

Jude v8–11
Deadly, Distorted "Christianity"

Thursday, October 10, 2024 • Read Jude v8–11

Questions from the Scripture text: What does Jude now (v8) call the ungodly (v4)? What three things do they do? What illustration does he give of not blaspheming glory (v9)? Of what do these dreamers speak evil (v10)? And what do they do to the things they know naturally? In whose way have they gone (v11)? In whose error have they run? In what manner? For what? In whose rebellion have they perished?

What does dreamer-religion cause? Jude v8–11 looks forward to the second serial reading in morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these four verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **religion that is not bounded by Scripture results in men running off into their own destruction.**

Dreamers. Even in New Testament times, dreams were not the ordinary way of Jesus's teaching and leading His church. He sent apostles, prophets, and evangelists with the rest of His words for the church, and pastor-teachers to preach and teach what was being completed in the New Testament scriptures (cf. Eph 4:11–12, 1Co 13:8–10). But for some two thousand years, "certain men have crept in unnoticed" into the churches who are "dreamers" (v8). Rather than yielding to Jesus as Master, Who teaches and leads us His own way (the Bible), they leave themselves open to external (demonic, etc.) and internal (their own flesh) influences that come in superstitious ways like dreams. Building on another foundation than the Scriptures is what leads to errors and ends like those in this passage.

Errors. Jude now gives us three dangerous errors into which such dreamers fall, three symptoms that will arise when man-made religion replaces biblical religion. The first is "defiling the flesh." We have already seen this with the "lewdness" in v4 and the warning examples in v7.

The second dangerous error is rejecting authority. Without the Lord Jesus as our Master, the top of every chain of command is removed, leading to children disobeying parents, egalitarianism in marriage (denying/resisting the authority of the husband), congregationalism (authority being vested equally in the members rather than exercised by the elders and deacons), and rebellion against civil authority even its commands are not unlawful. We must watch against such errors, especially as they may be symptoms of "denying the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ."

The third dangerous error is "blaspheming glories" (NKJ paraphrases it, "speak evil of dignitaries"). Without the Lordship of Jesus, ungodly dreamers have swelling spiritual notions and dabble in things above them. v9 takes an illustration from outside Scripture, just as other passages do (cf. Ac 17:28, Titus 1:12), leading some to make the error of denying that Jude is Holy Scripture and others to make the error of treating Jewish fantastical books like Testament of Moses or 1 Enoch as if they were Holy Scripture. But it is precisely because Jude and his readers know that these aren't Scripture that the example is so powerful: even the Jewish fantastical literature didn't presume to include men, or even archangels, rebuking the devil! Scripture never tells us to do so; it tells us to resist the devil (cf. Ja 4:7), but only the Lord Himself rebukes the devil (cf. Zech 3:2; Mk 1:25, 9:25). When men are unmoored from Scripture, they lose the simple trusting in Jesus as Lord and obeying Jesus as Master, and foolishly and wickedly dabble with glories they do not understand.

Similarly, they speak evil of the glories of true Christianity. They speak evil of whatever they do not know (v10a): Scriptural doctrine over-against their dreams, godliness and holiness over-against their defiling of their flesh, authority in marriage/home/church/state over-against their autonomy... dreamers speak evil against all of these. And whatever knowledge is ingrained in them (which even beasts have), they corrupt against themselves (which even the beasts do not do with their instincts!).

Dangers. Who would see Cain (cf. the judgment in Gen 4:11–12), Balaam (cf. the judgment in Josh 13:22), or Korah (cf. Num 16:24–34), and think that is the way to go? But Cain is representative of all who expect God to be pleased with what pleases them, and yet how much this is done in theology, worship, or moral values! And Balaam is representative of those who participate in spiritual things, not to serve the Lord and obtain Him, but to get for themselves some profit. And Korah is representative of those who resist authority. Being a dreamer brings one into no small danger. We should flee from dreamer-religion, self-indulgence, and autonomy, crying, "lest the earth swallow us up also!" (cf. Num 16:34).

Who in your life might be one of those who has "crept in unnoticed" according to the description in this letter? Where do you get your theology/worship/morality? Whom are you usually trying to please? How are you submitting to authority in the home/church/society?

