

Abide in Me

John 15:4
*Bible studies for disciples
who make disciples*



Volume 9 - Number 18

The week of March 10, 2024

Contending for the Faith
Woe to the Wanderers
Jude 11-16

Welcome to the fourth study in the letter of Jude. We are in the main body of Jude's brief letter as he remains relentless in his diatribe against false teachers. This portion of his letter (along with verses 5-10) is extremely heavy. We might be tempted to gloss over it and move along to "sunnier" passages. God wants us to linger here because the acts of apostates are a real and present danger to the Church. In these verses, Jude finds many illustrations in nature to describe the empty promises of apostates. In addition, long ago, Enoch prophesied that the Lord would come in judgment against those who mislead His people. Such people grumble, find fault, and flatter people for their own profit.

OBSERVATION (*What does the passage say?*)

Before meeting with your Growth Group, read through the passage at least twice and perform the following prompts:

- Circle at least four words that seem central in the passage.
- The *Lord* is explicitly mentioned just three times. Place a † over each one, including the pronouns.
- Draw a connecting arrow from the word *woe* to the prophecy of Enoch.
- Double underline the phrase *These are* in verse 12 and verse 16.
- Above verse 11, write down the three verbs that illustrate the progression of error exhibited by three OT anti-heroes.
- Starting in verse 12 place brackets around each phrase that ends with a semi-colon. Number them accordingly.
- In the left margin of verses 12-13 write, *The Menace of the Ungodly*.
- In the left margin of verses 14-15 write, *The Misfortune of the Ungodly*.
- Circle every occurrence of the word *all* in Enoch's prophecy.
- Underline each form of the word *ungodly* in verse 15.
- In verse 16, place brackets around the two main characteristics of their ungodliness and then underline the result.
- In the left margin of verse 16 write, *The Malice of the Ungodly*.

11 Woe to them! For they walked in the way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error and perished in Korah's rebellion. 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; 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.

14 It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his holy ones, 15 to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have

committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him.” 16 These are grumblers, malcontents, following their own sinful desires; they are loud-mouthed boasters, showing favoritism to gain advantage.”

INTERPRETATION (*What does the passage mean?*)

1. What do you imagine Jude’s readers would have understood and even felt when he pronounced a *woe* upon these people who were going unnoticed among them?

2. What comparison was Jude making between the OT anti-heroes and the false teachers among them? What adjectives did he use to describe their behavior?

- Cain:
- Balaam:
- Korah:

3. Why do God’s words and the examples of His judgment in the past matter for us today?

4. In the four descriptions drawn from nature, what is Jude saying about these people? For instance, explain why following a wandering star is dangerous.

5. Observe the repetition of the words *all* and *ungodly* in verses 14-15. What was Jude emphasizing by the repetition of both words?

6. Compare Jude 16 with 2 Peter 2:18. What do you think they were conveying about the arrogance of the apostates and how it came out in their speech?

APPLICATION *(How does the passage apply to our lives?)*

7. Looking back over all that Jude has said about these bad actors, what lessons do you draw about those who might secretly slip in among us?

8. While studying this portion of Jude's letter, you probably felt the weight of it all. The judgment of God is real. If someone were to ask you, "How can a loving God send people to hell?" what would you say in contending for the faith?

9. Tell about a time when you were unhappy with where God had you and it led you to grumble against Him. What did you learn about that experience?

10. Millions of people are ignorant of a final day of judgment. For whom are you praying, asking the Lord to bring him/her to saving faith? Who might you invite to join you for one of our Easter services on March 31st?

Sermon Notes: *Woe to the Wanderers*

Jude 11-16