**THE WARNINGS AGAINST APOSTASY: THE CHARACTERISTICS AND JUDGMENT OF FALSE TEACHERS, v. 3-16**

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**»**[Detailed Outline](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=610&tocpath=1%20Peter-Jude%20Outlines\Jude\II.%20THE%20WARNINGS%20AGAINST%20APOSTASY:%20THE%20CHARACTERISTICS%20AND%20JUDGMENT%20OF%20FALSE%20TEACHERS,%20v.3-16)  **»**[Index](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=735&tocpath=POSB%20NT%20Master%20Subject%20Index\POSB%20MASTER%20SUBJECT%20INDEX)

(v. 3-16) **Introduction**: 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. Why? Because he has not believed in the name of God's Son. Time and time again, God warns believers of apostasy. This is the very reason for the books of Jude and Second Peter being written. Strong warnings against false teachers are also issued by Paul in Galatians, Colossians, Thessalonians, Timothy, and Titus. There are severe warnings all throughout Hebrews. And Christ Himself gave strong warnings time and again throughout all the gospels. (See [Teachers, False—Master Subject Index](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=735&tocpath=POSB%20NT%20Master%20Subject%20Index\F\FALSE%20TEACHERS).)

No matter who the person is—no matter how well liked and influential and attractive his teachings may be—if he denies Jesus Christ and God's Word, he is a false teacher.

Here is the thrust of the letter of Jude, the very purpose for which Jude writes. Here is one of the most horrifying pictures in all the Bible, a picture of the characteristics and judgment of false teachers. (Note: this passage may need to be divided into several sections. It is combined into one outline because it all applies to the same subject. A suggested division would be [Jude 3-7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jude+1%3A3-7), [8-11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jude+1%3A8-11), [12-16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jude+1%3A12-16).)

[1.  False teachers are to be opposed by believers (v.3).](about:blank#link487)

[2.  They creep into the church secretly (v.4).](about:blank#link488)

[3.  They are destined to judgment (v.4).](about:blank#link489)

[4.  They are ungodly (v.4).](about:blank#link490)

[5.  They are licentious (v.4).](about:blank#link491)

[6.  They deny the Lord God (v.4).](about:blank#link492)

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[8.  They are filthy dreamers (v.8).](about:blank#link494)

[9.  They reject authority (v.8).](about:blank#link495)

[10.  They scoff at spiritual beings (v.8-10).](about:blank#link496)

[11.  They go after the way of Cain, of unbelief (v.11).](about:blank#link497)

[12.  They go after the way of Balaam, of going astray (v.11).](about:blank#link498)

[13.  They go after the way of Korah, of rebellion (v.11).](about:blank#link499)

[14.  They are spots and blemishes upon the fellowship of the church (v.12).](about:blank#link500)

[15.  They are filled with emptiness and instability (v.12).](about:blank#link501)

[16.  They teach things that are shameful (v.13).](about:blank#link502)

[17.  They wander about as a falling star that quickly passes into eternal darkness (v.13).](about:blank#link503)

[18.  They are doomed to be judged by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself (v.14-15).](about:blank#link504)

[19.  They are murmurers and complainers (v.16).](about:blank#link505)

[20.  They walk after their own lusts (v.16).](about:blank#link506)

[21.  They use showy words but they are empty (v.16).](about:blank#link507)

[22.  They flatter people for personal gain (v.16).](about:blank#link508)

