

JUDE'S MESSAGE PART 2 — BEWARE OF THE DREAMERS!

JAMIE MCNAB

4.11.23

RECAP: Written by Jesus' half brother.

Jude wanted to write a more uplifting letter — but saw a major problem. **False teachers had crept in by stealth ... and were perverting the Truth.**

THE CREEPS!!

Jude exhorted the saints to **CONTEND EARNESTLY** — strive energetically — to **HOLD TO THE FAITH.**

He reminded them of the severe judgment that came to:

Ancient Israel
The angels who sinned
Sodom and Gomorrah

So — WISE UP! DON'T BE COMPLACENT!

Jude 1:8-11

8 Likewise also **these dreamers** **defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries.**

9 **Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, **dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"****

10 **But these speak evil of whatever they do not know;** and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves.

11 **Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and **perished in the rebellion of Korah.****

“Dreamers” — either living in a fantasy world? Or claiming to receive prophetic “dreams” and visions?

“Likewise ... defile the flesh” — as in Sodom ... possibly the angels who fell (?) — suggests very carnal behaviour — immorality.

Although these false teachers may “look good” ... they are evil in character. (KJV refers to “filthy dreamers”)

They reject authority — because they want to be in authority! Speaking evil of authorities.

They may “look the part”. But they are self-willed! Arrogant! Likely to claim “titles” — Apostle ... Prophet ... Bishop?

2 Peter 2:9-11

9 then **the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,**

10 **and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries,**

11 **whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord.**

Jude 9: example of the Archangel Michael. **Though of great power — didn’t mock the devil. He is cautious with his words.** (Debate over Moses body is not mentioned in the Bible. Though a now lost Apocryphal book — “The Assumption of Moses” — apparently covered the story).

These false teachers should not be heeded! They know nothing of spiritual realities. Even in the natural world they get things wrong !

2 Corinthians 11:1-4

1 Oh, that you would bear with me in a little folly—and indeed you do bear with me.

2 For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For **I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.**

3 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so **your minds may be corrupted** from the simplicity that is in Christ. *(Unless you are paying attention)*

4 For **if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted— you may well put up with it!**

Crafty false teaching — very subtle.

2 Corinthians 11:12-15

12 But what I do, I will also continue to do, that I may cut off the opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the things of which they boast.

13 **For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ.**

14 **And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.**

15 **Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness,** whose end will be according to their works.

There are Ministers of the devil!

But they appear otherwise! Hence it's deception. Came in by stealth! **These false ministers are bringing dirty water — don't drink it!**

Jude 11: **Woe to them! A curse!** Jude is cursing these dreamers.

Jude then likens them to bad examples in the Old Testament:

Gone in the way of Cain

Have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit

Perished in the rebellion of Korah

No doubt familiar to his readers?

But how familiar to today's audiences? Even today's churchgoers?

Many avoid the Old Testament.

GALLUP POLL:

- Less than ½ born-again Christians can name even 5 of the 10 Commandments
- Just over ½ can identify first 4 books of the New Testament
- Only ½ know who gave the Sermon on the Mount.

AMONG THE GENERAL PUBLIC:

- 12% of adults thought that Joan of Arc was Noah's wife
- 50% of high-school graduates thought Sodom and Gomorrah were husband and wife
- Jay Leno TV audience — couldn't name a single Apostle

Jude's letter is a reminder that the Old Testament is profitable! It has valuable lessons!

Jude likens these false teachers to Cain ... Balaam and Korah.

CAIN: A few "problems" — envy ... anger ... rude (to God!) — finally — a murderer.

That's what these CREEPS ... false teachers are like — essentially — murderers (spiritually and eternally!)

1 John 3:10-12, 15

10 In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.

11 For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another,

12 not as **Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother**. And why did he murder him? **Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous.**

15 **Whoever hates his brother is a murderer**, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

BALAAM: A false prophet who was greedy for profit! Motivated by money!

Balak ... the King of Moab ... hired Balaam to come and curse Israel. God told him not to go — but — he went anyway (money!!)

On the way he argued with his donkey! The donkey saw an angel with his sword drawn!

God commanded Balaam to bless Israel — which he did 4 times — to the consternation of King Balak.

The story is in Numbers Chapters 22-24.

Although he didn't succeed on that occasion ... **Balaam was greedy enough — and devious enough — to try again.**

Numbers 31:1-2,7-9

1 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

2 **“Take vengeance on the Midianites for the children of Israel.**

Afterward you shall be gathered to your people.”

7 And **they warred against the Midianites, just as the LORD commanded Moses, and they killed all the males.**

8 **They killed** the kings of Midian with the rest of those who were killed— Evi, Rekem, Zur, Hur, and Reba, the five kings of Midian. **Balaam the son of Beor they also killed with the sword.**

9 And the children of Israel took the women of Midian captive, with their little ones, and took as spoil all their cattle, all their flocks, and all their goods.

