

JUDE 1:8-13
CHARACTERISTICS OF FALSE TEACHERS!
PART 1

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to the book of Jude as we continue our in-depth study of this book.

As we have seen, the main focus of this book or letter is that we are to earnestly contend for the faith that has been entrusted to us, a faith that has not changed and will not change. And that is important for us to understand in the days we are living in where so many want to tell us that the Bible, our faith, needs to be updated to fit in with today's culture!

Foolishness and it is dangerous as we have seen, and we will see with these false teachers!

Now I know, you may be thinking, ***"I have heard this all before, why do I need to hear it again?"***

That is a great question, and the answer is very simple. Paul put it like this in Philippians 3:1, **"Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. For me to write the same things to you is not tedious, but for you it is safe."**

I hate to admit this, but we forget things and many times when our emotions are high, when things are not going well, we forget things more easily.

And Paul was not just speaking of our common salvation there in Philippians. Not at all. He is giving them a warning. Listen to what he goes on to say in Philippians 3:2, **"Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation!"**

Remember what Paul said in Philippians 3:1, **". . . For me to write the same things to you is not tedious, but for you it is safe."**

The Greek word for “**safe**” literally means “*not to trip, stumble, or be overthrown.*”

And then Paul speaks of the problem, these false teachers, proclaiming salvation through ritual, ceremony, and legalism, posed a serious threat to them.

And this was something that Paul had taught the Philippians before, but he didn’t mind repeating it because it was what was going to be a “*safeguard*” for them.

Too often in the church today people want their ears tickled, they want to be entertained, they want new revelations instead of partaking of the solid meat of God’s Word by which we will grow!

Sometimes pastor’s and leaders don’t want to warn their people of the dangers that are out there, but that is wrong. Paul had no problem doing it, and in the days that we are living in, we should be doing it as well!

And Paul does not pull any punches with these false teachers and their false doctrines, and neither should we!

Paul tells them “**Beware**” or “*look out for.*”

It is the Greek word BLEPO, (blep’-o) and it is a serious warning that they should listen and heed what Paul is saying here.

And that is what Jude is doing here, giving us a warning and the focus here in the verses we will be looking at this morning is – ***CHARACTERISTICS OF FALSE TEACHERS!***

Several years back one writer gave to us this warning about these false teachers, these apostates and I think that many Christians tuned out to what he was saying. This is what he wrote,

In a century when people have become numb to the bizarre and the cruel and are almost unshockable, people sat stunned as they watched news broadcasts from Guyana where hundreds of bodies of Jim Jones' cult members lay dead and bloated.

One of the largest mass suicides in history left more than 900 dead, including the cult leader himself.

Jim Jones had put up a great front for years. Blacks and whites alike rushed to join his movement and became fiercely loyal to him. Jones professed to be a Christian and preached from the Bible regularly.

Local authorities believed in his work so thoroughly that they even committed youths who were wards of the court into Jones' care.

But facts that had not seeped out before his death began to pour out after the mass suicide scene.

Jones was a sexually depraved man who demonstrated heinous cruelty to those around him, showing no respect for the commands and authority of God. He was motivated by greed and self-glorification.

Jones' character and conduct are a living example of an apostate who becomes a false teacher.

- John MacArthur, Jude, pp. 52-53

The reason I am quoting these things that were written about Jim Jones is that he manifested these qualities or characteristics of these false teachers that Jude wrote about.

Why didn't people see that he was a false teacher?

Because they did not want to, or they did not know the Word of God enough to call out his false teaching.

So this warning from Jude and this warning that was given with Jim Jones is for us as well. We need to be awake; we need to pay attention and we need to check *ALL* teaching with the Word of God!

