

BOOK OF JUDE

- Jude 1-3 Introductory Statements
 - a. v.1 - God's Responsibility
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- Jude 4-7 Warning of False Teachers and False Teachings
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Historical Background:

Jude is a parallel book with 2 Peter.

Jude wrote about unbelievers falling away (Jude 4, 10, 19). Peter wrote about the believers falling away. (2 Peter 2:1 15, 20).

Even though Jude and 2 Peter are focused on different groups of people, they are the same in the area of falling away, and how false teachers deceive people.

*Satan brings the deception for both believer and unbeliever.

2 Peter tells about the day of falling away coming in the future....(more of a prophecy). Jude tells us that the people he is writing to are already in the middle of the day of falling away.

2 Peter was written about 61-65 AD. The book of Jude was written around 66 A.D. (only a few years later).

Jude 1 From Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James...

Servant – "*doulos*" = love slave, the person chose to serve, they were not forced to serve.

1. Wording is important. Most scholars believe Jude was the half brother of Jesus.

Matthew 13:55 He is just the son of a carpenter. His mother is Mary, and his brothers are James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas. (Judas = Jude).

Mark 6:3 He is just the carpenter, the son of Mary and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon. And his sisters are here with us." So the people were upset with Jesus.

2. Jude did not believe that Jesus was the Messiah until after the resurrection.

3. It seems like Jude did not try to make his writings more important by bragging that Jesus was his brother. Jude wanted the letter to have power through spiritual ways.

...**brother of James** - Jude does identify himself with the pastor of the Jerusalem Church. This is not the son of Zebedee (Matthew 4:21). Not James the son of Alphaeus Luke 24:10). This James was the son of Mary, mother of Jesus (Matthew 13:55; Mark 6:3; Galatians 1:19).

Jude 1 ...To all who have been called by God. God the Father loves you, and you have been kept safe in Jesus Christ:

...**kept safe**... *tēreō* = to guard, keep eye upon, to protect

1. Jude declares that the believer is set apart from this world (called/sanctified) and guarded by the ever-watchful eye of God.
2. This encouraging word is spoken because of the events that Jude later writes concerning false teachers among them trying to lead them away.
3. He emphasizes God's ability and desire toward them. Later in verse 24, he re-establishes God's keeping power, to "sandwich" the believers trust in God regardless of the attacks or strategies of the enemy.

Jude 2 Mercy, peace, and love be yours richly.

Jude shows our responsibility toward God, and our best way to defend ourselves – let the mercy, peace, and love multiply in you (be yours richly).

In times of trials, and outside pressures coming against the believer, Jude is aware of how our immune systems can be drained. (Immune systems protect the human body from infection and disease. Mercy, peace and love protect our spiritual body from spiritual infection and disease).

2 Peter 1:2 states that grace and peace are multiplied in our lives through the knowledge of God (the Word).

2 Peter 1:2 Grace and peace be given to you more and more, because you truly know God and Jesus our Lord.

...**you truly know**... as we look to God we see that God has everything under control. This is like a peek into the Master Control Room of all heaven and earth. We can easily see the natural world around us with its problems, trials, etc. But we need to let this knowledge control our peace, confidence, and trust. God wants our lives to be controlled by the clear, exact, divine revelation from the One who sees the entire universe. God does not want us to be controlled by only partial, earthly knowledge.

We are supposed to be established (set fast, fixed, strengthened) in the present truth; the teaching of the apostles.

The Word of God in you is either increasing – because you are using it, or it is decreasing – because you are not using it.

Mark 4:23-25 Let those with ears use them and listen! ²⁴ "Think carefully about what you hear. The way you give to others is the way God will give to you, but God will give you even more. ²⁵ Those who have understanding will be given more. But those who do not have understanding, even what they have will be taken away from them."

As we fix our minds and hearts on the Word, our hope, strength, peace, etc. become our focus. Rather than seeing the attack of the devil to distract or destroy us, we see the

greatness of God. When we neglect the Word, our circumstances become what we focus on.

Jude 3 Dear friends, I wanted very much to write you about the salvation we all share. But I felt the need to write you about something else: I want to encourage you to fight hard for the faith that was given the holy people of God once and for all time.

