



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

JUDE 1:1-13

LESSON: BEWARE OF FALSE TEACHERS—

March 2, 2025

INTRODUCTION:

Jude is writing a letter to a general audience of faithful Christian believers to warn them of false teachers, yet exhort and encourage them to contend for the faith which was delivered to the saints. It was an urgent to warn and encourage the believers. One important point to consider is that these apostates were not backslidden; they were never regenerated. Therefore, these people treated the grace of God as a license to do whatsoever pleased them.

LESSON:

I. JUDE 1:1-2

SALUTATION:

V1 Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called:— Jude as stated in the salutation was the servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James; also brother of our Lord Jesus Christ. He does not call himself as an apostle like Peter or Paul. At first, he did not believe in Jesus Christ. But some time after the resurrection of Christ, he gave his heart to the Lord and surrendered his life to preach the gospel. Right from the start he identifies himself as the servant of Jesus Christ and his readers as sanctified by God and preserved in Jesus Christ, and also called.

1. The word "**servant**" (Gr doulos) is literally "**slave**" and conveys the picture of a bondsman. A bondsman was one who gave himself up to another's will or one devoted to another to the disregard of one's own interest. As a bondsman, there was no other choice, nor interest, except the interest of the one being served. He prefers that we know him as "slave" or property of Christ. This is the proper attitude for those of us who are truly believers in Christ Jesus. Now consider two traits of a minister:
 - **One basic trait** is of being the servant and slave of Jesus Christ. Remember Christ means Messiah, the "*Anointed One*" of God; The Son of God whom God sent into the world to save men. Therefore, every true minister of the gospel makes this belief the basis of his life and ministry.
 - **Secondly, a basic trait** is having the trait of humility. One's walk among believers and before God is to be with humility. No matter what you're called to do, walk with humility, and be thankful for the very fact that God called you.
2. Jude also makes it known that he is **the brother of James** (who was well known as one of the leaders of the early church in Jerusalem). Both of these men were Jesus' half-brothers. Apparently, this fact carried a lot of weight with the believers of their day. When they spoke, it made the believers stand up and take notice, for they had lived with Jesus and had experienced dramatic conversions from unbelief to staunch



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belief. The letter is written to the sanctified (the set apart ones to God)—**preserved** in Jesus Christ (teteremenois-means to be kept; to be guarded, and watched after)—and **called** (kletois-means respond to the call of the gospel; to be holy and pure; to eternal hope; and to serve).

V2 Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied. Jude continues with his salutation and blessings upon the believers. He gives a picture of just who a believer is in the salutation. Therefore, his writing was to be circulated among all the churches among all believers. The believer is a person who has received the mercy, peace, and love.

- Mercy means feelings of pity, compassion, affection, and kindness.
- Peace means to be bound, joined, and weaved together. The believer and the Father and the Son have an indissoluble union. Our peace is the result of God's mercy.
- Love means unconditional. The believer also is a recipient of the love of God.

Every believer experience all of these great blessings at the moment of salvation. And Jude spoke that this be multiplied unto them.

II. JUDE 1:3-4

WARNING

V3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. ¹As a result of the persecution of the early church, Jude was originally going to write a letter about Salvation, however, because there were false teachers that were threatening the unity of the church, he felt that it was necessary to write and exhort them to earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

There is a terrible danger facing believers, a horrifying danger that always lies right over the horizon. What is it? The danger of false teaching. If a believer swallows false teaching, he dooms himself. Any person who denies that God sent His Son into the world to save man—who denies that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the Savior of the world—will never be accepted by God. He is doomed to spend eternity, cut off from God. Time and time again, God warns believers of apostasy (the act of abandoning or rejecting the Christian faith). Why? Because his salvation is in jeopardy. At the beginning, Jude was going to write to these saints a letter concerning the salvation that he and all believers shared, but he thought it was needful to exhort and warn them, for the believers were being attacked, but not by persecutors, but by false teachers and their false beliefs. He wanted to write a pastoral letter, to encourage them to grow in Christ, but now he must warn them and exhort them. This was a spiritual war.

- They must earnestly contend and fight for the faith.
- They must be diligent and strive unceasingly in the fight against false teaching.
- They must not buckle under any circumstances whatsoever, in standing up for the faith that has been delivered to the saints.

