

## The Book of Jude

# Lesson 2

### Verses 11-25

- vs. 11 – the Apostates are compared to three more historical figures:
  - “way of Cain” – envy/hatred against the righteous - Genesis 4:5-14, I John 3:12
  - “error of Balaam” – willfully doing wrong for monetary gain – Numbers 22-24, II Peter 2:15
  - “gainsaying of Core [Korah]” – rebellion against God’s delegated authority – Numbers 16:1-35, 26:9-10
- vs. 12 – Much to unpack here:
  - “spots” – literally “rocks”, like hidden rocks near the shore that destroy ships.
  - “feasts of charity” – the so-called “love feasts”. I do not think this is referring to the Lord’s Supper, but rather to common meals of fellowship. Similar to I Corinthians 11:21-22.
    - Thus, we see there are dangers lurking in the gathered church.
  - “feeding” – the Greek word here (*poimaino*, Strong’s G4165) has the idea of pasturing or tending for animals. These were tending for themselves and not tending to others.
- vs. 12-13 – the description beginning with the “clouds” in vs. 12 illustrate they are spiritually dead despite any meager signs of life (Revelation 3:1). Judgment would fall upon them.
- vs 14-15 – Jude references Enoch who spoke similarly to against the Apostates of his evil day and their judgment, to reinforce his message.
- vs. 16 – Out of their own lustful hearts, these complain of their state while also pouring out praises to gain favor of the rich.
  - “Arrogance and servility are near of kin. The boaster is half-brother to the parasite.” – Pulpit Commentary
- vs. 17-18 – A reminder that they had been warned by the Apostle of the appearance of these Apostates – Acts 20:29, II Peter 3:2, etc.
- vs. 19 – like oil and water, eventually apostates separate from the true believers.
- vs. 20-21 – an exhortation to remain firmly grounded.
- vs. 22-23 – by staying strong themselves, the faithful can win some that had rejected the truth.
- vs 24-25 – the letter closes with praise for the promise that God will know and keep His own. – John 10:29-30, Romans 8:31, Ephesians 5:27

## Further Notes on vs. 14-15

- Like the story of Michael and the body of Moses in vs. 9, this is the only appearance in the Bible of this quotation of Enoch.
- Notes on Enoch
  - The short account of his life is in Genesis 5:18-24 and he is mentioned in the genealogy of Christ in Luke 3:37.
  - He is described here as “the seventh from Adam” to distinguish him from son of Cain in Genesis 4:17.
  - He was renowned among the Jews for walking with God faithfully in the wicked days before the flood.
  - He and Elijah (II Kings 2:15-18) are observed as the only two Old Testament figures that were “translated” to Heaven without a natural death.
- “Book of Enoch”
  - An apocryphal book that circulated among the Jews and early Christians.
  - It was lost to history until “rediscovered” when James Bruce brought copies of it from Ethiopia in 1773.
  - The only complete copies that have been found are in Ge’ez, an ancient Semitic language of Ethiopia.
  - Fragments of the book were found among the Dead Sea Scrolls.
  - It has five major sections what were likely written separately, perhaps over a span from 200 B.C. to 100 A.D.
  - There is little redeemable in this book and almost all branches of Christianity have deemed it as not canon.
- Did Jude quote from the “Book of Enoch”?
  - Some claim Jude quotes the Book of Enoch, and others that the Book of Enoch quotes Jude!
  - There is a compatible passage to Jude 14 in Enoch 1:9: “And behold! He cometh with ten thousands of His Saints To execute judgment upon all, And to destroy all the ungodly: And to convict all flesh Of all the works of their ungodliness which they have ungodly committed, And of all the hard things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”
  - Albert Barnes writes: “The source from which Jude derived this passage respecting the prophecy of Enoch is unknown. Amidst the multitude of traditions, however, handed down by the Jews from a remote antiquity, though many of them were false, and many of a trifling character, it is reasonable to presume that some of them were true and were of importance. No man can prove that the one before us is not of that character; no one can show that an inspired writer might not be led to make the selection of a true prophecy from a mass of traditions; and as the prophecy before us is one that would be every way worthy of a prophet, and worthy to be preserved, its quotation furnishes no argument against the inspiration of Jude. There is no clear evidence that he quoted it from any book extant in his time.”
  - Personally, I believe the prophecy of Enoch is a true quotation passed down through oral tradition that eventually became incorporated into both Jude and the Book of Enoch.
    - This process would be similar to what we saw in vs. 9.
    - The Spirit guided Jude to the truth.