Jude was aware of the “times and seasons.”

1. He remembers the Church growing successfully (Acts 1:15; 2:41, 47; 4:4; 5:14; 6:1, 7)
2. He also sees how that great enthusiasm dwindled. Now those who once couldn't wait to go to church were having to be warned to show up!

Hebrews 10:25 You should not stay away from the church meetings, as some are doing, but you should meet together and encourage each other...

His original desire was to write about the ...**salvation we all share**..., salvation for both Jews and Gentiles.

He had to change his letter to urge them all to ...**fight hard for the faith**....

fight hard –*epagonizomai* = to struggle, to fight continually even after being knocked down.

1. The idea is to maintain against opposition, to fight for something.
2. We know that God has freely given to all believers a specific amount of faith (Romans 12:3).
3. Jude basically says, “You’ve received freely, now brace yourself (get ready) for the fight to keep your faith!”

the faith - our original faith, belief, conviction, persuasion.

1. This is a battle being fought involving our very foundation in God.
2. Our rights, privileges, position, promises, salvation, eternity, etc. will be, and are being challenged by some enemy in the this life.
3. We will have to realize that this enemy is not “playing around”, but “playing for keeps”, and we better be ready! Jude sees our eternal destinies as the trophy for this fight.

Jude 4 Some people have secretly entered your group. Long ago the prophets wrote about these people who will be judged guilty. They are against God and have changed the grace of our God into a reason for sexual sin. They also refuse to accept Jesus Christ, our only Master and Lord.

Some people - ungodly, unbelievers, irreverent, wicked

These are unbelievers. ...**They also refuse to accept Jesus Christ...**, and Jude 19 which reveals they ...**do not have the Spirit.** - the Holy Spirit is not in them.

Peter wrote about believers who were acting and living like unbelievers.

2 Peter 2:20-22 They were made free from the evil in the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. But if they return to evil things and those things control them, then it is worse for them than it was before. ²¹ Yes, it would be better for them to have never known the right way than to know it and to turn away from the holy teaching that was given to them. ²² What they did is like this true saying: "A dog goes back to what it has thrown up," and, "After a pig is washed, it goes back and rolls in the mud."

Jude is clearly talking about unbelievers (Jude 4,10,19)

...**Entered your group...**- settled in alongside, lodged

The agenda of these ungodly people is to slip in alongside of believers, and try to look and act just like believers. Then after the believers accept them, they lead believers away from the Truth.

In Jude 3, we are warned to ...fight hard for the faith... That warning is made clearer in Jude 4.

The purpose of these people is to slip into the church, and pervert and corrupt the believers relationship with God, and cause them to lose faith in God. These false teachers are there to pervert what has been provided through Jesus Christ. Therefore, get ready to "fight the good fight of faith." (1 Timothy 6:12)

... **Long ago the prophets wrote about these people who will be judged guilty...**

This is not speaking of being predestined to Hell as some teach.

"*prographo*" - pro = before/grapho = to write

Spoken of earlier or before this moment by others - Old Testament prophets.

Zechariah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, Ezekiel, and the four gospels warns of the events of the Last Days and the apostasy that would occur.

...**They are against God and have changed the grace of our God into a reason for sexual sin...**

...**grace...** - *charis* = benefit, favor, gift, liberality, acceptable(ness), graciousness

... **They also refuse to accept...** - to contradict, disavow, reject

Galatians 5:13 My brothers and sisters, God called you to be free, but do not use your freedom as an excuse to do what pleases your sinful self. Serve each other with love.

The apostle Paul warns of using our new found freedoms in Christ as an excuse or license to do works of the flesh. The teaching of "grace" is being perverted where people are living recklessly, with no fear of God, or consequences. All that a person

needs is a “quick fix of confession”, with no real repentance or sorrow. Paul’s warning is to not take the graciousness of God to the limits. Paul, when writing to the Corinthians, declares we should not abuse our Christian liberties. Though lawful, they are not always profitable, or beneficial.

1 Corinthians 6:12 “I am allowed to do all things,” but not all things are good for me to do. “I am allowed to do all things,” but I will not let anything make me its slave.

