

## **Is the Return of Jesus a Myth?** **by Fred DeRuvo – Study-Grow-Know Ministries**

Because of the technology we have today, it is difficult for some to imagine Jesus parting the sky and breaking through it. These same individuals have a tough time imagining a time when there will be a final world dictator known as the Antichrist. Yet what we see all around us are signs that this is going to be the case.

Our world's economy is crumbling. The United States is heading towards financial disaster. In fact, we are on the very doorstep of financial ruin, and if we continue in this same direction for the next four years, we can be guaranteed to look back and see little left of this country. Russia's Putin has condemned the United States because the world depends upon the dollar and we have not been good stewards of it. China is angry with us for the same reason.

There is a good amount of vitriol against the U.S., and many countries throughout the world want some other currency so that they do not have to rely on the dollar as the world's economic standard. Besides economic upset, we are experiencing severe civil and social unrest throughout the world and in parts of the United States. It seems as though the fires are no sooner put out in one area than the world experiences another conflagration from another country or two.

In the meanwhile, the Islamic nations are pushing for Islam to dominate the world in more and more countries, and even areas in the United States are seemingly opening the door to Islam, catering to their "needs." A number of places in the U.S. have become literally overrun with Muslims who want Sharia law as their determining factor.

Islam looks forward to a Final Mahdi, who it is said will usher in world peace. This is exactly what Christians look for, but those of us who know the order of events will not be fooled by the Final Mahdi if we are here to see him when he rises. Jews will, though, at least at first, and Daniel 9:24-27 is clear that this same leader will turn against the Jewish nation three and a half years after he has brokered a covenant with them with the surrounding nations.

The Bible was written by God thousands of years ago. In fact, he took roughly 40 human authors over a period of approximately 1,600 years and created His testimony to the world. He told us way ahead of time so that there is no excuse. Yet we have people who have come along with their own interpretations of God's Word so that what God *said* and originally *meant* bears little to no resemblance to what is often taught today.

These people are mockers, changing the meaning of God's holy Word for their own purposes. They are unafraid of the ramifications. They want to see things happen their

way, and they want to attract people to them who will come under their spell. They use flattery to gain the advantage just as Jude says, and they couldn't care less how they distort God's Word as long as they gain what they set out to achieve.

As time continues to progress, more mockers will come to the fore, and the attacks will become more vicious against those who take God's literal meaning from His Word (that's *literal*, not *literalistic*). These people are chasing after their own lusts because they are worldly-minded. They want what the world has to offer. Whether they want lots of money, expensive cars, large homes, extravagant vacations, or all the rest, they chase after it because it is something they want to have. They have no time for God's Word because as Jude says, they are *devoid* of the Spirit. He is, of course, referring to the Holy Spirit.

The people who are without the Holy Spirit have no spiritual discernment whatsoever, yet they can project a spirit of discernment because they are great actors. People fall into the holes they create because they seem to have an air of authority, and the people hearing them have not personally studied God's Word themselves, so they do not know the difference. Because of this, they don't know the first thing about His teachings.

Folks like these are easily manipulated by people from cults because they have no biblical knowledge of their own and therefore no spiritual discernment to uphold them when they are confronted by members of cults or apostates. In the end, these mockers are the exact opposite of authentic believers. They have no Spirit, they are worldly-minded, and they are literally bereft of God's power since they do not belong to him.

There are too many people like this doing whatever they can to worm their way into local congregations and take advantage of the people there. Remember, they do this because they want to use people to fulfill their own personal needs and wants.

As Jude says, because of the nature of these apostates, who mock what they do not understand and do what they can to puff themselves up, they wind up creating disagreements, and eventually divisions in local bodies will occur. They cause people to take sides over many things that do not matter, though certainly some things do matter.

The objective seems to be for these apostates to keep the local congregation in a state of flux, because in doing so, the congregants are off balance and can be swayed one way or another. They are not interested in a peaceful, local body of believers where love is the rule. In such an environment, they cannot accomplish anything.

Whether they do it intentionally or whether it simply happens because of their presence, divisions are a hallmark of their involvement in a local body. Apostates thrive in such an environment. They love it and they love to keep changing things up.

Apostates as pastors will do this as well, because again, it keeps people off balance. If people are off balance, they can be moved one way or another. If they are solid in their relationships with one another and the Lord, it is difficult to move them.

One day, apostates who mock will be gone – *permanently*. Until then, authentic believers need to simply hold onto His Word and the truth found within. God's Word is true. What He says, He will do. It is as simple as that.

Mockers and apostates do what they can to make His Word more difficult and convoluted. In this way, people come to depend upon the teaching of the apostate because they don't want to trust their own judgment, and they certainly don't want to lean on the Holy Spirit for spiritual education and edification. However, this is exactly what we *are* to do if we are to avoid being another victim of the ever-present apostate.

That's our show for today. We will continue in Jude for a few more episodes before we move onto something else. I hope you'll join me as we finish up with Jude. Until then, I pray that the Lord will open your eyes so that you will know how blessed you are in Him!