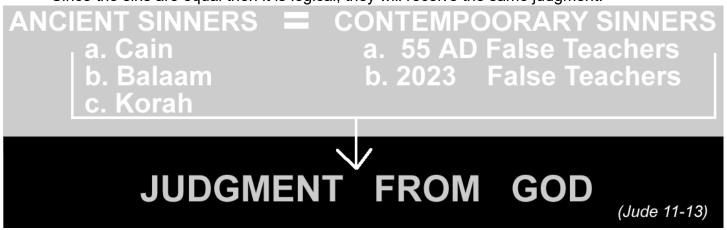
# **Jude 12-13**

Jude 11-13 – "Woe to them! For they <u>walked</u> in the way of Cain and <u>abandoned</u> themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error and <u>perished</u> in Korah's rebellion. These are hidden reefs at your love feasts, as they feast with you without fear, shepherds feeding themselves; waterless clouds, swept along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted; wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever."

- 1. Jude 11-13 is a "Woe to them!" judgment
  - a. Opens with "Woe to them"
  - b. Ends with "for whom the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever."
- 2. Those for who the "Woe" judgment is pronounced are described:
  - a. By Old Testament examples:
    - i. Cain . . . "the way of Cain"
      - 1. Murder (Genesis 4)
      - 2. Self-love (Philo)
      - 3. Envy, jealousy (1 Clement)
      - 4. Anger, rage 9 Wisdom)
      - 5. Indulgence in bodily pleasure and vice (Josephus)
      - 6. Instructor of sin to others (Josephus)
      - 7. Abel lived for the unseen; Cain lived for the now
      - 8. Pattern:
        - a. First, chose evil (poor sacrifice)
        - b. Second, God spoke to him for repentance and change (Gn. 4:6-8)
        - c. Third, chose evil, again (murdered brother) ignored God's call, grace
    - ii. Balaam. . . "Balaam's error"
      - 1. Material, financial gain
      - 2. Compromised God's people
      - 3. Pattern:
        - a. First, considered evil gain
        - Second, God said no several times along with warnings and the Word of God
        - c. Third, continued to return to consider evil gain over and over
        - d. Fourth, eventually compromised
      - 4. Revelation 2:14 Jesus says church of Pergamum, "I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality."
      - 5. The false teachers of Jude in 55 AD may have been traveling speakers, teachers, prophets like Balaam that were in their positions for financial gain. They were deceived by a false "gospel" and proceeded to teach others the same deception for the sake of money.
        - a. 24,000 people of God died as a result of Balaam's error
    - iii. Korah . . . "Korah's rebellion"
      - 1. Unsatisfied with their God given position

- 2. Envious of God's chosen leadership and hierarchy
- 3. Distorted God's system of worship, priesthood, sacrifice, prayer and revealed Word of God.
- 4. Instructed others (250 others) to follow a distorted revelation into God's judgment.
- 5. Psalm 106:16-18 "When men in the camp were jealous of Moses and Aaron, the holy one of the Lord, the earth opened and swallowed up Dathan, and covered the company of Abiram. Fire also broke out in their company; the flame burned up the wicked."
- 3. The point Jude is making is to say the sin of ancient sinners that received the judgment of God is equal to the sin of contemporary (55 AD or 2023 AD) sinners doing the same thing Since the sins are equal then it is logical, they will receive the same judgment.



Jude 12 – "These are hidden reefs at your love feasts, as they feast with you without fear, shepherds feeding themselves; waterless clouds, swept along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted;



