

Jude 14-17

Jude's use of a written text followed by his comment and application of the text:

		WRITTEN TEXT		JUDE'S COMMENT
1.	Jude 5-7	Jude reminds readers of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Exodus generation destroyed for not keeping faith (<u>Exodus</u>, <u>Numbers</u>) Angels who locked up for leaving their place (<u>Genesis 6</u>) Sodom consumed with fire for pursuing unnatural desire (<u>Genesis 19</u>) 	Jude 8	False teachers likewise rely on dreams, defile flesh, reject authority and blaspheme the glories...they will also be destroyed, kept for judgment and be consumed with eternal fire
2.	Jude 9	Jude recalls archangel Michael contending with the devil simply saying, "The Lord rebuke you." (<u>Ascension of Moses</u> and <u>Zechariah 3:2</u>)	Jude 10	False teachers blaspheme what they do not understand and are destroyed like animals by things they do understand
3.	Jude 11	Jude selects 3 examples of behavior that guarantees judgment from the Lord: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Way of Cain (<u>Genesis 4</u>) Balaam's error of going after gain (<u>Numbers 22-25</u>) Korah's rebellion (<u>Numbers 16</u>) 	Jude 12-13	False teachers are hidden disasters, shepherd only themselves, waterless clouds blown by wind, waves of sea foaming up shame, wandering stars heading into eternal darkness
4.	Jude 14-15	Enoch's prophecy (<u>1 Enoch 1:9</u>) that the Lord is coming with his angels to judge all ungodly for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ungodly deeds Harsh words 	Jude 16	False teachers are hopeless and heading for same judgment because of deeds and their harsh words: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - grumblers - discontented - loud-mouthed boasters - flattering

Jude 14 – It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his holy ones,

4395 [e] Prophēteusen 14 Προεφήτευσεν* Prophesied V-AIA-3S	1161 [e] de δὲ Conj	2532 [e] kai καὶ Conj	3778 [e] toutois τούτοις DPro-DMP	1442 [e] hebdomos ἑβδομος Adj-NMS	575 [e] apo ἀπὸ Prep	76 [e] Adam Ἀδὰμ N-GMS	1802 [e] Henōch Ἐνώχ N-NMS	3004 [e] legōn λέγων V-PPA-NMS	2400 [e] Idou Ἴδου V-AMA-2S	2064 [e] eithen ἦλθεν V-AIA-3S	2962 [e] Kyrios Κύριος N-NMS	1722 [e] en ἐν Prep
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propheteusen is a form of **propheteuo** from two words:
 1) **prō** meaning "before"
 2) **phēmí** meaning "assert by elevating one statement over another"

40 [e] hagiais ἁγίαις Adj-DFP	3461 [e] myriasin μυριάσιν N-DFP	846 [e] autou αὐτοῦ PPro-GM3S	, - Together the word <i>propheteuo</i> means simply "to foretell". - But, can be used to refer to "foretelling future events", "declare a thing only known by divine revelation", "break forth under sudden impulse in lofty discourse", "teach, refute, reprove, admonish"
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Jude 15 – to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”

4160 [e]	2920 [e]	2596 [e]	3956 [e]	2532 [e]	1651 [e]	3956 [e]	3588 [e]	765 [e]	4012 [e]	3956 [e]	3588 [e]	2041 [e]	763 [e]
poiēsai	krisin	kata	pantōn	kai	elenxai	pantas	tous	asebeis	peri	pantōn	tōn	ergōn	asebeias
15 ποιῆσαι	κρίσιν	κατὰ	πάντων	, καὶ	ἐλέγξει	πάντας	τοὺς	ἀσεβεῖς	περὶ	πάντων	τῶν	ἔργων	ἀσεβείας
to execute	judgment	against	all	and	to convict	all	the	ungodly	concerning	all	the	works	of ungodliness
V-ANA	N-AFS	Prep	Adj-GMP	Conj	V-ANA	Adj-AMP	Art-AMP	Adj-NMP	Prep	Adj-GNP	Art-GNP	N-GNP	N-GFS

