

Dreamers and Defilers

by Fred DeRuvo Study-Grow-Know Ministries

“Yet in the same way these men, also by dreaming, defile the flesh, and reject authority, and revile angelic majesties. 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!” 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.” Jude 1:8-10

In this section of Jude’s letter, he details the *character* of apostates, and he has a lot to say. Remember, apostates are essentially *arrogant* and *egotistical*, signs that are eventually seen even if they first appear to come to a congregation meekly and humbly. After a while, their true nature will be revealed because it will come to the fore.

Jude tells us that these men are *dreamers*. They defile the flesh by involving themselves in physical things that they should not do, and they dream about themselves either in inordinately immoral situations or having a great following of people who literally worship them. These things defile their flesh because they become the things they chase after.

That they are defiled doesn’t matter to them because it is their goal in life to pursue the things that make them *feel* good. Since they preach that God is love and that all is forgiven, sin does not matter at all and never comes into the picture. It’s the antiquated superstitious belief in an angry God that keeps people from really enjoying life, but God has obviously shown how much He loves human beings! Because of that, He wants us to live life as we were originally meant to live it.

What many people do not understand is that when we become authentic Christians (cf. John 3), we continue to exist with the sin nature within us. We are *not* like our first parents, Adam and Eve, who knew what life was like *before* they chose to disbelieve God.

On our best day, we will not be able to experience that type of life *until* our sin nature is completely removed from our being. Then, and only then, will we experience life as it was truly meant to be lived. We cannot do that now.

This is the lie the apostates preach, and they indulge in their own personal proclivities that they enjoy, encouraging others to do the same thing. Let it all hang out. Go for the gusto! In this way, they are dreamers, trying to create what they *imagine*. Dreams are not real. They are something that our brains conjure up for us when we sleep. When we wake up,

we realize instantly that whatever we dreamed while we were asleep was just that, something we dreamed while we slept.

Jude is referring to dreams in another way, though. We all look down the road of our lives and see ourselves in various situations. People have *dreams* for themselves. Some dream that one day, they will be a pro basketball or baseball player. Others dream about having a career in music or acting. Still others dream about owning their own law firm one day. There are many good dreams and many of them are goals to shoot for; however, as Christians we always need to be prepared to recognize that our dreams might not be God's dreams for us.

The apostates – these “dreamers” – dream of ruling over people, having their own needs met, and gaining riches from gullible people who long ago stopped thinking for themselves. They believe that getting there is the key, and it does not matter *how* they get there or who they use.

Not long ago, the leader of a polygamous sect of Mormonism was given a life sentence for having sexual relations with young girls. The sect is known as the *Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints*, and Warren Jeffs was/is the only and ultimate leader.

It should be of interest to note that in nearly all examples of various cults and sects, these freakish groups wind up with one person – usually male – who ends up having sex with as many young children as possible.

Jeffs maintains that these were his brides and that they had to have sex with him as part of their “worship.” In truth, individuals like Jeffs are child abusers and molesters using religion as a cloak for their illegal and highly immoral activities. This is what false teachers and apostates do, and they succeed because of the gullibility of the people with whom they interact.

Apparently, Jeffs is still in control of his group even though he is headed to prison for 119 years. How he will control the group is not known, but just like criminal gang bosses can and do control their gangs from behind prison walls, it should not be that difficult. I'm sure the FBI and other law enforcement groups will keep their eye on this sect. With Jeffs behind bars, someone else will have to at least step up to lead by proxy. Things may go on essentially as they have been even though Jeffs will not physically be there to lead the group.

Apostates, once again, are concerned *only for themselves*. The people they gather are gathered to fill the needs of the apostate. They cannot have the life they want without people who can do the footwork and donate money. They are smooth operators when it comes to gaining a following.

Consider the adults who willingly allowed Jeffs to have sex with their young girls. What normal parent does this?

It is because of this danger that leaders within every authentic Christian congregation need to be constantly alert. They are charged with protecting the flock and they need to take that job seriously.

Everyone in the local congregation should be on the lookout for these wolves dressed like sheep, but the leaders have the larger responsibility. If they close their eyes or fall asleep on duty, terrible things could happen.

It is interesting that from here, Jude refers to Michael the Archangel and his interaction with the devil over the issue of Moses' body. This incident does not appear in any other place in Scripture; Jude is referring to the account that appears in the *Assumption of Moses*.

Here we learn that after Moses died, prohibited by God from entering the Promised Land (cf. Deuteronomy 34), Satan apparently tried to steal his newly deceased body. Michael the Archangel was sent to respond. God wanted Moses' body buried and Michael carried that mission out. To this day, no one knows where Moses' body is buried, and it doesn't matter either.