- 1. "These" refers to the heretics and false teachers in the churches of 55 AD that Jude is referring to
  - a. The focus moves from the OT heretics: Cain, Balaam, Korah
  - b. The focus moves to the false teachers Jude sees misleading the early church
  - c. The false teachers have come from outside the church, Jude 4, "For certain people have crept in unnoticed..."
  - d. These false teachers have joined the group of Believers
  - e. These false teachers have taken, or been given, places of authority and leadership.
    - i. So, these false teachers are technically the "leadership" of the 55 AD local church. The heretics would have church "authority" based on their position in the church.
    - ii. So, how can they be the rebels?
    - iii. Why is Jude not accused of leading a rebellion against the local church authority?
    - iv. Because, they (like Korah) have broken their alignment with the Word of God.
    - v. They are rebels that have "crept in unnoticed" as in Jude 4, they "came in stealthily" which comes from *pareisduo* meaning "to settle in alongside" like Korah, but without the big public protest against Moses.
    - vi. They led a rebellion quietly.
      - 1. They did it among those who had stopped contending for the faith
      - They quietly overthrew the Word of God because the church stopped fighting for the Truth of the Word of God
- 2. Jude uses a series of descriptive terms and illustrations in verses 12-13 to describe these heretical leaders in the church:
  - a. "At your love feasts"
  - b. "Hidden reefs"
  - c. "Feast without fear"
  - d. "Shepherds feeding themselves"

Four images are given from sky, land, sea and space to characterize them:

- e. "Waterless clouds, swept along by winds"
- f. "Fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted
- g. "Wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame"
- h. "Wandering stars, for who the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever."
- 3. "At your love feasts"
  - a. "feasts" or "banqueting" was a social institution
  - b. "feasts" were held for many reasons:
    - i. Koinonia "fellowship", "sharing"
    - ii. Friendship
    - iii. Pleasure
    - iv. Special Occasions birthdays, weddings, funerals
    - v. Sacrifices
      - 1. "Dio Chrysostom is quoted as saying, "What sacrifice is acceptable to the gods without the participants in the feast?"
    - vi. Guilds
    - vii. Political alignment
    - viii. Jewish, such as Passover
    - ix. Organizations, clubs, etc.
  - c. So, the concept, practice, style, behavior at feasts or banquets was well established.
    - i. They banquets included fellowship and represented unity.
    - ii. Sharing of a meal or sharing a common table or dish

- d. The Christians also had a fellowship, a community, an organization, an alignment, AND the remembrance of a sacrifice.
  - i. The Christian meal, feast, banquet was practiced by people who already knew how to "feast" and "banquet".
  - ii. The "Christian party" began to be practiced by people who came to the group already knowing "how to party."
- e. Jude was concerned that the heretics had already joined the believers' "feast", and where setting the agenda.
- f. The believers "feast" or "potluck" had turned into nothing more than a secular "feast" or "potluck" held among believers and those who felt comfortable "potlucking", "feasting" or "partying" with the believers.
- g. First recorded identification of the "love feast" was here when Jude identified this Christian banquet as the *agapais* 
  - i. Agapais is the dative plural of agape
  - ii. It is not a verb or action, but a thing such as an event...a gathering, meal, feast
  - iii. It is the indirect object of the verb

## h. Examples:

- i. Acts 2:42, 46
- ii. 1 Corinthians 11:17-32 in 57 AD immorality and greed
- iii. 2 Peter 2:13 a parallel verse...



#### 4. "Hidden reefs" – spilades –

- a. Translated as "blemishes" in NIV and KJ
- b. Translated as "hidden reefs" in ESV, Berean, Amplified, Christian Standard, Holman, Amerikaan Standard ("hidden rocks"), Youngs's (craggy rocks")
- c. Greek *spilades* from *spilas* /spee-las/ meaning "a ledge of rock over which the sea dashes", "a reef", "hidden rock"
- d. The image is the false teachers were hidden rocks along the shore that a ship attempting to go ashore would unknowingly approach and crash into
- e. These heretic leaders are dangerous, hidden obstacles at the 55 AD church feasts that would destroy people
- f. Some translate *spilades* to mead "spots" or "stain" referring to something that soils or discolors.
  - i. Peter writes this way in 2 Peter 2:13 when Peter uses Jude for part of the content of his letter (if my dating is correct Jude 55 AD, 2 Peter 64 AD), but uses a different set of words in the same context:
    - 1. Spiloi "spot", "stain", "blemish" and used in context speaking of morals
    - 2. Momoi "blame", "disgrace", "blemish"

