

Jude 8-10 — How To Spot A Spiritual Terrorist

September 19, 2021

Good morning! Welcome to CrossWinds. This morning, we continue our study in the book of Jude. Take out your sermon handout. Open your copy of the Bible. While you are getting prepared, I want to talk about terrorists. Now that American has left Afghanistan and the Taliban has retaken the country and ISIS is re-surgng, people are talking about terrorism. Everyone is expecting Afghanistan to become a terrorism training ground. Stopping terrorists is not an easy thing.

First, they are not easy to spot. In the past, wars were fought by people wearing uniforms. You just found someone wearing the enemy's uniform, you pointed the gun at them and pulled the trigger. That is how you fought. The problem is that terrorists don't wear uniforms. They wear common clothes. They blend in with society. You have no idea they are the enemy until they unleash their deadly plans. On September 11, nobody knew terrorists were on the planes because the terrorists looked just like everyone else.

The second thing that makes terrorists so dangerous is they are willing to kill themselves for their cause. They are suicide bombers. There is no way to punish or deter them because they killed themselves in their work. The only way to be protected from them is to find them and stop them before their attack.

Unmasking terrorists is critical. Our country spends billions of dollars a year on terrorist surveillance to stop terrorist attacks before they take place.

While there are many things we struggle with in our government, we can be thankful it has done a good job at stopping terrorist attacks. Since the attacks

on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, our government has successfully foiled further attacks against our nation.

While our government is successfully stopping terrorist attacks, Christians in the church are not doing a good job of stopping terrorist attacks. Satan sends his spiritual terrorists against the church. They are Satan's Al-Qaeda, Satan's ISIS-K. They are committed not to physical destruction but to spiritual destruction.

What makes them so dangerous to Christians and the church is spiritual terrorists function like traditional terrorists. They disguise themselves by dressing like everyone else so they blend in at church. They don't look different. Second, they also are suicide bombers. They don't mind blowing themselves up and going to hell as long as they can take other Christians with them.

Maybe you think I am overstating this. I don't think I am. Look at the state of the church in our country and you can see the damage spiritual terrorists have done. Once great denominations have been taken over by spiritual terrorists. These spiritual terrorists blended into the church, then when they held positions of influence and power, and they used their authority to pull people away from Jesus in those denominations. They used their positions of power to undermine the Bible. Entire denominations have been reduced to smoldering ashes by spiritual terrorists who were able to hold positions of power in denominations, then they blew themselves up spiritually and took a bunch of people with them.

While it is important for our country to fight against terrorism, it is even more important for the church to vigilantly fight against spiritual terrorists before they attack and destroy churches, denominations, and schools from the inside.

Today, we come to Jude 8-10. These verses are about how to identify a spiritual terrorist. These verses tell us how to spot spiritual terrorists among us when they are trying to blend in. That way, just like the terrorist fighters in our nation, we can disarm these people before they strike and there is nothing left but dead bodies to pick up when their work is done.

Before we study Jude 8-10, I have two preliminary points of introduction to cover this morning.

What is the different between apostasy and a spiritual terrorism?

I should mention, that when you read books on Jude, many authors say Jude is a book on apostasy. They are right. It is a book about apostasy. That is a big word. Apostasy, or an apostate, is anyone who has known the Christian faith, then turned his or her back and walked away from the Christian faith. Apostasy is a very dangerous thing. There is only one way to be made right with God and that is to be forgiven of our sin by Jesus Christ. There is only one way to experience victory over sin. That is through Jesus and the renewal of the Holy Spirit. There is no other hope in this life. To know the one truth that is our hope in this world, then to turn one's back on Jesus and walk away from our one hope in life is a very bad thing. That is apostasy.

Apostasy is a general category. It is an umbrella category. There are different kinds of apostates that walk away from Jesus. Most apostates that turn

their backs on Jesus don't just walk away from Jesus, but they walk away from the church. They no longer want to be part of the church.

