

Jude 1:12-16 – Crushing the Snakes Heads

Calvin, TSK, Poole, GreekLexicon, JFB, Geneva, Trapp, Family, Henry, PNT, Robertson, Vincent, Gill, Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: There is no need to kill garden snakes. I almost stepped on one this past week, but he simply slithered away. Garden snakes usually mind their own business. They are usually harmless. But when you know there is a rattlesnake nearby... or a 20 foot python...and you or your children are nearby...you know you have to act. You can either run away or kill it. But let's say you found a dangerous snake in your house and you can't leave, you know you have to destroy it. Love for your children will cause you to want to kill it.

And isn't this also the case with snakes in the church? You must not run away from the church. The church is where the people of God live. You have to remain to keep others safe. You have to run the intruders out – the snakes that are out to steal, kill, and destroy. Jesus Christ preserved you from hell and you must work to preserve his people from snakes that plague their souls. It is about Christ's call to you to destroy these snakes that you will hear about today.

Our headings are: Crush the Snakes' Heads: They are selfish, Crush the Snakes' Heads – It is predicted, and Crush the Snakes' Heads: They have uncontrolled mouths.

Our goals are: That because you belong to Jesus Christ, you will work for the purity of his Bride, bringing glory to him.

Crush the Snakes' Heads: They are selfish

12 These are (*dangerous*) spots (craggy or sunken rocks) in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots; 这些人胆敢与你同席，他们只顾喂饱自己，是你门筵席中的障碍，是无雨的浮云，随风飘荡，是秋天不结果子的树，连根拔起，死而又死

1. First of all, what were love feasts?

- "Love feasts" were literally a large fellowship meal that the early church had to show their unity. "Love feasts" were also used for the relief of the poor among them. (1Corinthians 11 describes love feasts.)
- "Love feasts" can figuratively refer to the worship of God- where God's people are nourished by his Word, where they receive the sacraments, and where they are disciplined if they stray 迷途 from the truth.

2. What were "spots" to the love feasts? The literal meaning of "spots" is "craggy or sunken rocks 崎岖或凹陷的岩石" that pose a danger to passing ships – as they are hidden just below the surface of the water. (Our translation uses an interpretive meaning rather than a literal meaning.)

3. So now the meaning: How were these snakes "spots" to the love feasts of the church?

a. If literal "love feasts": The snakes of Jude's day used the literal love feasts to promote the break-up of the church. They ate without caring whether the poor had enough. Apostle Paul addressed this.

1Corinthians 11: 20 Therefore when you come together in one place, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper.²¹ For in eating, each one takes his own supper ahead of others; and one is hungry and another is drunk.

In addition, the snakes seemed to have criticized those whom the church was helping – the needy ones. These snakes, like sunken rocks to ships, posed a threat to the church.

b. If figurative "love feasts" – worship: These men spat 争吵 at God's worship. They argued against how worship was done. Look at how Peter described the "spots" as sunken stones and trouble making.

2 Peter 2:13 and will receive the wages of unrighteousness, as those who count it pleasure to carouse in the daytime. They are spots and blemishes, carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with

you, 他们行不义，就得了不义的工价。他们在白昼纵情作乐，满了污点与瑕疵，和你们一同吃饭的时候，就因自己的诡诈而沾沾自喜。

Whichever the "love feast" – literal or figurative- (and I believe Jude was referring to both) these men were bent on destroying the church of Jesus Christ.

4. These snakes were vain...as clouds that look full and promised nourishment for the hopeful farmer for rain...but they had no water. They were easily blown about by the winds...

Proverbs 25:14 Whoever falsely boasts of giving is like clouds and wind without rain.

2 Peter 2:17 These are wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest, for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.

5. These snakes were like fruit trees in the late fall, not having any good produce. Earlier, they had leaves and fruits and promised plenty – like those who joined the church appeared truly converted, but at the end they were nothing. Not only did the leaves fall, but the roots were pulled up. So these snakes had no source of nourishment. What about the phrase “twice dead?” **This double death is figuratively used to describe those who were born separated from God** (so they were spiritually dead) and those whom God gave over to reprobate 遗弃 minds with no hope of repairing the relationship. They are permanently separated from God.

13 **raging waves of the sea**, foaming up their own shame; **wandering stars** for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever. 是海中的狂浪 溅起了自己可耻的泡沫 是流浪的星 有漆黑的幽静永远为他子存留。

6. These snakes were like raging 汹涌 waves-white caps (foaming)-instead of being calm and useful to the sailors, they put fear on weary travelers. But large waves, though they look threatening, falling with a crashing force and turn to nothing.

Isaiah 57:20 But the **wicked are like the troubled sea**, When it cannot rest, Whose waters cast up mire and dirt.

Even the greatest tsunami ends up as a trickle.

7. They were like stars that wandered around with no direction, eventually blowing up. But based on the description here, Jude is most likely referring to meteors 流星. They usually appear bright, and then they burn up in space. These snakes originally promised much – just like the cloud, the fruit trees, and the waves, but then they turned to nothing.

2 Peter 2:17 These are wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest, for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.