**1.** (v. 3) **Believers**: believers are to contend for the faith against false teachers. Note that Jude had planned to write the believers, but he had never planned to write this particular letter. He had planned to write about the great subject of salvation. But he was not able to. The believers were being attacked, but not by persecutors. They were being attacked by false teachers and their false beliefs. Jude is forced to snatch up his pen to expose the heretical teachers. He was forced to warn believers of the horrible danger of apostasy. He wanted to write a pastoral letter, to encourage them to grow in Christ, but now he must warn them and exhort them: they must go to war, to 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 whatsoever in standing up for the faith that has been delivered to the saints. The faith must not be twisted, added to, or taken away from. It must be kept pure and free from all error. Note why: certain men had *unknowingly crept into the church* and were teaching false doctrine. The characteristics and judgment of false teachers show how horrible false teaching is to God. He considers false teachers to be the worst of all men upon earth, and He issues the most severe warning to them, warnings that far exceed the warnings to other men (cp. [Matthew 5:19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+5%3A19); [Matthew 18:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+18%3A6); [Matthew 23:13-16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+23%3A13-16); [Galatians 1:6-9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Gal+1%3A6-9); [2 Peter 2:20-22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Pe+2%3A20-22)).

**2.** (v. 4) **Teachers, False**: false teachers creep into the church unknowingly. They are *not* *God-called*teachers. They choose to teach in the church as a profession or as a way to serve people and to teach the morals and virtues of this world. The idea is that they entered the church unnoticed. They did not believe in Jesus Christ, that He is the Son of God who came to earth to save man. Therefore, they did not belong in the church. But they joined it for the benefit and opportunities it brought them. They accepted the teachings of Christ, believed that He was a great religious leader, but they denied His deity.

**"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron" (**[**1 Tim. 4:1-2**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Ti+4%3A1-2)**).**

**"They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate" (**[**Titus 1:16**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Tit+1%3A16)**).**

**"For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple" (**[**Romans 16:18**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+16%3A18)**).**

**"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works" (**[**2 Cor. 11:13-15**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Co+11%3A13-15)**).**

**3.** (v. 4) **Teachers, False— Judgment**: false teachers are destined to judgment. They reject Jesus Christ; therefore, judgment is waiting for them. God has ordained from the beginning of time that all unbelievers shall be judged. And both Jesus Christ and Scripture teach that the judgment for false teachers is to be far more severe than for other persons.

**"Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven" (**[**Matthew 5:19**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+5%3A19)**).**

**"But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea" (**[**Matthew 18:6**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+18%3A6)**).**

**"I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached  unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed" (**[**Galatians 1:6-9**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Gal+1%3A6-9)**).**

**"For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire" (**[**2 Peter 2:20-22**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Pe+2%3A20-22)**).**

**4.** (v. 4) **Teachers, False— Ungodly**: false teachers are ungodly. They do not live like God; they are different from God. They have a different life-style than what God would have if He was walking upon earth. God is perfect, moral, pure, just, and loving. But false teachers are not moral, pure, just, or loving. They are deceptive, leading people away from the love and purity of God, the love and purity revealed in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. They do not teach the truth of God's love and purity demonstrated in Christ. They profane God and the truth of His love and godliness.

**"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness" (**[**Romans 1:18**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+1%3A18)**).**

**"And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?" (**[**1 Peter 4:18**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Pe+4%3A18)**).**

**"For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; and spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly" (**[**2 Peter 2:4-5**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Pe+2%3A4-5)**).**

**"But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men" (**[**2 Peter 3:7**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Pe+3%3A7)**).**

**"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" (**[**Jude 4**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jude+1%3A4)**).**

**5.** (v. 4) **Grace— Lasciviousness**: they turn the grace of God into licentiousness (*aselgeian*[PWS: 2299](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=748&tocpath=L\\" \l "2299: Lasciviousness)). (See note, False Teachers—•[2 Peter 2:19](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=609&sec=00005917#sp10076) for how false teachers turn the grace of God into the enslavement of sin. Also see note, pt.1—•[1 Peter 4:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=609&sec=00003618#sp10077) for meaning of licentiousness.)

**6.** (v. 4) **Denial**: false teachers deny the only Lord God, that is, our Lord Jesus Christ. (See note, False Teachers—•[1 John 4:2-3](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=609&sec=00008863" \l "sp10078) for discussion.)