So the focus this morning is going to be – ***WHAT ARE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF FALSE TEACHERS?***

And there are three main points that I will break down more or look into more. These three points are,

THEY ARE . . . – JUDE 1:8-10

THEY HAVE . . . – JUDE 1:11

THEY ARE . . . – JUDE 1:12-13

And as we go through these verses, and we will look at these over the next three weeks, you will see how these verses give us these – ***CHARACTERISTICS OF FALSE TEACHERS!***

Let me share this with you as it will lead us into what we will be looking at this morning. We are told,

Years ago, when I lived just outside of NYC, my wife and I received a lot of visitors. One of our favorite things to do was to take our guests into the city to see the sites. Usually, included in this tour was a trip to Chinatown. The food was great, and our guests always enjoyed the unique gift shops we found there.

Without a doubt, the most popular gift item was always the ten-dollar Rolex watch. Virtually all of our guests went home with at least one. They looked real, so long as you didn't look too closely. But you couldn't rely on one to keep accurate time. Not even close. As far as watches go, they weren't worth the ten dollars.

These fake Rolexes (Fauxlexes) are big sellers for one reason: somewhere, other than in China Town, there are real Rolexes. If there weren't real ones somewhere, there wouldn't be a market for the fake ones. These knockoffs owed their very existence to the public's desire for the original.

Jesus warned His followers that there would be no shortage of false prophets in the world. So, we shouldn't be surprised that there are wolves in sheep's clothing in the Church, and we certainly shouldn't allow them to cause us to question the truth of the Gospel.

Charlatans exist because the real thing exists. Forgeries are never made of forgeries. They are not the truth, but they are proof of the truth.

“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves” (Matthew 7:15).

- <https://bit.ly/3qaOtUe>

In saying that, may we understand that there are false teachers out there and we need to be ready to defend our faith, the faith that has been entrusted to us.

With that as our introduction, let's begin reading in Jude chapter 1, beginning in verse 8 and let's see what the Lord has for us this morning as we study His Word and look at -

CHARACTERISTICS OF FALSE TEACHERS!

JUDE 1**VERSE 8a**

Keep in mind that the focus for the next four points is this – ***THEY ARE . . .***

And the first point is simple – ***THEY ARE DREAMERS!***

Please understand that these verses are linked to what Jude just spoke about regarding the judgment of false teachers.

Just like the apostates of Israel, the fallen angels as well as Sodom and Gomorrah, these ungodly characteristics are also seen in false teachers!

And I think you can clearly see that what is manifested in the lives of these apostates, is not the fruit of the Spirit, but it is the works of the flesh.

Jude starts out by saying that they are “**dreamers**”, or they are out of touch with reality and probably they are speaking forth prophetic revelations, but they are not of God!

The Greek word that Jude uses for “**dreamers**” is ***ENUPNIAZOMAI*** and it means a confused state of the soul, it is an abnormal imagination, it is not the truth!

Look at those today who say that they are speaking for God, making all kinds of wild predictions and when they don’t come to pass, they move on to the next one and no one holds them accountable!

Remember what we are told in Jeremiah 23:25-32, **“I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in My name, saying, “I have dreamed, I have dreamed!” How long will this be in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies? Indeed they are prophets of the deceit of their own heart, who try to make My people forget My name by their dreams which everyone tells his neighbor, as their fathers forgot My name for Baal. The prophet who has a dream, let him tell a dream; And he who has My word, let him speak My word faithfully. What is the chaff to the wheat?” says the Lord. ‘Is not My word like a fire?’ says the Lord, ‘And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces? Therefore behold, I am against the prophets,’ says the Lord, ‘who steal My words every one from his neighbor. Behold, I am against the prophets,’ says the Lord, ‘who use their tongues and say, “He says.” Behold, I am against those who prophesy false dreams,’ says the Lord, ‘and tell them, and cause My people to err by their lies and by their recklessness. Yet I did not send them or command them; therefore they shall not profit this people at all,’ says the Lord.”**

And yet today we have so many that say that they are speaking for God when in reality, they are out of touch with reality! They say things like, ***“Thus saith the Lord!”*** or ***“The Lord told me!”*** and again, they are not speaking for God but for themselves. And when you look at their predictions, what they are saying, they go against the Word of God, they pervert the Word of God!