846 [e]	3739 [e]	764 [e]	2532 [e]	4012 [e]	3956 [e]	3588 [e]	4642 [e]	3739 [e]	2980 [e]	2596 [e]	846 [e]
autōn	hōn	ēsebēsan	kai	peri	pantōn	tōn	sklēron	hōn	elalēsan	kat'	autou
αὐτῶν	ᾧν	ἠσέβησαν	, καὶ	περὶ	πάντων	τῶν	σκληρῶν	ᾧν	ἐλάλησαν	κατ'	αὐτοῦ
of them	which	they have done in an ungodly way	and	concerning	all	the	harsh [things]	that	have spoken	against	Him
PPro-GM3P	RelPro-GNP	V-AIA-3P	Conj	Prep	Adj-GNP	Art-GNP	Adj-GNP	RelPro-GNP	V-AIA-3P	Prep	PPro-GM3S

268 [e]	765 [e]
hamartōloi	asebeis
ἁμαρτωλοὶ	ἀσεβεῖς
sinners	ungodly
Adj-NMP	Adj-NMP

1. “execute judgment” and “to convict”
 - a. Jesus Christ will come to “execute judgment”
 - i. This is the role of God
 - ii. This is an eschatological event promised throughout the OT and in the Gospels and NT
 - b. Jesus Christ will come “to convict”
 - i. Convict means to show someone their sin and call them to change. But, no hope here...
 - ii. This conviction or rebuke is now no longer instructive, leading to repentance or educational
 - iii. This conviction is the seal of hopelessness.
 - iv. The truth of their evil will be exposed, but there is no hope of redemption.
2. Two words used four times each:
 - a. “All” – *panton*
 - b. “Ungodly” – *asebeia, asebeo*
3. Wicked are judged for two things. Those who reject the Lord demonstrate it two ways in life:
 - a. Deeds
 - i. This was the theme for Jude 5-11, the deeds of the wicked
 - b. Words
 - i. This is the theme of Jude 16, the words of the wicked
 - ii. The words are “**harsh**” – *skleron* – meaning “hard”, “rough” and used to say
 1. “hard, violent, harsh, stern”
 2. Conveys reproach
 3. These are harsh words that are inhumane and uncivil.
 - iii. The word “harsh” – *skleron* – is also used in:
 1. 1 Enoch 5:4 where it says, “harsh words” – *sklerous logous*
 2. 1 Enoch 101:3 – “You utter bold and hard words (*megala kai sklera*) against his righteousness”

3. 1 Enoch 27:2 where judgment is pronounced against “those who speak with their mouth unbecoming words against the Lord and utter hard words concerning his glory.”
4. A quote from 1 Enoch 5:4 – “You have not done the commandments of the Lord, but you have transgressed and spoken slanderously grave and harsh words with your impure mouths against his greatness”

Jude 16 - These are grumblers, malcontents, following their own sinful desires; they are loud-mouthed boasters, showing favoritism to gain advantage.

3778 [e]	1510 [e]	1113 [e]	3202 [e]	2596 [e]	3588 [e]	1939 [e]	846 [e]	4198 [e]	2532 [e]	3588 [e]	4750 [e]	846 [e]
Houtoi	eisin	gongystai	mempsimoiroi	kata	tas	epithymias	auton	poreuomenoi	kai	to	stoma	auton
16 Οἱτοί	είσιν	γογγυσταί	μεμψίμοιροι	, κατὰ	τὰς	ἐπιθυμίας	αὐτῶν	πορευόμενοι	; καὶ	τὸ	στόμα	αὐτῶν
These	are	grumblers	discontented	after	the	lusts	own	following	and	the	mouth	of them
DPro-NMP	V-PIA-3P	N-NMP	Adj-NMP	Prep	Art-AFP	N-AFP	PPro-GM3P	V-PPM/P-NMP	Conj	Art-NNS	N-NNS	PPro-GM3P