**7.** (v. 5-7) **Judgment**: false teachers are to be judged and condemned. Jude speaks directly to the false teachers and to all who follow after them: "Remember the judgment of God. You once knew that God judged unbelief. I am reminding you that He does." Jude recalls three examples.

1.  There was the example of Israel right after they were delivered from Egyptian slavery. God judged and punished all the unbelievers of Israel. What happened to most of the believers of Israel is tragic. There were over six-hundred thousand men alone who broke away from the enslavements of Egypt and began the journey to the promised land. This means that including the women and children there were well over two million who stepped out to follow God to the promised land (cp. [Exodus 12:37](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+12%3A37); [Numbers 1:46](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Nu+1%3A46)). But the critical question is this:

⇒  How many remained faithful to God through the wilderness journey? How many actually turned away from the fleshly desires aroused by the delicious foods, drinks, and bodily stimulations of Egypt and the world? How many actually disciplined their bodies, subjected their desires, and kept their eyes and hearts upon the promised land? How many were faithful and steadfast, unmoveable and always abounding in the work of the Lord until they reached the promised land? Remember over two million began the journey: How many entered the promised land? Only two! Caleb and Joshua. Caleb and Joshua alone remained faithful to God. Only two did not sin and displease God. Everyone else, over two to three million, perished in the wilderness. They were overthrown (katastronnumi), that is, scattered as corpses all over the wilderness. Why? Because they did not please God.

**"The LORD hath been sore displeased with your fathers. Therefore say thou unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Turn ye unto me, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will turn unto you, saith the LORD of hosts" (**[**Zech. 1:2-3**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Zec+1%3A2-3)**).**

**"And I am very sore displeased with the heathen that are at ease" (**[**Zech. 1:15**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Zec+1%3A15)**).**

Jude says that what happened to Israel is going to happen to the false teachers and to all who follow their teachings. The doom that fell upon the unbelievers of Israel will fall upon anyone who forsakes Christ. What were the sins of Israel that brought judgment upon them?

a.  There was the sin of lust. We must not lust after evil things as they lusted. They lusted and craved for the delicious foods of Egypt ([Numbers 11:4f](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Nu+11%3A4)). As a result of the lust, a plague broke out among the people and killed many of them. In fact, so many died that the place became known as "the grave of greediness or of lust" ([Numbers 11:34](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Nu+11%3A34)).

The lust of those believers is a strong warning to us: we must "not lust after evil things" ([Numbers 11:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Nu+11%3A6)), the pleasures and posessions of the world.

**"And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful" (**[**Mark 4:19**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mk+4%3A19)**).**

**"Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others" (**[**Ephes. 2:3**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+2%3A3)**).**

**"That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God" (**[**1 Thes. 4:4-5**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Th+4%3A4-5)**).**

**"Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart" (**[**2 Tim. 2:22**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Ti+2%3A22)**).**

**"Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death" (**[**James 1:15**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jas+1%3A15)**).**

**"Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not" (**[**James 4:2**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jas+4%3A2)**).**

**"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul" (**[**1 Peter 2:11**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Pe+2%3A11)**).**

**"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world" (**[**1 John 2:15-16**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Jn+2%3A15-16)**).**

b.  There was the sin of idolatry. When Moses was on Mount Sinai receiving the law, the people became restless waiting for the Word of God. Therefore, they decided to go ahead and create their own form of worship (cp. [Exodus 32:1f](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+32%3A1)). It should be noted that the people were actually dedicating their worship to God Himself.