- 5. "Feasting together with you fearlessly"
  - a. "feasting together with you" is from the Greek word syneuochoumenoi from:
    - i. Sun- or Syn- meaning "together with", "with" and expresses association with
    - ii. Euocheo means "feast", "entertain lavishly", "expensive banquet"
  - b. "Fearlessly" from aphobos meaning "without fear" indicates:
    - i. Fearless in the situation
    - ii. Shameless while violating social standards
    - iii. Secure and tranquil in their conduct while unconcerned about negative reaction
  - c. Also translated,
    - i. "without the slightest qualm"
    - ii. "shamelessly feasting"
    - iii. "fearlessly in your love feasts"
    - iv. "eat without reverence"
  - d. The idea is these heretics are behaving sinfully (worldly, inappropriately) among the saints (the people of God, the things of God, communion with God) without feeling any intimidation, embarrassment, social rejection or shame.
    - i. The church is accepting them and their worldliness
    - ii. The church is tolerating them and their behavior
    - The church is following them and their false philosophy
  - e. Basically,
    - i. No one is holding them accountable to the Word of God.
    - ii. No one is contending for the Faith against them.
    - iii. No one is challenging their leadership
    - iv. Heretics are exploiting the public gathering of Believers

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- 6. "Themselves shepherding"
  - a. Ezekiel 34:2-19
    - i. The false shepherds of Israel
    - ii. Same verb used in Jude's Greek that is used in Ezekiel 34:10 in the Greek LXX



τούτου, ποιμένες, <sup>10</sup>τάδε λέγει κύριος Κύριος Ἰδοὺ ἐγὼ ἐπὶ τοὺς <mark>ποιμένας,</mark> καὶ ἐκζητήσω τὰ πρόβατά μου ἐκ τῶν χειρῶν αὐτῶν, καὶ ἀποστρέψω αὐτοὺς τοῦ μὴ ποιμαίνειν τὰ πρόβατά μου, καὶ οὐ β<u>οσκήσουσιν</u> ἔτι οἱ ποιμένες αὐτά· καὶ ἐξελοῦμαι τὰ πρόβατά μου ἐκ τοῦ στόματος αὐτῶν, καὶ οὐκ ἔσονται αὐτοῖς ἔτι εἰς κατάβρωμα.

- a. John 21:15, 16, 17 "Feed my sheep." Is, "Boske ta probate mou" ("feed the sheep of me")
  - 1. 21:15 "He said to him, "Feed my lambs."
    - i. "Feed" is *boske* meaning "to feed", "graze", "pasture"; figuratively spiritually nourish be feeding people the word of God
      - 1. Poimen focuses on "shepherding" or caring
      - 2. the word bosko stresses feeding them.
    - ii. "lambs" is *arnia* meaning "lamb", originally it meant "little lamb" or "young lamb" but the diminutive force was eventually lost.
  - II. 21:16 "**Tend my sheep**."
    - i. "Tend" or "Shepherd" is poimaino meaning "to act as a shepherd"
      - Shepherding included "tend, herd" which figuratively meant "rule", govern".
        - a. Caring for the flock
        - b. Protecting the flock
      - 2. *Poimaino* (shepherding) and *poimen* (shepherd) are distinct from *bosko* which means "feeding"
    - ii. "Sheep" is *probaton* which means "a little sheep" and includes any animal that grazes or is taken to pasture, but especially refers to sheep.
  - III. 21:17 "Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."
    - i. "Feed" is boske
    - ii. "Sheep" is probation
- b. 1 Timothy 3:1-13
- c. Titus 1:5-16
- d. 1 Peter 5:1-5

#### The Four Descriptive Images:

- 1. "Clouds without water by winds being carried about"
  - a. "Clouds without water"
    - i. Block the sun
    - ii. No refreshing water to cause growth
    - iii. Their talking ("teaching") has nothing to advance or enlighten the believer to the Word of God
  - b. "by winds being carried about"
    - i. Ephesians 4:11-14 -
      - "And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