2980 [e]	5246 [e]	2296 [e]	4383 [e]	5622 [e]	5484 [e]	opheleia , /o-fel'-i-ah/ meaning "assistance, profit, benefit, advantage"
lalei	hyperonka	thaumazontes	prosopa	opheleias	charin	
λαλεῖ	ὑπέρογκα	θαυμάζοντες	πρόσωπα	ὀφελείας	χάριν	
speaks	great swelling [words]	flattering	faces	profit	for the sake of	
V-PIA-3S	Adj-ANP	V-PPA-NMP	N-ANP	N-GFS	Prep	

1. Two things the false teachers do:
 - a. Ungodly words
 - b. Ungodly deeds
2. The ungodly words were identified as:
 - a. “fault finders” – *mempsimoiros* – this was a character in Greek plays that was never happy. They want what they do not have. Never satisfied with what happens. In winter they like summer, but in summer they want winter.
 - i. It’s a critical attitude
 - ii. It’s habitual complaining
 - iii. The false teachers were quick to find fault and weakness in others and the Lord
 - b. “grumblers” – *gongustes* /gong-goos-mos/ -
 - i. this is an onomatopoeic / aa-nuh-maa-tuh-po-ic/ word (a word that phonetically imitates, resembles the sound it describes such as “bang”, “coo”, “bubble” in English).
 - ii. In the Greek *gongustues* /gong-goos-mos/ imitates the low, muttering, murmuring sound of a grumble.
 - iii. “Grumbling” is the distinguishing character trait of a man without God
 1. Grumble about their lot in life
 2. Grumble about their luck
 - iv. Paul used this word to describe the grumbling of the Exodus Generation in 1 Corinthians 10:9-10 -
 “We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer.”
 - v. Philippians 1:14-15 – “Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.”

3. Enoch’s prophecy was the announcement of the fate of men like this who were “fault finders” (never happy, never satisfied) and “grumblers” (complaining about their place in life, upset about how things happen)
4. The thing that drives, motivates, provides priority for these false leaders is:
 - a. By following their own sinful desires
 - b. Literally, “they live by their passions”
 - c. Self is all that matters
5. Believers should be motivated by God’s desire, God’s purpose, God’s goals, God’s priorities. These men are driven by the lower passions of the evil nature of man.
6. The heretics in the church do two things with their words:
 - a. “Boast about themselves”
 - i. Their praise (positive comments) of themselves is to promote themselves
 - ii. Literally: “their mouths speak haughty (bombastic) words”
 - iii. “boastful” or “great swelling” is from *hyperonka* /hoop-er-ong-kos/ which means “of excessive weight”, “of excessive size”. *Hyperonka* is used to say “immoderate, boastful, excessive, pompous”
 - iv. This is the word used to describe Antiochus Epiphanes and the Antichrist in:
 1. Daniel 7:8-11 – *“I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots. And behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things.”*
 2. Daniel 11:36 – *“And the king shall do as he wills. He shall exalt himself and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak astonishing things against the God of gods. He shall prosper till the indignation is accomplished; for what is decreed shall be done.”*
 - v. The false teachers boast of themselves over and against God.
 - b. “Flatter others for their own advantage”
 - i. Their praise (positive comments) of others is to manipulate people into a position that is most favorable for the false teachers/leaders.
 - ii. Literally “honoring faces for the sake of advantage”
 - iii. Disregard for God leaves a man fearing men and their opinion. Fear of God drives out the fear of man.
 - iv. James 2:1 – *“My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory.”*
7. Since it is clear there is something to be gained by the false teachers within Jude’s churches it is then clear the people in these churches were not poor, suffering or in need. The people being led astray were people that had something that could be taken from them by the self-serving false teachers. The false teachers spoke against God and manipulated the people to promote themselves over God and gain the “possessions” of the people.
8. Paul writes to the Thessalonians in 2:5-6 - *“For we never came with words of flattery, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness. Nor did we seek glory from people, whether from you or from others, though we could have made demands as apostles of Christ.”*

False Teachers, Heretics	True Shepherd, Servant of God
godless	righteous
practice impiety	practice justice

Jude 17 - But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ.

