

Jude 16 - Apocryphal Eschatology?

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Jude 14-15

Prologue - Metaphoric Language: Hidden Rocks

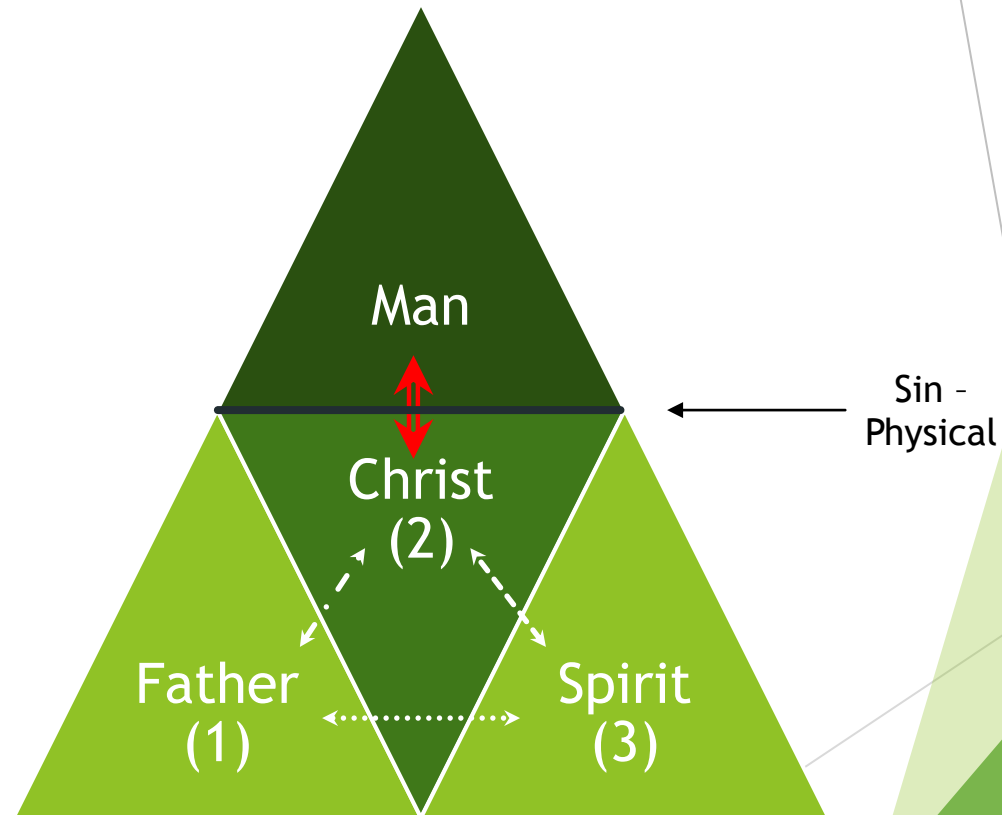
- ▶ Satan *mimics* Christ whom he rebelled against; hence, restless seas is a metaphor of Satan's and sinner's relentless rebellion against God (Job 38:8-11; He 1)
 - ▶ Christ is the Rock from which water flowed in the Wilderness (Ex 17:1-7; Nu 20:1-13; 1Co 10:1-7)
 - ▶ Whereas Christ is visible, False Teachers hidden in restless seas luring you to make shipwreck of your faith as Hebrews in the Wilderness (1Ti 1:18-19; He 3:7-18)
 - ▶ False Teachers insidiously inject their errors at the Ἀγάπαις appealing to your fleshly morality to question God's Word (Ge 3:1; Mk 10:18)
 - ▶ Like Absalom, these false shepherds, who feed themselves at your expense, profer their solutions as better than teachings of faithful pastors (2Sa 15:1-6; Ez 34:1-10)
 - ▶ Wolf in Sheep's clothing is not the wolf disguising himself as a sheep; Wolf murders the sheep for his fleshly purposes versus protecting them {Cain} (Mt 7:15-20; Jn 10:1-18)
 - ▶ False Teachers, Wolves, produce divisions destroying the church body (Re 2:14-16, 20-23)

