

Jude 1:8-11 – Reasons to fight the Snakes: Dishonorable Men

TSK, Henry, GreekLexicon, HebrewLexicon, Geneva, Robertson, Trapp, Poole, Strongs, Gill, Calvin, Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: It is one thing to hear that someone is bad, but it is a whole other thing to hear the details of how a person is bad! Hitler was bad. Most people, except for many Muslims, believe that. But when you hear of Hitler murdering handicapped children, often using them for his experiments...and you see the pictures of the weak sickly women who were abused for obscene 下流scientific experiment, and when you stand in front of the mountain of finger and toe nails that he pulled out of his victims, then you get a better sense of the man...you really know he was bad.

This is what the Lord does in this passage. He wanted you to know how dishonorable these wicked snakes were – snakes who were using the church people for their pleasure, power, or profit - so you would want to fight them and their false doctrines.

Our headings are: These Snakes were Unaccountable, These Snakes were Arrogant, These Snakes Played with the truth, and These Snakes were Covetous 贪婪

Our goals are: That you will learn to watch out for dishonorable men, evaluate their actions by God's Word, and then labor to keep the church pure from their perversions 反常行为

These Snakes were Unaccountable

8 Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries 居然是这样, 这些醉生梦死的人还是照样玷污身体, 藐视主权, 毁谤荣誉

1. God called these snakes filthy dreamers – fantasists – with their own self-will... Their thoughts were taken up with their own ego 自我...and they wanted to draw the people of God into living wicked lives – all to advance themselves in their power, pleasure, and profit.

2. Because they were taken up with their own fantasies, they did not care how they lived – even how they used their bodies. They defiled their flesh. They thought they belonged to themselves. Apostle Peter warned about this earlier: 1Peter 2:11 Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul.

And the Apostle Paul had urged his brothers not to fall for this type of corruption.

2Corinthians 7:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness 污秽 of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

3. These snakes refused to submit to the lawful authorities the Lord has placed over them. If the snake were an elder or pastor, he would not submit to other elders. I heard a minister say recently: "I am accountable to no one but Christ." I heard another one say: "Only when Christ tells me to do something, I do it." Nonsense. This is rejecting the authority that God has given to those in positions over us. I must obey the elders. If they tell me to preach on a particular topic, I must. Jesus Christ speaks through them! If the snake were a woman, she would try to argue against her husband's authority, maybe claiming that she was as smart as he and that there were no distinctions between Christians, so she didn't have to submit to her husband's authority. If the snake were a man, he might argue for his own freedom, and that the leaders should not impugn his freedom with all kinds of laws. Listen to God's Words:

Romans 13:1 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.

3. These snakes, in order to lure people into sin, had no regard even for angels in heaven and the spiritual leaders in the church –literally blaspheming 褻渎 dignitaries. These were the people who found fault with every sermon they heard and would say: "We get nothing out of the preaching" or "the elders aren't running the church like we think they should," or "we need a new preacher." But hear God's warning:

Psalms 105:15 Saying, "Do not touch My anointed ones, And do My prophets no harm."

These Snakes were Arrogant

9 Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!" 天使长米迦勒为了摩西的尸体与魔鬼争论的时候, 还不敢用毁谤的话定他的罪, 只说: "主责备你!"

1. Jesus Christ, with all authority in heaven and on earth, did not speak evil of the Devil to insult or denigrate 诋毁 him.

Jesus Christ did not make it into a shouting match. (Pentecostals like the kick the Devil and punch him in the face. But Jesus would not.) (How do we know Michael was Jesus Christ? Michael meant "who is like God." Michael was

the chief angel. Jesus Christ is the called the Archangel who would shout upon his return to earth. Da 10:13,21; 12:1; Re 12:7.) Look at how Jesus Christ talked to the Devil.

Mark 8:33 But when He had turned around and looked at His disciples, He rebuked Peter, saying, "**Get behind Me, Satan!** For you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."

Luke 4:8 And Jesus answered and said to him, "**Get behind Me, Satan!** For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"

And there is much proof that Satan often opposed Jesus. Consider one example:

Zechariah 3:1 Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the LORD, and **Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him.**

2. But who or what is the body of Moses? Some believe that it refers to Moses' physical remains. But why would the Lord and Satan fight over physical remains when believers will get a new body in the resurrection? That doesn't make much sense. Others and I believe that the body of Moses refers to the people God – Israel – just like the church is called the "body of Christ." This seems more reasonable to believe.

Romans 12:4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, being many, **are one body in Christ...**

3. Now if Jesus did not speak ill of the Devil or punched him in the face, what did he do in encountering the Devil? He rebuked the wicked act of the Devil for trying to destroy Israel – the body of Moses. He **left the Devil to wait for the judgment of God – a judgment that was surely coming.** The snakes of Jude's day were arrogant and a similar judgment was coming for them. You must not get into a brawl with snakes today – rebuke them but don't brawl with them. If they reject your rebukes, then God will judge them at the appropriate time. (BTW, one of the reasons some don't like Jude's Epistle is because they don't understand this story of Jesus fighting Satan and they think that it is a borrowed story from the Apocrypha 伪经 about the ascension of Moses.)