Jude was talking about a particular kind of apostasy. He was talking about apostates who turn their backs on Jesus but rather than walking away from the church, they stay involved in the church trying to see how many people they can get to walk away from Jesus with them. They are spiritual terrorists trying to destroy the faith of people from inside the church.

So while many books say Jude is a book about apostasy --- which is true --- Jude is a book about a particular kind of apostasy. Jude is about the kind of apostasy in which people leave Jesus but don't leave the church. They stay in the church and try to pull more people away from Jesus. We are calling those types of apostates spiritual terrorists.

Jude is highly structured.

Before we look at Jude 8-10, I want to back out a bit and see the structure of Jude's letter. When someone talks about a letter in the New Testament, we think of the kind of letters that we would write, which is something that is casually written. That is not our New Testament letters. They are not casually written. They are carefully written. That is Jude. It is carefully written and intentionally put together, even if we don't see it at first.

For example, at the front of the letter, in verses 3 and 4, Jude told us the reason he wrote this letter, the purpose of this letter, and what he hoped to accomplish with the letter. Then, beginning in verse 5, he began making his point. He supported every point he made with exactly three examples or pieces of evidence.

For example, for the last two weeks we studied verses 5 to 7. In those verses, Jude's point was simple. It is this: It never ends well for anyone who turns his or her back on Jesus and walks away from Jesus. Jude gave us three examples. In Jude 5, it was God's own people, the Exodus generation. These Israelites turned their backs on Jesus 10 times in the wilderness after being saved from Egyptian slavery by Jesus. It did not work out well for them. The Jesus who saved them was the Jesus who judged them when they turned on him. They made it to the edge of the Promised Land but Jesus did not let them go into the Promised Land. They all died in the wilderness because they repeatedly turned their backs on Jesus after he saved them.

In Jude 6 was the second example of turning on Jesus. This time it was angels in heaven. They turned their backs on Jesus, and it also did not work out well for them. According to Jude, at the time of the flood, Jesus has already bound the most wicked fallen angels with chains in a pit of darkness until the day of judgement. At the day of judgement, those angels and the rest of the fallen angels will end up in the lake of fire which was prepared by Jesus to be the final resting place for the devil and his angels. It did not work out well for them to turn their backs on Jesus.

The third example is Jude 7. Here we have Sodom and Gomorrah, which turned their backs on Jesus in extreme sexual sin. Jesus destroyed those cities in a literal lake of fire which prefigured the ultimate final lake of fire. Jude 5-7 tells us it doesn't matter who you are. You can be God's own people, angels in

heaven, or Gentiles, but it will not end well for you if you turn your back on Jesus and walk away from Jesus. Don't become an apostate.

This morning, we will look at Jude 8-10. In these verses, Jude tells us how we can identify spiritual terrorists trying to blend in among us. Again, he will give us three identifying qualities: 1. They will be sexually immoral. 2. They will be insubordinate toward authority. 3. They will blaspheme glorious ones. That is a difficult point so we will save it for the end.

Next week, when we get to Jude 11, Jude will give us three characteristics of a spiritual terrorist's influence. Once again, he will use three examples. He will compare a spiritual terrorist to Cain, Balaam, and Korah from the Old Testament.

I say all this simply to show you that Jude did not casually write this letter. He carefully wrote this letter. This letter is highly organized and structured. Each point Jude made, he backed up with three supporting points or examples.

Let's read Jude 8-10 and get into our study.

Yet in like manner these people also, relying on their dreams, defile the flesh, reject authority, and blaspheme the glorious ones. But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you." But these people blaspheme all that they do not understand, and they are destroyed by all that they, like unreasoning animals, understand instinctively. Jude 8–10 (ESV)

We can identify a spiritual terrorist today by studying spiritual terrorists of the past.

