

Contend Earnestly For the Faith Which Was Once For All Handed Down to the Saints

An Expository Study of the **Epistle of Jude**

Chapter 12- The Characteristics of the Heretics **Jude 12-13**

131 The Characteristics of the Heretics- Part 9

WOSM Wednesday 05/06/08

Welcome again my beloved in Jesus Christ. We are continuing our verse by verse journey through the Epistle of Jude and today we want to continue to look at what Jude taught about the characteristics of the heretics. So, let's open our Bibles and read verses 12 & 13 of Jude again together:

Jude 12&13

12 These are the men who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted; 13 wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam; wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever.

Now today I want us to look at the second of the five characteristics of the people who come into the church of Jesus to bring in false teaching and deceive the sheep. Right after saying these men were like hidden reefs laying just under the surface of the love feast waiting to make shipwrecked to the unsuspected souls of believers, Jude said that the heretics were like:

... clouds without water, carried along by wings ...

Now the very purpose of clouds is to accumulate precipitation and then as the moisture builds up, the cloud pours rain onto the earth. That is the normal function of clouds. Rain is the normal anticipation of clouds. So, a cloud without water is a cloud that does not produce what is normally anticipated from it. A cloud without rain is an anomaly; it is strange; it is not normal.

Heretics promise so much and yet deliver so little. It is their legacy to produce no rain; it is their testimony not to produce what is expected or anticipated of them. By definition, heretics are not really saved people and thus they have no life giving power; they have no ability to actually produce life in someone who is dead. They promise life; they promise prosperity; they promise peace; they promise blessings; they promise physical healings; they promise great and mighty and good and wonderful things, but they seldom actually produce anything of any lasting value.

A heretic can give you a long drawn out prophecy, but no actual spiritual holiness will ever come from it. A heretic can show you detailed secrets of prayer or elaborate writings pertaining to healing and prosperity, but no godly fruit will ever come from it. You may make a lot of money by listening to their carnal and sensual words, but you will never find yourself in right standing with God by following the heretics.

Listen to the wisdom that God gave to Solomon about this very subject in **Proverbs 25:14:**

Like clouds and wing without rain is a man who boasts of his gifts falsely.

Now when Jude used the term, “without water” in verse 12, he was using the very same term that Jesus used to describe demon spirits over in **Matthew 12:43-45:**

43 “Now when the unclean spirit goes out of a man, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and does not find it.

44 Then it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came’; and when it comes, it finds it unoccupied, swept, and put in order.

45 Then it goes and takes along with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first.”

Now the term, *anduros* is translated here and over in **Luke 11** as “waterless places.” So, Jude was equating this “dryness” or this lack of rain in the heretics in a spiritual context and not in a natural way. When Jesus used this same term, our Lord was referring to the longing of the evil or unclean spirit to find a human being to inhabit. So, when a demon spirit is “dry” or goes through what Jesus referred

to as “waterless places,” that is the condition that the demon is as he wanders throughout the earth seeking a body to inhabit. A demon spirit is not nearly as effective unless he is inhabiting a human being. So, when he is cast out of the individual, he goes through anduros or waterless places, seeking his rest or in other words seeking another vessel to inhabit.

Now the good news is that those who are genuinely saved *cannot* be demon possessed. Saved people are forever sealed with the Holy Spirit that was promised and they *cannot* be possessed of devils. But everybody who goes to Church and lays claim to being saved, is not truly saved. So, those who attend the Church and yet are not truly saved; those who live moral lives but are not born again; those who sing in the choir but do not have the new nature; those who are nice people and good guys, yet have not received the miracle of the new birth, all of these people are subject to being possessed by demon spirits.

It is no coincidence, dear friends, that Hollywood has produced all of the vampire and occult movies in the last several years. Demon spirits; witches; monsters of evil sorts; all assist to prepare foolish and undiscerning people to be inhabited by evil spirits.

Now, I am not saying that watching a movie like that will make you possessed. What I am saying is that the more you feed on evil; the more you watch wickedness; the more you choose the occult as your choice of entertainment, you are playing with fire, and sooner or later you’re going to get burned.

It isn’t cute or funny to watch Christians pay good money that God has blessed them with and give it to the devil who is promoting things that they say they don’t believe in. Why would anyone who loves Jesus do that? Why give you money to people who hate your God so you can look at thing you don’t agree with? Why contribute to make your enemies rich and powerful? What is inside a Christian heart that would make them satisfied watching vampires suck blood out of people and watch wickedness personified and watch little children learn how to cast spells; and perform witchcraft; and what goes through the mind of a believer when they watch demon powers unleashed and devour people and watch séances and listen to the precious and holy Name of God being taken in vain and blasphemed?

Why would any genuine believer laugh at a joke that contains filth? Why would any follower of Jesus pay money to watch someone commit adultery or to take drugs or promote sin?

You are naive to think that this stuff does not affect you; it does affect you. It makes sin look attractive; it promotes wickedness; it motivates you to nod your head and agree with something or laugh at something that the Bible says is sin.

