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.