¹ http://www.koinonia-fellowship.org/Introduction_to_Jude.htm
<https://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>





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The faith must not be twisted, added to, or taken away from. It must be kept pure and free from all error. However, if the believers choose not to contend, not to fight, not to stand, but to sit, and compromise, and be conciliatory to those who would destroy them, then they are not fighting for the honor of the faith, and have lost even the desire and the will to do.

CHARACTERISTICS OF FALSE TEACHERS

V4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ. False teachers have crept into the church unknowingly. Now Jude begins to identify the characteristics of those who brought in false doctrine into the Church with the intent to deceive others, to leave the truth and to follow the lie.

- They entered unnoticed; were not God-called teachers—did not believe in Jesus Christ that He is the Son of God who came to earth to save man. They choose to teach in the church as a profession or as a way to serve and teach people the morals and virtues of this world—for the benefit and opportunities it brings them. The judgment awaiting them will be far more severe than for other persons. This has been before of old ordained.
- They are ungodly men who walk upon the earth deceptively leading believers away from the love, and purity of God.
- They turned the grace of God into licentiousness. The word "**turning**" (Gr metatithēmi) means "**transfer**", but what these people have done is that they have called into play a negative transfer, and have "**misapplied**" the grace of God. Look at the word, "**lasciviousness**", it means filthiness, open and shameless indecency. It is a man who knows no restraint, a man who has sinned so much that he no longer cares what people say or think. False teachers promise liberty but they only enslave people. Please remember: Sin always enslave and turn you away from the grace of God.
- They deny the only God, that is, our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Denies that Jesus is come in the flesh.
 - Denies the incarnation—that God took on human flesh and became a man. Etc.

III. JUDE 1:5-13

ISRAELITE APOSTASY

V5 I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not. Jude now gives three examples of how Deuteronomy 13:1-11 was applied in history and resulted in death and destruction for false prophets. The false prophets and those who believed not were put to death. That great tragedy, you will remember, was called the "**day of bitterness**" or "**day of testing**" in the wilderness before the entrance into the Promised Land. The first example is Egypt. When the Lord brought Israel out of the land





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of Egypt, He brought them to the land of promise. The greatest responsibility was upon those "**spies**" or scouts who brought the "**evil report.**" They not only disbelieved themselves, but they caused the people of God to despair and disbelieve the Promise of God. Many of the people refused to go in and possess the Promise Land, so God spoke to Moses and Aaron. Those who believed not were destroyed (Num.14:32-35). What were the sins of Israel that brought judgment upon them?

- There was the sin of lust.
- There was the sin of idolatry.
- There was the sin of fornication or immorality.
- There was the sin of tempting God.
- There was the sin of murmuring and complaining, and grumbling.

Jude speaks directly concerning these false teachers and to all who follow after them. He is putting them in remembrance as to what happened to those who went another way and refused to believe God.

ANGELIC APOSTASY

V6 And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day. The second example was of the angels who left their first estate (their dwelling place). What does this mean? They did not stay in their appointed place; went out of position. They were once pure and holy and living in God's presence, but gave in to pride and rebelled against God (Gen.6:1-4). What else? They "left their own habitation"; Meaning, they left their own dwelling place. Where did the angels abide? In Heaven. These angels left Heaven for good. They were not coming back. Where did they go is the question? These angels are now chained in custody in a certain place in which they are reserved to the judgment of the last day, or the day of the Lord. (2Pt.2:4)—all to show that turning away from God is the Judgment and ultimate separation from Him.

PAGAN APOSTASY

V7 Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. The third example was of the sexual immorality of Sodom and Gomorrha—which was so full of sin that God wiped them off the face of the earth (Gen.19:1-29). It shows a likeness or a common link between the angels of verse 6 and the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha in verse 7. The likeness goes beyond the fact of guilt concerning sin, but to the fact that they were guilty of the same sin. **The sin of the angels in verse 6 then was fornication.** Angels transgressed the limits of their own natures to invade a realm of created beings of a different nature from theirs (Gen.6:1-4), where the sons of God (angels) cohabited with the daughters of men (women) and created a super race of creature that God destroyed in the flood. The reference to the homosexuals in verse 7 also mentions that they went after strange flesh. Meaning, they also transgressed the limits of their nature into that which is against nature. The use of fornication (Gr ekporneuō) which occurs only here in the New Testament, with strange <https://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>





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Flesh refers to the distinctive and terrible sin of Sodom and Gomorrah's homosexuality, for which God destroyed the whole area. The point in this passage is that the people of God were lured away from the true worship of God by the homosexual cities (Gen.18-19) and were therefore destroyed. These false teachers are as good as judged.

