

Outline (based on Constable, but modified)

- I. Salutation (1–2)
- II. The purpose of this epistle (3–4)
- III. Warnings against false teachers (5–16)
 - A. Historical failures (5–7)
 1. The example of certain Israelites (5)
 2. The example of certain angels (6)
 3. The example of certain pagans (7)
 - B. Present failures (8–16)
 1. The nature of the error (8–9)
 2. The seriousness of the error (10–13)
 3. The consequences of the error (14–16)

Text today: 8-16

“These men” — a pointer word, pointing back to 1.4: “For certain persons have crept in”

From verse 8, the pointer word occurs as the subject of the discussion six times:

Verse 8: these men engage in three activities like the “historical failures” in vv. 5-7

1. By dreaming, they defile the flesh
 2. By dreaming, they reject authority
 3. By dreaming, they revile angelic majesties
- “By dreaming” seems to refer to the arrogance of their imaginations

Verse 10: These men *revile things they don't understand*

Verse 12: These men are *hidden reefs in your love feasts*

Verse 14: These men were *prophesied by Enoch*

Verse 16: These men are *grumblers*

Verse 19: These men are *those who cause divisions*

The nature of their error (8-9)

Partly discussed last week – they are men presently in the church who repeat the historical failures listed in vv. 5-7: lust, rebellion, irreverence. They rebel against God’s order, from within the church.

Michael the archangel: an example of faithfulness despite his rank and authority

- Only figure designated as an archangel
- One of two angels named (Gabriel)
- No railing accusation against Satan (who richly deserved it)

Note: the dispute over the body of Moses is vague, some references in Jewish literature, but none in the Bible. The point is Michael’s behaviour, not the event!

What would you say the critical error of “these men” is, based on this example?

Defying authority, rebellion against God

The seriousness of their error (10-13)

What things do these men not understand, but which they revile? (10a)

The truths of God

What things do these men know by instinct, but will destroy them? (10b)

Their own lusts and passions

In pronouncing woe, who are held up as examples of doom? (11)

1. *Cain*
2. *Balaam*
3. *Sons of Korah*

What is the common thread in the doom of these examples?

The brought their own doom on their own heads, with disastrous effects on others

What chiefly characterizes the error of *these men*? (12)

They care only for themselves

What is communicated by the imagery of vv. 12-13?

Violence, instability, self-destructive, subject to judgement

The consequences of their error (14-16)

Here, Jude quotes from Enoch, an apocryphal book.

Enoch lived before the flood, but “was not, for the Lord took him” (Gen 5.21-24, see also Heb 11.5, where he is listed as one of the heroes of the faith)

Enoch was the sixth generation from Adam the way we would count it, but Hebrew inclusive numbering includes Adam in the count, making seven.

The book of Enoch appears to date from the last two centuries before Christ, similar content appears in that book, but Jude doesn't offer an exact quotation.

What this means is that Jude, under inspiration, accepted the statement as true, but did not endorse the book of Enoch itself.

One commentator suggested that the song of Lamech (Gen 4.23-24) was composed in mockery of Enoch.

Gn 4.23-24 ¶ Lamech said to his wives, “Adah and Zillah, Listen to my voice, You wives of Lamech, Give heed to my speech, For I have killed a man for wounding me; And a boy for striking me;²⁴ If Cain is avenged sevenfold, Then Lamech seventy-sevenfold.”

What attitude does Lamech have towards judgement? What attitude does Enoch have towards judgement? (14-15)

*Lamech seems to think he gets away with sin, just like Cain;
Enoch says, Judgement is coming*

What does the description of “these men” in v. 16 mean?

They are untrustworthy in the church, an element of instability (finding fault, speaking arrogantly), seeking their own advantage in the assembly.

Conclusion:

Jude describes these men as having a profoundly negative influence on the church, “hidden reefs” in the assembly, “finding fault, following after their own lusts; they speak arrogantly, flattering people for the sake of gaining an advantage.”

Christians should realize that such men will appear in churches and church history from time to time. Satan hates Christ and his church and is always at war with it.

Christians have a duty to the purity of their own churches and the spiritual life of their brethren to do something about this. We will look at that duty next week.