

Jude

“Lying to ourselves is more deeply ingrained than lying to others.”
— Fyodor Dostoyevsky

The Mercy & Judgement of God

“Self-Deception & False Teaching”

Introduction

- Jude has exhorted the churches to contend for the faith (v. 3) and warned them about the presence of false teachers in their midst (v. 4).
- He has begun to justify his warning by citing 3 examples of judgement from the OT:
 - (1) The Exodus Generation
 - (2) The angles mentioned in Gen. 6:1-4
 - (3) The cities of Sodom & Gomorrah
- He now transitions to describe the immoral actions of the false teachers (v.8 -10) and to pronounce judgment upon them (v. 11-13).

Jude’s goal in the following verses is explain to the churches who these teachers truly are in contrast to how they _____ themselves!

The False Teachers Described—Jude 8-10

⁸ Yet in like manner these people also, relying on their dreams, defile the flesh, reject authority, and blaspheme the glorious ones.⁹ But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, “The Lord rebuke you.”¹⁰ But these people blaspheme all that they do not understand, and they are destroyed by all that they, like unreasoning animals, understand instinctively.

The Connection between the False Teachers and Jude’s Prior Examples (v. 8a)

“Yet...” →

“...in like manner...” →

⇒ Although they have these examples from the OT, they persist in their _____ behavior.

Their View of Themselves (v. 8b)

“these people relying on their dreams”

- It is not uncommon in Scripture for the Lord to communicate with his people through dreams and visions. In the NT, one of the most significant examples of this is Acts 10:9-16 where foods which were previously forbidden by God in the OT were declared clean by Him.
- ⇒ It is likely that these false teachers claimed to have had similar dreams or visions which _____ their licentious behavior.

The Reality of Their Behavior (v. 8c)

1. They _____ the flesh.

- The term “flesh” is to be understood here as a reference to the body.

“defile”—**μιαίνω (miainō)**— Literally to dye or stain. To sully or contaminate; to cause the purity of something to be violated through immoral behavior. The term often refers to sexual sin in the OT (Gen. 34:4; Lev. 18:24, 27-28; Jer. 3:2; Hos. 5:3, 6:10).

2. They reject _____.

“authority”—**κυριότης (kyriotēs)**—Referring to the authority that a lord or master wields. Lordship, ruling power, dominion.

⇒ These people do not recognize any _____ authority and are instead guided by their own visions/desires.

3. They slander _____.

“...blaspheme the glorious ones...”

- The phrase “glorious ones” can refer to angelic beings in general, but in this context, probably refers to _____ angels.

“blaspheme”—**βλασφημέω (blasphēmēō)**—To slander, revile, defame, speak irreverently/impiously/disrespectfully of or about.

⇒ Having heard the stories from the gospels, these teachers seem to have some mistaken beliefs regarding authority over demons.

Key Point: These false teachers have _____ themselves about the true nature of their actions!

A Contrasting Example: The Archangel Michael (v. 9)

“But...” →

- Here Jude undermines the false teachers' claims to this authority by contrasting their behavior with that of Michael the Archangel (Dan. 10:13,21, 12:1; Rev. 12:7).
- The event of the dispute over Moses' body seems to have been recorded in a writing known as “The Assumption of Moses” which is referenced by the church father, Clement of Alexandria in his commentary on Jude (2nd century).

⇒ Jude's focus is on the behavior of Michael: **Although he is prince or ruler of the angels, he did not rebuke Satan based on his own authority, but on the basis of Jesus' sovereign authority as _____!**

A Further Description of the False Teachers (v. 10)

“But...” →

1. They lack _____ → “We are _____!”

“...all that they do not understand...”

- Jude's language here is used to illustrate once again that, in reality, these false teachers have no real understanding of things which they speak so confidently about.

2. They are like _____ → “We are _____!”

“...unreasoning...”—**ἄλογος (alogos)**—Destitute of reason, contrary to reason, absurd. The imagery is that of a brute or an unthinking beast.

“...understand instinctively...”—**φυσικῶς (physikōs)**—In a natural manner, by nature, under the guidance of nature. Guided by the bodily senses.

3. They are destroyed by their sinful _____ which they indulge. → “We are _____!”

“destroyed”—**φθείρω (phtheirō)**—To corrupt or destroy. The imagery is that of wasting away, shriveling, or spoiling. The term is often used figuratively of being depraved morally and being defiled as a result.

Heeding Jude's Words

(1) We must always be on our guard against false teaching which _____ the indulging of the flesh.

Greed →

Sexual Sin →

Selfishness →

Political Power →

(2) We must be aware of our own tendencies towards _____—_____.

1 John 1:5-10—⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

⇒ To guard us from deceiving ourselves, God has given to us...

1. His _____

2. His _____

Both of these are external authorities by which we are reminded of the _____ of Jesus Christ!

Questions for Reflection

1. Can you think of examples from each of the four above common categories of false teaching that you have encountered.
2. What fleshly desires are you prone to indulge and to attempt to justify in your own mind and heart?
3. Which of the above external authorities are you prone to forsake as you seek to justify your sin?