

Intro:

IV. Apostates Illustrated

A. Characteristics of Their Nature - vs 8-10

1. Ties that Bind, “The New” is the Same as “The Old” - vs 8a

a. Likewise

i. transition from previous illustrations

ii. Today’s apostates exhibit some of the same ungodly character traits

b. also these dreamers

i. *enupniazomai* - to dream:--dream(-er).

ii. Used only 1 other time Ac 2:16-17 referring to Joel’s prophecy

- refers to revelatory dreams rather than normal dreams

- this will happen during the tribulation—Joel 2:28-32

- false teachers were and still do claim their dreams as authoritative, a divine source for their “new truths” - Mormonism, etc.

iii. Moses and Paul both warned of these dreamers - **De 13:1-5; Col 2:18-19**

iv. NT normal use for dreams is *onar* - Mt 1:20; 2:12,13,19,22; 27:19

2. Their Immorality - vs 8b

a. the flesh,

i. *sarx* - flesh, the body (as opposed to the soul (or spirit), or as the symbol of what is external, or human nature (with its frailties (physically or morally) and passions), or (specially), a human being (as such):--carnal(-ly, + -ly minded), flesh(-ly).

ii. Here, referring to the body

b. defile

i. *miaino* - to sully or taint, contaminate (ceremonially or morally):--defile.

ii. When linked with *sarx*, refers to moral and physical defilement, or sexual sin

c. false teachers are immoral even if their immorality is not publicly known

i. they are w/o the Spirit - **Jd 19**

ii. Evidenced by their abandonment of the truth - **1 Jo 2:19-23**

iii. they have no ability to restrain the passion of lust - **Ro 6:20-21; 8:7-8; Gal 5:19**

3. Their Insubordination - vs 8c

a. reject

i. *atheteo* - to set aside, to disesteem, neutralize or violate:--cast off, despise, disannul, frustrate, bring to naught, reject.

ii. Refers to destroying something established

b. authority,

i. *kuriotes* - mastery, rulers:--dominion, government.

ii. They demand to rule their own lives and therefore will not submit to Christ - **vs 4; Mt 23:27-28**

4. Their Irreverence - vs 8d-10

a. and speak evil of dignitaries.

i. *blasphemeo* - to vilify; to speak impiously: blaspheme(-er, -mously, -my), defame, rail on, revile, speak evil.

ii. *doxa* - glory (as very apparent), dignity, glory(-ious), honor, praise, worship.

- could refer to God's majesty
- angelic majesties is better b/c of following context and as Peter uses the same word in the same way in parallel passage - **2 Pet 2:10**

b. Michael the archangel

- i. God's most powerful angel, protector of God's people - **Da 10:13; 12:1**
- ii. contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses,
 - did not show irreverence - dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, - **Zec 3:2; 2Pe 2:11;**
 - but said, "The Lord rebuke you!" - **Re 12:7-9**

c. But these - the apostates

- i. speak evil of whatever they do not know; - their behavior demonstrates their ignorance and presumption
- ii. and like brute beasts, - **2Pe 2:12**
 - *alogos* - irrational:--brute, unreasonable.
 - whatever they know naturally - by instinct
- iii. in these things they corrupt themselves.
 - *phtheiro* - to shrivel or wither, to spoil (by any process), to ruin (by moral influences, to deprave):--corrupt (self), defile, destroy.
 - from their own lying and deceiving, they bring judgment on themselves

B. Correlations to Past Apostates - vs 11 - learning from past history

1. Cain

- a. Woe to them!
 - i. following Christ's example - Mt 23:13-16,23,25,27,29; also the prophets - Isa 3:9,11; 5:8-23; 29:15
 - ii. Woe - an emotional cry - alas, how horrible it will be
- b. For they have gone in the way of Cain, - Ge 4:1-15
 - i. the fact that Cain's sacrifice was unacceptable proves that he had been told but had invented his own form of worship
 - ii. Cain was religious but disobedient, as are false teachers

2. Balaam

- a. their motive for doing what they do - money - **Ps 10:3; Mic 3:11; 1 Ti 6:10**
- b. have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, - Nu 22-24; **2Pe 2:15-16**

3. Korah

- a. and perished in the rebellion of Korah - Nu 16
- b. When not chosen to be priest, showing contempt gathered 250 others to rebel against Moses' leadership
- c. God responded in decisive way - Nu 16:32-35
- d. others, sympathetic to Korah, grumbled, God sent a plague killing 14,700 - Nu 16:41-50

C. Comparisons with Five natural Phenomena - vs 12-13

1. Hidden Reefs (spots) - vs 12

- a. These are spots in your love feasts,
 - i. *spilas* - a hidden reef - an unseen danger
 - ii. Reg church gathering for the purpose of mutual instruction - Ac 17:11, encouragement - Heb 10:24-25, confrontation - Heb 3:13, and care - Ro 12:10; 13:3;
 - similar to a potluck
 - became corrupted and abused by the defiling influence of false teachers and was abandoned - **1Co 11:21**

- b. while they feast with you without fear,
 - i. their consciences were seared, they were adept hypocrites - **1 Ti 4:2**
 - ii. *poimaino* - to tend as a shepherd of (supervisor):--feed (cattle), rule.
 - iii. serving only themselves.
- 2. Waterless Clouds
 - a. They are clouds without water, - **2Pe 2:17**
 - i. appear to have that which refreshes,
 - ii. promise spiritual blessing - **Pr 25:14**
 - iii. *anudros* - waterless, i.e. dry:--dry, without water. Used of the wanderings of evil spirits - **Lk 11:24-26**
 - b. carried about by the winds;
- 3. Fruitless Autumn Trees
 - a. late autumn trees without fruit,
 - i. autumn was harvest time for fruit trees
 - ii. Without which there would hardship through the winter
 - b. twice dead,
 - i. without fruit - the sign of life
 - ii. pulled up by the roots; - **Mt 15:13**
- 4. Wild Sea Waves - vs 13
 - a. raging waves of the sea, - **Isa 57:20-21**
 - b. foaming up their own shame; - their disgraceful attitudes and actions display all forms of heresies and deceptions - **Php 3:19**
- 5. Wandering Stars
 - a. wandering stars - a meteorite that flashes across the sky
 - b. for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever - whose brilliance flashes then is gone