

# WOE!

## Beware of False Teachers

Jude 12-13

Ezekiel 34:1-12; Matthew 16:5-12



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### A Warning to Saints (Jude 1-2; Luke 9:23)

- A saint has been called and sanctified (set apart) by God, the Father and he/she is preserved in Christ Jesus (John 10:27-28)
- A saint denies himself. He considers others more important than himself. He esteems the things of Christ over the things of the world. Serving Christ is more important to him than anything else in the world. (Hebrews 11:26; 1 John 2:15-17; 1 Peter 4:2; Romans 12:10; Philippians 2:3)
- A saint picks up his cross. A saint will suffer, but he lays down his life for his brothers and sister. (1 John 3:16). He imitates Christ's example. (1 Peter 2:21)
- A saint follows Christ. A saint is a student/disciple of Christ – he/she studies the Master's Word. He acts like Christ, as he has learned from his studies, in all situations. (1 John 2:6; Matthew 19:21; John 10:27-28; 12:26; 21:22)
- A saint chooses service/obedience to Christ over everything else: his/her family, his career, his studies, his life!!! (Luke 14:26-33)
- Saints need to be warned and saints must take God's warnings seriously.

### A Serious Call to Contend Earnestly (Jude 3-4)

- "Bad company corrupts!" "Bad doctrine corrupts!" (1 Cor. 15:33)
- This call is a call to "contend earnestly for the faith". One cannot "contend earnestly" if one does not study the faith. One must know what he/she is "contending earnestly for".
- One who says I have no time for Bible study is one who says, "I can determine for myself what truth is. I do not need God's revelation of truth." And, "I don't need God's revelation of Himself, God is Who I think He is!" "I don't have to live on every Word that comes from the mouth of God." (Luke 4:4) This is ARROGANCE.
- We are called to "contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints." "The faith" has been delivered. Saints do not have the authority to change God's Word to remain "relevant" for the culture. Culture always leads people away from God's truth.

## **Beware of Leaven** (Matthew 16:5-12)

- False doctrine is DANGEROUS and it is to be AVOIDED at all cost.
- Leaven (doctrine) of false teachers. (Matthew 16:5-12)
- BEWARE of a little leaven. (Galatians 5:9; 1 Corinthians 5:6-8)
- Leaven is very little and works invisibly throughout the whole lump!!! (Matt 13:)
- **A little false doctrine corrupts the whole.** (1 Cor 5:6; Gal 5:9; Matt 13:33) The opposite of this truth is RELATIVISM.
- False doctrine spreads like cancer or gangrene! (2 Timothy 2:17)
- We keep poisons far away from our children. Should we not do the same with false doctrine? Should we not teach our children that false doctrine is dangerous and must not be tolerated?

## **Warnings from the Past** (Jude 5-10)

- Fallen Angels
- Israelites coming out of Egypt
- Sodom and Gomorrah
- Beware of dreamers

## **WOE!** (Jude 11)

- WOE to those who have gone the way of Cain.
- WOE to those who have run greedily in the error of Balaam.
- WOE to those who have gone the way of the rebellion of Korah.

## **Describing the False Teachers** (Jude 12-13)

- Jude gives us six pictures of false teachers.
- These six pictures warn of the danger that these false teachers bring into the Church.

### ❶ **Spots, Reefs, Hidden Rocks** (2 Peter 2:13)

- Some translations call these false teachers “spots” or “blemishes” to the assembling of the saints!
  - The saints do not seem to see these teachers as “spots” or “blemishes!”
- “spots” (KJV) is σπιλάδες spilas {spee-las'} meaning “hidden reef” or “hidden rocks in the sea”
- These “rocks” can destroy and wreck a ship quickly.
- Sailors **must** keep a close look out for such rocks. (Ephesians 5:15-17)
- Water can look calm, peaceful, and safe but can have these hidden dangers under the surface!
- Saints **must** watch out for false teachers and false doctrine.
- False teachers **are** BAD COMPANY though they may look GOOD! (1 Corinthians 15:33; 2 Corinthians 11:14)
- Smooth words: Romans 16:18; Isaiah 30:10-11.

