

# 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**

### 132 The Characteristics of the Heretics- Part 10

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WOSM Thursday 05/08/08

Welcome again my beloved in Jesus Christ. We are continuing our verse by verse study of the Book of Jude and we are now at the point where we are going to examine the characteristics of the heretics. So, let's read verses 12 & 13 of Jude again together:

#### **Jude 12&13**

**12 These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots;**

**13 Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.**

Now we are continuing to examine the second of the five characteristics of the heretics that Jude showed us in the middle part of verse 12:

**... clouds they are without water, carried about of winds;**

Jude says that the heretics who creep into the church to deceive the simple are like clouds with no rain- carried about of winds. You see, Jude knew that human beings are like dry parched ground needing periodic rain. We human possess no moisture in and of ourselves that will facilitate life- so we need rain. We need rain in the natural to grow our crops and we need rain in the spiritual to nourish our dry souls. Look what David said in **Psalms 143:6**:

**I stretch forth my hands unto thee: my soul thirsteth after thee, as a**

**thirsty land. Selah.**

God knows that we need spiritual rain to quench our thirst, so he told Moses in **Deuteronomy 32:2:**

**My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass:**

So, we as God's people need this holy rain and God knows that and so God provides the rain that we need. But the devil knows this too and so his ambassadors come into the Church as clouds- having the *appearance* that they too can give us the rain that we need.

Because we are like sheep and are easily led- these false clouds fool us because of their appearance and we welcome them because we reason to ourselves, *"I am thirsty and there is a cloud that looks like it is filled with the rain that I need. I will go to that cloud, and I will sit underneath it and that cloud will give me the rain that will nourish my soul"*

Only the cloud that Jude talks about here has no water to give. It only has the *appearance* of having water- but in reality, it is an empty and vacant cloud.

You see, dear friends, false teachers produce no rain. This is the point of what Jude is telling us. False teachers *cannot* give what we need because they themselves do not possess it. Not only is their teaching empty- but they are personally empty themselves. They make a great show and promise great and mighty things, but they cannot deliver on their promises because they contain no spiritual water to give. Solomon spoke of this in **Proverbs 25:14:**

**Whoso boasteth himself of a false gift is like clouds and wind without rain.**

The heretics deceive people on the basis of their promises- not what they actually deliver. They promise things and make fantastic claims and talk about very elaborate dreams and visions all so that they can achieve spiritual credibility- but they are not able to deliver on those promises because no human is in charge of spiritual matters.

These false teachers claim to have special spiritual gifts that allow them to "see" things and "hear" things and "provide" things and "give" things and "do" things that the ordinary person cannot do. So

weak minded and undiscerning sheep listen to the made up claims of the heretics and because they themselves are desperate- they are fooled into thinking that this person can provide them with what they have need of- but that is a lie from hell.

It is a combination of the false claims that the heretics make mixed in with the desperation of the sheep that make false teachers popular- not the fact that these people actually deliver on their promises. It is in fact one of the most horrible and disgusting acts of deception that a human being can perpetrate on another human being- and I really don't understand how anyone could ever be that cruel to other people.

No man who is born of woman can promise divine healing for everyone under every condition. That is because we cannot possibly know God's Will in every circumstance. That is simple not found anywhere in Scripture and the people that have become wealthy by guaranteeing these things are in fact deceiving people.

God Almighty and God Almighty alone is in charge of healing and it is a false statement to say that any human being has a special insight or a special hot line or special hot hands or any kind of special anointing to promise anyone that if only they will do certain things, they will be healed all of the time. That is one of the most cruel things that anyone could ever do to a sick person.

Beloved, we must remember this one basic fact about God and about the Nature and Character of God. God is Sovereign and God is Sovereign about all things, and He is Sovereign all the time. I encourage you to begin a study on the Sovereignty of God. If you need help about this issue- I will be glad to help you and give you material about one of the most important issues that is in the Bible.

The Sovereignty of God is the prime theological and Doctrinal issue of the entire Bible. Without a clear Biblical understanding of this one single Doctrine- your view of Salvation; your view of Divine Healing; of Natural Disasters; Suffering Trials and Tragedies will be off base, and you will have holes and inconsistencies in your theology that will come back to hurt you later on in life. If you haven't heard anything else I have said during this entire study of Jude- hear this- take the time- make the time- to begin today a complete and thorough Bible Study on the Absolute Sovereignty of God.

My Christian brothers and sisters, God heals the sick bodies of human beings today just like He has always healed the sick bodies of human beings. Thank God for that. God's Power to heal has not been diminished; His Glory has not been reduced; His ability has not been tarnished. Miracles and Healings and Signs and Wonders and Salvation come from the Miracle Maker and God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. That is absolutely true.

But what is also true is that God is Sovereign. God heals sick bodies according to His Own good Pleasure; according to His Own Sovereign Will and according to what will bring Himself Glory- not simply because we desire it. God doesn't share that good Pleasure with anyone. Like Salvation- healing is not based upon human works- it is totally and completely based in God's own Good pleasure. We do not contribute to Healing anymore than we contribute to Salvation.