Balaam is killed.

Numbers 31:12-16

12 Then they brought the captives, the booty, and the spoil to Moses, to Eleazar the priest, and to the congregation of the children of Israel, to the camp in the plains of Moab by the Jordan, across from Jericho.

13 And Moses, Eleazar the priest, and all the leaders of the congregation, went to meet them outside the camp.

14 **But Moses was angry with the officers of the army, with the captains over thousands and captains over hundreds, who had come from the battle.**

15 And Moses said to them: **“Have you kept all the women alive?”**

16 Look, **these women caused the children of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to trespass against the LORD in the incident of Peor**, and there was a plague among the congregation of the LORD.

Balaam advised Balak to seduce the men of Israel with fornication and idolatry. (In the resulting “plague” ... God slew 24,000 Israelites).

Israel should have known better! But yielded to temptation. (I think we know the feeling?)

Jesus Himself uses Balaam as a danger to the saints.

Revelation 2:12

12 “And **to the angel of the church in Pergamos write**, ‘These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword:

Revelation 2:14

14 But I have a few things against you, **because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam**, who taught Balak **to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.**

The Doctrine (Teaching) of Balaam.

Balaam was responsible for the deaths of many of God's people. And **money was the motive!**

2 Peter 2:1-3

1 But **there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies**, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.

2 And **many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.** (*"MANY" BRETHREN*)

3 **By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words**; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.

"By covetousness" in many translations is: "in their greed".

Weymouth: "Thirsting for riches they will trade on you".

MOTIVATED BY MONEY!!

Today ... religion is big business. A Georgetown university study in 2016 gives a conservative figure of \$378 billion annually in the US — but a more likely figure of \$1.2 trillion.

There's a lot of money out there for covetous creeps!

Jude's final comparison is the Rebellion of Korah.

KORAH: An ambitious man — who with his supporters — wanted to be pre-eminent and lead Ancient Israel.

Numbers 16:1-3

1 **Now Korah the son of Izhar**, the son of Kohath, **the son of Levi**, with Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, and On the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, **took men;**

2 **and they rose up before Moses with some of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty leaders of the congregation, representatives of the congregation, men of renown.**

3 **They gathered together against Moses and Aaron,** and said to them, “**You take too much upon yourselves,** for all the congregation is holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them. **Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the LORD?**” (*Jehovah God appointed Moses*)

Koran and 250 others. Criticising Moses?! Self important!

Numbers 16:8-11

8 Then Moses said to Korah, “**Hear now, you sons of Levi:**

9 **Is it a small thing to you that the God of Israel has separated you from the congregation of Israel, to bring you near to Himself, to do the work of the tabernacle of the LORD, and to stand before the congregation to serve them;**

10 **and that He has brought you near to Himself, you and all your brethren, the sons of Levi, with you?** And are you seeking the priesthood also?

11 **Therefore you and all your company are gathered together against the LORD.** And what is Aaron that you complain against him?”

They already served as Levites around the Tabernacle — but wanted greater honour.

Numbers 16:23-24

23 **So the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,**

24 “**Speak to the congregation, saying, ‘Get away from the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.’ ”**

Separate from them!

Numbers 16:31-35

31 **Now it came to pass, as he finished speaking all these words, that the ground split apart under them,**

32 **and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the men with Korah, with all their goods.**

33 **So they and all those with them went down alive into the pit; the earth closed over them, and they perished from among the assembly.**

34 Then all Israel who were around them fled at their cry, for they said, "Lest the earth swallow us up also!"

35 **And a fire came out from the LORD and consumed the two hundred and fifty men who were offering incense.**

All killed! All gone! In an earthquake and fire!

Jude is warning the saints of the danger of these false teachers — these "dreamers". They're cursed by God.

Like Cain ... Balaam ... and Korah.

BE ALERT! DON'T HEED THEM!

Jude 1:12-13

12 These (*dreamers*) are **spots** in your love feasts, while **they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves**. They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots;

13 raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; **wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.**

"spots" = "hidden reefs ... rocks" in Greek. Not easy to see — yet dangerous.

And **they attend your feasts with you. They're right among you — the CREEPS are there among you Church brethren!**

Bring no value. Clouds without rain — bare fruit trees.

No future! Their destiny is everlasting darkness. Probably the same as Jesus frequently mentioned — “cast them into outer darkness; there will be weeping (symbolising regret) and gnashing of teeth” (symbolising anger).

This was a real problem in Jude’s day. It is almost certainly the case today! There’s a lot of money around to promote more of these false teachers.

WE ALL NEED TO STAY ALERT! TO THE LAW AND TO THE TESTIMONY!