Certain unbelievers are coming into the church, teaching corrupt doctrines, turning God’s grace into obscene and indecent sexual sins, areas of immorality, and convincing believers that “anything goes.”

Whenever we begin to give opportunity to the flesh, and use grace as a license to sin, the end result is almost always sexual sins.

Apostasy (falling away from God’s perfect way) almost always is connected to sexual sins and perversions.

Today, we battle with government and education wanting us to accept and embrace teachings under the title of “alternative lifestyles.”

This is a process, chipping away at the foundation, eroding the footing. This process occurs over generations, removing standards & absolutes.

Common Traits of False Teachers - Sexual Sins

1 Timothy 4:1 Now the Holy Spirit clearly says that in the later times some people will stop believing the faith. They will follow spirits that lie and teachings of demons.

2 Timothy 3:5-9 and will act as if they serve God but will not have his power. Stay away from those people. ⁶ Some of them go into homes and get control of silly women who are full of sin and are led by many evil desires. ⁷ These women are always learning new teachings, but they are never able to understand the truth fully. ⁸ Just as Jannes and Jambres were against Moses, these people are against the truth. Their thinking has been ruined, and they have failed in trying to follow the faith. ⁹ But they will not be successful in what they do, because as with Jannes and Jambres, everyone will see that they are foolish.

There is always a grain of truth in any false doctrine, so believers will swallow it easier - like a spoon full of sugar with medicine.

They resist the truth by teaching in opposition to the Word doctrines that sound like the truth yet are conflicting. They appeal to the flesh rather than to the human spirit, convincing unlearned or carnal-minded people that theirs is the way to God. The end is disastrous!

They will pass themselves off as “greater apostles,” proclaiming that “God spoke to them directly” and that He is their authority, and no one else. Thus, they challenge all local authorities by their “higher authority.”

These will be accepted as “ministers of righteousness” in some circles.

2 Timothy 4:3-4 because the time will come when people will not listen to the true teaching but will find many more teachers who please them by saying the things they want to hear. ⁴ They will stop listening to the truth and will begin to follow false stories.

These false teachers will have pleasing personalities, being very likeable.

Their teachings will be easy to accept, and many will follow them in finding a “religious leader” who says “satisfying the lusts of the flesh is perfectly alright,” giving approval to their carnality.

...They also refuse to accept Jesus Christ, our only Master and Lord.

These false teachers will either directly or indirectly reject Yahweh God.

Direct: atheism, cults, world religions, occults, humanism, New Age.

Indirect: polytheistic lifestyles, compromising lifestyles, etc.

They will deny Jesus in several ways:

1. God in the flesh

2. Virgin birth

3. Calvary Experience

blood shed for the remission of sins

“by His stripes you are healed.”

access gained back to God through Christ’s righteousness

4. Personal, physical return of the Lord

5. Through Christ alone and no other way can one be “born again.”

Jude 5-7 Three illustrations to Remember About Apostasy (falling away from God) and Judgment

Jude 5 The “Exodites” - the Egypt Generation unable to possess the promised land mostly because they did not trust God. They died in the wilderness.

Jude 6 The Fallen Angels - rebellious co-conspirators with Satan (Lucifer), cast down from Heaven, who attempted an overthrow with Lucifer over God.

Jude 7 Sodom and Gomorrah - geographical region overcome by sexual perversions during Abraham’s time.

Jude 5 I want to remind you of some things you already know: Remember that the Lord saved his people by bringing them out of the land of Egypt. But later he destroyed all those who did not believe.

...**the Lord saved his people** - *sozo* = save, deliver, protect, preserve safe from danger or loss.

The meaning here is to “save from”, or “deliver out of.”

...**destroyed all those who did not believe.**

Believe - *pisteuo* = to believe, have faith in, trust, credit.

This was not about salvation. This was about the ability to believe and trust God to honor and keep His promises.

The Exodites were “miracle-numbed” people. They had experienced the escape from the 10 plagues, crossed through the Red Sea on dry ground, had catered meals delivered to their doorstep (manna and quail), enjoyed supernatural air conditioning and heating (pillar of cloud and fire), and wore clothing that did not wear out, and grew with them in size for 40 years. Yet the Exodites - those who came out of Egypt but did not enter Canaan - after experiencing daily miraculous provision by Jehovah Jireh found themselves unable to trust and believe that God was able to perform all He promised!

