

Contend Earnestly For the Faith Which Was Once For All Handed Down to the Saints An Expository Study of the **Epistle of Jude** Chapter 7- The Profile of the Heretics **Jude 8&9** 91 The Profile of the Heretics Part 7

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Welcome again my beloved in Jesus Christ. We are continuing our verse by verse “Journey” through the Epistle of **Jude** and today I want to continue to examine what Jude taught about “The Profile of the Heretics”. So, let’s read verses 8&9 of Jude again together:

8 Yet in the same way these men, also by dreaming, defile the flesh, and reject authority, and revile angelic majesties.

9 But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"

We saw last time that Jude was faithful to give us a detailed description and profile of these people who creep into the Church under the guise of being Christians in order to bring in damnable heresies. We need to study this profile so that those heretics who walk the earth today will be easily identifiable to us so that we may mark them and not let them hurt the sheep. I want to look at the Apostle Paul’s admonition about these people in **Romans 16:17**:

Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them.

So, Paul was telling us all to first learn about these profile characteristics that the Bible uses to describe the heretics; secondly, Paul said that we are to label these people as being exactly who they are they are apostates and then Paul says that we are to avoid them;

shun them; call them to repentance; but do not allow them access to teaching opportunities or access to the souls of the sheep.

So, in this next characteristic of the heretics, Jude is telling us that these people “**revile angelic majesties**”. Now while this verse could well be taken to mean that the heretics insult or reject spiritual authority within the Church- this phrase has a deeper meaning than that. The word revile here comes from the Greek word, *blasphemo*- which means: *to slander; to speak evil of; especially to speak profanely of sacred matters- including angels and God Himself*. Jude is telling us that these heretics ate not just irreverent- but they are blasphemers- especially of angelic majesties.

Now the next word that Jude used here is the Greek word, *doxa*- and that word can be used as a reference to God’s own Personal majesty. But because Jude also gives a reference to Michael the arch angel and Lucifer disputing over the body of Moses in the very next verse- it is best to interpret this verse to center around angels rather than God Himself- although I would say that the heretics would have no problem with blaspheming God.

And this interpretation would best suite the sister verses to Jude that we have already gone over in **2 Peter 2**. In that letter, Peter used the same identical word to identify angels as the objects of this blasphemy.

So, because both Jude and Peter use the same words and use the same references and because Jude links this verse to the situation with Michael and the devil- I am comfortable with the interpretation of this verse to mean that heretics revile angelic majesties, rather than that they just spoke evil against the pastor or some other Church leader.

When Jude begins verse 9 with the word, “**Yet**” he was tying the beginning of this verse to the end of verse 8 and that linkage means that the example that he gives in verse 9 is further expounding of the point that he started in verse 8.

Brothers and sisters, throughout all of the history of God redeeming lost man, the heavenly angels have always had a special and particular role to play. For example, **Deuteronomy 33:2** says,

He said, "The LORD came from Sinai, And dawned on them from Seir; He shone forth from Mount Paran, And He came from the midst of ten thousand holy ones; At His right hand there was flashing lightning for them.

And **Galatians 3:19** tells us:

Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, until the seed would come to whom the promise had been made.

So, from these verses, we can see that angles played a part in bringing the Law of Moses to the earth. Likewise, **Hebrews** clearly says that angels intervene for those who “**shall be heirs of Salvation**” and **The Book of the Revelation** shows us that angels will be present and active during the judgment and condemnation of those who are lost.

By their wicked and rebellion, the heretics that Jude is describing will not only blaspheme the holy angels but will also blaspheme God Himself.

Now as we move into verse 9, Jude is showing us the contrast between how the heretics act and how Michael- the arch angels acted about dealing with the devil.

We have a phenomnom today that those who are the least equipped and the least prepared and the least trained are the most arrogant in their supposed authority and their supposed power over demons and fallen angels and the devil himself. This practice is both foolish and dangerous.

It is true that every child in every house has *some* degree of freedom and some rights and some abilities simply because of birthright, but it is also true that the overwhelming majority of the examples that we see in the Bible showed us that godly parents made a distinction in which of their children to give the inheritance to and they gave more land and invested more power and more authority and more ability in those who were faithful and productive and godly and true than they did the others.