All fell into apostasy. If the chosen people, angels, and sinful cities were punished, how much more would these false teachers be severely judged? Many people don't want to believe that God sentences people to hell (eternal damnation) for rejecting Him, but this is clearly taught in scripture. Sinners who don't seek forgiveness from God will face eternal separation from Him. Jude gave the warning to all who rebel against, ignore, or reject God. Therefore, it was needful for him to write and exhort the beloved to earnestly (intently) contend (put yourself forward) for the faith which they had once received.

V8 Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities. This is saying that the false teachers are filthy dreamers who defile their body.

1. False teachers engage in the pleasures of the world: the lust of the eyes, and, the lust of the flesh, having filthy dreams. They dream and covet after the positions, possessions and things of the world, perhaps pornographic books, films, and bodies not dressed properly. Therefore, false teachers defile the flesh through such dreams. They struggle to keep their thoughts clean and pure. False teachers sometimes claim to have visions and dreams from the Lord that are not from Him.
2. False teachers reject authority. They despise dominion.
3. False teachers scoff at the idea of angels and spiritual beings. They speak evil of dignities; speak against, doubt, and have questions about spiritual beings, and ridicule the idea of Christ and angels and other spiritual beings.

V9 Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.

4. False teachers do tht which even the highest angel would not dare do. Even Michael himself, one of the highest angels in heaven, when contending with the devil would not rebuke him, "*but said the Lord rebuke thee.*"

V10 But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves.

5. False teachers made a terrible mistake by speaking evil of things they didn't know about. But the things they do understand by instinct, like unreasoning animals; like brute beasts who have no understanding — these are the very things that destroy them.

V11 Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core. Note the word "Woe." It means grief or denunciation. Three examples are given—Cain, Balaam, and Korah.

1. False teachers go after the way of Cain, the way of unbelief and lack of ungodly love. **Woe to them** if they've taken the route of Cain. Cain committed the very first murder on earth. He killed his own brother Abel (Gen.4:1-15). Why? Because Abel worshiped God





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exactly like God said—by the blood of a sacrificial animal, but Cain didn't, and became jealous and envious of Abel, and therefore killed him.

- a. **False teachers do not believe God**—that a person has to worship God exactly like God says, by the blood of Jesus Christ. They believed like Cain did, that they can become acceptable to God by the works of their own hands, by being good and doing good.
- b. **False teachers do not love the way God says to love**. It is the love that loves so much that it will sacrifice one's life for the other person, even if the other person is an enemy.
2. **False teachers greedily running in the way of Balaam for reward**. Woe to them when they've rushed for profit into Balaam's error. It is the way that forsakes the life of God, and leads to destruction.
3. **False teachers perishing after the way of Korah**; they have been destroyed in the **gainsaying of Core** which is applied to Korah's rebellion—the way of rebellion and rejection of authority. Korah was the man who rebelled against the leadership of Moses and Aaron. He served where he had no right to serve. As a result, he was judged and doomed. **The point is this:** false teachers choose to rebel against, and reject the authority of God and of the ministries God has appointed and place in His church.

V12 These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots;— Jude explains that there are spots (blemishes); selfish and greedy men in their love feasts when they fellowship meals commemorating the Lord's love, feeding and caring only for themselves without reverence or fear. **Four examples are given** from the four regions of the physical world in verse 12 and 13 to describe these false teachers—**Clouds** in the air, **Waves** of the sea, **Trees** on the earth, and **Wandering Stars** in the sky.

- **²Clouds** that promise rain, but produce none, are useless (of no value). These men do nothing to help other Christians to grow in their trust of Jesus.
- **Trees** that produce no fruit, even in autumn, they are as good as dead. The farmer burns them (Matt.7:19). These men are without roots, without true life in Jesus Christ. So, these men are 'twice dead'.