Israel is living proof that signs and wonders do not automatically cause people to believe. Signs and wonders follow those who do believe.

The Red Sea is a typology (prophetic representation) of salvation. Putting off the “old man”, deliverance from previous lifestyles, etc. The Jordan River, however, is a typology of crossing through to the “promised land” of God’s provision and promises. It is the entering into your inheritance through Christ. Those who “cross over the Jordan” are not crossing over from death to life. That was done at the Red Sea! This crossing involves the maturity process of moving from being a “child” of God, to being a “son” (Greek = *Huios* = full sonship privileges) of God.

Hebrews 3:7-14 (quotes from Psalm 95:7-11) So it is as the Holy Spirit says: “Today listen to what he says. ⁸ Do not be stubborn as in the past when you turned against God, when you tested God in the desert. ⁹ There your ancestors tried me and tested me and saw the things I did for forty years. ¹⁰ I was angry with them. I said, ‘They are not loyal to me and have not understood my ways.’ ¹¹ I was angry and made a promise, ‘They will never enter my rest.’” ¹² So brothers and sisters, be careful that none of you has an evil, unbelieving heart that will turn you away from the living God. ¹³ But encourage each other every day while it is “today.” Help each other so none of you will become hardened because sin has tricked you. ¹⁴ We all share in Christ if we keep till the end the sure faith we had in the beginning.

Jude 6 And remember the angels who did not keep their place of power but left their proper home. The Lord has kept these angels in darkness, bound with everlasting chains, to be judged on the great day.

God gave grace before judgment and destruction came:

Fallen Angels - the time frame jumps from the angelic state when they were given a “once and for all” choice to follow God or Lucifer, to the time span just before the Noah’s Flood. The 120-year span before the Flood, and the involvement of men with these angels, is the particular period of “grace” to be dealt with in Jude. (Noah’s time / representing the angelic state).

This example of apostasy deals with angelic rebels who joined forces with Lucifer.

It appears that angels were given a will also. (the ability to choose)

God apparently gave the angels a “once and for all” opportunity to decide whom they would follow - God or Lucifer.

In their rebellious mutiny attempt, Lucifer, and the angels who followed him were cast out of heaven. (Isaiah 14; Ezekiel 28)

When God created Adam, Satan (Lucifer in heaven) and the angels were already inhabiting the earth.

Although the scriptures do not plainly state all the ingredients of Satan’s twisted schemes directed toward God, and His eternal plans; there are implied “pieces of the perverted puzzle.” One of these areas is referred to in Genesis 3:15.

Genesis 3:15 I will make you and the woman enemies to each other. Your descendants and her descendants will be enemies. One of her descendants will crush your head, and you will bite his heel.”

The descendant of the woman (Jesus) is now declared by God to be the future “head-bruise” of Satan. Satan would now attempt to do everything within his ability to stop, hinder, or restrain this “head-bruise” from being born. It makes sense that Satan would try to stop all ways that this One could gain entrance into this world - including the corruption of the genealogy line of the human race He would have to come through. After all, if the descendant became corrupted in any way, it cannot fulfill God’s requirements for redemptive purposes. If Satan can stop the purity of the descendant, he will never get his head “bruised” because of a technical disqualification.

The next question in Satan’s possible game plan in trying to cover all the bases is HOW do you corrupt the lineage of this “Woman’s Descendant”? (You must attack every potential line - the whole human race!

Genesis 6:1-4 The number of people on earth began to grow, and daughters were born to them. ² When the sons of God saw that these girls were beautiful, they married any of them they chose. ³ The Lord said, “My Spirit will not remain in human beings forever, because they are flesh. They will live only 120 years.” ⁴ The Nephilim were on the earth in those days and also later. That was when the sons of God had sexual relations with the daughters of human beings. These women gave birth to children, who became famous and were the mighty warriors of long ago.

...**sons of God**... angels.

Job 38:4 Where were you when I made the earth’s foundation? Tell me, if you understand.

