

Sunday, July 9, 2023

1 Timothy 4:13, "Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching."

Title: Characteristics of Apostate Individuals

Series: Jude, An Ancient Letter Written to Believers of THIS Day ... 7

Text: Jude 1:1 - 25

Purpose: I want to INFORM my congregation to some of the characteristics of apostate individuals that we are to be on guard of; "For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation."

Introduction:

Last week in our devotional we considered two previous judgments of apostates: 1) Previous Judgment of Angels 2) Previous Judgment of People 3) Positive Preventative Action. In our devotional this week we will be focusing on verses 8 - 11

~ Philippians 3:1, "*Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you.*"

~ Matthew 8:5 - 13 (in particular 8 & 9), "*But the centurion replied, "Lord, I am not worthy to have come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. (9) For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."*"

1. They Reject Authority:

~ vs. 8, "*Yet in like manner these people also, relying on their dreams, defile the flesh, reject authority, and blaspheme the glorious ones.*"

They reject the Holy Scriptures and trust in their dreams. If our dreams and visions do not line up with the Word of God they need to be renounced. To trust my dreams, visions, or intellect is to place myself above God and His Word. That is apostasy.

They defile the flesh. Morality is 'old fashion.'

Like the Sadducees they frequently deny the spirit realm and may even mock that realm.

2. They Blaspheme Authority:

~ vs. 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."*"

~ Psalm 12:4, "*those who say, "With our tongue we will prevail, our lips are with us; who is master over us?"*"

~ Psalm 73:9 - 11, "*They set their mouths against the heavens, and their tongue struts through the earth. (10) Therefore his people turn back to them, and find no fault in them. (11) And they say, "How can God know? Is there knowledge in the Most High?"*"

~ Acts 19:14 - 15, "*Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this. (15) But the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?"*"

3. They Blaspheme What They Do Not Understand:

~ vs. 10, "*But these people blaspheme all that they do not understand, and they are destroyed by all that they, like unreasoning animals, understand instinctively.*"

~ 1 Corinthians 2:6 - 16 (notice in particular vs. 14), "*The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.*"

4. They Walk in the Manner of an Unholy Trinity:

~ vs. 11, "*Woe to them! For they walk in the way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error and perished in Korah's rebellion.*"

Cain thought he could come to God on his own terms rather than on the terms set by God. Genesis 3:1 - 7

~ "*the sake of gain to Balaam's error*"

First account of Balaam is in Numbers 22 - 24 and Numbers 31:16

2 Peter 2:15 & 16, "*Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray. They have followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved gain from wrongdoing, (16) but was rebuked for his own transgression; a speechless donkey spoke with human voice and restrained the prophet's madness.*"

Revelation 2:12 - 14 (1 Timothy 6:5)

~ "*and perished in Korah's rebellion.*"

Numbers 16:1 - 50

~ Adam Clarke (1762 - 1832) Commentary, "It appears that these persons opposed the authority of the apostles of our Lord, as Korah and his associates did that of Moses and Aaron; and Jude predicts them a similar punishment."

~ The Pulpit Commentary Vol. 22 (Peter, 1 - 3 John, Jude, Revelation), The General Epistle of Jude, page 10, "The analogy between the cases, consequently, is limited to some to the assertion of an unregulated liberty, the assumption of a self-invented holiness, or the adoption of a worship that was alien to God. It lies in the broader idea of a contemptuous and determined assertion of self against divinely appointed ordinances."

Conclusion:

Jude 1:14 - 16 There is a divine judgment coming.