**"And when Aaron saw it [the golden calf], he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, Tomorrow is a feast to the LORD" (**[**Exodus 32:5**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+32%3A5)**).**

The point to see is this: the image of the golden calf was only to help them picture and imagine God. They felt the need for some image to help them in their worship of Jehovah. Note the reference to eating, drinking, and playing (immoral play). Such behavior often accompanies idolatry, the worship of a self-made god created by a person's own mind.

c.  There was the sin of fornication or immorality. This was a gross sin of some of the believers of Israel. Over twenty thousand of them committed immorality with their neighbors and as a result they were judged and condemned to destruction, banned from the promised land (cp. [Numbers 25:1-9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Nu+25%3A1-9)). (See note—• [1 Cor. 5:9-10](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=601&tocpath=1%20and%202%20CORINTHIANS%20COMMENTARY\1%20Corinthians\III.%20THE%20MORAL%20LAXITY%20IN%20THE%20CHURCH,%205:1-6:20\B.%20The%20Case%20of%20Shameful%20Sin%20in%20the%20Church%20(Part%20II):%20What%20the%20Church%20Must%20Do%20to%20Handle%20Shameful%20Sin%20in%20Its%20Midst,%205:6-13\4.%20The%20church%20must%20separate%20itself%20from%20the%20world,%20but%20not%20entirely%20(v.9-10)); note—• [1 Cor. 6:9](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=601&tocpath=1%20and%202%20CORINTHIANS%20COMMENTARY\1%20Corinthians\III.%20THE%20MORAL%20LAXITY%20IN%20THE%20CHURCH,%205:1-6:20\D.%20A%20Case%20Against%20Unrighteous%20Character,%206:9-11\2.%20The%20deceptive%20sins%20that%20stimulate%20the%20flesh:%20Are%20often%20thought%20not%20to%20be%20fatal%20(v.9)) for discussion.)

**"And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet" (**[**Romans 1:27**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+1%3A27)**).**

**"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate [homosexuals], nor abusers of themselves with mankind" (**[**1 Cor. 6:9**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Co+6%3A9)**).**

**"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness....they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God" (**[**Galatians 5:19**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Gal+5%3A19)**,** [**21**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Gal+5%3A21)**).**

**"Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness" (**[**Ephes. 4:19**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+4%3A19)**).**

**"But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints" (**[**Ephes. 5:3**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+5%3A3)**).**

**"For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication" (**[**1 Thes. 4:3**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Th+4%3A3)**).**

**"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....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" (**[**Jude 4**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jude+1%3A4)**,** [**7**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jude+1%3A7)**).**

d.  There was the sin of tempting God. The word "tempt" (*peirazo*) means to try the Lord's patience; to see how far a person can go; to test the patience of Christ. The believers of Israel...

•  often felt that God and His leader Moses *demanded and expected too much*.

•  often longed for the things of the flesh which they had formerly known in Egypt (the world).

They became discontent with the things God provided, and longed to return to Egypt (the world). Therefore, many of them perished in the wilderness and were not allowed to enter the promised land.

**Thought 1**. Believers often feel that God expects too much and that they are missing out on something in the world. They often feel that God will forgive them...

•  even if they do look.

•  even if they do taste.

•  even if they do touch.

•  even if they do slip a little.

•  even if they do hold back a little.

**"Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain" (**[**James 4:13**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jas+4%3A13)**).**

**"Ye shall not tempt the LORD your God, as ye tempted him in Massah" (**[**Deut. 6:16**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Dt+6%3A16)**).**

e.  There was the sin of murmuring and complaining and grumbling. Some of the believers in Israel were always complaining and murmuring against God and Moses (cp. [Numbers 14:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Nu+14%3A2), [36](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Nu+14%3A36); [Numbers 16:11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Nu+16%3A11), [41](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Nu+16%3A41)). The result was judgment and punishment by the destroyer, that is, an angel sent by God to execute judgment. They perished in the wilderness and never saw the promised land. (Cp. [Exodus 14:11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+14%3A11); [Exodus 15:24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+15%3A24); [Exodus 16:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+16%3A2); [Exodus 17:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+17%3A3); [Numbers 11:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Nu+11%3A1); [Numbers 14:27](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Nu+14%3A27); [Numbers 20:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Nu+20%3A3); [Numbers 21:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Nu+21%3A5).)

