

# Jude

## The Mercy & Judgement of God

“Those that disobey the commandments of God do so foolishly for themselves. Sin is folly, and sinners are the greatest fools.”  
- Matthew Henry

### “The Folly of Rebellion”

#### Introduction

- Jude has justified his warning to the churches by citing 3 examples of judgement from the OT (v. 5-7)
- He has then gone on to describe the immoral actions of the false teachers by illustrating their self-deception (v.8 -10).
- He now pronounces a woe upon the false teachers as he continues to warn the churches of the danger of their presence among them (v. 11-13).

Jude's goal in the following verses is to further \_\_\_\_\_ the churches about these false teachers as well as to illustrate for them the emptiness of their lives and the certainty of their judgment.

#### Woe to the Rebellious—Jude 11-13

*“Woe to them! For they walked in the way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error and perished in Korah's rebellion. <sup>12</sup> These are hidden reefs at your love feasts, as they feast with you without fear, shepherds feeding themselves; waterless clouds, swept along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted; <sup>13</sup> wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever.*

“Woe...”

- A woe is an expression of pain and indignation which also conveys the threat of judgment. Oracles of woe are found in both testaments:  
*Isa. 5:20—Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!*  
*Matt. 23:13—But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. For you neither enter yourselves nor allow those who would enter to go in.*

#### Three Old Testament Types

**Typology**—“A method of biblical interpretation whereby an element found in the Old Testament is seen to prefigure one found in the New Testament. The initial one is called the *type* and the fulfillment is designated the *antitype*. Either type or antitype may be a person, thing, or event, but often the type is messianic and frequently related to the idea of salvation.” —Theopedia

##### 1. Cain

- The account of Cain (Gen. 4) describes him as rebellious towards God, refusing His correction and ultimately murdering his brother.  
⇒ Cain was \_\_\_\_\_ by God for his sin and then “went away from the presence of the Lord.” (Gen. 4:16)

“they walked in the way of Cain” →

##### 2. Balaam

- The account of Balaam is found in Num. 22-25 where he is described as a false prophet who was hired by the king of Moab to curse Israel as they approached the Promised Land.  
⇒ Although Balaam was prevented by God from cursing Israel, he instructed the Moabites to use their women to entice the Israelites into \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (Num. 31:16; Rev. 2:14). He was eventually killed when Israel defeated Moab in battle.

“abandoned themselves...to Balaam's error” →

##### 3. Korah

- Korah led a rebellion against Moses, challenging his authority as God's representative leader of Israel (Num. 16).  
⇒ The Lord made an example of Korah and those who rebelled along with him, \_\_\_\_\_ them in the midst of the people.

“perished in Korah's rebellion” →

**Observations:** (1) Each of these OT examples demonstrates that God judges those who rebel against Him.

(2) Jude's descriptions function together to illustrate the progress of rebellion and its final result:

\_\_\_\_\_ in rebellion... → \_\_\_\_\_ oneself over fully to rebellion... → \_\_\_\_\_ in rebellion.

## The Danger of False Teachers

- Having pronounced a woe upon the teachers, he turns to warn the churches of the danger which these people pose. In particular, he pictures these dangerous individuals in and among the believers at their “love feasts,” common meals which likely culminated with a celebration of the Lord’s Supper.

“These are hidden reefs” →

“they feast with you without fear” →

“shepherds feeding themselves”—Ezek. 34:2—“Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy, and say to them, even to the shepherds, Thus says the Lord God: Ah, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep?”

⇒ These people act as though they should be \_\_\_\_\_, but must not be entrusted with the care of others.

## The Folly of False Teaching

“waterless clouds, swept along by winds”

Prov. 25:14—Like clouds and wind without rain is a man who boasts of a gift he does not give.

“fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted”—Isa. 5:1-7; Ezek. 15:2-7

Matt. 7:19-20—<sup>19</sup> Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup> Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.

False teaching fails to produce the \_\_\_\_\_ which it \_\_\_\_\_.

“wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame”

Isa. 57:20—But the wicked are like the tossing sea; for it cannot be quiet, and its waters toss up mire and dirt.

“wandering stars, for whom the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever.”

Is. 14:12— “How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low!”

The end result of false teaching is \_\_\_\_\_ in this life and \_\_\_\_\_ in the next.

## Jesus & the Judgment of False Teachers

1. Jesus has carried out the judgement of God upon false teachers and those who follow them in their \_\_\_\_\_.

He \_\_\_\_\_ His people (Num. 22:31-33)

He \_\_\_\_\_ His enemies (Deut. 1:30)

2. Jesus has also born the \_\_\_\_\_ of God upon Himself so that even those who rebel against Him might be delivered from punishment and become His people.

1 Peter 2:24-25—<sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup> For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

## Questions for Reflection

1. Which of the OT examples of rebellion most resonates with you?
2. Which of the images that Jude employs in order to illustrate the emptiness of false teaching most resonates with you?