

The exposure of apostate teachers

Jude 5-13

We've all heard of the wolf in sheep's clothing. Last Sunday Jude showed us that apostasy *migrates* downhill in an individual: from ungodliness (rebellion/disbelief), to licentiousness (immorality), and finally to denial of key doctrines of the faith (telling God He's wrong and the apostate is right). Today Jude will pull the sheep-skin off the wolf by giving us historical examples of just this downward migration, with **three groups, and then three individuals** showing exactly that sequence. Pay attention to what the Spirit teaches here, so you don't get fleeced!

Jude's epistle is without equal in the NT for it's denunciation of apostate teachers in his day! How much more numerous, potent and influential are the apostates of today!

v5a, Jude's sermon tells us that the purpose of a sermon isn't only to teach something new, but often it is to put us in *fresh remembrance of what we already know.*

V5b, Now to the 1st *group.* Jude calls to their memory redeemed Israel in the desert. Then he points out the ungodliness, the refusal by that generation to remain under Yaweh's authority by believing all the promises. They died. The fact is, that ungodliness always results in destruction of some kind. Sometimes it is temporal, sometimes eternal.

V6, The 2nd *group,* the angels that did not keep their proper abode engaged in *moral rebellion.* They were blessed within their proper sphere but yearned, lusted for something illicit. Thus they were cast into the darkness of *Tartarus* (2 Peter 2:4), bound until the Great White Throne judgment. In the same way, apostates yearn for and finally act upon that which is immoral, because they first refuse God's authority.

V7, Sodom and Gomorrah, the 3rd *group,* were not just immoral in a general sense, their "gross immorality" was a final doctrinal declaration *acted out in prideful display* declaring that God was wrong about the relation and union between men and women and that they were right to overthrow that restrictive/narrow ordination by a stingy, uptight God.

V8-10, **The shameful interlude** – The apostates' refusal to honor proper angelic authority, including that of fallen angels, especially the Devil, and their refusal to limit their doctrine of Angelology to that which is revealed in Scripture. Rebuked/shamed by the proper behavior of Michael in relation to the Devil. **"The Lord rebuke you." - optative mood.**

V11, Jude uses 3 individuals to illustrate the 3 steps of apostasy:

- **Individual #1:** The way of **thinking** of Cain illustrates **step 1** of apostasy because Cain did not submit to God's will for him *volitionally* (his *will* was instead asserted against God's authority - **ungodly**) (v. 11). He was self-righteous.
- **Individual #2:** The way of **lusting** of Balaam illustrates **step 2** of apostasy, as Balaam advocated to Balak that the Moabites *seduce the Israelites to participate in their immoral feast.* He was **immoral:** greedy, lusting for money.
- **Individual #3:** The way of **flipping sound doctrine** by Korah illustrates **step 3, the final step** of apostasy as Korah tried to make wrong "right," and right "wrong". He was presumptuous, telling God's designated prophet, Moses, (and therefore God), that God was wrong and Korah was right..

How do we prevent apostasy? Jude urges us to, "contend earnestly for the faith"? We do this by: Yielding all areas of our will to God, Bringing our moral life to the throne of grace (1 John 1:9) for cleansing. And our thinking and doctrine to the Word for correction.