These Snakes Played with the Truth

10 But these **speak evil of whatever they do not know**; and **whatever they know naturally**, like brute beasts, in these things **they corrupt**

themselves.但这些人毁谤他们所不知道的,他们只知道安本性所能领悟的事,好像没有理性的禽兽,就因这些事败坏了自己

1. These snakes pretended they knew everything – even about angels- but they really did not know anything about them.

They were equivocating...or prevaricating... They simply made up what they said and condemned good doctrines. Maybe they attacked the way of worship, or the necessity of the atonement, or the truthfulness of God's Word. As a recovering Pentecostal, I have heard many so-called prophecies in my time and never, ever had one come true. These people simply made things up – often predicting terrible things. Once, one lady prophesied that 1 of 3 pregnant women would have a handicapped child. None of them did, but can you imagine the worry? Others do the same on TV and draw away gullible 轻信 people – especially women. No wonder Jesus rejected these know-it-all's.

Matthew 9:12 When Jesus heard that, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.

2. And these snakes besmirched even what they knew in order to corrupt the church of Jesus Christ

– and so corrupted themselves. How would they have done this? They would have done this by twisting 扭曲 doctrines...like the Devil tempted the Lord by quoting Scripture.

Matthew 4:6 and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'"

They twisted doctrines and didn't care, like **wild beasts**...who have no compunction 懊悔 with whom they mated. Their lust for their own power, pleasure, and profit **made them abuse truth.**

These Snakes were Covetous

11 Woe to them! For they have **gone in the way of Cain**, have **run greedily** in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the **rebellion of**

Korah他们有了祸了,因为他们走上了该隐的道路,又为了贪利闯进巴兰的城套,并且在可拉的背叛中灭亡了。

1. These wicked men were condemned with the strongest condemnation... but it is quite unique. When we think of really wicked men we think of Hitler or abortionists, of kidnappers, or those guilty of

genocide 种族灭绝 But here, wickedness – great wickedness- is covetousness 贪婪 and envy. Hell was the call for the covetous. Look at 3 examples.

2. These wicked men imitated Cain's corruption. Cain had a form of Christianity – even offering sacrifices, but he wasn't a Christian in his heart. **He envied his brother instead** of looking at his own heart. The point is, good standing in the church will not save you.

3. These wicked men imitated Balaam's love for money – covetousness. They forgot that even the simple pleasures of life – if improperly used, can be a death sentence.

2Timothy 3:1 But know this, that in the last days perilous times 艰难时期 will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, **lovers of money**, boasters, proud, blasphemers, **disobedient to parents**, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, **slanderers 恶言中伤**, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, **lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God**, 5 having a **form of godliness but denying its power**. And from such people turn away!

Look how many of Jude's accusations are in 2Timothy, and see then repeated in 2Peter.

2Peter 2:15 They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, **who loved the wages of unrighteousness**;

4. These wicked men imitated the rebellion of Korah – who was envious of power that God had given to Moses. Korah caused many to die. They had an eye to the authority that God had given to the leader of the church...just like the men of Jude's day.

Numbers 16:3 They gathered together against Moses and Aaron, and said to them, "You take too much upon yourselves, for all the congregation is holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the LORD?" 4 So when Moses heard it, he fell on his face; 5 and he spoke to Korah and all his company, saying, "Tomorrow morning the LORD will show who is His and who is holy, and will cause him to come near to Him. That one whom He chooses He will cause to come near to Him. 31 Now it came to pass, as he finished speaking all these words, that the ground split apart under them, 32 and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the men with Korah, with all their goods. 33 So they and all those with them went down alive into the pit; the earth closed over them, and they perished from among the assembly.

What a stunning 令人惊叹 example of God's judgment for those who were covetous. Would he not judge those who do wickedly today as well?

Conclusion:

These Snakes were unaccountable, these snakes were arrogant, these snakes played with the truth, and these snakes were covetous. These snakes were in the church and the church had to prepare to fight them. The more the church knew the wickedness of these snakes and their danger, the more God expected of them. They had to fight with love so that they could bring the rebels to their knees before the Lord.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Do you recognize the danger these hypocrites 假冒为善 pose to Christ's church today? Do you realize that when they attack the church they attack the glory of Jesus Christ? Do you remember what the Lord Jesus did for you on the cross, what he does for you now, and what he will do for you in the future? Do you remember the love you must have for him and his people? Are you ready to fight against these wicked people in the local and national churches? Are you ready rebuke and refute their false doctrines? This will bring much glory to your dear Savior.

Finally, are you tired of living for yourself...or for your own glory...Maybe you were kind to your wife and children because you wanted others to say nice things about you...but that was for your own glory...not for Christ's glory? Do you see that you should live for the Lord alone and not for yourself? If you desire this...ask God to change you...to give you a new heart, a new record, and a new life. Ask. He'll answer.