**Thought 1**. How many believers grumble and gripe? How many become dissatisfied...

•  with the direction God gives through His leaders?

•  with the food God gives through His leaders?

•  with the way God guides through His leaders?

•  with the words God gives to His leaders?

How many voice their complaints to others? The warning is clear to the believers of God's church.

**"Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer" (**[**1 Cor. 10:10**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Co+10%3A10)**).**

**"Do all things without murmurings and disputings" (**[**Phil. 2:14**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Php+2%3A14)**).**

**"These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage" (**[**Jude 16**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jude+1%3A16)**).**

**"And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink?" (**[**Exodus 15:24**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+15%3A24)**).**

**"I remembered God, and was troubled: I complained, and my spirit was overwhelmed" (**[**Psalm 77:3**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+77%3A3)**).**

**"The foolishness of man perverteth his way: and his heart fretteth against the Lord" (**[**Proverbs 19:3**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Pr+19%3A3)**).**

**"Wherefore doth a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins?" (**[**Lament. 3:39**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=La+3%3A39)**).**

2.  There was the example of the rebellious angels (see note—•[2 Peter 2:3-9](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=609&sec=00005662#sp10079) for discussion).

3.  There was Sodom and Gomorrah (see note, pt.3—•[2 Peter 2:3-9](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=609&sec=00005685#sp10080) for discussion).

**8.** (v. 8) **Teachers, False— Dreams— Thoughts, Evil**: false teachers are filthy dreamers who defile their body. This means two things.

1.  It means that false teachers engage in the pleasures of the world: the lust of the eyes and the lust of the flesh. They do not struggle to keep their thoughts clean and pure. They *dream and covet* after the positions, possessions, and things of the world. They look at the opposite sex, perhaps pornographic books, films, and bodies not dressed as much as they should be. The result is *thoughts and dreams* of success, grandeur, personal recognition and honor, and sexual misbehavior. False teachers defile the flesh through such dreams.

2.  It means that the false teachers sometimes claim to have *visions and dreams* from the Lord that are not from Him. They use their visions and dreams to secure the following and loyalty of people.

**"And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?" (**[**Matthew 9:4**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+9%3A4)**).**

**"For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies" (**[**Matthew 15:19**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+15%3A19)**).**

**"Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened" (**[**Romans 1:21**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+1%3A21)**).**

**"And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (**[**Genesis 6:5**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+6%3A5)**).**

**"The lord knoweth the thoughts of man, that they are vanity" (**[**Psalm 94:11**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+94%3A11)**).**

**"A heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief" (**[**Proverbs 6:18**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Pr+6%3A18)**).**

**"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee" (**[**Proverbs 23:7**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Pr+23%3A7)**).**

**"Then said he unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen what the ancients of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the chambers of his imagery? for they say, The lord seeth us not; the lord hath forsaken the earth" (**[**Ezekiel 8:12**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eze+8%3A12)**).**

**9.** (v. 8) **Teachers, False— Authority, Rejection of**: false teachers reject authority (see note, False Teachers—•[2 Peter 2:10](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=609&sec=00005738" \l "sp10081) for discussion).

**10.** (v. 8-10) **Teachers, False— Spiritual World**: false teachers scoff at the idea of angels and of spiritual beings, in particular of Satan and other fallen angels. This is definitely the meaning of this trait: the illustration shows this ([Jude 9-10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jude+1%3A9-10)). False teachers speak against, doubt, and question spiritual beings such as angels and the cherubim and seraphim. They ridicule the ideas of Christ and angels and other spiritual beings living in a spiritual world. They question whether there are beings in a spiritual world who are living and functioning just as we are in this world.

⇒  The idea of another dimension of being, of a spiritual world that is as real and alive as the physical world is questioned.

⇒  The idea of levels of authority, of principalities and powers and rulers in a spiritual world is mocked.