4771 [e]	1161 [e]	27 [e]	3403 [e]	3588 [e]	4487 [e]	3588 [e]	4302 [e]	5259 [e]	3588 [e]	652 [e]
Hymeis	de	agapētoi	mnēsthēte	tōn	rhēmatōn	tōn	proeirēmenōn	hypo	tōn	apostolōn
17 Ὑμεῖς	δέ ,	ἀγαπητοί ,	μνήσθητε	τῶν	ῥημάτων	τῶν	προειρημένων	ὑπὸ	τῶν	ἀποστόλων
You	however	beloved	remember	the	words	-	having been spoken beforehand	by	the	apostles
PPro-N2P	Conj	Adj-VMP	V-AMP-2P	Art-GNP	N-GNP	Art-GNP	V-RPM/P-GNP	Prep	Art-GMP	N-GMP

3588 [e]	2962 [e]	1473 [e]	2424 [e]	5547 [e]
του	Kyriou	hēmōn	Iēsou	Christou
τοῦ	Κυρίου	ἡμῶν	Ἰησοῦ	Χριστοῦ ,
of the	Lord	of us	Jesus	Christ
Art-GMS	N-GMS	PPro-G1P	N-GMS	N-GMS

1. The readers are called “beloved” which indicates they are loved by God and are in a relationship:
 - a. Their relationship (beloved) is established by a covenant (New Covenant).
 - b. They are secure and favored.
 - c. But, they are facing serious opposition from leadership that is hopeless and already condemned.
 - d. There are two groups in this letter:
 - i. The New Covenant believers, or the true church, preserved for glory.
 - ii. The false shepherds (false teachers, heretics) who are hopeless and destined for darkness

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We see three phases concerning false teachers:

1. **The warning** that false teachers are coming (28-57 AD)
2. **The battle** within the Church against the false teachers (49-64 AD)
3. **The "victory"** of the false teachers over the apostles in the Churches (64-96 AD)

Three Stages of Interaction with False Teachers in the New Testament Church of the First Century		
Warning of Coming False Teachers	Confrontation of Apostle's with False Teachers	Churches Lost to the False Teachers
28-57 AD	49-64 AD	64-96 AD
Matthew 7:15, 21-22 John 10; Mark 13:5 Acts 20:29-30	Galatians 1:6-7, 10 Galatians 5:7-8, 10 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2 2 Corinthians 11:4-5 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 Ephesians 4:14 Philippians 3:1-3 Colossians 2:4 Colossians 2:8 1 Timothy 1:3-4 1 Timothy 6:3-5, 9-10 Titus 1:10-11 Titus 1:13-14	2 Peter 2:1, 17-19 2 Peter 3:16 Jude 3-4 Jude 12-13 2 Timothy 1:15, 17-18 2 Timothy 4:10, 16 1 John 4:1-6 2 John 7, 9-11 3 John 9-10 Revelation 2:2-3, 6, 9, 14-16 Revelation 2: 20, 24-25 Revelation 3:1-2, 8-9, 17, 20

The Warning of the Rise of False Teachers:

Jesus in 28 AD:

Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. . . Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven... Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers.'(Matthew 7:15, 21-22)

Jesus in 29 AD:

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away

Paul in 57 AD:

I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard! (Acts 20:29-30)

The Battle with the False Teachers in the Apostles' Churches

As the early church began to take root and grow in its first 30 years (30-60 AD) the Apostles found themselves constantly in conflict with new, rising church leaders who tried to adapt the Christian message to worldly philosophies or pagan religions. Church leaders found it easier to present Christianity if they first took the edge off and made the Christian faith more relevant.