Yet in like manner these people also, relying on their dreams, defile the flesh, reject authority, and blaspheme the glorious ones. Jude 8 (ESV)

Jude began by saying, "Yet in like manner these people also..." Jude said that when we look at people in the past, who were apostates, people who turned their backs on Jesus, we can learn from them. We can build a profile. We can

learn from the way spiritual terrorists acted in the past, because they will act the same way in the present and the future. Once we build a profile of spiritual terrorists in the past, we can use that to identify spiritual terrorists among us today because they will act the same way.

This is the same way our government tries to identify terrorists before they strike. Our government studies the tactics and character qualities of terrorists in the past so it can do a better job of finding them before they strike in the future.

Let's briefly see how this works. For example, Jude said these people defile the flesh. That means they will engage in a sexually immoral lifestyle. People that claim to love Jesus but they live a sexually immoral life might be spiritual terrorists. For example, remember the Exodus generation? Did they live a sexually immoral life? Remember what they did when Moses went up Mt. Sinai? It says while Moses was on the mountain, the Israelites didn't just make a golden calf but the text say they rose up to play around the calf. The Hebrew text is very descriptive of what they were doing. It was a sexual party. It was an immoral party they engaged in while Moses was on Mt. Sinai. Jude also said we can recognize these people because they will reject authority. Isn't that what the Exodus generation did with Moses? Wasn't there a time when they rejected Moses for no the reason than they were jealous of him? That was Korah's rebellion. We will study it more next week.

Remember the angels that rebelled. Jude told us that spiritual terrorists can be identified by their desire for sexual immorality. Isn't that what the angels who rebelled against God did in Genesis 6 when it says the Sons of God saw

that the daughters of men were beautiful and they sexually pursued any they wanted? Those rebellious angels pursued sexually immoral lives. Those angels also engaged in insubordination. They rebelled against Jesus in heaven and were eventually kicked out.

Sodom and Gomorrah also engaged in sexual immorality. Their citizens pursued all kinds of sexual immorality and homosexuality. As we read last week in Genesis 19, they were also rebellious against authority. What authority did they rebel against? First, it was their conscience. As we saw last week in Genesis 19, they knew their sin was wrong from their own conscience, but they pursued it anyway. They also knew their sin was wrong because Lot told them it was wrong, but they wanted to do it anyway.

Apostates today will act just like the apostates of the past. They will act just like the Exodus generation, just like the rebellious angels, just like Sodom and Gomorrah. We can look at the character qualities we see in apostates of the past to help us identify apostates and spiritual terrorists among us in the present.

Spiritual terrorists rely on their dreams for authority.

...relying on their dreams... Jude 8 (ESV)

One additional way we can identify spiritual terrorists is they will rely on their dreams for authority. They will be dreamers. In Greek, the word for dreams is a unique word. It is a long and rather unusual word. Jude said apostates, these spiritual terrorists, are dreamers. What does this mean? There is a typical word for dreams in the New Testament, but as I said a moment ago, that is not the word used here. This odd word for dreams is only used one other place in the New Testament, that is in Acts 2:17. In that passage, Peter was quoting Joel

2:28-29 which talks about your old men dream dreams and your young men see visions.

The kind of dreams talked about in that passage are dreams and visions that come from God. This is talking about prophetic dreams and prophetic visions. In other words, what will characterize spiritual terrorists is they will talk about God speaking to them in dreams and visions that other people don't have. They will claim that because of their dreams and visions, they have a special connection with God that other people don't possess. This enables them to assume a position of authority over people. It enables them to take a position of authority claiming they are better than other people.

These spiritual terrorists will use the, "God spoke to me" card or the "An angel told me" card to assume a position of unquestioned power over people. Jude said that when we see a person in the church using the "God spoke to me" or "An angel spoke to me" card, that means he or she is likely a spiritual terrorist. That person is using that trick to assume a position of power and authority over you to lead you astray. Let me give you some real-life examples.