⇒  The idea of Christ being exalted to the right hand of God and of believers someday ruling and serving and ministering for Christ in a new heavens and earth is doubted and often ridiculed.

But note two things.

1.  False teachers do that which even the highest angel would not dare do. Even Michael himself, one of the highest if not the highest angel in heaven, would not rebuke the devil. This is a strong warning to the false teachers. The angels themselves do not dare rail and mock the principalities and powers of the spiritual world.

**"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (**[**Ephes. 6:12**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+6%3A12)**).**

**"For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him" (**[**Col. 1:16**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Col+1%3A16)**).**

**"And [Christ] having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it [the cross]" (**[**Col. 2:15**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Col+2%3A15)**).**

2.  False teachers make a terrible, foolish mistake. They are like brute beasts who have no understanding. They are speaking of things they do not understand. No person knows what the spiritual world is like, for no person has ever been there. There is only one Person who has ever been there, and that is the Person who came to earth from the other world, the Lord Jesus Christ. He alone knows what the other world is like. This is the very reason He came to earth: to bring the Word of God and the promise of heaven to us. We either believe Him or not. It is that simple. But note this: the Word of God is the prophecy and record concerning the Lord Jesus Christ. If a person does not believe Christ, then he has no right to claim to be a follower and minister of Christ. He should not abuse the Word of God through hypocrisy. When he does, he is as a brute beast, speaking about things he knows nothing about. And note what the Scripture says about him:

⇒  He is as a beast made to be taken and destroyed ([Jude 12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jude+1%3A12)).

⇒  He shall utterly perish in his own corruption. That is, in trying to pollute the Word of God and Christ, he destroys lives; therefore, he shall be utterly destroyed. His own corruption shall destroy him.

**"But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!" (**[**Matthew 6:23**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+6%3A23)**).**

**"And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil" (**[**John 3:19**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+3%3A19)**).**

**"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (**[**Romans 10:13**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+10%3A13)**).**

**"In whom the god [Satan] of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them" (**[**2 Cor. 4:4**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Co+4%3A4)**).**

**"Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart" (**[**Ephes. 4:18**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+4%3A18)**).**

**"If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth" (**[**1 John 1:6**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Jn+1%3A6)**).**

**"For my people is foolish, they have not known me; they are sottish children, and they have none understanding: they are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge" (**[**Jeremiah 4:22**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jer+4%3A22)**).**

**11.** (v. 11) **Teachers, False— Cain**: false teachers go after the way of Cain, the way of unbelief and lack of godly love. Cain committed the very first murder on earth: he killed his own brother Abel ([Genesis 4:1-15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+4%3A1-15)). Why? Because Abel was a believer. Abel believed God, that he was to worship God exactly like God said, by the blood of a sacrificial animal. Cain did not accept such a belief. He felt that if he brought the fruit of his own hands to God, then God would accept him because of his hard work and because he worshipped and gave offerings to God. God accepted Abel's worship and offering. It was evident in his life by the way God blessed him and took care of him. But God rejected Cain's offering. Cain did not have a real sense of God's care or blessing upon his life. Therefore, he became jealous and envious of Abel, and he killed Abel. Three things are being said about false teachers.

1.  False teachers do not believe God—that a person has to worship God exactly like God says, by the blood of Jesus Christ. They do not accept Jesus Christ as the perfect sacrifice for man's sins. They believe like Cain did, that they can become acceptable to God by the works of their own hands, by being good and doing good.

2.  False teachers do not love like God says to love. God says that we must love one another in the *love of Christ*. What is the love of Christ? 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. (See note, Love—•[1 John 3:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=609&sec=00008185#sp10082) for more discussion.)

3.  False teachers shall be destroyed. Note the word "woe." It means grief or denunciation (Kenneth Wuest. *In These Last Days*, Vol.4, p.248). All false teachers shall be doomed to an eternity of grief and denunciation or judgment.

