



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Michael's Obedience

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The Epistle of Jude (AD 68-70), considered one of the general epistles, likely author was Jude. Jude was the half-brother of Jesus Christ and the brothers (Mt 13:55) of Joseph, Simon and James, the leader of the Jerusalem Church and the Jerusalem Council. While Jude had initially rejected Jesus as the Messiah (Jn 7:1-9), he, along with other half-brothers of Jesus accepted Jesus as the Messiah after Christ's resurrection (Ac 1:14). Jude likely wrote this epistle from Jerusalem and while the exact audience is unknown it was likely to Jewish believers and to a body or region that was under the influence of and plagued by false teachers. While Christianity and Christians were under political attack from Rome, the bigger threat to the church was false doctrine being preached by gnostic-like apostates. Jude calls the church to fight for the truth. Jude sites OT examples of rebellion and rejection to God and the character traits of these apostates. (Jude 9-11 NASB)

"But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!".(9)

Michael, the Chief Angel, was and is obedient to God. Jude sites a responsive example of the highest order apostate challenges when he describes Michael dispute with Satan. The example is of Michael, who watched over the people of Israel, and the hiding of the body of Moses (Dt 34:5&6) from Satan and the resulting dispute with Satan over the location of the body. It's likely that Satan would have like to display Moses' body for some diabolical reason or purpose. However, rather than fight and rebuke Satan, Michael understood his role and order from God and did not curse Satan but rather deferred to the power of God and His ultimate judgment of Satan. Jude is providing a supreme example of how Christians are to deal with Satan and his forces. Believers are not to address Satan and his evil forces but rather to call upon the Lord and His power and intervention against them.

How do apostates respond to spiritual understanding and their instinctual knowledge?

"But these men revile the things which they do not understand; and the things which they know by instinct, like unreasoning animals, by these things they are destroyed."(10)

Apostates in the church. Jude is again speaking of a specific dangerous apostate, the one who creeps in and stays in the church. Jude states that these apostates being bold, brash and arrogant revile or blaspheme spiritual matters that they don't understand. These apostates are spiritually blinded by Satan. These false teachers, in their pride and arrogance, despise authority and speak evil of holy things due to their sin and ignorance. Jude likens them to unreasoning animals, reacting only to their instinct and selfish desires which leads to eternal self-destruction.

Jude declares a warning to this special apostate.

"Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain, and for pay they have rushed headlong into the error of Balaam, and perished in the rebellion of Korah." (11)

Ultimate spiritual judgment. Jude declares that there will be an ultimate spiritual judgment on the apostates similar to the OT paths of Cain, Balaam and Korah. Cain rebelled against God's revealed will regarding sacrifice (Gen 4:1-15). The error of Balaam is that he devised a plan that enticed Israel into a compromising position that resulted in idolatry and immorality that brought judgment from God. (Nu 31:16). Korah and 250 Jewish leaders rebelled against the God-appointed leadership of Moses and Aaron which resulted in God's divine judgment against Korah and his apostates. Jude sites these OT examples as a warning and eternal self-destructive disposition of apostates in the church.

For Your Consideration:

- Do you avoid addressing Satan and his evil forces but rather call upon the Lord and His power and intervention against them during spiritual battles?
- Do you recognize apostates or false teachers by their pride and arrogance in despising authority and speaking evil of holy things?
- Do you rely upon God's Word and will for discernment in all situations

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: SESSION OR HEARING WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE RM. 44

STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44