The point of Jude's comments here is that even though Michael the Archangel *could* have taken Satan on directly, he instead chose to defer to the Lord and *His* authority. When Satan tried to grab Moses' body and started arguing with Michael about it, Michael simply said, "*The Lord rebuke you!*" and based on our Lord's authority, Satan was rebuked and likely left without saying another word.

Too many times, Christians today believe they are involved in some type of "deliverance ministry" in which they need to come directly against the powers of darkness. I am *not* saying that God does not use Christians to free people from the powers of darkness. I'm not saying that at all.

However, I *am* saying that when we come up against Satan or one of his minions, it is best to rebuke them in the Lord's authority, just as Michael did here in Jude's account. In Luke 10, we read of the 70 disciples whom the Lord had sent out in the authority of His Name to spread the gospel. They came back marveling that even the demons listened to them and had to obey.

These demons obeyed because of the *Lord's* authority, not the individual Christian's authority. Our authority rests only in Jesus. We have no authority apart from Him. It is better for us to realize that as Christians, we have no authority of our own. We operate under the authority of Jesus and it is upon *that* authority that demons tremble and flee, not because of any authority we may think we have in and of ourselves.

The people who actually go *looking* for Satan and his hordes of demons are on the wrong track, in my opinion. Of course, they would disagree with me, but the truth of the matter is that it seems to be little more than some sideshow type of endeavor.

People in general are curious about evil, with demonic possession, with horror of all sorts and can even become enamored with it, kind of like seeing a terrible car wreck and not being able to turn away. Horror movies have always been a big draw for the multitudes. Why should Christians be any different? Many Christians are infatuated with the evident power of the enemy and want to see it in action. I think that's a mistake. For one thing, it is dangerous if the Christian is not a strong believer. For another, the focus is wrong.

Our focus should be on spreading the gospel. In the course of doing *that*, we will likely meet the challenge of dark forces from time to time. It will be enough to rebuke them at that point when it crops up, rather than go on a search looking for demons under every rock and behind every door.

Nonetheless, Jude is noting that the apostates he has been talking about seem to think they have the power to take on the enemy in their own strength. Oh, they won't say it that way. They'll be sure to throw in Jesus' Name from time to time as they weave their web of lies, but they always wind up puffing themselves up.

They are the ones who went against the demon or Satan (in Jesus' Name). *They* are the ones who went head to head with Satan, undeterred and unwilling to back down (in Jesus' Name). It is the apostate who bravely faced the powers of darkness at great risk to himself in order to set some poor soul free.

Some apostates will even turn it into a funny anecdote. "*Oh, I'll tell ya what, people! (CROWD: WHAT?!) I'm glad you asked! (CROWD: laughter). I'll tell you when I started toward that man filled with the power of demons, he began to cower right in front of me! (CROWD: applause).*

"Yessir, this ol' demon, he knew he was no match for me. Why is that? (CROWD: Jesus!) That's right. I'VE got the power of Jesus in ME and there's no demon in the universe that can stand against that!"

At this point, the TV evangelist begins a little "happy dance" on stage, and row by row, people in the audience start clapping their hands and standing. Everyone is just so joyful!

Now wait a minute here. For *whom* are these people clapping, the evangelist or Jesus? I haven't heard the evangelist say anything about this poor soul who was possessed but now *belongs* to Jesus. Did the person become a Christian? I have no idea.

In fact, all I heard was how brave and courageous this evangelist was, and implicit in his discourse is that fact that he is obviously extremely strong in the Lord to be able to withstand the onslaught of the enemy. You definitely want to hang out with him!

In short, it's all about the evangelist, but it *sounds* like it's all about Jesus. Nope, all eyes on the evangelist. Don't you wish you were like *him*? Don't you wish you had God's power coursing through your veins like *he does*? Don't you wish you were as close to God as *he* obviously is to Him? Even devils shudder because of him.

Folks, we don't even know if the story the evangelist just told us actually *happened*! He's a dreamer, a defiler. He goes where Michael the Archangel did not go, and Michael's power is far superior to that TV evangelist's, whose real power is in his ability to brag and lie.

It is because of this –these apostates take the powers of darkness so lightly – that they will eventually be destroyed by these very things, because the web that Satan weaves is extremely *intricate*. He'll let these apostates think they have power over him; all the while he is doing just exactly what they are doing, but to the evangelist.

Well, that is our show for today, folks. Thank you so much for joining me and until we meet again, may the Lord open your eyes to show you how blessed you are in Him!