Prologue - Metaphoric Language: Wanders without Hope

- ▶ False Teachers cannot offer what they do not possess; they are creatures of this creation rejecting God's image; they forsake *new Earth* (Ro 1:18-28; Re 21:1-8)
- ▶ They are *wild* waves driven by Satanic forces announcing their own shame while calling themselves wise raging against God's boundaries (Da 7:1-2; Re 12:17b)
- ▶ They are *wandering stars* {ἀστέρες ἡ πλανῆται} in the gloomy blackness
 - ▶ Reference to Cain who *wandered* to land of *wanderers* to build first government, empire building; establishing home here and not in world to come (Ga 4:21-31; He 11:8-10)
 - ▶ Stars offer hope, light; these give dark light; people referred to as stars (Ge 22:15-18; 37:9; Mt 6:22-23)
 - ▶ Eternal Darkness, Fire, reserved for them: Judgment (Mt 8:10-12; Re 20:10-15)
- ▶ Christ is True Light who overcame Darkness through His sacrifice for sin for **you**; avoid False Teachers by studying Bible learning discernment {Maturation} (Jn 1:1-18; He 5:11-14)

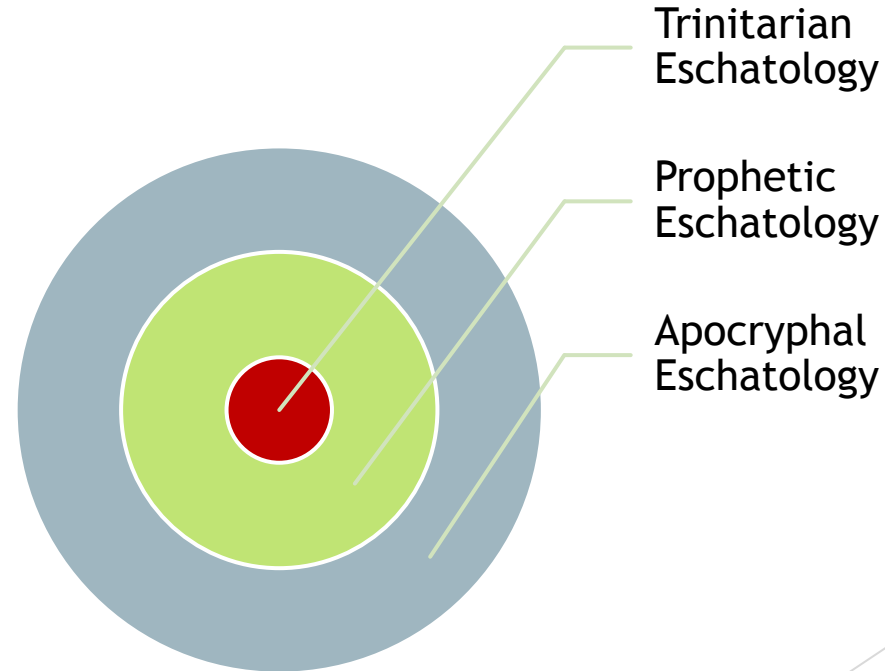
Biblical Relationships: Sin - Gnosticism Bypasses Christ

- ▶ Christ Creator of ALL; i.e., Heaven
(Jn 1:3; Col 1:16)
- ▶ Father-Spirit-Angels-Satan/Demons are spirits; Man-Son are Physical
(Jn 4:23-24; He 1:14)
- ▶ Man and this Creation built on spiritual foundation (He 11:3)
- ▶ Man sinned creation fell; but sin & physical **not** conflated; inferior
(Ge 3:1-8; Ro 8:19-22; 1Ti 2:14)
- ▶ Christ intercessor (High Priest) by His Blood between God & Man:
(Jn 14:6; 1Ti 2:5)
- ▶ Gnosticism appeals to *higher spiritual knowing* bypassing Christ; Man aspiring to be spirit {Evolution}



Eschatology: Last Things (Days) Views

- ▶ Eschatology runs throughout Bible; linked to the Gospel: ALWAYS
- ▶ Trinitarian Eschatology planned by Father, revealed by Son and worked out by Spirit-Angels (He 1:14)
- ▶ Prophetic Eschatology is the Old Testament {Dim} (Is 6:9-13; He 1:1)
- ▶ Son *alone* reveals New Covenant Eschatology {Via Pa, Pe, Jn} (1 Co 13:12; He 1:2)
- ▶ Lost-Immature Christians developed Gnostic Apocryphal Eschatology
- ▶ Replaces historical intervention w/ *spiritual* intervention {Allegory}



