the word of the Lord! ¹⁰Thus says the Lord God: “Behold, I am against the shepherds, and I will require My flock at their hand; I will cause them to cease feeding the sheep, and the shepherds shall feed themselves no more; for I will deliver My flock from their mouths, that they may no longer be food for them.”

Isaiah 56:10-12, *His watchmen are blind, They are all ignorant; They are all dumb dogs, They cannot bark; Sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber. ¹¹Yes, they are greedy dogs Which never have enough. And they are shepherds Who cannot understand; They all look to their own way, Every one for his own gain, From his own territory. ¹²“Come,” one says, “I will bring wine, And we will fill ourselves with intoxicating drink; Tomorrow will be as today, And much more abundant.”*

Jesus is called the Good Shepherd.

John 10:11, *“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.*

Due to their influence, leaders can expect a higher level of accountability on the Day of Judgment.

James 3:1, *My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.*

A Shepherd must be without reproach.

1 Timothy 3:1-7, *This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. ²A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behaviour, hospitable, able to teach; ³not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; ⁴one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence ⁵(for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); ⁶not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil. ⁷Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.*

When a person proclaims himself a spiritual leader but does not live up to that trust, he has committed a serious offense.

Whether the problem is apathy or opportunism, the outcome is the same!

3. Clouds without water.

Jude painted a verbal portrait of false teachers as waterless clouds.

It is doubtful that he has white billowy clouds that lazily pass through the sky on a summer day.

It is more likely that he imagined dark clouds, always threatening rain but never delivering the refreshment so desperately needed.

Few things could be more disheartening in the dry arid regions of Judea than waterless clouds.

Jude used this frustrating figure to portray the problem of spiritual drought. False teachers are like clouds that promise rain but never deliver.

Proverbs 25:14, *Whoever falsely boasts of giving is like clouds and wind without rain.*

These men are all talk and no show!

“Carried along by winds”

Symbolize the spiritual instability of ungodly men.

Like clouds at the mercy of the wind currents, false teachers lack the integrity to withstand unbiblical doctrines.

These false teachers are like clouds that create excitement as they come but leave disappointment as they go.

4. Trees without Fruit.

Those undermining the faith was that of barren trees.

Jude envisions a person walking up to a fruit tree in late autumn expectantly looking forward to a ripe, juicy treat. Instead, the fruit was withered away, leaving the hungry individual disappointed.

Such was the experience of those who sought spiritual food or blessing from these hypocrites.

Teachers who drink deeply from God's word produce good fruit.

Psalms 1:1-3, *Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; ²But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night. ³He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in*

its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.

Jesus warned us to be careful and examine the fruit.

Matthew 7:18-20, *A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰Therefore by their fruits you will know them.*

A graphic illustration about Israel by God through Prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 5:1-6, *Now let me sing to my Well-beloved*

A song of my Beloved regarding His vineyard: My Well-beloved has a vineyard On a very fruitful hill. ²He dug it up and cleared out its stones, And planted it with the choicest vine. He built a tower in its midst, And also made a winepress in it; So He expected it to bring forth good grapes, But it brought forth wild grapes. ³“And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, Judge, please, between Me and My vineyard. ⁴What more could have been done to My vineyard That I have not done in it? Why then, when I expected it to bring forth good grapes, Did it bring forth wild grapes? ⁵And now, please let Me tell you what I will do to My vineyard: I will take away its hedge, and it shall be burned; And break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. ⁶I will lay it waste; It shall not be pruned or dug, But there shall come up briers

and thorns. I will also command the clouds That they rain no rain on it.”

Jude uses the phrase, “*twice dead*” to depict the fruitless lives of the false teacher.

A tree may get a reprieve the first year of not producing fruit, but if there is no fruit produced the second year it is uprooted.

Matthew 3:8, *Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance,*

The phrase “twice dead” might also indicate the tragedy of Christians who have gone back into the world.

Hebrews 6:4-8, *For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, ⁵and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, ⁶if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame. ⁷For the earth which drinks in the rain that often comes upon it, and bears herbs useful for those by whom it is cultivated, receives blessing from God; ⁸but if it bears thorns and briers, it is rejected and near to being cursed, whose end is to be burned.*

Nothing can be sadder than for a person who has been saved from his past sins only to be lost later through disobedience — the second death is awaiting the unfaithful.

pulled up by the roots;

They are like trees that have come out of the ground, disconnected from the life-giving source of water and nutrients.

Matthew 15:13, *But He answered and said, "Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted."*

5. Raging Waves.

False teachers are wild and unstable like the tossing sea.

Loud and boisterous and producing only foam. False teachers are loud and boastful, but for all their talk, they have little to show but the residue of their own shame

Isaiah 57:20-21, *But the wicked are like the troubled sea, When it cannot rest, Whose waters cast up mire and dirt.*
²¹ *"There is no peace," Says my God, "for the wicked."*

Instead of littering beaches, false teachers litter the minds and lives of those they influence.

In some cases, they are like giant waves that leave utter destruction in their path.

6. Wandering Stars.

Jude's final example of iniquity comes from the heavens

Religious leaders are like stars because they impart the light of knowledge, but Jude says these false teachers are not that way.

"Wandering stars" seems to refer to meteorites that blaze impressively across the horizon.

In the ancient world, the stars were called the "host of heaven" and were equated with deities. In Deuteronomy the stars of heaven are also called "heavenly host" and are likened to the pagan deities.

Deuteronomy 4:19, *And take heed, lest you lift your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun, the moon, and the stars, all the host of heaven, you feel driven to worship them and serve*

them, which the Lord your God has given to all the peoples under the whole heaven as a heritage.

No one cannot steer by shooting stars!

They blaze for a moment and are then gone, and so it is with false teachers. Their light went out when they departed from God's word.

False teachers have wandered away from God's word — their lives are spiritually off course.

The fate of the wandering stars is typical of the fate of the man who disobeys God's commandments and takes his own way.

Those who are faithful to God's word are like stars in the midst of a sinful world.

Philippians 2:15, *that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,*

Those who are faithful to God's word have an enormous influence in leading people in the right way — in startling contrast to the false teachers Jude is discussing who lead men into darkness.

Conclusion:

Underestimating the Evil:

It is a terrible blunder to underestimate one's adversary in battle. This is why the New Testament has gone to great lengths to provide intelligence on the enemies of Christ.

Ephesians 6:12, *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

In writing his battle plan for Christian warfare, Jude painted a vivid picture of the awfulness of sin and those who promote it.

False teachers are spiritually empty, fruitless, unstable, and self-centred men. Their wild actions defile, disappoint, pollute, shame, and destroy the souls of men.

Like Jude, spiritual patriots must honestly assess, accurately describe, and graphically portray the wickedness of false teachers.

Complainer who finds fault with everything are not to be admired, but spiritual patriots who alert the church to real

doctrinal danger are heroes of the faith and should be thanked for their courage.

We must not ignore the problem of false teaching — it will not go away.

Jude is the only book of the bible whose sole stated purpose is to address apostasy.

Many others mention it, but this one is devoted to it. He says that he wanted to write something else, but when he learned of this problem, he knew it needed to move to the top of his list.

There are plenty of examples of false teachings in scripture, but the book that specifically deals with the topic does not give any. That seems fairly shocking!

Tell it like it is so other can see it like it is.

Jude did.

Will we?

