

THE FOLLY OF FALSE TEACHERS **(Jude 8-16)**

I. The error of false teachers (8-10, 16).

- A. Just as those in Sodom and Gomorrah, these false teachers are given over to the lusts of the flesh.
- B. Living like dreamers, in their own world, not looking at the reality of spiritual life, they first defiled the flesh.
 - 1. Defiled means to stain.
 - 2. The sins of the Gentile world were engaged in by the Gnostics.
- C. They despised dominion.
 - 1. This means they looked at authority figures with contempt.
 - 2. This could be divine or civil - but all was directed at Christ because He has been given all authority.
- D. They spoke evil of dignities.
 - 1. Anyone in authority was a target for their scorn and ridicule, specifically here in things religious.
 - 2. This was ridiculous and sinful, shown in the fact that Michael would not even act that way toward Satan.
 - a. We don't know anything more about this event than what is recorded here.
 - b. Jude says, by inspiration, that it occurred and that is all God wanted us to know about it.
 - 3. We must not speak in derogatory tones about those in positions of authority.
 - a. We may not agree with them, but we need to be careful how we speak about them.
 - b. When we fail to do, we are like brute beasts, trying to fit everything into only what we know.
 - c. We lose any spiritual blessings because we place ourselves on par with animals.
 - 4. By turning to lusts of the flesh and rebelling against authority, we make ourselves like animals.
- E. They were murmurers - upset with others for their lot in life.
- F. They were complainers - upset with anything and everything, even God.
- G. They walked after their own lusts - they lived to sate themselves.
- H. They spoke great swelling words - they flattered people with empty words in order to gain followers.
- I. They showed respect towards certain people in order to gain some advantage.
 - 1. They courted people for favor and gifts.
 - 2. One writer summed up verse 16 this way: (1) they are grumblers; (2) they are complainers; (3) they are malcontents; (4) their sole guide is their lusts; (5) they are noisy boasters; and (6) all that they do is directed to procuring some personal benefit for themselves.
 - 3. How many people do we know like this today?

II. The examples followed by false teachers (vs 11).

- A. Everyone likes examples to follow.
- B. The Gnostics, while probably not purposely choosing them, followed after some Old Testament examples of sinners.
- C. Cain is mentioned as one example they followed.
 - 1. Cain was one who followed his own thoughts.
 - 2. He rebelled against God.
 - 3. He was at one time right with God but left God.
 - 4. He hated those that stood against his innovation.
- D. Balaam is another example they followed.
 - 1. Balaam was greedy.
 - 2. Balaam was willing to forsake God to get gain.
 - 3. Balaam helped others lead God's people astray.
- E. Korah is the final one mentioned because he rebelled against the divine authority under which he lived.
- F. What also is important to notice is the end of each of these men.
 - 1. Cain was banished.
 - 2. Balaam was destroyed with the enemies of God.
 - 3. Korah was swallowed up by the earth.
- G. All three of these suffered terrible punishment because of their sins.
- H. Terrible punishment awaits all those that are in sin by being a false teacher or following one.

III. **The explanation of false teachers (vs 12-13).**

- A. Jude explains them as being spots, or as the ASV states, hidden rocks, in their love feasts.
 - 1. They are like hidden shoals or reefs that tear the bottom out of unsuspecting boats.
 - 2. They gave no warning as to their true identity when they would eat common meals with brethren.
- B. He explains them as clouds without water.
 - 1. A cloud was always looked to with anticipation of rain by farmers.
 - 2. One that brought no rain to them was useless.
 - 3. They boasted but came through with nothing but disappointment.
- C. He further explains them as trees without fruit.
 - 1. We know how our Lord treated a tree that did not produce figs.
 - 2. A fruit tree with no fruit is worthless.
 - 3. These people promised much but delivered nothing.
 - 4. Being plucked up by the roots made it clear that there was no hope of anything of value from it.
- D. Also, they are explained to be waves of a storm that leave nothing on shore but refuse and filth.
 - 1. Have you been to the seashore after a storm and seen the debris left by the waves?
 - 2. All that the Gnostics and false teachers leave is trash and destruction in their wake.
- E. Wandering star is the last explanation of the false teachers.
 - 1. Like a some type of meteorite one sees at night, we might say a

- shooting star, is the meaning here.
 - 2. They blaze for a moment but leave you unfulfilled and then plunge into darkness.
 - F. These people are destined for darkness forever.
- IV. The end of false teachers (vs 14-15).**
- A. Long ago, Enoch told us what the end of these false teachers would be.
 - 1. We don't know when Enoch made this proclamation.
 - 2. We don't know, other than by inspiration, Jude came into contact with this prophecy.
 - 3. We do know that it is accurate and fitting.
 - B. Some have said that it comes from the apocryphal book called "The Book of Enoch."
 - 1. There is no definite way to tell this is the truth.
 - 2. According to Woods, there is more proof that the Book of Enoch quoted from Jude than the other way around.
 - C. No matter what is the case, we see inspiration agrees with the words.
 - D. False teachers are going to be judged by the Lord.
 - E. The false teachers are going to be convicted of their sins.
 - 1. The sins include their deeds which they did.
 - 2. It also includes harsh and inhumane comments towards the Lord.
 - F. Enoch knew about judgment long ago and that those living in his day and later would be judged because of their sins.