

14. Learning About the Judgment of False Teachers

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children understand the judgment that God brought on sinful people and false teachers in the past. We saw that the unbelieving are being kept in everlasting chains under darkness until the judgment of the great day when they will be cast into the eternal judgment in the lake of fire and brimstone. In our topic today, we are going to learn more about the judgment of false teachers.

Jude 1:8-11 says, “Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries. Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared 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, in these things they corrupt themselves. Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.” The dreamers (false teachers) that had crept into the early church in the time of Jude are described in three ways.

First, we see that they defiled the flesh. The word translated “defile” means *to stain, pollute or contaminate*. Titus 1:15 says, “To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled.” Here, we see that false teachers and others also defile their mind and their conscience as well as their flesh.

Second, we see that they rejected authority. The word translated “reject” means *to do away with or to refuse to obey*. The word translated “authority” means *those who have power or dominion*. 2 Peter 2:10 describes such false teachers when that verse says, “And especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. *They are* presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries.” False teachers consider themselves the authority.

Third, we see that they speak evil of dignitaries. As we saw in the previous paragraph, Peter included this statement as part of the description of false teachers. The word translated “speak evil” means *to revile, rail or blaspheme*. The word translated “dignitaries” means *the things belonging to God, Christ or the glory belonging to Christ since He has returned to heaven*. Here, we see that false teachers speak evil of the Father, Christ and other heavenly beings.

We also see that false teachers can be bolder than even Michael, the archangel. Instead of trying to contend with the devil and accuse him, Michael said, “The Lord rebuke you.” In contrast, we see that false teachers are so bold that they are bold to speak evil about things of which they have no understanding. They cannot have understanding about spiritual things because 1 Corinthians 2:14 says, “But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.” Such false teachers are blinded by Satan. In 2 Corinthians 4:3-4, we read, “But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine

on them.” Here, we see that the minds of these false teachers are blinded by the god of this age.

The word translated “woe” means *judgment*. We are given three illustrations of people that received judgment. Cain received judgment because he depended on the works of his own hands. Balaam received judgment because money was his god. Korah was judged because he offered strange fire before the Lord (had his own form of worship). However, false teachers face an equally severe judgment. Hebrews 10:26-27 says, “For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.” Just like these men from the Old Testament, false teachers have had knowledge of the truth and have rejected it.

Jude went on to describe what these false teachers were like that had crept into the church secretly. Jude 1:12-13 says, “These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving *only* themselves. *They are* clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots; raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.” Here, we see the true inner character of these teachers.

The word translated “spots” was the word used to describe a rock or reef under the water that caused many ship wrecks. The word translated “love feasts” was the word used to describe the dinners that were a part of their communion services. As a result, Jude warned that these false teachers were like hidden rocks and were trying to damage or destroy the faith of other Christians. Such false teachers are often bold in both their words and their actions because they are really only serving themselves.

Next, Jude said that such false teachers are like clouds without water carried about by the winds. 2 Peter 2:17 gives a similar description of false teachers when that verse says, “These are wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest, for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.” Such clouds produce no rain to water the earth. When false teachers promise spiritual life, such men are making empty promises because they do not have spiritual life themselves.

Then, we see that they are like trees in the fall that have no fruit. The reason that they have no fruit is due to the fact that they are twice dead. A fruit tree that has died is unable to bear any fruit. However, when a tree has been chopped down or died and then the roots have been pulled out of the ground it is impossible for anything good to come from that tree. It can only be burned. Instead of being fruitful, false teachers can only look forward to eternal judgment.

False teachers are also pictured as raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame. Raging waves are the result of a severe storm. Such a storm has great power but that power is used to destroy instead of bring blessing. Isaiah 57:20-21 says, “But the wicked *are* like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. ‘*There is no peace,*’ says my God, ‘for the wicked.’” Here, we see that the shame of false teachers is like the mire and dirt that are cast up by the waves.

Finally, false teachers are described as being like wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever. A wandering star is like a meteor that shines brightly for a few seconds and then is gone forever. False teachers will deceive people for a short time but the day of their judgment will soon come.

Jude 1:14-15 says, “Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, ‘Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.’” Enoch was a man who walked with God before the flood. We see, here, that he had a ministry of warning others about the fact of coming judgment.

2 Thessalonians 1:7-10 says, “And to *give* you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.” God led Enoch to write about coming judgment and later led Paul to give these additional details. When the Lord brings judgment, Revelation 20:13 says that every ungodly person will be judged according to his deeds. In addition, at that time they will also be judged for the harsh things that the ungodly have spoken against God throughout their lives. Then, Revelation 20:15 says, “And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.” This will be the eternal judgment of all the ungodly because of their unbelief.

Jude 1:16 says, “These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling *words*, flattering people to gain advantage.” Here, we have a summary of the actions of false teachers. The word translated “grumblers” *means one who complains discontentedly against God*. The word translated “complainers” *means a person who complains about his own problems*. We see that in addition to complaining about God and their own problems, these people walking according to their own lusts. We also see that such false teachers flatter others with very impressive words so that they can take advantage of those people. The word translated “advantage” *means profit or self-gain*. Here, we see that whether it is words, actions or anything else that is done by false teachers that the things that they do are only to benefit themselves and not to help others.

As we help our physical and spiritual children to understand the goals and the judgment of false teachers, we help our children to realize why it is important not to be deceived by such individuals. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children to understand the final judgment of false teachers.