

Judgment Upon Apostates

Jude 12-15

Introduction:

- Jude continues to describe these “Certain men” mentioned in verse 4
- He continues to describe the nature of these false teachers and their fate

I. **MORE DEPICTIONS OF APOSTATES-** v. 12-13

a. Spots in your feasts

- i. The early Christians often met for a common meal, something like a potluck dinner. They called these meals love feasts, or “Agape Feasts.”
- ii. In Bible times, sitting down and eating with someone implied genuine trust and friendship
- iii. But, like Judas Iscariot, these deceitful apostates sit right down with God’s people and pass themselves off as genuine Christians. But they are not!
- iv. They have no fear of God! Our Lord told His disciples in John 13:18, “I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me.”
- v. “feeding themselves”- When these certain men came, they were serving only themselves, when they should have been serving others- many Christians have the same attitude sadly.

b. Clouds without water, carried by the winds: Clouds without water are good for nothing. They bring no life-giving rain and they only block out the sun. They exist just for themselves. The certain men were like these clouds.

- i. Rain is often a sign of refreshment for God’s people, and blessing from God. False teachers bring no such blessing!
- ii. Illustr- Once while driving by a factory, a young girl looked at the billows of white smoke coming from the smoke stacks. She said, “That’s where

they make clouds!" These certain men were like those empty clouds – good for nothing!

- c. Trees without fruit- Like the other metaphors, this one stresses these apostates are spiritually dead. They bear no fruit. But genuine Christians will produce fruit.
- d. Twice dead- All sinners are spiritually dead because they have never been born again. The apostle Paul says in Ephesians 2:1, "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins." But these apostates have rejected Christ so they will remain dead and be plucked up by the roots face the 2nd death in the Lake of Fire!
- e. V. 13- The raging waves of the sea have sunk many ships, destroyed many homes, and drowned many people. In other words, these apostates are dangerous – they ruin churches, corrupt Christian schools and seminaries, and lead souls to hell. Isaiah 57:20, "But the wicked are like the troubled sea..."
- f. Wandering stars- V. 13- Stars were once used for navigation, but not these stars. They have a "reservation" waiting for them
 - i. Like comets streaking through the sky, these certain men astonished and dazzled the world for a time, and then vanished into darkness.
 - ii. The "blackness of darkness forever" refers to eternal punishment in hell. Three times, our Lord referred to hell as "outer darkness" (Matthew 8:12; 22:13; 25:30).
 - iii. The Real Total Eclipse- eternity apart from God

II. ENOCH'S PROPHECY -v. 14-15

- a. Enoch's prophecy is quite incredible when you consider that he lived about 3,000 years before the *first* coming of Christ.
- b. The Bible tells us that he was a godly man who walked with God, and was miraculously translated into heaven! Hebrews 11:5
- c. If it weren't for this scripture, we would not really know about his prophecy

- d. We do know from the book of Genesis that Enoch was in some measure a prophet. I say this because he named his son Methuselah, which means, “When he dies, it shall come” (Gen. 5:21).
- e. This name appears to be prophetic. It was a strong warning to the Pre-Flood world that God’s judgment was coming. As soon as Methuselah died, the flood came.
- f. What about the Book of Enoch?
 - i. It is a work of pseudepigraphy- false writings (books written under a pen name); often attributed to ideal figures of the past. (Gospel of Thomas, etc.). These works may be interesting, and contain history, but are not inspired by God.
 - ii. Some believe that Jude is quoting from this writing.
 - iii. There is nothing in the text that identifies the actual origin of Jude’s quotation. Enoch’s original message was from God. That message may have been passed down orally, or written down somewhere. Most likely, the prophet Enoch was quoted directly by Jude, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit—since the prophecy is not contained in the Old Testament.
 - iv. The Book of Enoch was compiled by numerous authors from first century B.C. to 2nd century A.D. Jude was written in the first century, 68 A.D. No one can prove, therefore, that Jude’s text was taken from the “Book of Enoch.”
 - v. Even if Jude was quoting it, it is not an endorsement of the work itself. Paul quoted secular poets, and philosophers to illustrate truth
 - vi. The silence of revelation from God (intertestamental/apostolic) often gave rise to these types of writings, including the Apocrypha found in the RC Bible. These books are not inspired.
 - vii. Let us follow the common cry of the Reformers- Sola Scriptura- only the scriptures as our source of doctrine.

III. **THE LORD IS COMING** -v. 14-15

a. To execute judgment

- i. All means all the ungodly. Believers have escaped this judgment! John 5:24
- ii. Enoch represents that generation that will be raptured when Christ appears in the air, but at the 2nd Coming, Christ will come with His saints in judgment.

b. To convince

- i. Convince- to bring to a conviction, to bring to light or expose
- ii. They will not be able to settle out of court- they will be proven guilty!
- iii. The evidence is stacked against them- Jude uses the word “ungodly” four times in verse 15, and again in verse 18. He also uses it in verse 4.
- iv. Romans 1:18

Conclusion:

- Many people take the judgment of God lightly – but they won't take it lightly at that day
Christ's second coming is for judgment!