

The Epistle of Jude

Lesson 5

Verse 1: Identifies writer and readers

Verse 2: Greeting/Blessing

Verse 3: Purpose of Letter – Contend for the Faith

Verse 4: Two false teachings identified

Verse 5: Example—Children of Israel

Verse 6: Example—The angel rebellion

Verse 7: Example—Sodom and Gomorrah

Consider & Discuss (re: vv. 5-7)

1. What happens if any of these examples are watered down in their severity.
2. What are the reasons God chose these particular examples for Jude to record?
3. Is there a progression of thought in the examples—from one to the other, or are there three examples for emphasis?

Verse 8

Yet in like manner these people also, relying on their dreams, defile the flesh, reject authority, and blaspheme the glorious ones.

- *Yet* – in spite of what we can learn from the three examples just cited
- “*these people*” – those who have “crept in unnoticed” (v. 4)
- These people, like those cited in the Old Testament examples are
 - Relying on their dreams – “what appears in sleep” (*in + hypnos*). **Read:** Jeremiah 23:23-32
 - They defile the flesh – “to stain, tinge or dye with another color” (with sin). **Read:** 1 Corinthians 6:15-19
 - They reject authority – “to put as of no value” “lordship/dominion”
 - **Recall** biblical examples of authority rejection (as well as the outcome of the rejection)
 - Rejection of authority—specifically God’s directly or through His agents—is consistently cited in Scripture as sin, worthy of consequence, and a sign of sinful mankind’s foolishness and sin.
 - They blaspheme the glorious ones – “the glories” of Christ and all that He has revealed in His Word, i.e. the very things that these people are denying.
- **Read:** 2 Peter 2:10

Commentator Quote:

When these sacred glories are emptied of their meaning, it should not surprise us that people make jokes about Saint Peter at the pearly gates, use the word [sic] *hell* and *damn* only to pump emphasis into weak argumentation and have their value system in total disarray. When people are disconnected from God's Word and have no respect for his authority, they sink to the level of animals. What they do understand and lust after—sex, violence, pleasure—then destroys them. Alcoholism, drug addiction, gambling addiction, venereal disease, abuse, and violence in homes, on streets, and on battlefields all become inevitable. When people think like animals, they act like animals and die like animals. (Mark Jeske, *The People's Bible*, p. 333)

Verse 9

But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you."

Archangel: 1 Thessalonians 4:16 (cf. cherubim, seraphim)

Michael: Daniel 12:1-3, Revelation 12:7-8

Old Testament Context: Deuteronomy 34:1-8

What was the contention? We are only left with speculation which has no spiritual/edifying value since speculation does not equal God's Word.

Mighty archangel Michael's action when separating himself in contention with the devil was not to blaspheme and curse the devil, but to invoke the Lord: "The Lord rebuke you." (cf. Jesus and the Devil, Matthew 4:1ff, Luke 4:1ff).

What is the source of Jude's information –recorded nowhere in the Old Testament? Ultimately, from the Holy Spirit. Some speculate that Jude was quoting from a non-biblical book, perhaps, but in the end, the words were given to him by God.

What does this account of Michael's contention with the devil give us for encouragement, instruction, takeaway?