The same is true with God. God does not give His Power and His Authority to those who do not serve Him. He does not invest authority in those who walk in rebellion to His Word. He does not give supernatural power to anyone based upon a certain prayer that they prayed- No, God is not frivolous; God is not foolish; God is not simple minded; God is not so enamored of us that he is blind in who serves Him and who does not serve Him. Power and Authority comes

to those who have been tried and proven by God. That takes time- it might very well take your entire lifetime. It sure isn't going to come over one weekend because you attended a seminar. Power and authority in God –especially power and authority over demons and devils does not come to anyone simply because they read the Bible or somebody's book or get their tape series and “get the revelation”. No, the amount of power over the devil that we have; the amount of authority over demons that we have is directly proportional to our relationship with Jesus Christ. No walk- no power; no fruit no authority. No self-sacrifice, no picking up your cross and following Jesus daily; no denying yourself; no mortifying the deeds of your body; no crucifying the flesh; no dying to self- no power and no authority and for anyone to try to go out to rebuke the devil with no power and no authority is the most foolish and dangerous thing that anyone can do.

Some guys tried to do that one time. They knew about the Lord- although they were not saved themselves. They were very familiar with the Church- the father was a priest. But these people didn't have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. These men were not walking with God. These men did not deny their flesh but were as worldly and as carnal minded as any lost person is. And they tried to cast the devil out of someone, and they met up with disaster. Let's read **The Acts 19:14-17**

14 Seven sons of one Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this.

15 And the evil spirit answered and said to them, "I recognize Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you?"

16 And the man, in whom was the evil spirit, leaped on them and subdued all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

17 This became known to all, both Jews and Greeks, who lived in Ephesus; and fear fell upon them all and the name of the Lord Jesus was being magnified.

Now we would all do well to follow Michael's lead here. Michael is an arch angel. He neither eats nor sleeps. He wasn't born and cannot die. He stands all day in the very presence of God. Yet he

didn't bring a railing accusation against the devil- but simply said, **“The Lord rebuke you”**.

Now this statement here by Michael and this teaching by Jude tells me several things. First of all, like much about the modern Church- we base way too much on what we do and not enough on what God does.

For example- We wrongly teach today that people are physically healed for no other reason other than that we exercise faith. We teach that healing is either given or held back because of what *we* do. Some even teach that if a person is *not* healed- then it is because they didn't exercise enough faith- because the teaching is that God always heals everyone every time- which of course is not true. Beloved, this is one of cruelest teachings that the Church has ever invented.

Think of the unbelievable condemnation that this false teaching puts on a parent when their child dies, and they are told that if only they would have trusted God more- God would have delivered their child. The Bible does not teach that at all. Healing comes primarily because God allows it to come. Physical healing is based upon God's Purpose and God's Will in our lives a whole lot more than it is based on what we do.

Now when you say this- people say- *“Well, you just don't believe in healing”*. But that is not true. Listen, I have been healed in my life- miraculously and gloriously. But you know what? I got sick again and every single person who ever is healed by God gets sick again. And they all die. Even Lazarus, whom Jesus raised from the dead, died again. The Bible says that it is appointed unto man once to die. Every human on earth is going to die. Godly people are going to die, and ungodly people are going to die. And God- not us. God- not the devil. God- not anything or anyone else is in charge of life and death.

For Michael to defer to God in the rebuking of satan was not just an angel being polite. And it is wrong to assume that since we are not angels that we don't need to follow this lead.

The point that I am making here is that as human beings- power and authority are always sought after- but in almost every case- power and authority corrupts the human soul. When people suddenly come into big sums of money through inheritance or lawsuits- it doesn't matter how much money it is- it could be five thousand dollars

or five million dollars- the result is almost always the same. A quick influx of money into the hands of a human being almost always changes that person for the worse. That sudden rush of money goes to their head, and it corrupts their thinking and it warps their plans and it disturbs their walk with God. The last thing anyone is thinking about when they just got a million dollars is fasting and praying for a week.

In my nearly twenty years experience as a financial planner- I saw many, many people so changed by sudden increases of wealth that the average person went through the entire amount in less than 18 months and many times, they were financially worse off *after* they went through all their money than they were before. Now we have notable exceptions to that rule like Abraham, but the rule is still true for the majority of people. Without a holy life, without a consistent walk with God- money corrupts.

The same is true with power and authority. It is intoxicating and can go to our heads and give us the sense that we are some one that we are not and that we are better than we really are.

Spiritual power and spiritual authority and spiritual blessings are no exception to this rule. For people who are not strong in Jesus to try to exercise power and authority is like giving a child a stick of dynamite. Dynamite is a very useful and productive tool, but if used incorrectly by inexperienced people- it can hurt both them and other people. The same is true with quick influxes of spiritual authority like we hear all the time.

We need to heed what the arch angel is saying here and defer to God when it comes to abilities and power and authority and money. We need to say things like, "*If the Lord Wills*" often so that we do not think that God revolves around our plans. We need to say things like "*The Lord rebuke thee, satan*" less we begin to think that the devil fears *our* righteousness or *our* power.

So let us all humble ourselves before the mighty Hand of God and earnestly contend for the Faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints. Well, I have to stop right here but please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our Journey through the Epistle of **Jude**. May God help us all.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.