

# “Book of Jude – Characteristics of Apostates – Part 2”

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## Scripture

### Jude 12-16:

“These are the men who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted; wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam; wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever

14 It was also about these men that Enoch, in the seventh generation from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord came with many thousands of His holy ones, to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."

16 These are grumblers, finding fault, following after their own lusts; they speak arrogantly, flattering people for the sake of gaining an advantage.”

### Recap from Jude 1-11

## Contend for the Faith!

### Apostasy is:

- 1) knowing the truth
- 2) living in contrast to that truth, and
- 3) then leading others astray into error.

### Old Testament Apostate Examples:

#### False prophets attempting to lead Jude’s audience astray were just as bad

- 1) as those Israelites that rebelled in the Wilderness
- 2) the angels who contaminated the earth in Genesis 6 so that it had to be flooded
- 3) and the men of Sodom and Gomorrah

## What Apostates Do

- 1) They are dreamers that defile the flesh by lustful dreams (visions of their personal glory on earth)
- 2) They reject authority of leadership (both earthly and heavenly – refuse to have Jesus as Lord)
- 3) They revile or trivialize the majesty of God (they ultimately want personal glory not God’s glory)
- 4) They do not understand heavenly things and react by instinct like animals (they make earthly decisions)
- 5) Like Cain, Balaam, and Korah, they want their way not God’s way (they believe they run the church not Jesus)

## What Apostates Are Like

### Jude 12-13

“These are the men who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted; wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam; wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever.”

**First**, they are hidden reefs in your love feasts, that is, they look like the real deal, they speak like us for a while, they infiltrate the church, find out about us, and then slowly gain a following.

A “hidden reef” or a “sunken rock” is what a ship could run aground on, causing serious damage to the vessel.

They only cared for themselves -> “care” in this verse is *poimaino*, the word meaning “to shepherd”.

These individuals were **shepherding themselves and not the people**.

This description shows us the danger of apostates.

**Second**, they are clouds without water, that is, they look promising for a herdsman looking to feed his cattle or a farmer looking for rain to water his crops.

Instead, though, they have no water -> **There is no benefit from their presence in the church.**

Apostates make bold promises that they cannot fulfill and take advantage of the people who hope, falsely, in them.

This description shows the false promises of apostates.

**Third**, they are autumn trees without fruit, that is, they look like they will generate fruit, but they cannot.

They provide **the promise of spiritual nourishment**, but they cannot feed the people.

Like a dry, dead tree, they will be uprooted and tossed away into destruction.

They are **doubly dead**. They will die on the earth and then they will experience spiritual death in Hell at the judgment.

This description shows the fruitlessness of apostates.

**Fourth**, they are wild waves of the sea casting up their own shame like foam, that is, dirty, mucky water that crash against the shoreline and create a miry foam with great stench.

Apostates deposit the filth of their lifestyles and message into the people’s lives and create an absolute stench among the people.

This description shows the personal filth and muck of apostates.

**Fifth**, they are wandering stars, that is, **a shooting star which flashes light across the sky** for a short time and is then gone.

Stars have a fixed orbit, but shooting stars are random in their path.

They **burn brightly for a time period** just as apostates burn brightly for a while in the church until their lifestyle and more deficiencies turn into a personal firestorm.

Their end will be a place of black darkness that has been prepared and planned for them from the beginning.

**This final description shows the short-term nature and aimless ways of apostates.**

This week, we look a little more at their character and how they gain advantage as well as their prophesied end.

## **Enoch**

### **Jude 14**

“It was also about these men that Enoch, in the seventh generation from Adam, prophesied”

A man named Enoch prophesied about apostates. Really?

### **Who was Enoch?**

#### **Genesis 5:21-24**

“Enoch lived sixty-five years and became the father of Methuselah. Then Enoch walked with God three hundred years after he became the father of Methuselah, and he had other sons and daughters. So, all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.”

Enoch was **the father of Methuselah**, the longest living man ever, reported as 969 years.

### **Methuselah**

According to the Hebrew Bible, Methuselah is purported to be the oldest person to ever live. Extra-biblical tradition maintains that he died on the 11th of Cheshvan of the year 1656, at the age of 969, **seven days before the beginning of the Great Flood**. Methuselah was the **son of Enoch** and **the grandfather of Noah**. The name Methuselah, or the phrase "old as Methuselah", is commonly used to refer to any living thing reaching great age. Dr. Henry Morris said Methuselah may mean, "**When he dies, judgment**" or "**When he is dead, it shall be sent.**"

Enoch was one of a two men that never died on the earth.