They have unsettled and turbulent battles. They win nothing in the end. Hence the next point:

Crush the Snakes' heads: It is predicted

14 Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, **prophesied about these men also**, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with **ten thousands of His saints**, 亚当的第七世孙以诺 也曾预言这些人说: “看, 主必同他的千万圣都降临,

1. **We do not have a written account of this prophecy from Enoch, but Jude does not say that we do have a written account. He simply said that Enoch prophesied.** So those who want say Jude took this from the Apocrypha are in error. Enoch's prophecy may simply have been carried on through Jewish oral history...as other prophecies were.

15 "to execute judgment on all, **to convict all who are ungodly** among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the **harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken** against Him." 要审判众人, 又要追所有不敬虔的人的罪, 因为他们该行各样不敬虔的事, 并且说了种种刚硬的话硬撞神。”

2. But there is no doubt about what Enoch said. Many said the same thing after he: The Lord will come to judge the wicked. And the Lord would come with his angels to do it.

Matthew 16:27 "For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father **with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.**

Zechariah 14:5 Then you shall flee *through* My mountain valley, For the mountain valley shall reach to Azal. Yes, you shall flee As you fled from the earthquake In the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Thus the LORD my God will come, **And all the saints with You.**

2Thessalonians 1:7 and to *give* you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with **His mighty angels,**

No one would expect that loving Bridegroom to let his wife be attacked by poisonous snakes. No, the snakes could expect the Bridegroom's wrath – his full judgment.

3. No wicked one will escape judgment. But some will be judged more than some. The Lord will particularly notice, and **increase his judgment, upon those who say harsh things about his Bride and about him.** Trapp: Trees that are not for fruit are for the fire.

Proverbs 4:24 Put away from you a deceitful mouth, And put perverse lips far from you 远离乖谬的嘴唇。

Crush the Snakes Head: They have uncontrolled mouths

16 These are **grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts**; and they **mouth great swelling words, flattering** people to gain advantage. 这些人常发牢骚, 怨天尤人, 顺着自己的私欲行事, 口说夸大的话, 为了利益就不惜阿谀奉承。

1. It is significant that the Lord caused Jude to repeat the motivation for crushing the snakes' head.

Why is it significant? God knows man's tendency to give his fellow man a pass when it comes to sinfulness. He knew that man – even those charged with the oversight in the church- would be reluctant 不愿 to fulfill the discipline he required them to perform on the snakes. So he pressed the leaders of the church a 2nd time to motivate them to do their duty. There are many examples of this in Scripture where God directly said: “I am saying this again because I don't want you to forget to do it.” Did God not give the law a 2nd time in Deuteronomy?

2. Consider the details of the mouths of these wretched snakes:

a. These men murmured 埋怨 against God's shepherds – the leaders in the church. They were never satisfied. To them, the preaching was wrong, the singing was not good, the diaconal ministry was useless...there wasn't enough activities for the children...

2Peter 2:10 and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. *They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries,* 尤其是那些随从肉体, 生活在污秽的私欲中, 和轻蔑当权的, 更是这样。他们胆大任性, 毫无畏惧地毁谤在尊位的。

b. These men complained against God...maybe against the way God declared how worship must take place...or maybe that it was too long...or that the elders needed to spice things up and make it more customer friendly...or they complained against God's commands:

Malachi 2:17 You have wearied the LORD with your words; Yet you say, "In what way have we wearied Him?" In that you say, "Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD, And He delights in them," Or, "Where is the God of justice?"

c. These men lived for their own lusts and boasted about it. Trapp described them this way: “So many lusts, so many lords.” These were the ones who boasted of their sins...maybe how exciting their sins were...luring others to join them. This is especially common for young people!

d. These men used great swelling words...or bubbles of words...that mean little. This is exactly what Apostle Peter had predicted earlier.

2Peter 2:18 For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error. 因为他们说虚妄夸大的话, 用肉体的私欲和邪淫的事, 引诱那些刚刚脱离了错谬生活的人。

Trapp: “They amaze their hearers with sesquipedalian words...” Big words. These men flattered (lied) in order to advance their own causes. They loved to speak nicely of those who would bring them financial advantages. Today, there are many who tickle the ears of their hearers for their own protection.

Conclusion:

Snakes in the church are an existential threat...the very life of the church is at stake – congregationally, federationally, and internationally. Snakes are deadly to the church because they are selfish. Selfishness kills. Snakes are deadly because they spew venom 毒液 from their mouths. Words hurt. Words kill. Even if their words were flowery, appearing to be sweet, they were nonetheless deadly. No wonder God predicted their destruction, even from the earliest days of the church – even from Enoch's time.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: If you see someone living selfishly...or if you see someone who is speaking evil of Christ and his servants, you have a responsibility to speak up. You want the wicked ones to stop...or be disciplined if they don't stop. You do this, not to be mean, but because you want to preserve the church of Jesus Christ. You are in this world to serve his Holy Majesty, the King of kings, and the one who is your Redeemer. Speak up for his honor. Act for his praise.

Finally, if God would judge so severely those who are inside of his church, imagine what he would do to those who refuse to honor him in any possible way! If you are in that position, I urge you to make your life right with God. How can you do that? Talk to God. Say: “Lord, I don't want to be in a position of enmity against you 与祢为敌, I want to be your child. I want my sins removed through Christ's sacrifice on the cross.” He will hear an answer.