Have you heard of Joseph Smith? He began the Mormon Church. It all began when Joseph Smith said he experienced a series of visions when an angel named Moroni spoke with him. He also claimed he saw two people in his visions who were God the Father and God the Son. He spoke of another vision where an angel directed him to a buried book of golden plates, which he claimed were the book of Mormon.

According to Jude, this guy was acting like a spiritual terrorist. He was not interested in submitting to the authority of the Word of God. He claimed visions and dreams from angels that no one else could verify, visions and dreams that set him up as the authority over other people. These were visions and dreams that were an authority above God's Word.

Jude would say this man was a spiritual terrorist and those visions and dreams did not come from God. They only came from an overactive imagination.

Look what the Old Testament says about this.

"If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or wonder that he tells you comes to pass, and if he says, 'Let us go after other gods,' which you have not known, 'and let us serve them,' you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams. For the LORD your God is testing you, to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear him and keep his commandments and obey his voice, and you shall serve him and hold fast to him. But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has taught rebellion against the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you out of the house of slavery, to make you leave the way in which the LORD your God commanded you to walk. So you shall purge the evil from your midst." Deuteronomy 13:1–5 (ESV)

I don't know how God can say that any stronger. Any dreamer of dreams, anybody who comes along and claims God told them something, God talked to him or her in a dream, even if what that person says comes true, do not follow him or her if he or she tries to pull you away from God's Word. Cling to the Word of God. Do not follow those dreamers. They are spiritual terrorists among us.

Paul talked about these people in the New Testament.

Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and [worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind...](#)
Colossians 2:18 (ESV)

Here we have people all puffed up in pride about their supposed visions from God. Paul told us to run from these people. All they want to do is pull you away from Jesus and to disqualify you from the prize. The truth is that Christians get suckered by these people all the time.

As I was studying this week, these verses kept bringing me back to a podcast I am listening to. It is a podcast about the fall of a major church leader in America. The podcast provides a behind-the-scenes look at that pastor and the church.

One characteristic of that pastor was that he frequently said, "God spoke to me." He often talked about how God told him to plant the church in that city. When things were falling apart in the church, rather than stay and do what he could to work through the problems, he simply said, "God told him to walk away from the church." How do you argue with that? How can you reason with someone like that when he claims God speaks to him supernaturally but God doesn't speak to anyone else?

One day, this pastor's worship leader asked him why he hired him instead of anyone else. His answer was, "God told me to hire you." That sounds great until the day the pastor comes up to you and says, "God told me to fire you." Then there's no explanation or justification needed.

When this pastor counseled people, he would sometimes say that God revealed to him the sins of the people he was counseling. It wasn't a matter of confess your sins, it was a matter of go to the pastor and have him tell you your sin that God supernaturally told him about.

Once again there is an assumption of unquestioned authority and power in this vision and dreams approach to leadership.

Jude told us this is one of the things to look for to help us identify a spiritual terrorist among us. Rather than resting on the authority of the Word of God and submitting to the authority of the Word of God, these people will constantly talk about God speaking to them in dreams and visions that other people do not have in order to assume power over people.

What are the three characteristics of all spiritual terrorists?

Spiritual terrorists defile the flesh.

The word flesh here means body, the physical body. Defile means to stain something, like you dye clothing. This means to pollute something. When you think of the defiling the flesh, that is simply another way to speak about living a sexually immoral lifestyle. Spiritual terrorists, apostates, will eventually reveal themselves to be living sexually immoral and inappropriate lives. They do not have the Holy Spirit in them to restrain the desires of the flesh. This may not be immediately visible but it will eventually be visible. The truth and time will always go hand in hand. The truth comes out over time.

Earlier I talked about the Exodus generation at the foot of Mt. Sinai. While Moses was receiving the Ten Commandments and after they had seen Jesus' mighty salvation against Egypt and walked across the Red Sea on dry ground and received manna from heaven and water from the rock, and a host of other supernatural care by Jesus, while Moses was gone on the mountain, the Israelites made a golden calf and began to play around it.