And they have no fear of God when they do this. But they should!

Remember what we are told in Deuteronomy 13:1-5, **“If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, ‘Let us go after other gods’ - which you have not known – ‘and let us serve them,’ you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the Lord your God is testing you to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. You shall walk after the Lord your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice; you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him. *But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has spoken in order to turn you away from the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of bondage, to entice you from the way in which the Lord your God commanded you to walk. So you shall put away the evil from your midst.*”**

And yet, instead of putting these evil false teachers out of the church, many times they are welcomed right into the church and the danger is that many don't seem to care!

These dreams that these false teachers are having come from the imagination of their own heart and they end up being nothing more than doctrines of demons!

Don't embrace these false dreamers, put them out!

THEY ARE . . . DREAMERS!

VERSE 8b

In this point we see that these false teachers – ***DEFILE THE FLESH!***

The word “**defile**” comes from a Greek verb which means “*to dye or stain*” something, like clothing.

It also can mean “*to pollute*” or “*to contaminate*” or “*to spoil*” or “*to corrupt.*”

And this word is linked to the word “**flesh**” which is the Greek word SARX and it speaks of moral and physical defilement – ***SEXUAL SIN!***

Remember what we read about Sodom and Gomorrah, that they went after “**strange flesh**” or they were involved in that which is not natural, homosexuality as well as all kinds of perverted sexual activity. That word “**Likewise**” links the sins spoken of in Jude 1:5-7 with what Jude is speaking about here with these false teachers!

And that is what Jude is saying here with these false teachers, these apostates. That they too were involved in perverted sexual activity!

Now maybe you are thinking, “***Okay Pastor Joe, what does that have to do with apostates? Where are you going with this one?***”

I believe what Jude is telling us is that when you reject God and His Word as the authority then they set themselves up as the authority and we know that man’s heart is wicked and he can try and justify all kinds of sin, even sexual sin, all kinds!

Also, when they reject God and His Word, they set themselves up as the authority which means they’re declaring themselves to be God!

In Jeremiah 10:10-11 we see this played out as man becomes God and decides what he wants to do instead of God leading them in what they should and shouldn’t do. And God lets them know that they can believe what they want, but His judgment will come, not might.

This is what we are told, **“But the Lord is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King. At His wrath the earth will tremble, And the nations will not be able to endure His indignation. Thus you shall say to them: ‘The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth shall perish from the earth and from under these heavens.’”**

But since they believe they know better than God, they make their own rules and standards to live by and they tell others to follow their ways. But God will judge them!

Warren Wiersbe sums it up like this as he wrote,

Having turned away from God’s truth, they feed their minds on false doctrine that inflates their egos and encourages their rebellion. Jude 10 informs us that the apostates are ignorant people who do not know what they are talking about!

Jude echoed Peter’s description of these men as “brute beasts” (2 Peter 2:12,22). Animals live by natural instinct, and so do the apostates. When men rebel against God, they sink to the level of beasts.

The course of their rebellion was clearly described by Jude. As a result of their rebellion and pride, they “defile the flesh,” living to satisfy their animal lusts.

When a person despises God’s authority, he feels free to disobey God’s Laws and live as he pleases.

What he forgets is that those laws have penalties attached to them so that he cannot disobey and escape the consequences.

Let me give you this example, and most of you if not all of you have heard of David Koresh. He was the leader and prophet of the Branch Davidian cult in Waco, Texas. And he died way back on April 19, 1993!

Now we know that he was an antigovernment militant. I know that may offend some of you because you support what he did. I am sorry, I don't.

Please understand that this man was not a Christian. Now some may say that he was leading Bible studies, which is true. Some of them went on for 10 hours! And you thought I taught for a long time! But he perverted the Scriptures!

Not only that, he had some 20 wives consisting not just of adult women but children, one as young as 10!