49 AD:

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel – which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ...Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? (Galatians 1:6-7,10)

You were running a good race. Who cut in on you and kept you from obeying the truth? That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you... The one who is throwing you into confusion will pay the penalty, whoever he may be. (Galatians 5:7-8,10)

51 AD:

We ask you, brothers, not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come. Don't let anyone deceive you in any way. (2 Thessalonians 2:1-2)

55 AD:

For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough. But I do not think I am in the least inferior to those 'super apostles. (2 Corinthians 11:4-5)

For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve. (2 Corinthians 11:13-15)

60 AD:

Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. (Ephesians 4:14)

61 AD:

It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you.. Watch out for those dogs, those men who do evil, those mutilators of the flesh. For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh. (Philippians 3:1-3)

62 AD:

I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments. (Colossians 2:4)

See to it that no one takes you captive, through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ. (Colossians 2:8)

63 AD:

As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain men not to teach false doctrines any longer nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. These promote controversies rather than God's work – which is by faith. (1 Timothy 1:3-4)

If anyone teaches false doctrines and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, he is conceited and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions and constant friction between men of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain... People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction... Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. (1 Timothy 6:3-5, 9-10)

64 AD:

There are many rebellious people, mere talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision group. They must be silenced, because they are ruining whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach – and that for the sake of dishonest gain. (Titus 1:10:11)

Rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith and will pay no attention to Jewish myths or to the commands of those who reject the truth. (Titus 1:13-14)

The “Victory” of False Teachers in the Churches of the Apostles

The New Testament ends with Paul, Peter, John and Jude dealing with false teachers in the Christian community. This was very different from the problem of persecution they faced from their pagan culture early on, but it was bad in a new way. The cancer of false teaching within the local churches came from men the Apostles knew. The false teaching presented to the Church came through men who claimed to be believers in Jesus Christ. This false teaching threatened the life and health of the young body of Christ the Apostles had started.

By 62 AD the Apostles were being personally rejected by the Churches they had started and replaced by false teachers. This practice continued up through 85 AD and on into 96 AD when the Apostolic testimony came to a close. Hear the Apostles' own word of testimony concerning false teachers gaining prominence over the apostolic authority even while the Apostles still wrote letters to these churches:

Peter quotes the teaching of Jesus (and Paul) that predicted the rise of the false teachers. These false teachers are described by Peter as active in 64 AD in the Churches in the area of modern Turkey:

“There were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. . . These men are springs without water and mists driven by a storm. Blackest darkness is reserved for them. For they mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of sinful human nature, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error. They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity.” (2 Peter 2:1, 17-19)

Peter comments on how church leaders were treating Paul's letters and teaching in 64 AD:

“[Paul's] letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.” (2 Peter 3:16)

Jude is compelled to write a letter refuting false teachers in 64 AD:

“Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.” (Jude 3-4)

Jude identifies the characteristics of the false pastors in church leadership in 64 AD:

“These men are blemishes at your love feasts, eating with you without the slightest qualm - shepherds who feed only themselves. They are clouds without rain, blown along by the wind; autumn trees, without fruit and uprooted – twice dead. They are wild waves of the sea, foaming up their shame; wandering stars for whom blackest darkness has been reserved forever.” (Jude 12-13)

Paul rebukes the Church leadership of Asia and identifies two deserters by name in 67 AD:

“You know that everyone in the province of Asia has deserted me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes.” (2 Timothy 1:15)

Paul identifies by name two false teachers in Ephesus and describes their false doctrine in 67 AD:

“Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have wandered away from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some.” (2 Timothy 2:17-18)

Paul comments on a member of his ministry team in 67 AD:

“Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica.” (2 Timothy 4:10)

Paul writes concerning the lack of legal support in court from the Church leaders in Rome in 67 AD:

“At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them.” (2 Timothy 4:16)

John warns the Churches of Asia to not trust every traveling teacher in 85 AD:

“Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.” (1 John 4:1)

John writes concerning teachers in the Church in 85 AD with the spirit of anti-christ that were laying the doctrinal foundation for the future anti-christ:

“This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the anti-christ, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.” (1 John 4:2-3)

John distinguishes the seeker-church message from the believer’s message in 85 AD:

“They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.” (1 John 4:5-6)

John identifies the false teachers who traveled to churches and evangelized the world in 85 AD:

“Many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the Antichrist.” (2 John 7)