And they rose up early the next day and offered burnt offerings and brought peace offerings. And the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play. Exodus 32:6 (ESV)

The Hebrew word play is not talking about Legos. It literally means to have drunken party sex with multiple people, an orgy. This apostate generation revealed its ultimate apostasy by its sexual immorality.

This is the same as was true with the angels when they came down and took human form and were consumed with lust for human women in Genesis 6.

This is the same thing that happened in Sodom and Gomorrah with their extreme sexual immorality and homosexuality.

Given enough time, this kind of lifestyle will come out with all spiritual terrorists.

Let me give you a modern example of this. Let's go back to Joseph Smith, the founder of the Mormon Church. This week, I was reading about him on Wikipedia. Everything I am going to say is publicly available. This week I googled Joseph Smith's wives. There is a Wikipedia page dedicated to that topic. How many wives do you think he had? Fifty-one. This is why he was so much in favor of polygamy and why the Mormon Church was historically in favor of polygamy. When God created Adam, his plan was to create Eve, one wife for Adam, not half-a-dozen wives for Adam. That was not God's plan.

Jude said one way to find a spiritual terrorist in the church is check out his or her private life. You may not find it at first but you will eventually find that person living a sexually immoral, lust-saturated life. That is the way it worked for apostates in the past, and it is always the way apostates will operate in the present and future.

Spiritual terrorists reject authority.

They reject authority over them. Spiritual terrorists do not want anyone telling them what to do or restraining them.

We saw this with the Exodus generation when it rejected Moses as its leader in Korah's rebellion. We will study more about that next week. We saw this with the angels who rebelled. Rather than submit to Jesus, they rebelled against Jesus. We saw this with Sodom and Gomorrah when their citizens rebelled against their consciences. They knew homosexual gang rape was wrong, but they pursued it anyway.

We can also see this in modern examples. Let's go back to Joseph Smith, the founder of Mormonism. In 1844, a paper called the Nauvoo Expositor published an article that was critical of Joseph Smith and his teaching on polygamy and having multiple wives. His response was to have the printing press of the paper burned to the ground. Guess he didn't like a little criticism.

As the Mormon Church grew, it was obvious that Joseph Smith held his grip on power through his claims to be receiving prophetic visions and dreams. Soon others who were part of the Mormon Church from its beginning began claiming they were also receiving visions and dreams from God and their visions and dreams also needed to be heard. How do you think Joseph Smith responded? He claimed to have another vision from God and in that vision God told him he was the only one who was allowed to create doctrine and write Scripture for the church. In addition, he took those who claimed to be receiving

visions and dreams and sent them away on various missions so he could establish his unchecked and unchallenged power in the church.

This is exactly what Jude warned us against. When we see this kind of behavior, run!

I told you about the podcast I am listening to about a fallen church leader. One of the characteristics of that leader is he did not want anyone in authority over him. At one point, he tried to revise the bylaws of his church by removing the elders from authority over him in the church. At another time, his administrative assistant was casually talking with friends that asked her how it was like to work with the pastor. She said she enjoyed her job but she casually said she thought it would be good for her boss to have some older and wiser pastors in his life. For that casual comment, the pastor called her into his office and fired her on the spot. He didn't want to have anyone in authority over him. When that pastor was counseled again by a friend to have some older and wiser pastors in his life, he refused to have anyone counseling him unless that person's church was bigger than his church. Constantly rejecting authority and an unwillingness to submit to authority is the quality of a spiritual terrorist. It is the way you recognize someone that is trying to destroy the church from the inside.

While spiritual terrorists don't want anyone in authority over them in their lives, the one they ultimately do not want in authority over them is Jesus. They want to be forgiven of their sins by Jesus but then they want to be in charge of their lives instead of Jesus. We saw that in Jude 4.