## ❷ Self-Serving Shepherds

- The word translated “serving” is ποιμαίνω poimaino {poy-mah'-ee-no} meaning “to act as a shepherd.”
- These false teachers “act” as shepherds but they do not care for those whom they “shepherd”. They are only interested in themselves and what they can get out of ministry. They are “hirelings”. (John 10:12-13)
- See Ezekiel 34 and Jeremiah 23! God pronounces a WOE on these kind of shepherds!
- Christ is the GOOD and CHIEF SHEPHERD who laid down His life for His sheep and true Christian leaders/teachers will deny themselves, pick up their crosses daily (dying to self) and **follow** Christ’s example. (John 10:11; Luke 9:23; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Hebrews 13:20-21)
- False teachers use and abuse people and people still follow them!! (See 2 Corinthians 11:20)

## ❸ Clouds without Water

- Clouds that do not produce water are disappointments to the farmer and the crops who/which desperately need water.
- False teachers, like clouds, may be attractive and have a commanding presence – but give not REAL refreshment, comfort, and edification.  
→ See Jeremiah 8:10-12; Ezekiel 13:10-15)
- False teachers **BOAST** but do not produce **TRUE** fruit (holiness; righteousness; truth; love, joy, peace, gentleness, kindness, goodness, self-control, etc. (Eph 5:9; Rom 6:22; Gal 5:22-23)
- God’s word is likened to rain. (See Deuteronomy 32:2; Isaiah 55:10)
- False teachers, like clouds without water, are **USELESS!**

## ❹ Twice Dead Fruitless Trees

- Autumn trees without fruit - (Matthew 7:15-20; 21:19; Luke 13:6-9)
- Fruitless branches are only good for the fire. (John 15:6; Matthew 7:19)
- This picture is a picture of a farmer going out to his orchard at the end of autumn to find fruit – but only finds fruitless trees! (Eph. 5:8-11)
- True teachers of God’s Word are to **FEED OTHERS** but false teacher have **NOTHING** to give. True believers bear fruit **FOR OTHERS**. (John 15:1-6; Galatians 5:22-23)
- Consider the contrast between these false teacher and the “blessed” one in Psalm 1:1-3. **Note carefully what this “blessed” one meditates on day and night!** See also Jeremiah 17:5-10.

## ❺ Raging Waves (2 Peter 2:17)

- Jude is picturing these false teachers as boastful and arrogant waves (see v. 16 for their boasting).
- Raging waves only leave garbage on the beach. Read Isaiah 57:20.

## 🕒 Wandering Stars

- Jude is not talking about “fixed” planets or stars” but “falling stars” or meteors.
- “Fixed” planets and stars can guide travelers through darkness.
- Christ is pictured in Scriptures as a STAR. (See Revelation 2:28; 22:16) If we are following CHRIST we will not stumble or get off the path. (John 11:9-10; 12:35;
- Christians are called to be shining stars in this dark world. (Philippians 2:15)
- Christians are to let their light (reflected light from Christ – the TRUE LIGHT) shine so that others might glorify God. (Matthew 5:14-16)
- Christians are to walk (live) as children of LIGHT! Children of LIGHT stick out in a dark world! (1 John 1:6-7; **Ephesians 5:8**; 1 Thess 5:5)

## Have We Heard Jude’s Warnings

- We must “contend earnestly for **the** faith”. In order to “contend earnestly for **the** faith” we must be disciples. Disciples **study**. Disciples are constantly **learning**.
- Instead of “spots” we are obligated to be examples for others to follow.
  - Be “shining stars” - Philippians 2:15
  - 1 Corinthians 11:1; John 13:15; 2 Thess 3:9; 1 Peter 2:21
- We are to BE ROOTED IN Christ. (Colossians 2:6-7)
- IF we have been “grafted in” to the ROOT and the “root” is HOLY then we are to be HOLY in all our conduct. (Romans 11:11-18; Colossians 2:7; 1 Peter 1:15-16)
- Test everything CAREFULLY because “a little leaven leaves the whole bunch”.
  - Many are being and have been misled in putting their trust in a gospel mixed with **leaven**. **A leavened gospel does not save.**
  - Satan “sprinkles” “a little leaven” knowing that it will leaven the whole bunch. (Galatians 5:9; 1 Corinthians 5:6-7; Matthew 13:33; 16:11-12; Luke 12:1)
- We must live as the “blessed man” in Psalm 1:1-3; 119:1-8
- We must be DOERS of GOD’S WORD, not man’s interpretation of God’s Word. (James 1:22; Matthew 7:21-29; 12:50; Luke 6:46-48; 11:28; John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:10, 13-14; 1 John 2:3-4; 5:3)
- Sign of the Times - after decades of following false teachers where are we?
  - Repentance not taught or encouraged. What ever happened to sin? (Luke 13:1-5)
  - Always looking for new things to make worship interesting. (Jeremiah 6:16; 18:12; 22:21; 44:16-17; 2 Timothy 4:1-4)
  - No fulness of joy! (John 15:11; 16:24; 17:13; 1 John 1:4)
  - Where’s the DOING/OBEDIENCE? (Hebrews 5:9; Matthew 7:21-29)