Now as it pertains to casting out devils, it does absolutely no good at all to try to cast a spirit out of someone unless that person gets saved. In fact, it may well hurt them. Without Salvation, being set free for a couple of days from some evil is only going to make the latter end of that person worse than the first. When the demon spirit sees that the house of that unsaved person has been swept clean, at least on the outside, Jesus said that demon will go and get seven more demons just like him and they all will go into that person and the words of our Lord should ring in our ears:

... the last state of that man becomes worse than the first

You see, the problem with many people today, dear friends, is that they know too much. Jesus said it would be better that you were never born than to live on this earth and not be saved. People know the right way of God, yet they choose their *own* way, but understand that there is a day of calamity coming for you. Let's read: **Proverbs 1:22-33:**

22 "How long, O naive ones, will you love being simple-minded?

And scoffers delight themselves in scoffing And fools hate knowledge?

23 "Turn to my reproof, Behold, I will pour out my spirit on you;

I will make my words known to you.

24 "Because I called and you refused, I stretched out my hand and no one paid attention;

25 And you neglected all my counsel And did not want my reproof;

26 I will also laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your dread comes,

27 When your dread comes like a storm And your calamity comes like a whirlwind, When distress and anguish come upon you.

28 "Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; They will seek me diligently but they will not find me,

29 Because they hated knowledge And did not choose the fear of the LORD.

³⁰ “They would not accept my counsel, They spurned all my reproof.

³¹ “So they shall eat of the fruit of their own way And be satiated with their own devices.

³² “For the waywardness of the naive will kill them, And the complacency of fools will destroy them.

³³ “But he who listens to me shall live securely And will be at ease from the dread of evil.”

I want to remind all of us that according to the Bible, God, not the devil, God raised up the nation of Assyria to plague Israel because Israel turned from following the Lord. The Assyrians invaded Israel and raided their towns and killed their people, took over their cities, stole their crops, occupied their homes, drank from their wells, took their women, raised their children to be pagans and cost the nation of Israel much money, much sorrow, much grief and terrible problems all because the people who knew God would not serve God; All because God’s people were sinning and enjoying it; all because God’s people were following after soothsayers and necromancers and fortune tellers and were worshipping other gods and bowing before other altars and giving their money to false teachers and were living lives of wantonness and wickedness. They had become dry; they had become clouds without water; a nation without God; a people without a head; a generation that was aimless and lost. They had lost their life and their power and their spirit and their glory and they were now wandering through waterless places.

So, God used pagan nations; God used evil things; God used horrible events to bring Israel back to her first love; back to the altar; back into right relationship with Him. This is called “remedial judgment”. Remedial judgment is a judgement from God, and it is bad, but it is remedial. God uses this type of judgment on His Own people in order to wake them up. He brings about things that forces us to see ourselves for the express purpose of making our sin and wickedness clear in our own eyes so that we may be broken, so that we may humble ourselves, so that we may repent and return to Him. So, in actuality, remedial judgement is the mercy of God at work.

And as Israel continued to rebel, the remedial judgments increased. The more wicked the people of God became and the further from Truth they wandered, the more God squeezed them. This is all done because it is more important to God that His people are right

with Him than it is that they are safe. It is more important to God that His people are in correct standing with Him that it is that they prosper or that they have nice things or that they are protected or even that they have a country or a land or cities or anything else. It is more important to God that we are holy, than that we are happy. When God squeezed Israel, the Bible say that they cried out to the Lord, but listen to the Lord's response in **Judges 10:14**:

Go and cry out to the gods which you have chosen; let them deliver you in the time of your distress.

You see, God is willing to do whatever it takes so that His people are where He wants them to be. And most who hear this would agree that God did indeed do this with Israel. But, dear friends, we must come to the same conclusion about our own nation, about our own church, and about ourselves as well. It is God, not the devil, that is squeezing this country for the very same reason that he squeezed Israel, so that His people will get to where they are supposed to be. And I tell you that the squeeze will not stop unless God's people which are called by God's Name will humble themselves and pray and seek God's face and turn from their wicked ways.

I tell you that God has raised up enemies of this nation and God is squeezing this nation because of the tens of millions of babies that have been ripped out of their mothers wombs; because of the perverted lives that we live; because of the pride and the arrogance of the American Spirit; because that we trust in gold and silver and not in god; because we trust in our military might to protect us when we don't serve God.

Beloved, now is the time to get some water. Now is the time to return to our first love. Now is the time to repent and to follow Jesus and to no longer be dry and to live for God and now is the time to earnestly contend for the Faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints. Well, I'm going to stop right here, but please join me on the next broadcast, as we continued our journey through the epistle of Jude. May God help us all.

© 2007- 2023 by Enjoying God Ministries, Inc. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America
Enjoying God Ministries, Inc. PO Box 147 Saucier, Mississippi 39574 www.covenantofpeace.net

Scripture quotations, except those noted otherwise, are from *The New American Standard Bible* © 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

This is a single transcript in a larger series of teachings taken from a verse- by- verse Journey through the **Epistle of Jude**. You are free to reproduce it and distribute it as the Lord leads you- without cost or reimbursement to us with the stipulation that you may not add anything or take anything away from this transcript without the express written permission of The Covenant of Peace Church and that this complete copyright statement be at the end of all copies.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.