And they were nothing more to David Koresh than sex slaves that he used to satisfy his fleshly desires, his perverted sexual desires.

What is interesting is that these were all justified because David Koresh was the new King David and thus, he set the rules for sexual behavior and many other immoral activities!

Do you see what happened!

He was not a believer.

He taught the Word of God, but he twisted the Word of God to fit his fleshly desires.

And they lead to immoral sexual activity – ***DEFILING THE FLESH!***

One writer sums it up like this. He wrote,

Apostate teachers are inevitably immoral, even if their immorality is not publicly known.

After all, they have no ability to restrain their lusts, and they are generally characterized as those who live in the passion of lust because they do not know God (cf. 1 Thess 4:5).

Later in this letter, Jude wrote that false teachers are “devoid of the Spirit” (v. 19), as is evidenced in their abandonment of the truth (cf. 1 John 2:19-23). Thus they have no divine power to control their own sinful impulses (cf. Rom 6:20-21; 8:7-8; Gal 5:19), left instead to “indulge the flesh in its corrupt desires” (2 Peter 2:10; cf. 2:18 . . .).

In time, the truth about their immorality will inevitably emerge (cf. 2 Tim 3:1-9).

- John MacArthur, Jude 8b

This may be hard to believe but apart from God indwelling a person, it is their flesh that controls them.

Let me share this with you and you will see what I mean that apart from God, our morals are a result of what we think is right and what we think is wrong.

We are told,

Some years ago, when the news broke that Joseph Stalin’s daughter had defected from Communism and Russia, many people were startled.

Her statement, given to reporters who met her plane in New York, told why she defected:

“I found it impossible to exist without God in one’s heart. I came to that conclusion myself, without anybody’s help or preaching. That was a great change because since that moment the main dogmas of Communism lost their significance for me. I have come here to seek the self-expression that has been denied me for so long in Russia.”

That woman’s struggle was a terrible one. To leave Russia, she had to leave two children in Moscow and realize that it would be, as she said, ***“impossible to go back.”***

Pascal said there is within every person a *“God-shaped vacuum.”* He’s right. Historians Will and Ariel Durant observed in their summary volume, *The Lessons of History*, that *“there never has been a significant example of morality apart from belief in God.”*

- Morning Glory, February 5, 1994

I would agree and that is what we see with these false teachers, these pretenders!

And here is the bottom line and many may not like to hear this and they may even reject this, but here is the reality.

We know that animals live by natural instinct but so do the apostates. When men rebel against God, they sink to the level of beasts.

Now you may not like that or agree with it but think about man apart from Christ. He is two-dimensional. He has a soul or consciousness, and he has flesh or a body. And his flesh is controlling his behavior, just like wild animals!

Now, for the Christian, he is a three-dimensional being. You see, when he was born again, when we were born again, our spirit that is in communion with God came alive again and we no longer are controlled by the flesh, but by the Spirit.

And yes, the flesh wars against the Spirit but the Spirit is waring against the flesh so we don’t do those things that would dishonor God and hurt us!

And that is what we see here, since they don’t know God, these false teachers – ***DEFILE THE FLESH!***

VERSE 8c

The third point that Jude makes here is that these apostates, these false teachers –

REJECT AUTHORITY!

And when Jude says that these apostates reject authority, he is saying that they are only accountable to themselves.

It is like the depravity of Israel during the time of the Judges, where we are told, **“In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”**

Judges 21:25.

Once you take God out of the picture. Once God is no longer on the throne of a person’s life or God is not guiding them, the only thing left is for that person to do what is right in their own eyes!

Now this word **“reject”** speaks of ***“destroying something established, such as existing authority.”***

One writer put it like this, ***“Because they demand to rule their own lives, apostates refuse to submit to Christ’s lordship over them (cf. v. 4). The reality, however, is that they are much like the scribes and Pharisees whom Jesus confronted in Matthew 23:27–28: ‘You are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness. So you, too, outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.’”***

Paul warned us about what would happen in the last days, and we are seeing it coming off the pages of Scripture and into our lives!

