

## **Apostates in their midst**

### **Jude 12-16**

Jude is deeply concerned for the spiritual, moral and social health of the local body of Christ. He illustrates apostate teachers in their midst with *five metaphors from nature*. These metaphors were things everyone in the ancient near east would immediately connect with. After that he appeals to a prophet from before the Flood! Enoch.

V12, metaphor 1: *hidden reefs in you love feasts – they come not to express unity in love with the body of Christ, but to gratify their own wants.*

Ezek 34: 2

1 Cor. 11:17-22

metaphor 2: *clouds without water*

*They have had Greek courses in public speaking and homiletics, and they know how to spiritualize a text of Scripture and make it mean something entirely different from what God intended.*

metaphor 3: *autumn trees without fruit*

*To be uprooted is a symbol of divine judgment (Ps. 52:5)*

v13, metaphor 4: *wild waves of the sea*

*wild waves cast up bits of filth and debris onto the shore with their "foam" and flotsam (wreckage, refuse). Shame here speaks of their immoral acts causing shipwreck and spewing filth on everyone around them.*

1 Peter 4:4

metaphor 5: *wandering stars*

*In ancient days, the planets were known as "wanderers" in that they didn't follow the fixed course of the stars. The point: You can't use them for a fixed point of navigation. They are unreliable.*

*Like "waves," false teachers can be defiling, and like "wandering stars" (or "planets"), they can be unreliable and misleading.*

V14, The prophesy of Enoch:

The 4 "ungodly's" of Enoch. Ungodliness is rebellion to authority. Jude points out again (v4) that it is the root and starting point for the evil pattern that follows.

Amazingly, Enoch was the only pre-flood person that God identified as a prophet.

Amazingly, Enoch prophesies about the Second Coming of Christ... before the Flood!