For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. Jude 4 (ESV)

The definition of what it means to be a Christian is we don't just want to be forgiven of our sin by Jesus but we want Jesus to hold the rightful position in our life as our Lord and Master.

Spiritual terrorists blaspheme glorious ones.

Here comes the difficult part of our passage. It even reads a little funny. What does it mean to blaspheme glorious ones? Blaspheme means to curse what is sacred. This is irreverence. It means to speak evil of someone.

Let me summarize the argument I believe Jude is about to make. While these people claimed to have secret knowledge from God and claim that angels have a special relationship with them and speak to them exclusively, the reality is they insult angels. They disrespect angels. Instead of being favored by angels, they are insulting angels.

Let me show you how I come to that conclusion. First, how do we know this is talking about angels?

As we learned in the first week of our study, Jude and 2 Peter have a lot in common. 2 Peter was written by Peter about a year before Jude wrote his letter. In 2 Peter, the message was to be careful because the spiritual terrorists, the false teachers, were coming. In Jude, the message was that they had arrived.

Since they were dealing with the same issues, there is great similarity between these letters. In 2 Peter, Peter wrote about the same things Jude dealt with in this passage but Peter took a few more words to explain what was happening.

...and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority. Bold and willful, they do not tremble as they blaspheme the glorious ones, whereas angels, though greater in might and power, do not pronounce a blasphemous judgment against them before the Lord. 2 Peter 2:10–11 (ESV)

Peter said this was referring to angels. They are the glorious ones. These people will speak evil about angels, even though angels are much greater than they are in might and power. While these people speak evil about angels, mighty angels do not speak evil about them when they are before the Lord. 2 Peter and Jude said this is backward. These people are speaking evil of powerful angels though powerful angels don't dare to speak evil of them.

The question quickly becomes, "How do these false teachers speak evil of angels?" I don't know. They may be directly insulting angels and claiming angels are stupid. They may also be indirectly insulting angels. That is my guess, but it is only my guess.

How would they indirectly insult angels? They insult and reject God's moral law given to Moses. What does God's moral law have to do with angels? Let me show you. Let's begin in the Old Testament.

He said, "The LORD came from Sinai and dawned from Seir upon us; he shone forth from Mount Paran; he came from the ten thousands of holy ones, with flaming fire at his right hand. Deuteronomy 33:2 (ESV)

What happened at Mt. Sinai? God gave his law to Moses. What we see is God didn't just give his law to Moses. A mighty angelic army accompanied God when he gave his laws to Moses. This is not the only place we find this in the Bible.

The chariots of God are twice ten thousand, thousands upon thousands; the Lord is among them; Sinai is now in the sanctuary. Psalm 68:17 (ESV)

The Psalmist talked about God's angelic army on Mt. Sinai and the huge size of the army that accompanied God.

...you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it. Acts 7:53 (ESV)

Peter also said that in some form or fashion God's angels played a role in giving God's law to Moses on Mt. Sinai.

Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation?... Hebrews 2:1-3 (ESV)

The writer of Hebrews also said angels were involved in the giving of God's law to Moses on Mt. Sinai.

So we know that these spiritual terrorists will claim God speaks to them in their dreams. They will claim they have a special relationship with angels who speak to them. They even claim the angels are directing them to live sexually immoral lives and to reject anyone in authority over them, yet Jude says the opposite of what they claim is taking place.

The last time we know angels spoke was on Mt. Sinai when God gave his moral law to Moses. God's moral law involves sexual purity. Do not commit adultery. It does not in any way encourage a sexually immoral lifestyle.

Jude's point was that angels were not speaking to these people because they claimed angels were telling them to do actions completely out-of-line with God's moral law, which is what angels gave when they spoke to Moses.

Spiritual terrorist make things up out of their own heads. They insult God's angels by rejecting God's moral law and claiming that God's angels told them to do what they are doing.

Jude knew the point he was making was unusual. It is hard for us to understand, and I suspect it was a little difficult for his original readers to understand. That is why Jude took the next two verses and illustrated this point.