In II Timothy 3:1-9 we are told, **“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith; but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was.”**

The key here is that they are lovers of themselves, not lovers of God and then that is reflected in how they treat others, and it is not pretty. But it is not intended to be pretty, that is what the flesh looks like!

Remember in the book of Numbers when Korah rebelled against Moses and Aaron. They were able to get two-hundred and fifty leaders, men of renown to join with them in this rebellion against Moses and ultimately this rebellion was against the Lord!

And in the end, Korah and those who were standing with him against Moses and Aaron all died in this rebellion. God takes rebellion seriously! Thus, we need to obey Him and not fight against Him!

But again, rebellion starts in the heart, and it begins with rebellion against God and then it is manifested towards others!

I recently read an article, in fact, I was shocked by it, that said “*polyamory*” is the next sexual frontier that pastors are going to have to deal with.

Now you may be wondering what polyamory is, what it means, and I had to look into this as well because I was not sure of the definition. It is not a word that I use.

But here is what one person had to say about this word, “*polyamory*”. They wrote,

Polyamory is the philosophy and practice of loving multiple people at the same time in an open, honest way. It emphasizes the choice of how many partners one wishes to be involved with instead of adhering to more commonly accepted social norms.

To be polyamorous means to have open intimate or romantic relationships with more than one person at a time. People who are polyamorous can have any sexual orientation, and polyamorous relationships can include people of different sexual orientations.

- <https://bit.ly/3N5WWBm>

And they see nothing wrong with it, but now it has moved into the Christian circles, and it is very sad. But, as you listen to this, please understand that their rebellion against God has lead them into these sexual perversions! They do go together!

The author of this article wrote the following and you tell me if this is not a rebellion against God. And maybe I am just getting old, but how sad an article. And I don't think it is just being old, I think it is wisdom and agreement with what God says is right and what He says is wrong.

Listen to what they wrote as we are told,

A pastor recently told me about Tyler and Amanda (names changed), high-school sweethearts raised in Christian homes, living in the Bible belt. After getting married, they seemed to be living the American dream with a house, good jobs, and two kids.

Then Jon, a friend of Tyler's, began living with their family. Amanda developed a close relationship with him, but their flirtation soon developed into something more, and Jon and Amanda proposed to Tyler that they begin exploring polyamory, with Amanda adding Jon as a significant other.

They also encouraged Tyler to develop a relationship with another woman he'd met at the gym. He agreed.

When Tyler and Amanda came out as polyamorous, their parents were shocked. What seemed like a fringe practice of the sexual revolution had settled into the heartland of Middle America.

Making the situation even more complex, Tyler and Amanda sought counseling from a Christian counselor who advocated polyamory. Tyler's parents were disturbed by what their son and daughter-in-law heard there: ***"It's only adultery or cheating if someone is kept in the dark. If you are open and honest, this is a God-honoring relationship. And this is good for the kids! It takes a village to raise a child, so a polyamorous relationship actually brings more support and 'family' into your kids' lives, much like the extended families in the past."***

[Notice that the Christian counselor is making the Bible say what he wants it to say. That this is not bad, it is not adultery or cheating because you all agree to it! But that is not what the Bible says and thus, this counselor is a false teacher, and he is leading these people away from God!]

For many Christians, polyamory seems so extreme and rare that there's no need to talk about it. But it is much more common than some people think, and it's growing in popularity.

According to one estimate, ***“as many as 5 percent of Americans are currently in relationships involving consensual nonmonogamy,”*** which is about the same percentage as those who identify as LGBTQ.

A recent study, published in a peer-reviewed journal, found that 20 percent of Americans have been in a consensual non-monogamous relationship at least once in their life.

Another survey showed that nearly 70 percent of non-religious Americans between the ages of 24 and 35 believe that polyamory is okay, even if it's not their cup of tea.