Job 38:7 while the morning stars sang together and all the angels [sons of God] shouted with joy?

All angels recorded in the Bible are ADULT MALES in appearance.

Genesis 6:2 says the sons of God (angels) took wives for themselves from human women. The question arises of HOW could this be possible for angelic beings to have sexual intercourse with human beings.

... **the angels who did not keep their place of power but left their proper home....**

These angels didn't keep their own territory, their assigned region of the universe, but left their ...**place of power**..., and took a bodily form different than their spiritual ones.

Genesis 6:4 The Nephilim were on the earth in those days and also later. That was when the sons of God had sexual relations with the daughters of human beings. These women gave birth to children, who became famous and were the mighty warriors of long ago.

...**Nephilim**... are people who are large and strong. Sometimes called "giants."

Goliath and his brothers, as well as Og, king of Bashan were Nephilim (giants).

These giants were violent tribes oppressing entire nations.

Where did these giants come from? Offspring of the Sons of God and the daughters of men! (Genesis 6:4)

Genesis 6:5 The Lord saw that the human beings on the earth were very wicked and that everything they thought about was evil.

Genesis 6:8 But Noah pleased the Lord.

... **The Lord has kept these angels in darkness, bound with everlasting chains, to be judged on the great day.**

...**kept**... to guard, keep an eye on, to prevent escaping, detain

...everlasting... without end, perpetual (different than 'eternal' in the sense that 'eternal' lends itself to without beginning or end; whereas 'everlasting' focuses more toward a beginning but not having an end.)

...**bound**... - to bind, to place in bonds or imprisonment for the sake of the gospel.

...**darkness**... - foggy weather, smoke. The thick darkness associated with the region of those who are lost, the darkness of *Gehenna* or *Tartarus* (hell).

QUESTION: "What happened to the angels/sons of God who left their proper home and intermingled with the daughters of men?"

1. Since they are created angelic beings, they do not die of old age like humans.

2. Genesis 6:4 says that the children of these angels existed *before and after* the Flood, revealing this angelic 'activity' was not destroyed by the Flood. These supernatural beings were not affected physically (death) as "flesh" was on the earth.
3. Since these angels cannot die, a divine sentencing was placed upon them by God due to their part in this unique covert attempt at polluting the lineage of the Seed who would bruise the Serpent's head.
4. **2 Peter 2:4** When angels sinned, God did not let them go free without punishment. He sent them to hell and put them in caves of darkness where they are being held for judgment.
 - a. Although the "sin" is not mentioned here, it is revealed in Jude 6-7, and Genesis 6:1-4 states that there was an additional sin besides the one in heaven.
 - b. Lucifer was cast down to the earth, NOT HELL, as his initial punishment. He will later be cast into hell, and finally the lake of fire as his final punishment. (Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:11-19; Job 1:6-7; Revelation 20).

Jude 7 Also remember the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and the other towns around them. In the same way they were full of sexual sin and people who desired sexual relations that God does not allow. They suffer the punishment of eternal fire, as an example for all to see.

God gave grace before judgment and destruction came:

Sodom and Gomorrah - God sent angels to preach to them the need of repentance (normally human messengers of this truth are given to the saints). Secondly, they were so wicked, God even permitted the intercession of Abraham to "convince" Him to spare all of them from mass judgment if "only 10 righteous" people could be found in the area! [Genesis 18:32] (Abraham's time/represent unbelievers)

What events, actions, occurrences are common to both the period of time with Noah, and the time of Abraham? It is the similarity of fallen angels going after the "strange flesh" of mankind, and the people of Sodom acting in "like manner" - pursuing "strange flesh" to them.

...**sexual relations that God does not allow**... - another of a different kind (altered, unequally yoked)

God's teaching from the beginning has been that man take a woman for companionship. All other creatures were determined to be an unsuitable wife for him (Genesis 2:18-25). There was innocence in all of their relationship with one another - including sexual. Sexual relationship within the limits of a marriage covenant has God's approval, and His blessings as well.

God declares, however, fornication, adultery, homosexuality, lesbianism, incest, bestiality are abominations in His sight (Leviticus 20:10-22)

...**sexual relations that God does not allow**... can mean any sexual relationship outside the boundaries of a husband and wife.