V13 Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever. Jude

- **Waves** The wicked are like the sea that never rests. Its waves never stop rolling, carrying dirt and mud (Is.57:20). In a similar manner, these men never stop their wicked actions. They are like the dirty rubbish that the waves leave on the shore after a storm.

³In comparing the false teachers to ocean waves that foam up their shame, Jude may have thought of Isaiah, who prophesied about the wicked: "But the wicked are like the tossing sea which cannot rest, whose waves cast up mire and mud"

- **Wandering stars** Jude is referring to the book of Enoch. This book is not in the Bible,

² <https://www.easyenglish.bible/bible-commentary/jude-lbw.htm>

³ https://www.bible-commentaries.com/source/johnschultz/BC_Jude.pdf

<https://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>





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but was very popular in New Testament times. Enoch identifies these wandering stars as fallen (bad) angels. Enoch obeyed God and went straight to heaven (Gen. 4:17). The bad angels did not obey God and they lost their home in heaven. God has prepared a prison for them in deepest darkness. The false teachers who do not obey God will suffer the same fate.

⁴The Tyndale Commentary comments on Jude's picture of "wandering stars": "Jude is not thinking of planets, but of shooting stars which fall out of the sky and are engulfed in darkness – to the confusion of all who watch them. For this metaphor he goes to 1 Enoch once more ...where the angel shows Enoch 'a prison for the stars of heaven.' Later, he sees stars bound together, and is told, 'these are the angels which have transgressed ... and this is the prison of the angels in which they are kept for ever.' 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.

SUMMARY:

Jude's letter begins and ends with very comforting words to Christians. He emphasizes the important relationship between correct doctrine and true faith. Know that there is a danger of doom coming from false teachers that have crept in unknowingly. He encouraged believers to continue to build (rise above, make progress) on their most holy faith praying in the Holy Ghost. This was all the more important because they were living in a time of increased apostasy. When God promises that His church will be kept from defeat, His purpose is not that we lay down our sword and go to lunch, but that we pick up the Sword of the Spirit and look confidently to God for the strength to fight (contend; deal with), and win. So, God's way as we see it in Jude is to give His people confidence that their faith will be victorious in the end (verses 1 and 24). The Christian faith is repeatedly threatened from within the church. The threat to the faith is coming from among some (false teachers) who are now inside. This faith is worth contending for. Paul said it would happen. Jude saw it happening. He saw it as a fulfillment of the apostles' predictions.

The letter of Jude is not written to a pastor but to **1** "those who are called, beloved in God the Father and preserved for Jesus Christ." **2** He continues with his salutation and blessings upon the believers. **(V.V.1-2)**

3 It was an urgent need to defend the faith; **4** for certain men crept in unaware turning the grace of God into lasciviousness (exciting lewd emotions, shameless immorality). That means that they have denied the fundamental Christian doctrines. **(V.V.3-4)**

Jude cited three examples of failure from the past to warn his readers of the danger involved in departing from God's truth. (1) The example of certain Israelites **v5**; (2) The example of certain angels **v6**; (3) The example of certain pagans **v7**. **8** The false teachers

⁴ https://www.bible-commentaries.com/source/johnschultz/BC_Jude.pdf
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are filthy dreamers who defile their body. They engaged in the pleasures of the world, rejected authority, and spoke evil of dignities. **9** Even Michael himself, one of the highest angels in heaven, when contending with the devil would not rebuke him, "*but said the Lord rebuke thee.*" **10** They spoke evil of things they didn't know about, and like animals, they do whatever they feel like, thereby corrupting their soul. **11** Woe unto them for they have gone in the way of Cain, and greedily running in the way of Balaam for reward, and perish after the way of Korah. **12** ⁵These men are hidden reefs [elements of great danger to others] in your love feasts when they feast together with you without fear, looking after [only] themselves; [they are like] clouds without water, swept along by the winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted and lifeless; **13** wild waves of the sea, flinging up their own shame like foam; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of deep darkness has been reserved forever (**V.V.5-13**).

APPLICATION:

We too are living in the last days, much closer to the end than were the original readers of the letter. This is also a warning to us not to turn away from the Word of God and the work of Jesus Christ. The risk of turning away is Judgment. So glad that when we find ourselves in error, we can repent and come back to God's mercy.

⁵ <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jude%208-13&version=AMP>
<https://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>