And perhaps most shocking of all, according to sociologist Mark Regnerus in “Cheap Sex”, roughly 24 percent of church-going people believe that consensual polyamorous relationships are morally permissible.

Polyamory - from the Greek poly, meaning ***“many,”*** and the Latin amor, meaning ***“love”*** - refers to ***“the practice of, or desire for, intimate relationships with more than one partner, with the consent of all partners involved.”***

While these intimate relationships between three or more people are typically sexual, they don't need to be. And they can take many different forms.

For instance, vees (Vs) are poly relationships where one person is sexually engaged with two other people (as in the case of Tyler, Amanda, and Jon), while triads are relationships where all three are sexually involved with each other.

Another defining element of polyamorous relationships is that they are honest and consensual - cheating and lying are frowned upon in the poly community.

I don't know about you, but I could hardly believe what I was reading in that article!

I think we can clearly see that the statement that Jesus made in Luke 18:8, "...
Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?" is becoming a reality!

Look at how far we have moved away from God because we are in rebellion, or we are rejecting His authority!

What does God say about all this? We don't have to guess because Paul tells us. And he is very clear on this issue because it is the will of God.

We are told in I Thessalonians 4:3-8, "**For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified. For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness. Therefore he who rejects this does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.**"

So what is God's will for our lives?

Paul tells us here that God's will for our lives is our "**sanctification**", *HAGIASMOS*, (hag-ee-as-mos') in the Greek and it means to be set apart.

We are to be set apart from sin and unto God.

And we see specifically here, Paul speaks of sexual purity, that we are to abstain or stay completely away from any thought or behavior that goes against God's Word in regard to sexual sin.

You think sexual sin is just a problem in our day, not at all. You see, Paul gave these commands to a first-century Roman culture that was marked by sexual immorality.

At this time in the Roman Empire, chastity and sexual purity were almost unknown virtues.

Nevertheless, Christians were to take their standards of sexual morality from God and not from the culture. That is something that many Christians are not doing today, they are allowing the culture to guide their behavior!

To give you an idea how bad things were in Paul's day, how messed up their thinking was, listen to what the ancient writer Demosthenes said in regard to their view of sex: ***"We keep prostitutes for pleasure; we keep mistresses for the day to day needs of the body; we keep wives for the faithful guardianship of our homes."***

So sexual immorality was just a way of life for them, it was normal, and thus, Paul says as Christians we are not to travel down that road.

Why?

Because we are not controlled by our lustful passions, but by the Spirit of God!

And listen again to what Paul said in I Thessalonians 4:8, **"Therefore he who rejects this does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit."**

When you reject what God has said in His Word you are not just going against the authority of man but more importantly, the authority of God and as you do that you go against the authority of man.

Look at our society today and how we have lost respect for people, and this – ***REJECTION OF AUTHORITY*** leads us to what we will look at next, the fourth point regarding these apostates, these false teachers and what they do, they – ***SPEAK EVIL OF DIGNITARIES!***

VERSES 8d-10

And lastly, we are told that they “*speaking evil of dignitaries.*”

What I see here is that this idea of speaking evil of dignitaries is born out of the fact that they also reject authority! That is the logical next step, they are going to do and say whatever they want.

And that is what Jude is saying here.

Now Jude, to show his point, speaks of two different kinds of Angelic beings.

One of them being Michael the Archangel and he is faithful to God.

Michael appears some four times in the Bible. We see him mentioned in Daniel chapter 10, Daniel chapter 12, Revelation chapter 12 and here in Jude.

And every time we see Michael appear in Scripture it is in the context of doing battle or being prepared to fight.

Now I did use that word “*Archangel*” and you may not know the meaning of this word. So let me tell you.

It simply means “*leading angel.*” So he is the one in charge of the angelic beings, maybe just the warrior angels. But I think this word “*archangel*” is speaking of Michael was in charge of all the angels!