Sample prayer: Lord, forgive us for when have been more impressed with things like dreams than with Your Word. Forgive us for when we have defiled our flesh by indulging it. Forgive us for when we have rejected authority and operated as if we are autonomous. Forgive us for when we have dabbled in spiritual things that we don't understand. Forgive us for when, like Cain, we have expected you to be pleased with what pleases us. Forgive us for when, like Balaam, we participate in religious things as a way of obtaining earthly profit. Forgive us for when, like Korah, we have treated your church as a democracy. Forgive us and deliver us from such wicked error and danger; we ask through Christ, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP106C "They Envied Moses" or TPH131B "Not Haughty Is My Heart"

"(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Jude Verses 8 through 11. These are God's words likewise also these dreamers To file the flesh, reject Authority. And speak evil of dignitaries. Yeah, Michael. The Archangel and contending with the devil, and he disputed about the body of Moses. Dare not bring against him a reviling accusation but said the Lord rebuke you.

But these speak evil of whatever they do, not know. And whatever they know naturally. Like brute beasts and these things, they corrupt themselves. Welcome to. For they have gone in the way of Cain. Have run greedily. And the error of belem for profit. And perished. And the Rebellion. Of Korra.

So far the reading of God's inspire didn't. And earn twerked.

Jude continues to. Warn against the certain men who have crept in unnoticed to the churches. This is helpful for us to remember from verse 3 because the things in verse 8, through 11 sound like they might be obvious and easy to spot and Watch out for. Whether in ourselves or in others, But we should be warned, remember that these types of people creep into churches, unnoticed and have been doing.

So now for some 2000 years, And so this should increase for us, our watchfulness, our carefulness with ourselves Now very interestingly in New warning. He refers to them initially, as dreamers. Now, this is dreamers in two different senses one. That instead of looking to the scripture for God's word, looking for looking to the Um, writing and Inspired teaching of the Apostles prophets and evangelists at the time because Jude is writing during the New Testament period.

Uh, himself being a prophet under Christ. And instead of looking to the preaching and teaching of the pastor teachers, Who are shepherding by teaching those things that the apostles and Prophets and evangelists have been writing and teaching. They look to dreams. More impressed with things that feel mystical and spooky.

They do not treat the Bible. And the preaching of the Bible as Supernatural. And so they look for other things. To be Supernatural to them and they put more stock in dreams. Then in scripture. A second way that they are dreamers. Is that they dream up for themselves? Whatever it is that they desire.

These two things always go together. Those who are superstitious without having the word of God to overrule our false thinking and our false emotions and our false desires, our left, especially susceptible to those superstitious and spooky things that coincide with and reinforce what they themselves. Dream up. And this actually occurs, then in their own dreams.

By giving themselves much to dreams, they are Easy pray. For those who might affect them, spiritual Beings demons attack and dreams. Uh, and they will often have dreams that come from their own heart, their own mind. Dreams in which they are indulging themselves in ways that perhaps they are not able to when they are awake or perhaps that their dreams incite them to pursue when they are awake, And so just this one word dreamers is, By itself.

Condemning and yet. In the churches, having crept in unnoticed, It is actually extremely common in many circles. For people, either to give spiritual Authority. To things that come to them in dreams or to Pursue the desires of their flesh that are Uh, expressed in an inflamed way in their dreams.

So he says likewise also these dreamers and now he's going to give Areas in which it will show up in our life. If we are, quote denying. The only Lord God and our Lord, Jesus Christ, three areas that it shows up in our life or we might say three more areas that it might show up in our life.

If we are denying the lordship of Christ, if we're not living as those, who have him as our Master, I think, the first one of those areas is dreams over scripture. The second one of those areas is the defiling of the flesh. Rather than considering, Bodies are mouths our eyes, our hands, our feet, as our slaves were offered to God as slaves because we are the slaves of Christ.

If you remember, That whole idea from Romans chapter 6, presenting every member of your body, every member of who you are, not just your physical members unto God as slaves for righteousness. If we do not have Christ as Master and we throw off his Lordship. Then we will defile the flesh.

A second place, this shows up is in the rejecting of authority. We will function. Autonomously Children not honoring and obeying their parents congregations. Not submitting to their Elders. Wives, not submitting to their husbands and even Excuse me. Even believers, who do not submit to civil Authority in that, which is commanded that is not unlawful to them.

This rejecting of authority because the chain of command in a family, or in a marriage or in a society, or in a church always goes up to the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the master in all of these things. And, Those who are throwing off the lordship of Christ will very easily.

