

# Contend for the Faith – Jude Series

## Apostates Described (Lesson 4)

**Text: Jude 1:8-10**

### Introduction

1. Review of theme and structure of the Book
  - A. Part 1 – Apostates De Masked (Vs. 1-19)
  - B. Part 2 – Believers Exhorted (Vs. 20-25)
2. Brief review of previous lesson
3. This lesson: The parallel between the historical examples of apostates and the present apostates Jude is exposing. Apostates, whether past or present, share the same evil attributes.

### I. **Their Designation – “filthy dreamers” (Vs. 8)**

- A. A title given to the apostates.
- B. “*filthy dreamers*” – refers to sensual imagery, false revelation. They live in a perverted dream world.
- C. The same root word was used in Acts 2:17 “...*your old men shall dream dreams...*”
- D. Illustration: The Mormon doctrine of the incarnation
- E. Illustration: The modern charismatic error of extra biblical revelation. E.g. Jesse Duplantis’ blasphemous vision of heaven.

### II. **Their Depravity – “defile the flesh” (Vs. 8)**

- A. ‘defile’ = means to stain or dye a different colour. It means to pollute, contaminate and soil.
- B. Reference to the example of Sodom and Gomorroah (Vs. 7)
- C. Further confirmation of the truth stated in Vs. 4 – “...*ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness...*”
- D. H.A. Ironside – “Unholy ways always accompany, and indeed spring from, unholy teachings. Hence we can easily understand the readiness with which apostates from the truth give themselves up to what is defiling and abominable. It is noticeable that present-day advocates of that insult to decency denominated “free love,” are in large measure persons who have apostasized from a nominal Christianity, and now can tolerate, and even stand for, what they once would have abhorred.”
- E. Perverted doctrine = perverted deeds; impure belief = impure behaviour; corrupt precepts = impure practices.
- F. They use the body as a vehicle for sinful practices.
- G. The believer is given direct commands concerning holiness of the body.
  1. I. Peter 1:15-16 “*But as **he** which hath called you **is holy**, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, **Be ye holy; for I am holy.**”*

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2. 1 Cor 6:19-20 *“What? know ye not that your body is the **temple of the Holy Ghost** which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.”*
3. The believer’s hands should not be used for the service of evil, the believer’s feet should refrain from ungodly places, and the believer’s eyes should not view unholy entertainments.

### III. Their Anarchy – **“despise dominion” (Vs. 8)**

- A. ‘despise’ = to do away with something established. It means to not recognize as valid, to look down upon.
- B. ‘dominion’ = lordship. Translated as ‘government’ in II. Peter 2:10 – *“But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise **government**. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.”* It is a form of the word ‘Lord’ which is frequently used as a title of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- C. We see this spirit exhibited in the example of the rebellious angels and their wilful choice to cross over God’s created boundaries. We see this spirit in the blatant disobedience of the Israelites at Kadesh-Barnea against God’s commands.
- D. This spirit is central in modern day apostasy. Often this spirit of rebellion is expressed against the clear teachings of Scripture.

### IV. Their Blasphemy – **“speak evil of dignities” (Vs. 8-10)**

Note: This seems to be one of the primary offenses of apostates as it is given more extensive treatment than the other ones mentioned.

- A. The focus of their blasphemy (Vs. 8)
  1. “speak evil” = to blaspheme, rail upon
  2. ‘dignities’ = literally means glorious ones, those to whom honour is due. It refers to that which is worthy of honour; that which is praiseworthy.
    - a. Speaks generally of heavenly things (e.g. angels, heaven’s glories etc...) These blasphemous teachings find their source in proud, ignorant minds.
      - i. Vs. 10 *“But these speak evil of those things which they know not:”*
      - ii. Colossians 2:18 *“Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,”*
      - iii. 1 Cor 2:14 *“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him:*

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*neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”*

- b. Speaks specifically of their blasphemous words concerning God who is truly the Glorious One. Vs. 15 tells us that one of the things Christ will judge at His return is the *“hard speeches that have been spoken against him.”* Vs. 4 tells us of their persistent denial of Christ.
- c. Illustrations from modern apostate teachers
  - i. Benny Hinn

**Adam Could Fly, To The Moon:** "Adam was a super being when God created him. I don't know whether people know this, but he was the first Superman that really ever lived. First of all, the Scriptures declare clearly that he had dominion over the fowls of the air, the fish of the sea - which means he used to fly. Of course, how can he have dominion over the birds and not be able to do what they do? I'll prove it further. Adam not only flew, he flew to space. He was-with one thought he would be on the moon." (Praise the Lord, TBN, 26th December 1991).

**You Are A Little God Running Around Earth:** "When you say, 'I am a Christian,' you are saying, 'I am mashiach,' in the Hebrew. I am a little messiah walking on earth, in other words. That is a shocking revelation. ...May I say it like this? You are a little god on earth running around" (Praise-a-Thon, TBN, 6th November'90)

**Jesus Became One In Nature With Satan:** "Jesus knew the only way He would stop Satan is by becoming one in nature with him ... He became one with the nature of Satan, so all those who had the nature of Satan can partake of the nature of God. Benny Hinn, TBN, 15th December 1990).

**The Trinity Is Actually Comprised Of Nine:** "Each one of them is a triune being by Himself...there's nine of them" (Benny Hinn, TBN, 3rd October 1990).

- ii. Joyce Meyer

**Jesus Was Born Again:** "Did you know something, the minute that blood sacrifice was accepted Jesus was the first human being that was ever born again...it happened when He was in hell."

- B. A contrast to their blasphemy (Vs. 9)
  - 1. Michael's identity
    - a. One of two angels whose names the Bible reveals; the other is Gabriel.
    - b. Called an 'archangel'. 'arch' means first in rank. From this we understand that Michael holds a high position over the other angels in heaven.
    - c. Appears in Daniel 10:13, 21 & 12:1 as the prince of the nation of Israel. Revelation 12:7-9 depicts a battle lead by Michael and the angelic hosts against Satan which results in his expulsion from heaven.
  - 2. Michael's conflict
    - a. Over the burial of Moses: Deut 34:5-6 *“So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD. And he buried him in a valley in the land of Moab,*

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*over against Bethpeor: but no man knoweth of his sepulchre unto this day.”*

- b. II. Kings 18:4 – Parallel with the Brazen Serpent
- 3. Michael’s weaponry
  - a. Shunned carnal methods
  - b. Employed the Name of the Lord
- C. The source of their blasphemy (Vs. 10)
  - 1. Ignorance
  - 2. Natural man

### **Summary/Conclusion:**

- 1. Apostates have not changed.
- 2. The importance of separation from error.

Rom 16:17 *“Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.”*