Let me share this with you, some insight that Clarke gives to us. He wrote, “Let it be observed that the word *archangel* is never found in the *plural* number in the sacred writings. There can be properly only one *archangel*, one chief or head of all the angelic host. Nor is the word *devil*, as applied to the great enemy of mankind, ever found in the plural; there can be but one monarch of all fallen spirits.”

I think that sums it up for us very nicely!

Now let me say this. When we speak evil against authority, and keep in mind that all authority is from God and He places leaders and rulers into position in our lives, then we are speaking evil against God Himself and that is what they were doing.

In fact, from the Greek word for “evil” we get the word “*blasphemy*” from and thus, we are blaspheming God Himself when we speak evil against authorities! I don’t think we look at it much like that or probably not at all, but that is what Jude is saying through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit!

I have told you this before, but when President Obama was in office, I would tell jokes and say things that were not nice about him. And my justification for my words were very simple. He was not a good man. He did evil. He caused trouble for our nation and its people. Thus, he got what he deserved!

And then the Lord got me.

You see, He places leaders in office, and we are to respect those in office, like the President. We don’t have to agree with them and what they are doing, I didn’t, but we have to respect them, and we are not to speak evil of them.

The other thing the Lord showed me is that He did not give me what I deserved and thus, why can’t I extend that grace to President Obama?

So, since that time I do not post jokes and mock those who are in leadership positions, it is not right, as Jude is telling us of these false teachers who had no problem – ***SPEAKING EVIL OF DIGNITARIES!***

Think about it like this, it does drive home this point. ***“Blasphemy involves much more than taking God’s name in vain, though that is at the heart of it. A person blasphemes God when he takes His Word lightly and even jests about it, or when he deliberately defies God to judge him.”***

And what happens is this. When we do that with God, then what will flow from our lips will also be bad towards others. When we honor our Lord, then we will honor our fellow man.

Again, I am not saying we agree with what they are doing or condone what they are doing, but we love them as Christ loves us and forgave us of all of our sins!

Now, as Jude goes on in verse 9, he gives us an example of how they speak evil of those who are ***“glorious one”*** which the word **“dignitaries”** means.

Now this is a tough one because Jude does not give us a lot of information about this incident! All we are told is that there was a dispute for the body of Moses between Michael and the Devil!

What in the world is that all about?

I believe that this is an example of how we are to act, the character we are to manifest as Christians.

Now, obviously Moses is dead at this point of the contention and in Deuteronomy 34:5-6 we are told about Moses' death. This is what it says, **“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, opposite Beth Peor; but no one knows his grave to this day.”**

Now it says that the Lord buried Moses, and no one knows where his grave is at, not even Joshua or anyone else who was around during that period of time and not today as well!

What we do know is that there was this contention for this body of Moses!

So what was this fight all about, why did the Devil want the body of Moses?

We are not sure, but some believe it has to do with the future work of Moses.

What do I mean by that?

I mean this. Remember on the Mount of Transfiguration in Matthew chapter 17, we see Jesus transformed before Peter, James and John and with Jesus we see Moses and Elijah.

I believe Moses is one of the two witnesses spoken of in Revelation chapter 11 during the Tribulation Period, along with Elijah!

Moses represented the Law and Elijah the prophets. And as much as Moses was not to enter the Promise Land because he misrepresented God by striking the rock instead of speaking to it, God is gracious and allows Moses into the Land of Israel as one of those two witnesses in Revelation!

But again, that really is not the point that Jude is making here. He is speaking of how Michael's character was manifested. That he did not mock or tell the Devil off.

It wasn't like Michael said to the Devil, ***“Hey you in that red underwear! You're ugly! And for that matter, got out of my face. I know people and you are in trouble buddy. Let me make you a deal you can't refuse – TAKE A HIKE!”***

No, he did not say that. And yes, he will do battle one day with the Devil, casting him out of heaven according to Revelation chapter 12, but he did not bring a reviling accusation against him but let the Lord take care of it.