It is flat out not true that God operates according to predictable patterns. You cannot program or predict or plan out God. God doesn't operate on our timetable. God is not bound by our schedule. He is God and He answers to no one, and He is in total and complete charge of His own Creation and He doesn't need any help from any man- thank you very much.

In **Matthew 8**, Jesus just spoke a word and healing occurred. But in **John 9:6** our Lord spit on the ground and made mud and rubbed that mud in the blind man's eyes and told him to go wash in the pool of Siloam. Why did He do that? Why didn't Jesus just speak to the blind man in **John** like he did to the man in **Matthew**?

Because God is not going to allow any man to predict and program and calculate His Sovereign actions. Jesus baffled people all the time and just about the time that people thought that they had Him figured out- He would do something to throw them off again.

During the time that Mel Gibson was making his film about Jesus' Crucifixion, the ungodly Jews in Hollywood and other people who don't know the Bible got into a big public debate about who killed Jesus. Did the Jews kill him or was it the Romans?

These people forget that God is Sovereign. Neither the Jews nor the Romans killed Jesus. Jesus said in **John 10:17-18**:

**17 Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.**

**18 No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.**

Jesus was in total and complete charge the entire time that He was on the Cross. He could have come down any time He wanted to. He could have called for ten legions of angels to come and destroy not only the Roman garrison around Jerusalem, but Jesus could have commanded an army of angels that would have annihilated the entire Roman empire.

Jesus hung and bled and died on the Cross because He wanted to. He hung there for Love and He hung there out of His great and total devotion and obedience to His Father and because of His knowledge that it was His Father's Will for Him to drink from that bitter cup.

So, while it is true that God is steadfast and reliable and trustworthy- it is flat out not true that we can learn those Sovereign patterns and predict when and where and how and why God will heal or perform miracles. That is not found in Scripture.

Healing is not based upon what we do- healing is based upon what God does. Salvation is not based upon what we do- Salvation is based upon what God does. You didn't get healed because that special someone laid his hands on your head- you got healed because God healed you out of His own good Mercy and Pleasure. That man deserves not one bit of your praise for your healing- God deserves all praise and all honor and all glory and it is wrong for any man to rob God of the praise and honor and glory that God he alone is entitled to receive. It speaks volumes about the condition of their heart when the false teachers will accept thanks for something that they didn't do.

We must remember that physical healing is not a reward for something that you have done. And we also must know that sickness is not punishment for some sin you committed. Our bodies get sick because our bodies are not saved. Our souls are saved- but our bodies are still cursed and 100% of every single human being born of woman will die- whether they are saved or lost. That is why we will get a new body in Glory. So please know that Man is not in charge of healing- God is. Your faith didn't activate God to heal you. God healed you because He wanted to, and God doesn't heal because in His own

Wisdom and in His own Sovereign prerogative- He has chosen not to. That is His Sovereign right as Master and Creator.

Healing and Miracles and Signs and Wonders and Salvation are all works of a Sovereign God and God periodically manifests His Glory for His own purposes- not ours.

It is a result of the fact that we are rebellious and fallen creatures that we want to think that God is dependant in any way upon us in order to do what He wants to do. It is our fallen pride and arrogance that causes us to think that God needs anything from us in order to save or to heal or to move in the earth.

Beloved, the Bible is clear- God waits for no one; God needs no one. God is fully contained and totally complete in and of Himself. He didn't save you because He needs you- no, God doesn't need anyone or anything. God saved you because before the foundation of the earth He wanted you- so He chose you and He set his love upon you and then He went after you- even when you didn't want Him- and He sent His Son to die for you and His Spirit began to draw you and convict you and convince you and then He visited you and He opened your eyes so that you could see and He unstopped your ears so that you could hear the Gospel and he gave you a new heart so that you could believe and then you were able to trust Him for Salvation.

Oh, I tell you that God is Sovereign and that means that He is not lonely; He is not afraid; He doesn't stop and think, He doesn't worry; He isn't ever at a loss of what to do; He doesn't panic; He is never nervous; He doesn't worry; He never forgets; and He is always right on time.

God is always in complete charge of everything that He made, and He is the source of all things whether they be good or bad. It is God that makes the flowers to bloom, and it is God that makes a hurricane. It is God that causes the wind to blow, and it is God that creates tidal waves that kills hundreds of thousands of people. God is Sovereign- if we could ever grasp that one solitary Truth- it would revolutionize our lives- God is Sovereign. He is Omnipotent- He is all powerful; He is Omniscient- He know everything about everything; God is Omni Present- He is all over the world at the same time; moving and answering even the prayers that are whispered; and our God is Effectual- that means that God doesn't just know that things

are going to happen- but that means that God goes out and makes what He wills to happen.

The clouds without water want to rob God of his Glory. They make fantastic claims that they cannot deliver on. Simple and Undiscerning people are deceived by the claims made by these waterless clouds, and this is why we need to know the Truth- so that the Truth will make us free, and this is why we all need to earnestly contend for the Faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints. May God help us all.

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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.