Apostasy (falling away from God) begins to happen when people turn away from God, and they begin to twist grace, using grace as a license to sin.

Jude's reference to Sodom is a reminder that Abraham's day had become so horrible, that society as a whole was embracing all types of sexuality unrestrained, and accepted it as alternative lifestyles. This same pattern will be seen in the last days as well. When a nation/church embraces the acceptance of alternative sexual lifestyles, that nation/church is a breath away from God's judgment. (Leviticus 20:23)

The Church must become bold in our declaration of what God calls sin - regardless of society's acceptance or mockery of purity and holiness.

Hebrews 12:14 Try to live in peace with all people, and try to live free from sin. Anyone whose life is not holy will never see the Lord.

Jude warns us to guard ourselves from getting caught in the undertow of society's standards, and be ready to contend for the faith - even for our very salvation!

Last Days prophecies record both a "falling away" and a great harvest of souls.

God always has a remnant

1. Exodites - Joshua and Caleb
2. Flood - Noah and his family (total of 8)
3. Sodom - Lot and his 2 daughters not married (his wife almost made it)

Jude 8 It is the same with these people who have entered your group. They are guided by dreams and make themselves filthy with sin. They reject God's authority and speak against the angels.

SUMMARY - (Jude 3-7) The final fall of abused grace leads people into sexual sins and perversions whether believer, unbeliever, or angel. Apostasy (turning away from God) is happening among the audience Jude is writing to. He urges them to "...fight hard for the faith...!"

In Jude 8-13, Jude begins to describe the lusts and sins of these unbelieving traitors. A parallel commentary is listed in 2 Peter 2:10-14 concerning apostasy among believers.

...They are guided by dreams and make themselves filthy with sin ... Deceived individuals holding vain and empty opinions, manipulated by continual cruel, lustful thoughts.

1. These are individuals creating in their minds, then dwelling on sexual fantasies.
2. Next, they are acting out, and living out these fantasies to the fullest. Whatever they think of; they then go and do.

...make themselves filthy with sin...

1. Adultery, fornication, homosexuality, lesbianism, bestiality

2. 2 Peter 2:14 says that apostates allowed sexual perversions to go so far, ... **their desire for sin is never satisfied...**

...**They reject God's authority**... (characteristics and personalities of apostates)

1. These false teachers slip into the Church, and through their teachings and lifestyles they try to lead believers away from God. These apostates are rebellious against all authority figures, whether spiritual or natural. Their agenda is to lead others away from respecting, honoring, and esteeming those over us in life.

2 Peter 2:10 - "...hate authority". These are not afraid to speak evil of authority figures. Irreverent. Disrespectful.

Matthew 28:18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All power in heaven and on earth is given to me.

It is important for us to remember that only Jesus has all authority. Every other form of authority whether church or government, is delegated authority.

Our responsibility to submit to these authority figures is not based upon their own personal perfection and "worthiness", but is based upon our understanding that any authority is an extension of Christ's ultimate authority.

When we honor and obey government or church powers over our lives, we honor God.

When we resist and rebel against these same authorities, we are rebelling against God.

EXCEPTION: Any "power" that sets itself in opposition to God, or His teaching must be prayerfully examined, and weighed in light of scripture. If that power demands, requires, obvious disobedience to God, our response should be the same as the apostles in Acts 5:

Acts 5:29 Peter and the other apostles answered, "We must obey God, not human authority!"

Jude 9 Not even the archangel Michael, when he argued with the devil about who would have the body of Moses, dared to judge the devil guilty. Instead, he said, "The Lord punish you."

Michael becomes an example in the unseen world of how dignity and authority works.

This is the only place in the Bible recording this encounter. What is its value? To understand its purpose, we must keep it in the context of Jude's writing.

Michael stood in delegated authority. He did not exercise or flex his own strength, though it is mighty.

Michael (the warring angel) restrained himself and left all judgment and vengeance to God.

Michael showed respect to his adversary's original dignity.

Jude 10 But these people speak against things they do not understand. And what they do know, by feeling, as dumb animals know things, are the very things that destroy them.