For instance, excuse themselves, for disobeying their parents or excuse themselves, for dishonoring, their husbands or excuse themselves, for wanting the church to be run. According to their desires instead of according to the wisdom of the elders from the Bible. Will excuse themselves for disrupting the order of the society by resisting.

The authority of the Civil Magistrate. Those things that the Civil magistrate does or requires that are not unlawful. The third thing they do is they blaspheme and glories. They blasphemed glories and I think it's important to use. Uh, the actual words here. And in Jude 18 as we did although we had done the books of Peter a long time ago so we didn't do them just recently when we were coming serially through the Testament.

In second Peter. I think it's 2 verse 10. At the end. It's has the same thing. Blaspheming glorious or new King James. Has given us speaking evil of dignitaries. That is Those things that are Beyond us. Those things that are not of this world that are more powerful and more able and greater than we are.

And then he uses. Uh example. That is from the common literature at the time and it actually, Although the book of Jude was from a prophet of Christ and received by the churches, as scripture as it was written and in the days that it was written and distributed yet, On account of his quoting from this other common, literature of the time a couple hundred years later.

When the Canon was being recognized, Uh, trying to differentiate from false books that were being written in the third Century. The then And the fourth Century. Uh, Jude was questioned because it quoted from Some books that weren't scripture. That had been written between the end of the Old Testament, the beginning of the New Testament, uh, one was called The Testament to Moses.

And one was called first Enoch that's, he's referring to an illustration here. And he's at the time that Jude is writing, He is not treating the Testament of Moses or first Enoch as scripture. And his readers are not treating those things of scripture, what they are aware of, however, is that even in these, uh, in these Jewish books?

When they came up with these Fantastical things and that's one of the things that the Apocryphal literature or the intertestamental literature is full of, it's full of Fantastical, sorts of things, even that in that, which wasn't scripture in that which, Which, Had the superstitious and Fantastical. Flavor to it, character to it.

They didn't have. Um, their characters do things like rebuke the devil. Okay. So he says, yeah, Michael the Archangel in contending with the devil. When he disputed about the body of Moses dared, not bring accusation against bringing against him, a reviling accusation. But said the Lord rebuked you Now, one of the things that dreamers in today's churches often do is, they'll, they'll teach people to rebuke the devil.

But the scripture never tells us to rebuke the devil. It says, resist the double. And he will flee from you. He resist his Temptations. But the only people we see. And scripture rebuked the devil as the Lord rebukes, the devil in Zechariah and Jesus. Rebukes Devils. Demons. But we should be careful.

When we are under the lordship of Christ and we are recognizing his Mastery. We leave to him to deal with the things that our glories that we cannot contend with. He gives us to trust him. He gives us to obey him. We have enough in our hands by his grace, to contend with ourselves.

Let alone turning. Uh, our Christianity into some Superstitious Epic Fantasy. Which these people do because they don't treat Christ as Lord and they don't treat Christianity and walking with him as his slave as real life.

So he says, but these speak evil of whatever they do not know. So they speak evil. Um, It could be that, you know, they're reviling. Uh, glories that they don't understand. But more likely, this is connecting back to Verse 8. Likewise also these dreamers. And so they speak. Evil of true Christianity.

They speak evil of sound Doctrine. They speak evil of morality. Why? Because Their religion is all of this superstitious nonsense. Which leads to the defiling of Flesh, which leads to throwing off Authority and rebelling against legitimate Authority, which Leads to Superstitious. Messing with things that are Beyond their understanding.

But then they speak evil of true Christianity. They're so doctrinal. It's all head and no heart, they say. Or Theology divides. They're so divisive because they're so careful. Theologically they speak evil of what they do. Not know. Or they're so legalistic. They don't just live a little and have some fun and relax.

Are always worried about what's holy and what's right? Not doing what's wrong.

Their church has run by the elders. Instead of Uh, having a kind of egalitarian Um, Approach with. Authority in every congregant. Where everyone's kind of their own

autonomous person in the church. Uh, this Association of equal members rather than a body constituted by Christ under authorities instituted, by Christ, And the dreamers.

Who sneak into churches unnoticed creep into churches unnoticed and have been doing though. So for 2000 years, Because their religion is more according to their dreams than according to the word of God. They speak evil of whatever they do not know. Now, there are some things that they do know.

Kind of instinctively, that's the idea in verse 10. Whatever they know naturally or instinctively like brute beasts. But they're worse than the beasts. At least the the beasts, follow their instincts. That these people even with that knowledge that God has ingrained into them and made obvious They corrupt. That knowledge and these things, they corrupt themselves.