But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you." Jude 9 (ESV)

When we read this, the first thing we say is, "I don't remember any place in my Bible where this happened. I don't remember Michael the archangel fighting with the devil for the body of Moses." You are right. This doesn't happen in the Bible. The only thing the Bible tells us about Moses' body is that God buried him in the valley of Moab and that no one knows the place of his burial to this day (Deuteronomy 34:6).

Where does this passage that Jude was referring to come from then? Here is the background. According to the early Christian writer Origen, Jude was referring to a story told in a book called *The Assumption of Moses*. That was never a book considered as part of the Bible. While we have a few fragments of that book that are still in existence today, the part of that book that contained the story that Jude quoted is missing from what we have. While this story is foreign to us, I am sure it was familiar to Jude's readers.

Let me pause for a moment on this subject. Does this mean that a book of our Bible is missing? Should the book *The Assumption of Moses* be part of our Bible? Absolutely not. There are many times in the Bible that a phrase or a fact is quoted from another book that is not part of our Bible, and the rest of that book should not be part of our Bible. A biblical writer can quote a piece of truth from another book that is not part of the Bible and include it in his biblical book.

For example, Acts 17:28, Paul quoted pagan poets and philosophers.

for “ ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, “ ‘For we are indeed his offspring.’” Acts 17:28 (ESV)

That doesn't mean that everything pagan poets and philosophers said should be included in our Bible. This just means that quote is true. That is why the biblical author used it. Two plus two always equals four no matter what book we find it written in.

The point Jude was making is that Michael, who is the archangel, the head angel of God's angelic armies, didn't dare rebuke or speak evil of Satan when he was fighting for the body of Moses. If you could speak evil of anyone, it would be Satan. He takes the cake. He is the king of the fallen angels. If anyone has a right to speak evil of another angel, it would be Michael. He is called the archangel, which means he is the head of heaven's armies. According to Revelation, Michael has already defeated Satan in heaven.

Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. Revelation 12:7–8 (ESV)

Yet Michael didn't dare speak evil against Satan when fighting for Moses' body. However, these people speak evil of angels all the time. They disrespect the angels who gave God's moral law on Mt. Sinai by telling people angels have told them to disobey it and reject it and live sexually immoral lives.

Jude ended with these words.

But these people blaspheme all that they do not understand, and they are destroyed by all that they, like unreasoning animals, understand instinctively. Jude 10 (ESV)

Jude said these people were not super knowledgeable. They didn't have a special connection with God. They had no idea what they were talking about and what they were doing. The only thing they were following was their fleshy instincts, like an animal.

So let's review how Jude told us to spot spiritual terrorists among us.

How do we spot spiritual terrorists among us?

1. They claim to have special dreams and visions from God or angels. They use that to assume control over people and be an authority over people. They do not desire to submit to the Word of God, which is the true authority we all must follow.
2. Their lives are characterized by sexual immorality. They are living for sexual fulfillment, lust, and power. You do not see the fruit of the Spirit in their lives.
3. They despise authority. They do not want anyone to be an authority over them. They try to get rid of any boards that hold authority over them or the check of others that are older and wiser than them.
4. They blaspheme angels. While they claim to have special favor with angels, the reality is their behavior is repugnant to angels. They claim angels have directed them to leave God's moral law when in reality, it was God's angels who gave the moral law.

Next week, we look at three comparisons of an apostate's influence.



Dr. Kurt Trucksess is ordained in the Evangelical Free Church of America. He enjoys reading, writing, and time with his family. Feel free to contact him at www.Christ2RCulture.com (www.c2rc.com)

© You are permitted and encouraged to reproduce and distribute this material in any format provided (1) you credit the author, (2) modifications are clearly marked, (3) you do not charge a fee beyond the cost of reproduction, (4) you include the web address (www.Christ2RCulture.com) on the copied resource.