...**But**...connects the last verse with the next thought.

...**these people**... Jude is now speaking of the teachers who had fallen away from the truth. Michael became a proper role model of “how to do it”. Now Jude brings us back to the characteristics of ...**these people**... who creep into our midst.

...**speak against**... Their communication is blasphemous. slanderous, vile, disrespectful, and filled with venomous poison.

...**things they do not understand**... They have no knowledge or understanding of respect for authority.

...**And what they do know**... They speak and live from a self-centered, flesh-gratifying viewpoint. They act and respond based upon natural emotions and instincts - not God’s knowledge and word.

1. They brag about having more knowledge and more revelation of spiritual matters. But really these false teachers don’t even have the basic beginning understanding of spiritual things. They are proud of their disrespect and rebellion. Even though both pride and rebellion are obvious violations of scriptural truths.

2. Amazingly, these false teachers are able to persuade many to follow them, regardless of the way they live and speak personally and publicly against God’s anointed leaders. (“Do what I say-Ignore what I do.”)

(How stupid we appear to the world when we make charisma (exciting personality) more important than character!)

...**dumb animals**... They approach life from an unregenerate, animalistic, senses-oriented style. The “Law of the Jungle” is their theme. Godly insight and wisdom is unknown to them. It is not that they are arguing against things they understand, or once embraced. These teachers don’t know the Truth. They are the forerunners to many who are caught up in New Age thinking. They are being deceived themselves, while deceiving others.

Jude 11 It will be terrible for them. They have followed the way of Cain, and for money they have given themselves to doing the wrong that Balaam did. They have fought against God as Korah did, and like Korah, they surely will be destroyed.

... **It will be terrible for them. They have followed the way of Cain...**

...**way**... - “road, progress, route, act, mode, means”

Jude wrote that false teachers are entering the church perverting the gospel, and turning people away from God. These false teachers themselves have rejected God. They are unbelievers (v.4,10,19) contrary to the teachers that Peter writes of in 2 Peter. In v.11 Jude uses three Old Testament characters to reveal the characteristics of these false teachers.

In v.5-7 Jude uses another group of three: Israel, fallen angels, and Sodom and Gomorrah. In v.11, he uses the group of three of Cain (unbeliever), Balaam and Korah (believers). Whereas

each got their followers in different ways, each give us warning as to the variety of ways the believer needs to guard his heart in the Last Days. [Balaam-greed, covetousness, betrayal, stumbling block; Korah-rebellion against authority]

...The way of Cain...Genesis 4:1-16

Genesis 4:1--Cain, the firstborn of Adam and Eve.

Genesis 4:2--Abel took care of the flocks. Cain became a farmer.

Genesis 4:3--Cain brings an offering (a gift) to the Lord.

1. This was Cain's own choice. He didn't do it because Abel had done it.

2. ...gift... DONATION - present gift, tribute sacrifice (unbloody one) meat offering/cereal offering-Lev.2:1

Genesis 4:4 Abel brought some of the firstborn of his flock.

Genesis 4:4-5 ...The Lord accepted Abel and his gift, ⁵ but he did not accept Cain and his gift. So Cain became very angry and felt rejected.

Question: Why would God accept one and not the other?

Hebrews 11:4 It was by faith that Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. God said he was pleased with the gifts Abel offered and called Abel a good man because of his faith. Abel died, but through his faith he is still speaking.

Isaiah 1:11-17 ... The Lord says, "I do not want all these sacrifices." .verse 13 ..."Don't continue bringing me worthless sacrifices!"

verse 16 "Wash yourselves and make yourselves clean..." - If your heart and motive is not right, your sacrifice isn't either!"

The sacrifice was accepted for the man, and not the man for the sacrifice!

Proverbs 12:2 The Lord is pleased with a good person, but he will punish anyone who plans evil.

Proverbs 15:8 ...The Lord hates the sacrifice that the wicked offer, but he likes the prayers of honest people....

2 Corinthians. 8:1-5, 11-12 - Attitude of giving of Macedonians. They gave willingly.

ABEL'S SACRIFICE WAS ONE OF FAITH--- GOD SAW THE HEART!