And so he says woe to them. For they have gone in the way of Cain. Didn't offer his offering by faith didn't offer, according to the word of God. He gave what pleased him and expected God to be pleased with it. And this is what dreamers do. Instead of

Receiving from the Bible, what to believe and what to do? They come up with their own thing. What pleases them in religion and they expect God to be pleased with it? And so if they are displeased with God graciously, Choosing and enabling, and bringing to Faith and securing and sanctifying and saving everyone.

Whom he brings to Faith. They come up with their own doctrine, that pleases them. Well, that makes the Salvation some kind of Cooperative work between God and man. Where God? Uh, the one who makes salvation possible, and man, actualizes it for himself and They come up with what pleases them and they expect God to be pleased with it.

Nowhere is this more evident than in worship? Whatever they feel is worshipful, whatever makes them feel spiritual. Whatever they come up with. What pleases them and expect God to be pleased with it? Kane came up with offerings. That he thought God should receive and be pleased. And when God wasn't pleased with it, he became enraged.

And he even ended up murdering his brother. Because, God wasn't pleased with the cane-pleasing religion. And yet it was his expecting God to be pleased with his religion. That was even the greater sin than murdering his brother.

So they go in the way of Cain. They run, greedily in the Arab for profit. Valaam who is prophesying, who is supposed to be? Uh, serving God. Uh, serious. Holy spiritual exercise of proclaiming God's word, but what did he want to do? He wasn't. Uh, excuse me. He wasn't trying to.

Serve God in the preaching of God's word. He was trying to secure the money of Moab. Which he eventually did. Not by prophesying what black wanted to is? Kind of, Middle of that and Lord willing. Uh, tomorrow. We'll hear about the multiple attempts and how opposite. It was the black wanted.

But then you have in chapter 26 and numbers. This. Immorality between the moabite women and the Israelite men. And then there's just one, there's a little line. In numbers 31 verse 16. Where it says, The moabite women had enticed the Israelite men upon the Council of belyam. He was unable.

To achieve. He was unable to get his money. By prophesying falsely. So He gave black advice for how to bring. Uh God's Wrath upon the Israelites, how to get the Israelites to bring God's Wrath upon themselves. He treated. Religion as something to be done. In order to get what he wanted.

And so, Church. History is full of those who run. Greedily in the Arab land for profit. They do in religion. What pleases them? And expect God to be pleased with it. They do in religion what they think will profit them. Instead of that, which will obey the Lord, Jesus Christ.

And therefore, They also Rebel. Against Authority, that is over. Perished in the rebellion of Korah woe to them. For they have gone in the way of Cain. Have run greedily in the Arab Lamb for profit. And perished in the rebellion of Korah. You cannot. Throw off the lordship of Christ.

At having horrific symptoms. Like, defiling the flesh or rejecting Authority or blaspheming glories. And ending up in. A horrific end. Like that of Cain or be lamb. Cora. And so, if we find ourselves, Indulging, our flesh resisting Authority. Or blaspheming glories. Uh, Superstitious Fantastical. Kind of approaches to religion or even if we just find ourselves, Giving Credence to dreams.

Instead of to the scripture. Let us beware for we may be in the process of denying. The only Lord God. Our Lord Jesus Christ.

And then, let's pray.

Our gracious. God and our heavenly father, as we read and hear about these things. We ask that you would not permit them to come upon our heads. Give us. Rejoice to be Christ's slaves to have him as Master. Make us to adhere to his word and To consider his work.

The great Supernatural religion. That you have given us. Grant to us. Beat our bodies and make them our slaves so that we can offer. Every part of who we are. That slaves unto Christ. Give us Submit ourselves humbly under authorities, knowing that The chain of command goes up to Jesus.

Give us, we pray. Leave, what happens? In the spirit world. Up to our Master who can rebuke and has crushed the devil and is crushing him under our feet. And don't let us. Arrogantly blaspheme. Glorious. Help us Lord. We pray that we would not. Be taken in. By such a creep into the church unnoticed and that we ourselves.

Would not be such. Maybe even unnoticed to ourselves. Thank you for your word. Thank you that it doesn't just tell us about these things. But it is your instrument to spare us from these things. And so use it. We pray by your spirit. We ask. In the name of your Son, our Lord, Jesus.

Amen.