John warns of traveling teachers who bring a false message that is beyond the Truth in 85 AD:

“Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take him into your house or welcome him. Anyone who welcomes him shares in his wicked work.” (2 John 9-11)

John identifies a church leader in Asia who will not let John teach in the Church and slanders John and his ministry in 85 AD:

“I wrote to the Church, but Diotrephes, who loves to be first, will have nothing to do with us. So if I come, I will call attention to what he is doing, gossiping maliciously about us. Not satisfied with that, he refuses to welcome the brothers (traveling teachers trained and sent out by John). He also stops those who want to do so and puts them out of the Church.” (3 John 9-10)

In 96 AD John wrote seven letters of correction to the Churches in Asia. These letters were written sixty-six years after the Church began in Jerusalem and forty-two years after Paul began these same Gentile churches in Asia:

- **In Ephesus in 96 AD** the false apostles attempting to bring updated doctrine with a more relevant message had been identified, tested and rejected. Also, a heretical group called the Nicolaitans who understood the advantage of a compromise between the salvation message and the cultural standards had also been rejected: *“I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false... You hate the*

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- **In Ephesus in 96 AD** the false apostles attempting to bring updated doctrine with a more relevant message had been identified, tested and rejected. Also, a heretical group called the Nicolaitans who understood the advantage of a compromise between the salvation message and the cultural standards had also been rejected: *“I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false... You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.”* (Revelation 2:2-3, 6)
- **In Smyrna in 96 AD** the true church was being slandered by a group of imposters claiming to be the true people of God: *“I know the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.”* (Revelation 2:9)
- **In Pergamum in 96 AD** the Church was tolerating two identified forms of false teaching. One was an early prosperity message called “the teaching of Balaam” that apparently justified paganism in the Church because it created church growth and increased offerings. The second false teaching accepted in the Church was from a group called the Nicolaitans. The supporters of this method of “doing church” were hated in Ephesus by both the Church and Jesus. The Nicolaitans had conformed their church to their pagan world by developing a compromised doctrine of salvation that allowed for a continuation of immorality and idol worship (false philosophy): *“You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality. Likewise you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. Repent therefore!”* (Revelation 2:14-16)
- **In Thyatira in 96 AD**, for the sake of convenience and in order to maintain unity, the Church was tolerating a teaching prophetess whose mysticism was uncovering deep secrets from the spiritual realm that led the Church to sin sexually and to sacrifice to idols: *“You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols... Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan’s so-called deep secrets, ‘I will not impose any other burden on you, except to hold on to what you have...’”* (Revelation 2:20, 24-25)

- **Sardis in 96 AD** was a church with a reputation for good deeds, but the Church was dead. The “good deeds” were merely a form of social activism approved by men (public services, community centers, basketball leagues, bake sales for youth trips, etc.), but void of any spiritual value in God’s sight. *“I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up!”* (Revelation 3:1-2)
- **In 96 AD Philadelphia** was a church with little material strength in the midst of prospering churches and growing religious groups that called themselves the people of God yet denied his name and compromised his Word. The faithful church was weak among the more powerful compromised churches (or, “Titanic churches”), but still spiritually faithful and approved by Jesus: *“I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars – I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you.”* (Revelation 3:8-9)
- **In Laodicea in 96 AD**, false teachers had completely compromised the Truth and rewrote spiritual reality. They had shipwrecked their faith, but did not know their church had already shattered into pieces, and was adrift in the icy sea of false philosophy and deviant standards of spiritual success. Despite their extravagant success and popularity, Jesus himself had left this church: *“You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked...Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.”* (Revelation 3:17, 20)

The Worst of the False Leadership with Corrupt Teaching is Yet to Come

Both Jesus and Paul clearly indicated that the worst days of confusion and church corruption would be the final days. Paul said the false teachers would go from bad to worse: *“In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.”* (2 Timothy 3:12-13)

Both Peter and Jude taught that false teachers would continue to prosper until ultimately they denied the Lord’s Second Coming in the very days directly preceding the return of Jesus: *“First of all, you*

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