The words in Genesis 5 to describe the relationship between Enoch and God are very simple.

He **walked** with God doesn't necessarily have any special meaning associated with it.

Noah is also said to have "walked with God" (Genesis 6:9).

But there is a deeper meaning applied to that phrase like it was a special relationship.

Enoch never experienced an earthly death and God simply took him.

The word **took** is also a very simple meaning used in various ways, yet the fact that God removed him from the planet without death must have a deeper meaning.

Elijah was taken up with greater fanfare than Enoch (**2 Kings 2:10-11**) but Elijah's departure was a sign to his successor, Elisha. We receive no such information about Enoch's departure.

We do know, however, that Enoch was a prophet just like Elijah, but we only find out about that fact in Jude.

### Hebrews 11:5

Enoch was "taken up so that he would not see death" because "**he obtained a witness that before he was taken up that he was pleasing to God**" so we know that Enoch had faith in God.

### Where are the prophecies of Enoch written down?

These writings are in the "Books of Enoch". There are five books of Enoch, actually.

3 of them have survived into this day since they **became a part of the Ethiopian bible**, which regarded them as "Scripture".

- 1 Enoch -> The First Book of Enoch (Ethiopian Bible)
- 2 Enoch -> The Secrets of Enoch
- 3 Enoch -> The Hebrew Book of Enoch

1 Enoch is broken down into 5 sections:

- The Book of the Watchers (1 Enoch 1–36)
- The Book of Parables of Enoch (1 Enoch 37–71)
- The Astronomical Book (1 Enoch 72–82) (also called the of Luminaries)
- The Book of Dream Visions (1 Enoch 83–90) (also called the Book of Dreams)
- The Epistle of Enoch (1 Enoch 91–108)

Scholars thought Enoch was written in the second century B.C., just before and after the Maccabean revolt.

**But in the twentieth century, Aramaic fragments were found among the Dead Sea Scrolls.**

This pushed back the date of composition, and today it is recognized that much of the book was written in the third century B.C. or earlier.

There were early fathers of the church who quoted it as scripture, at least allude to it -> Irenaeus, Tertullian, Clement of Alexandria, for example

**You can see why, because it's quoted by Jude.**

Jude quotes specifically from the Book of the Watchers within 1 Enoch:



1 Enoch - The Book  
of the Watchers - Seq

## The Book of the Watchers

1:1 The words of the blessing with which Enoch blessed  
the righteous chosen who will be present on the day of  
tribulation, to remove all the enemies; and the righteous will be saved.

2 And he took up his discourse and said,  
“Enoch, a righteous man whose eyes were opened by God,  
who had the vision of the Holy One and of heaven, which he showed me.

From the words of the watchers and holy ones I heard everything,  
and as I heard everything from them, I also understood what I saw.

Not for this generation do I expound,  
but concerning one that is distant I speak.

3 And concerning the chosen I speak now,  
and concerning them I take up my discourse.

**4 “The Great Holy One will come forth from his dwelling,  
and the eternal God will tread from thence upon Mount Sinai.  
He will appear with his army,  
he will appear with his mighty host from the heaven of heavens.**

**5 All the watchers will fear and <quake>,  
and those who are hiding in all the ends of the earth will sing.  
All the ends of the earth will be shaken,  
and trembling and great fear will seize them (the watchers)  
unto the ends of the earth.**

6 The high mountains will be shaken and fall and break apart,  
and the high hills will be made low and melt like wax  
before the fire.

7 The earth will be wholly rent asunder,  
and everything on the earth will perish,  
and there will be judgment on all.

8 With the righteous he will make peace,  
and over the chosen there will be protection,  
and upon them will be mercy.

They will all be God’s,  
and he will grant them his good pleasure.

He will bless (them) all,  
and he will help (them) all.

Light will shine upon them,  
and he will make peace with them.

9 Look, he comes with the myriads of his holy ones,  
to execute judgment on all,  
and to destroy all the wicked,  
and to convict all humanity  
for all the wicked deeds that they have done,  
and the proud and hard words that wicked sinners  
spoke against him.

## Who are the Watchers?

The Watchers are **angels** who were sent to watch over creation, specifically mankind.

The Book of the Watchers speaks to what we covered prior -> how angels saw that the women of men were beautiful, took them for wives, and had created a demon race.

The book also speaks about Michael, who was tasked with taking the watchers into the pit, bound until the day of judgment.

