

## The Danger of Apostates

Jude 9-11

Tonight we have come to a passage that is a bit more difficult to understand, but there is a wealth of truth in these verses as well. In fact, we are simply continuing with the same thought that Jude sought to express in the previous verses.

In our last study we finished up by discussing how the apostates of Jude's day shared the same ambitions and character traits of those who rebelled against God in previous generations. Tonight we will continue to consider the dangers presented by those who reject the truth of the Gospel and seek to satisfy themselves. Jude reveals their arrogance and reckless abandon of the ways of God. Let's dig into these verses and see what we can discover concerning: [The Danger of Apostates](#). In these verses, Jude offers words of wisdom when dealing with those who oppose truth. Notice first of all:

**I. A Word of Caution** (9) – [Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.](#) This is likely the most difficult verse in all of Jude to comprehend. He speaks of a contention between Michael, the archangel, and the devil concerning the body of Moses. This is likely something that had tormented Satan since the death of Moses. God had chosen Moses to lead the people and at his death, God buried him in secret, in order to prevent the Israelites exhuming his body. [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. \[6\] And he buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, over against Beth-peor: but no man knoweth of his sepulchre unto this day.](#) So, what does this have to do with us? Consider:

**A. The Conflict** – Jude reveals there was a contention between Michael and Satan. This has the idea of “*opposing, striving with, or disputing.*” Clearly there was an intense conflict over this issue. Apparently Satan sought to discover the body of Moses.

- We might feel as if there is little to be learned from this account, but it reveals a great and relevant truth. Michael was a servant and representative of God. Because of his association and position with the Lord, Satan strove with him. We too are engaged in a spiritual confrontation. Satan is opposed to all that is holy and righteous. He desires to deceive and defeat as many as he can. [Eph.6:12 – For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.](#) Keep this conflict in mind because it will be important in a moment.

**B. The Constraint** – When Michael was confronted by Satan, [he durst not bring against him a railing accusation.](#) These simply means that Michael did not bring “*a slanderous judgment or*

*condemnation; he did not seek to exercise dominion or administer punishment.*” We must keep in mind that Michael was not the aggressor. He is an angel of rank with the Lord and no doubt possesses great power through the Lord, but he refrained from “overstepping” his bounds. He chose not to engage Satan, but rather decided to leave that to the Lord.

- We too belong to the Lord; we have been bought with a price. The Lord loves us with an unconditional love. I am convinced that God will withhold nothing from us that we need. We possess great power with the Lord through prayer. However, we are no match for Satan. God has not called us to proclaim punishment or seek to put the adversary in his place. We would be wise to leave that to the Lord. Stay with me, I’m going somewhere.

**C. The Confidence** – Rather than continuing to engage in conflict, Michael said, **The Lord rebuke thee**. He knew this was outside his realm of authority and he chose to turn it all over to the Lord, having full confidence in Him.

- Here is the truth in all of this. Apparently there were those in Jude’s day who believed that they were spiritually superior. They acted as if they had all the solutions and there was nothing, including Satan himself, that could hinder or prevent their devious and destructive ways. Really this is tragic. They professed to have power over Satan and yet they had been enslaved by him and their lives were under his control.

- We must guard against those who possess a spiritual arrogance. I have always been leery of those who claim to have control over Satan and the powers of darkness (exorcisms, public rebukes of Satan, etc.) Often those who practice such things claim to have a new word or revelation from God.

- We are not capable of such things. We can overcome his attacks through faith in Christ; we don’t have to live in defeat, but we are not prepared to engage Satan one on one. We can do nothing apart from the Lord.

## **I. A Word of Caution (9)**

**II. A Word of Contrast (10)** – **But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves**. Here Jude reveals the contrast between the reality of their lives and that which they perceive. Notice:

**A. The Language of the Apostates (10a)** – Their words are filled with evil and animosity toward that which is good and right.

**1. It is Defiant** – **These speak evil**. The phrase **speak evil** is translated from the Greek word *blasphemeo* and means “*to speak reproachfully; to blaspheme.*” Their words reveal their hearts. They blaspheme the things of God and bring reproach to those who serve Him.

**2. It is Ignorant** – They speak evil **of those things which they know not**. The word **know** here is the Greek word *eido* and it is different from the word used later in the verse. This means to “*see, perceive, or discern.*” They speak evil of things they do not see or understand. Their hearts have been blinded to the things of God and in ignorance they blaspheme His ways.