**12.** (v. 11) **Teachers, False— Balaam**: false teachers walk in the way of Balaam, the way that forsakes the life of God and leads to destruction (see note, False Teachers—•[2 Peter 2:15](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=609&sec=00005872" \l "sp10083) for discussion).

**13.** (v. 11) **Teachers, False— Korah**: false teachers walk after the way of Korah, the way of rebellion and rejection of authority (cp. [Numbers 16:1-35](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Nu+16%3A1-35)). Korah was the man who rebelled against the leadership of Moses and Aaron. Korah wanted a higher position of leadership among the people; therefore, he rebelled against Moses and Aaron. He wanted to serve where he had no right to serve. As a result he was judged and doomed.

The point is this: false teachers follow the way of rebellion and rejection of authority. They rebel against and reject the authority of God and of the ministers God has appointed and placed in His church. And most of all they rebel and reject the supreme authority of Christ, the Lord Himself. They reject His deity, that He has purchased the church through His sacrificial death. They rebel against the very authority of God Himself. They choose to go their own way and do their own thing. They use the church and believers for their own ends.

**"For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them" (**[**Acts 28:27**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+28%3A27)**).**

**"Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart" (**[**Ephes. 4:18**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+4%3A18)**).**

**"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron" (**[**1 Tim. 4:1-2**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Ti+4%3A1-2)**).**

**"But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin" (**[**Hebrews 3:13**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+3%3A13)**).**

**"He, that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy" (**[**Proverbs 29:1**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Pr+29%3A1)**).**

**"Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye" (**[**Acts 7:51**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+7%3A51)**).**

**"But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise govenment. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities" (**[**2 Peter 2:10**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Pe+2%3A10)**).**

**"For thus saith the Lord god, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not" (**[**Isaiah 30:15**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+30%3A15)**).**

**"As for the word that thou hast spoken unto us in the name of the lord, we will not hearken unto thee" (**[**Jeremiah 44:16**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jer+44%3A16)**).**

**"But they refused to hearken, and pulled away the shoulder, and stopped their ears, that they should not hear" (**[**Zech. 7:11**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Zec+7%3A11)**).**

**14.** (v. 12) **Teachers, False— Pleasure Seeking**: false teachers are *spots and blemishes* upon the fellowship of the church. The Greek word for "spots" (*spilades*[PWS: 3719](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=748&tocpath=S\\" \l "3719: Spots)) can mean *submerged rocks or hidden reefs* that can wreck a ship. False teachers are reefs within the church which can wreck the fellowship of the church. Translators differ as to which meaning Jude intended. Perhaps he meant both, for both are certainly true.

The *love feasts* referred to were called *love feasts* by the early church. They were fellowship meals that the church celebrated after the services on the Lord's Day. Each family brought what food they could. This, of course, meant that the wealthy brought plenty and the poor brought little or nothing. Remember that many of the believers were slaves in that day, so some of them would not be able to bring any food whatsoever. Some churches had the most joyful fellowship around the love feasts. It provided a time when the believers could share the warmth of their hearts and grow in fellowship together. It was a time when the Holy Spirit could draw the hearts of believers together in love and joy and care and sharing. It was a time that the Holy Spirit could use to bind believers together in feelings for one another and in warmth and tenderness.

The point is this: fellowship among believers is a most wonderful time, a unique opportunity to grow and share together. But when false teachers are present, the scene is entirely different.

⇒  False teachers are spots or blemishes upon the fellowship of believers. They dirty and soil the name of Christ and the testimony of the church. They profess to be believers and are even teachers of God's Word, but they are not pure. Their false teaching disturbs genuine believers and causes division within the fellowship of the church. Those who are not rooted in Christ and in God's Word follow and support the false teacher; those who are rooted in Christ and in God's Word reject the false teacher. False teachers always spot and dirty the fellowship of the church because they cause division among the people and destroy the Spirit of Christ among them.