It also mentioned Enoch's first mission after leaving the Earth, to go at the behest of the angels and prophesy to the watchers who were bound:

I, Enoch, was standing, blessing the Lord of majesty, the King of the ages. And look, the watchers of the Great Holy One called me, Enoch the scribe, and said to me,  
"Enoch, righteous scribe, go and say to the **watchers of heaven—who forsook the highest heaven, the sanctuary of their eternal station and defiled themselves with women.**  
As the sons of earth do, so they did and took wives for themselves.  
And they worked great desolation on the earth—  
'You will have no peace or forgiveness.'

It also lists the 7 archangels (1 Enoch 20:1-8):

- 20:1 These are the names of the holy angels who watch.
- 2 **Uriel**, one of the holy angels, who is in charge of the world and Tartarus.
  - 3 **Raphael**, one of the holy angels, who is in charge of the spirits of men.
  - 4 **Reuel**, one of the holy angels, who takes vengeance on the world of the luminaries.
  - 5 **Michael**, one of the holy angels, who has been put in charge of the good ones of the people.
  - 6 **Sariel**, one of the holy angels, who is in charge of the spirits who sin against the spirit.
  - 7 **Gabriel**, one of the holy angels, who is in charge of paradise and the serpents and the cherubim.
  - 8 **Remiel**, one of the holy angels, whom God has put in charge of them that rise.
- The names of the seven archangels.

We have to remember that, even though Jude quoted it and the Early Church Fathers cited it, it is not an inspired book in the Canon of Scripture -> unless you're Ethiopian.

But it is some great reading that the Jews knew as historical truth.

### Jude 14-15

"Behold, the Lord came with many thousands of His holy ones, to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."

Before John recorded the future in the Book of Revelation, Enoch recorded the same events in the past tense.

"the Lord came" -> So certain was His coming in judgment, Jude said it was sure to occur, even in our future.

Enoch saw the picture of the Lord coming in judgment

Jude recorded that as a historical fact yet to be fulfilled on our timeline.

"with many thousands of His holy ones" -> Enoch wrote that there were "myriads"  
-> The original language is "His holy ten-thousands"

### Which group of beings is Jude writing about here?

In **Revelation 19:14**, there is a large group of beings behind Him on white horses

We know that believers will accompany Him in judgment (1 Thessalonians 3:13),

This group seems to favor angels because of the size of the group:

Angels are tasked with carrying out God's judgment (like with Sodom and Gomorrah).

- Jesus talks about angels doing reaping (Matthew 13:39)
- Paul writes about the same (2 Thessalonians 1:6-10)
- Believers will judge men in the Millennial Kingdom, too (1 Corinthians 6:2)

"convicting them of all their ungodly deeds, the way that they lived their lives, and all of the harsh things which the ungodly have spoken against Him"

Angels will execute judgment on all (the Great White Throne of Revelation 20:11-15)

The evidence presented at their trial is the actions of their lives played out in front of them. As I have mentioned before, God will just press play on what is being recorded in their brains from the day that they were born, everything they did, and everything they spoke against God.

### Why does Jude write about Enoch's prophecy?

It is another reminder that the apostates will be treated **just like those watchers** that sinned way back in Genesis 6: **Eternal Death and Hell awaits them.**

## Jude 16

“These are grumblers, finding fault, following after their own lusts; they **speak arrogantly**, flattering people for the sake of gaining an advantage”

Are there any famous grumblers in the Bible? -> Your Bible might use “murmurers”.

Apostates are reminiscent of the **Jews in the Wilderness** that did not believe God and were grumbling about their lot in life after leaving Egypt.

They also are very adept at **finding fault with others** but not admitting to any fault in themselves.

They critique and criticize but bring holy thunders of anger against anyone who might criticize them or their behavior.

They complain about what they receive in comparison to others. They are so focused on themselves that they murmur or grumble about their circumstances when things go awry to their perfectly laid out plans.

They also follow after their own lusts or their own sinful desires.

In Romans 1:24, Paul describes part of God’s judgment of a nation that the people are handed over to the lusts of their hearts. One of the punishments God hands out to a nation is that the spiritual leaders are like this.

Jude also writes that they speak arrogantly. -> or “**loud-mouthed boasters**” or something similar.

They boast greatly of themselves, their accomplishments, and their success and leave little to the God who created them.

## 2 Peter 2:17-19

“These are springs without water and mists driven by a storm, for whom the black darkness has been reserved. **For speaking out arrogant words of vanity they entice by fleshly desires**, by sensuality, those who barely escape from the ones who live in error, promising them freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption”

Lastly, they flatter people for the sake of gaining an advantage and profit from those arrogant words.

## 2 Timothy 4:1-5

“I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: **preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction**. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; **but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires**, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.”

We need to contend for the faith and support the teachers of the truth

## Prayer & Benediction