- c. Proverbs 25:14 -
  - "Like clouds and wind without rain is a man who boasts of gifts he does not give."
- 2. "Trees autumnal without fruit twice having died having been uprooted"
  - a. "Trees autumnal"
    - i. Refers to trees in the autumn season which means these are trees that should be showing their fruit
  - b. "without fruit"
    - i. Trees in the midst of the season of harvest, but they have produced no fruit
    - ii. Their lives are barren
    - iii. They are old enough to be leaders with spiritual fruit, but they are barren.
  - c. "twice having died"
    - i. Two deaths could be:
      - 1. Born "dead in transgressions and sins" as in Eph. 2:1-2 "you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience."
      - Continued in life without Christ having rejected salvation as in Romans 1:28 "since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a
        debased mind to do what ought not to be done."
    - ii. OR, two deaths could be:
      - 1. First death physical
      - 2. Second death eternal
  - d. "having been uprooted"
    - i. Judged as lost
    - ii. Uprooted means they have been cutoff and are totally hopeless
    - iii. This is saying emphatically they are "really dead", "absolutely dead", "totally dead"
    - iv. They have been judged as lost even while they still live
- 3. "wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their shame"
  - a. "wild waves"
    - i. Isaiah 57:20 -

"the wicked are like the tossing sea; for it cannot be quiet, and <u>its waters toss up</u> mire and dirt. There is no peace," says my God, "for the wicked."

- b. "of the sea"
  - i. The sea is a place of chaos and destruction:
    - 1. The waves cast the things the sea has destroyed up onto the shores:
      - a. Dead animals
      - b. Ship wreckage
      - c. Pollution
  - ii. The sea is a place of saltwater that purifies
    - 1. The creeks, drainage and rivers dump the waste of the earth into the ocean
    - 2. The ocean water evaporates to create pure rain water, but leaves behind the filth of the drainage
- c. "casting up the foam"
  - i. The filth and wreckage of the sea can be seen on the shore
- d. "of their shame"
  - i. Even in times of calm water and beautiful sunsets the filth from the sea can be seen unhidden along the shores

- ii. The heretics are like this:
  - 1. They destroy themselves, churches, and other people
  - 2. They are unashamed (and, unable to hide) the filth and pollution their lives have created
  - 3. The filth from their lives can even be seen on a calm day walking along the shores of their lives.
- 4. "wandering stars, for whom the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever."
  - a. "wandering stars" is asters planetai or "stars wandering"
    - i. Asteres means "a star"
      - 1. The goddess Asteria or Asterie or Isthar where the name Esther comes from.
    - ii. "Planétés means "a wanderer"
      - 1. The English word "planet" comes from this word since the planets do not follow the orbits or patterns of the stars.
      - 2. These are called "wandering stars", which we know as planets
    - iii. Also, this might better refer to shooting stars or meteorites
      - 1. Meteors shoot across the sky and disappear into the darkness never to be seen again (in the ancient persective)
    - iv. Interestingly, 1 Enoch records an angel showing Enoch a prison for the fallen stars of heaven where they are kept forever.
      - 1. This matches verse 6 of Jude and the next verse 14 which will quote directly from the book of 1 Enoch 18:14-15.
  - b. "for whom the gloom of utter darkness"
  - c. "has been reserved forever"

Jude 13 – "wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever.



### These heretics or false teachers are:

- 1. Dangerous like hidden rocks or reefs along the shore that can sink a ship
- 2. Selfish as twisted shepherds who do not feed the sheep, but eat the sheep
- 3. Useless and unproductive as clouds that block the sun, but produce no rain for growth
- 4. Fruitless and dead as a tree in the fall that has been left uprooted all summer
- 5. Filthy as the foaming waves of the sea hurling their trash along the shoreline
- 6. Damned to eternal darkness like a shooting star lost in the night sky

2 Peter 2:17-22