⇒  False teachers are reefs or submerged rocks that wreck the fellowship of the church. Their teaching is often injected into the church quietly and insidiously, completely unknown to the general membership. Therefore, the fellowship is subject to being shipwrecked upon the reefs of false teaching.

Note that the false teachers feed themselves—that is, they fellowship with believers—without fear. There is no fear of God nor thought about the damage they are doing to the fellowship of the church. Their interest is to boost themselves forward; to be recognized as an excellent teacher or preacher, a person of unusual gfts, a teacher with new insights, a teacher who is progressive, who is a notch above others.

**Thought 1**. The fellowship of believers is spiritual. It is not a social fellowship based upon emotional feelings for one another. It is fellowship wrought by the Spirit of God. Feelings are involved; but beyond that there is godly love, joy, peace, and purpose, meaning, and significance—all centered around Jesus Christ. When false teaching is present, all this is disrupted. Therefore, false teaching must never be allowed in the true church. But when the mature believers become aware of it, *in Christ* they are forced to reject it and to make it known.

**"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (**[**Matthew 18:20**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+18%3A20)**).**

**"Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity" (**[**Matthew 23:28**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+23%3A28)**).**

**"In the mean time, when there were gathered together an innumerable multitude of people, insomuch that they trode one upon another, he began to say unto his disciples first of all, Beware ye of the leaven [false teaching] of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy" (**[**Luke 12:1**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+12%3A1)**).**

**"And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?" (**[**Luke 24:32**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+24%3A32)**).**

**"Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips" (**[**Romans 3:13**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+3%3A13)**).**

**"God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord" (**[**1 Cor. 1:9**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Co+1%3A9)**).**

**"Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron" (**[**1 Tim. 4:2**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Ti+4%3A2)**).**

**"They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate" (**[**Titus 1:16**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Tit+1%3A16)**).**

**"That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ" (**[**1 John 1:3**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Jn+1%3A3)**).**

**"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me" (**[**Rev. 3:20**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+3%3A20)**).**

**15.** (v. 12) **Teacher, False— Emptiness— Instability**: false teachers are filled with emptiness and instability. Two illustrations are given.

⇒  They are like clouds that offer rain to the farmer, but when the clouds arrive, they are driven away by the rushing winds of the storm.

⇒  They are like fruit trees that seem to be flourishing and that promise fruit, but when harvest comes there is no fruit.

This is a picture of false teachers offering hope to people, but their hope is empty and unstable—just as empty and unstable as the world's fleeting clouds of hope and unbearing promise of fruit. The false teachers cannot water the seed of God's Word in people's hearts, nor can their teaching bear fruit within people. The opinions of false teachers cannot help people in facing the trials and temptations of life, nor can they prepare people to face eternity that lies just over the horizon. In dealing with eternity—with God, Christ, and the Holy Scripture—the false teacher is nothing more than a cloud without water and a tree without fruit. He may sound like he offers hope, security, and fulness of life; but his message is unstable and empty and will leave a person hopeless when he meets God face to face.

**"This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity [emptiness] of their mind" (**[**Ephes. 4:17**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+4%3A17)**).**

**"In the morning thou shalt say, Would God it were even! and at even thou shalt say, Would God it were morning! for the fear of thine heart wherewith thou shalt fear, and for the sight of thine eyes which thou shalt see" (**[**Deut. 28:67**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Dt+28%3A67)**).**

**"Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labor that I had labored to do: and, behold, all was vanity [emptiness] and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun" (**[**Eccles. 2:11**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ecc+2%3A11)**).**

**"For all his days are sorrows, and his travail grief; yea, his heart taketh not rest in the night. This is also vanity" (**[**Eccles. 2:23**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ecc+2%3A23)**).**

**"Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labor for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness" (**[**Isaiah 55:2**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+55%3A2)**).**

**"But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt" (**[**Isaiah 57:20**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+57%3A20)**).**

**"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (**[**Matthew 7:15-21**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+7%3A15-21)**).**