Question: Why would God accept Abel's offering?

best parts vs. donation - God is first and requires to be honored and worshipped with the best parts of ALL our increase!

Proverbs 3:9-10 Honor the Lord with your wealth and the firstfruits from all your crops.
¹⁰ Then your barns will be full, and your wine barrels will overflow with new wine.

Firstborn belong to God (Exodus 13:2, 12, 13)

First of the firstfruits belong to God (Exodus 23:19)

All devoted things holy to God (Leviticus 27:28-32)

ABEL gave God the best of the best, CAIN gave a donation of his choosing!

Question: Was Abel's sacrifice accepted because it was "blood"?

Hebrews 12:24 ...you have come to the sprinkled blood that has a better message than the blood of Abel.

The blood of Abel is Abel's shed blood, dying because of his faith that becomes a witness and testimony. Yet it cannot compare to Christ's shed blood! (Matthew 23:34-35; Luke 11:49-52)

Genesis 4:5-7 Cain becomes angry/wounded pride/envy/anger – God's counsel -- ...**If you do things well, I will accept you...**

God gives opportunity to make it right - GRACE.

Genesis 4:8-15 Cain does not repent, but gets revenge.

His hatred of Abel's sacrifice being accepted and not his moves to hatred and finally MURDER

Question: "Is there any other purpose to the blood sacrifice of Abel? YES!"

Hebrews 9:22 ...sins cannot be forgiven without blood...

A foreshadowing of what is necessary to obtain forgiveness.

Hebrews 9:13,14 The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a cow are sprinkled on the people who are unclean, and this makes their bodies clean again. ¹⁴ How much more is done by the blood of Christ. He offered himself through the eternal Spirit as a perfect sacrifice to God. His blood will make our consciences pure from useless acts so we may serve the living God.

The blood of animals could only postpone the punishment for your sins. The blood of Jesus washed your sins away.

... **They have fought against God as Korah did, and like Korah, they surely will be destroyed...**

Numbers 16:1-50

Numbers 16:1 Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and On turned against Moses. (Korah was the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi; Dathan and Abiram were brothers, the sons of Eliab; and On was the son of Peleth; Dathan, Abiram, and On were from the tribe of Reuben.)

Korah - Levite related as distant cousin of Moses and Aaron (Kohathites)

Dathan and Abiram and On - Reubenites (firstborn of Jacob/Israel)

Dathan, Abiram and On were offended because the birthright (double blessing portion, position, and rulership) should have been given to their ancestor, Reuben. But instead, it was given to Joseph. See Genesis 46:8,9; 49:4, 9, 10; 1 Chronicles 5:1-2; Genesis 35:22.

Korah wanted more power - greater than what God had already given him. Perhaps Korah felt he was living far below his potential.

3 tribes made up the Levites - Kohath, Gershon, Merari

Exodus.6:18 - sons of Kohath---Amram (Moses, Aaron) Izhar (Korah) Hebron, Uzziel,

Korah was born into the “wrong family”.

Kohathites ministered closer to the presence of God than the other two groups, yet it still wasn't good enough!

Dathan and Abiram (and On, never mentioned again) were not interested in the spiritual power or position of Aaron, but rather in the authority/leadership of Moses.

Therefore, power hungry individuals whether in the world or in the church join forces over past offenses, jealousies, and desires for promotion outside of God's will.

Numbers 16:2 These men gathered two hundred fifty other Israelite men, well-known leaders chosen by the community, and challenged Moses.

Numbers 16:3...seeing all the congregation are holy...

TRUTH... 1. All were holy (kingdom of priests, holy nation – (Exodus 19:6).

2. Although true, it doesn't give reason for attack!

3. 2 wrongs don't make a right----imperfect leadership is no grounds for rebellion or mutiny!

4. Though a holy nation, not all are Levites (God's order of ministers).

5. Theocratic government (government led by God) is difficult to yield to - especially if you're determined to become more powerful.

Numbers 16:3 ...you put yourselves above all the people of the Lord...”

Numbers 16:5 ...Tomorrow morning the Lord will show who belongs to him... The mercy of God is extended, giving them an opportunity to think it through.