Allegorical Gnosticism: Very Brief Overview

- ▶ Allegorical interpretation, basis of Gnosticism and other *...isms*, developed to explain why history did not unfold as expected; i.e., man's religious beliefs
 - ▶ Historically attributed to the Greeks and probably began with Pythagoras through Socrates-Plato to explain why gods-goddesses did not save Hellenism
 - ▶ Jewish unbelief present since Mount Horeb, Golden Calf, became extant with Babylonian Captivity; rise of Talmudic literature *explaining* God working spiritually
 - ▶ Ignored Prophetic Eschatology before, during and after Captivity {Is, Ez, Ze, etc.}
 - ▶ Jews escaping to Alexandria, sin, absorbed Greek allegory beginning in 3rd century BC
 - ▶ Christianity influenced by allegory, via Origen, and Gnosticism, via Valentinus, 2nd century AD onward; new variants constantly resurface as *new* or *modern* (Ec 1:9-11)
- ▶ Allegory, *hidden knowledge* {Gnosticism} *reexplains* Bible assigning man-centric meanings to words or concepts: Non-historical Eschatology

Apocryphal Eschatology: Explaining God Outside of History

- ▶ Series of Gnostic-Allegorical works appeared providing error prone fantastical spiritual answers often contradicting Scripture
- ▶ Jude quotes from one such work: First Enoch
 - ▶ Many see this as legitimizing apocryphal literature and thus Gnosticism & Allegory
 - ▶ Does Jude's *theopneustic* use of this passage mean it is absolute truth?
 - ▶ Why did Jude pull this quote out of context; what is his, Christ's, point?
 - ▶ Understanding requires comparing Scripture with Scripture: Normative Hermeneutics; hence, our background introduction for contextual grounding
- ▶ Passage begins by linking to Enoch, 7th from Adam, legitimizing its claims
 - ▶ Skips Cain-Abel, Seth when people begin *calling on Lord's name* and ended with Enoch's translation, possibly pointing to pre-disaster rapture {One Theory}
 - ▶ False Teachers will be harshly judged by their own words and deeds for leading many astray; they will be outside of *future* history: Judgment Fires (Re 20:11-15; 22:14-15)

False Teachers: Physically Oriented

- ▶ Lost do not believe God; thus, they reject judgment as a coming reality illustrated by Christ's Rich Man (Lk 16:22-24, 27-31; Ro 1:18-28; 3:10-18)
 - ▶ Views History {personal, national or international} as man's efforts alone
 - ▶ *Spiritual* appeals to imaginations, beliefs springing from sinful worldviews; gnostic allegory supporting their lies
- ▶ Dispensational Eschatological view, though a late view, 19th century, only view that postulates God using History to reveal His spiritual Truth, Gospel
 - ▶ Amillennialism - Believes world is in Christ's *current* millennial kingdom with belief supported by *symbolism*; i.e., read, Gnostic allegory: Dominant view today
 - ▶ Preterism - Believes Tribulation occurred AD 70 with Temple destruction by Rome; this hyperliteral view ignores Historic Prophet Eschatology looking to *future* events
 - ▶ Premillennialism - Believes Tribulation and Christ's coming is *future*, interjecting into history consistent with Scripture; Church leaves when He calls forth His *True Jews* {Examples: Noah's Cataclysm; Babylonian Captivity and His First advent with His death on the stauros} (Ac 1:6-11)

Jude's Guiding Mission: Warning Against False Teachers

- ▶ Jude's quote is not eschatological but explains Christ's judgment for the Lost at His coming
(Mt 25:31-46; Lk 12:35-40)
 - ▶ Jude warns False Teachers that judgment is historical and future
 - ▶ Imminent; may occur at any moment (1Co 15:50-58)
- ▶ Their Mission: Destroy Christ's body
- ▶ Our Mission: Faithfulness to His body and His Gospel (He 3:6-15)
 - ▶ We are to wait faithfully for His coming; do not be lured into sensational lies as many... (Mt 24:23-27)

