



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

## False Teachers' Profile

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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 12-16 NASB)

*"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." (12-13)*

**False teachers are not what they appear.** Jude provides several examples of 'these men'; apostates and/or false teachers in the church. Jude first describes them as "hidden reefs"; reefs that are unseen from the surface, yet can wreck a ship. Jude likens this example to those apostates that may look fine on the surface but are people that can wreck a person's spiritual life. Jude continues to share that the false teacher "feasts with you without fear"; that they not only do wrong, but have not fear of consequence to their behavior and think only of themselves. Jude continues to describe these apostates as "clouds without water" and "autumn trees without fruit"; drawing the analogy of looking like one thing yet being another. Jesus said, *"So then, you will know them by their fruits."* (Mt 7:20); describing that the behavior or fruit of individuals will provide insight to their faith. Apostates and false teachers in the church will be known by their lack of "fruit". Jude declares that these apostates have reserved for themselves an eternal "black darkness" fate.

Jude shares a prophesy about "these men" from Enoch.

*"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."(14-15)*

**Enoch prophesied about the apostates.** Enoch was in the seventh generation (Gen 5: 1-24) of Adam, the father of Methuselah and was taken by God (Heb11:5). Jude shares that Enoch prophesied about the Lord coming with "many thousands of His holy ones" (*lit. - His holy ten thousand*), in order to execute judgment on those who rejected Him, including 'these men', the apostates in the church. What are some of the characteristics of an apostate?

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

**False teachers will be grumblers, fault finders, self seeking, arrogant speakers and flatterers.** The term grumblers, (*Gk. goggustes - to grumble or murmur*) used only in the NT by Jude, to describe the apostates in the church is similar to the murmuring of Israel against God (Ex 16: 7-9; Nu 14:27 & 29; 16: 11). Additionally, each of the subsequent terms that Jude uses to describe an apostate or false teacher fits the profile of the rebellious people of Israel against God, who God subsequently did not allow into the Promised Land.

Jude warns the church of the false teachers and the false teachers of their eternal "black darkness" fate.

### For Your Consideration:

- Do you recognize false teachers that appear to be religious, yet yield no fruit?
- Do you recognize rebellion against God in the church?
- Are you seeking God and His truth?

## 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