What did he say to the Devil?

He said, **“The Lord rebuke you!”**

Thus, we see the contrast of those men who crept into the church and how they rejected authority compared to Michael who respected those in authority and let the Lord deal with the issue, he gave it to the Lord! He did not – ***SPEAK EVIL OF DIGNITARIES!***

Thus, Jude’s purpose in bringing that incident up was to point out how that godliness respects the authority God has ordained, ***EVEN*** if that authority becomes corrupt as was the case with Lucifer. (Ezek. 28:11-19; Isa.14:12-15)

And we see this played out for us in the Scriptures.

Remember when David was on the run from King Saul, the first King of Israel. And David had a chance to kill Saul, but he refused to Kill Saul, and he had two chances to do this.

We see this played out for us in I Samuel chapters 24 and 26.

In I Samuel 24:6 we are told, **“And he said to his men, ‘The Lord forbid that I should do this thing to my master, the Lord's anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the Lord.’”**

And the second time he had a chance to kill King Saul is in I Samuel 26:9, where we are told, **“But David said to Abishai, ‘Do not destroy him; for who can stretch out his hand against the Lord's anointed, and be guiltless?’”**

Keep in mind that King Saul was not a nice guy. He disobeyed the Lord and was trying to kill David. And David did not praise Saul for what he was doing but respected the office and thus, did not - ***SPEAK EVIL OF DIGNITARIES!***

And in the New Testament Peter tells us in I Peter 2:17, “**Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.**”

Now you may be thinking, “*That must have been a great King, or I should say Emperor for them to honor this man!*”

Not at all! This man was none other than Caesar Nero and he was wicked, he was evil and yet, Peter tells us that he was to be honored, respected!

The key here is that the battle that Michael fought was all in the ***LORD’S AUTHORITY!***

I do realize that some like to make Michael as Jesus, but this is not Scriptural.

Keep in mind that Jesus rebuked the devil in ***His own*** authority, but Michael did not.

One writer put it like this, “***The point of contrast is that Michael could not reject the devil’s accusation on his own authority.***” (Bauckham)

Michael is a very powerful angel, but he is an angel, a created being!

The point Jude is making is that Lucifer was over Michael in authority (Ez.28:14) which is why Michael didn’t rebuke him - but rather said “**the Lord rebuke you.**”

And thus, Jesus is over all as the Creator of all things! (John 1:3; Col. 1:16)

JESUS IS LORD OF ALL!

Now in Jude 1:10 we see how these false teachers behave, what flows from their lives!

These men spoke boldly even about what they didn’t know and here’s the thing. If you tell a lie long enough and loud enough, you will get people to believe you.

Maybe that is why some of these televangelists scream at their people!

These men are not spiritual; they don't speak forth the things of God.

But instead, they speak forth things like brute beasts, they not only are deceptive, but they destroy people's lives!

Notice how Jude describes these apostates, these deceivers, these false teachers!

THEY ARE . . . DREAMERS!

THEY ARE . . . DEFILERS OF THE FLESH!

THEY ARE . . . REJECTING AUTHORITY!

THEY ARE . . . SPEAKING EVIL OF DIGNITARIES!

Next time, in part 2 of our study on the – ***CHARACTERISTICS OF FALSE TEACHERS***, we will be looking at three examples of what they embrace or – ***WHAT THEY HAVE . . .***

GONE THE WAY OF CAIN!

RUN GREEDILY IN THE ERROR OF BALAAM FOR PROFIT!

PERISH IN THE REBELLION OF KORAH!

We will see that next time.

Let me close with these words from Jude and this is from The Amplified Bible,

“Beloved, my whole concern was to write to you in regard to our common salvation. [But] I found it necessary and was impelled to write you and urgently appeal to and exhort [you] to contend for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints [the faith which is that sum of Christian belief which was delivered verbally to the holy people of God].”

My we earnestly contend for the faith that has been entrusted to us and not be deceived by these apostates, these false teachers!