- Isn't it tragic when people speak against things they do not understand? Many in our day speak against the things of God because their eyes have never been opened to truth. Rather than seeking to see or understand truth, they choose to continue in ignorance, blaspheming and mocking God's truth. Many among the world would have us believe that they know more about real truth than we do. They reject the saving grace of God and yet they have never experienced it.

**B. The Lives of the Apostates (10b)** – **But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves.** Now Jude describes their behavior.

**1. Their Character** – They are described as **brute beasts**. This reveals that they are “*destitute of reason, absurd, unreasonable.*” Jude declares that it is impossible to reason with them. They are opposed to truth and the Lord and they will not even listen to reason. They are so consumed in their way that they refuse to even consider truth.

- We've all met those with whom we can't reason. I have never been one to “argue” over Scripture. It is never profitable to get into a heated debate. We need to understand that those who oppose truth will not listen to truth. Most of the time they won't be quiet long enough to even give you a chance.

- When dealing with brute beasts, prayer is always the solution. You cannot reason with them or change their minds. We just need to lift them up to the Lord and allow the Holy Spirit to work in their lives. Many times, if you will not submit to their skewed perception, they will move on anyway. We cannot, however, compromise our stand for the sake of harmony with those who refuse truth.

**2. Their Corruption** – **but what they know naturally, in those things they corrupt themselves.** Here the word **know** has the idea of “*being acquainted with, or understanding.*” They defile themselves with the things they are acquainted with. Let me help you understand. They have never heard truth. They have been indoctrinated with a lie, and that is all they know. They refuse to hear truth or reason concerning truth.

- We have all met those who are consumed with the doctrines of man. Our churches are filled with legalists and Pharisees. Their doctrine is not based on biblical truth, but rather the traditions and dictates of man. These are hard to reason with. They have never been exposed to genuine truth.
- This is why it is so important to base our service to the Lord upon the precepts of His Word. I am not interested in obeying the traditions or opinions of man. I want to serve the Lord according to His Word. Many today embrace a works or water based salvation because of this deviation from God's truth.

### **I. A Word of Caution (9)**

### **II. A Word of Contrast (10)**

**III. A Word of Certainty (11) – Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.** Jude now speaks of characteristics that are apparent and condemning in the apostates. Woe unto them!  
Notice:

**A. They Reject God's Salvation – for they have gone in the way of Cain.** We all know the story of Cain and Able. They each brought a sacrifice unto the Lord. God received Able's, but rejected Cain's. Cain slew his brother because God honored Able's sacrifice. This was not so much hatred toward Able, but anger toward the Lord. Cain wanted to come to God on his terms.

- Many today seek to set their own terms and conditions in regard to salvation and serving the Lord.

**B. They Refute God's Sovereignty – and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward.** This too is a familiar story recorded in [Num.22-24](#). Balaam, the prophet, denied what he knew was true and sought to curse the people of God according to the desires of king Balak. He conspired to lead them into sin and idolatry, away from God, for financial gain and prosperity. He chose the god of riches over the God of heaven.

- There are many today, even in religious circles that deny the sovereignty of God and seek the approval of men and the treasures it brings. It is dangerous when we place more value on pleasing men and the flesh than we do serving the Lord and living in a way that pleases Him.

**C. They Resist God's Service – and perished in the gainsaying of Core.** This is a reference to one who rose up against Moses as they journeyed in the wilderness, desiring a place of

authority rather than being content to serve where God had placed him. He rallied 250 men who were famous in the congregation, men of renown with him. They believed the false teachings of Korah and followed him to their deaths as God opened up the earth and consumed them. (Num.16:1-35)

- Many times the apostate rebukes authority or anyone who does not operate in a manner that pleases him. They stand in open defiance to the man of God and the ways of God. It is dangerous to work against God's man and the will of God for a people. God didn't permit it Moses' day and He is not about to start now!
- Rebellion to authority and resistance to the truth of God are sure signs of apostasy. God has ordained His church and established the order of it. Who are we to argue with the precepts of God?

I hate to admit it, but I have dealt with some over the years who meet the description of the apostates in Jude. Times may have changed, but the adversary and mankind hasn't. We must continue to keep a watch out for those who desire nothing more than to wreak havoc on the church. As the shepherd of this flock, I am going to do my best to stand guard and resist the aggressors. I can't do it alone. I need each of you to commit to stand for truth and determine to follow God at all costs!