

Memory Verse

Jude 12

These are hidden reefs at your love feasts, as they feast with you without fear, shepherds feeding themselves; waterless clouds, swept along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted;

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JUDE

Defend the Faith,
Grow in Grace

Pt. 8 – 5 Examples of
False Teachers Pt. 2

We have looked at what the *brother of Jesus* has been saying about false or apostate teachers in his time and in our time. We have seen their *character*, their *teaching*, and last time we saw 3 Old Testament people Jude used to **illustrate** their *judgment*. In our verses, Jude gives **5 examples from creation** to illustrate verses 8-10: *hidden reefs, waterless clouds, fruitless trees, wild waves, and wandering stars.*

Jude 12-15.

12These are hidden reefs at your love feasts, as they feast with you without fear, shepherds feeding themselves; waterless clouds, swept along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted; 13wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever. 14It was

also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, “Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his holy ones, 15to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”

A. 12a – Hidden Reefs

Some *versions* translate this "*blemishes*" or "*blots*." A *blemish/blot* is unclean in Jewish thought. They are unwanted, and something *teenagers* deal with every day. I like "*hidden reefs*." This is a very vivid image.



A. 12a – Hidden Reefs

Love Feasts were *meals believers had with each other*, like a **potluck**. Some include the Lord's Supper or Communion, but it was a *time where people could fellowship, eat, and provide for others who may not have had a regular meal.*

Love feasts were *supposed to be a time of joy, fellowship and provision with brothers and sisters in Christ.*

A. 12a – Hidden Reefs

Like *selfish shepherds*, they fed themselves.
*They only cared about what they can **get**, rather than what they can **give**!*

Rather than feeding the sheep, they fed on the sheep.

Hidden reefs were dangerous for boats, and are *dangerous to the body of Christ* and **will cause people to spiritually run aground.**

2 Peter 2:12-13 - But these [*false teachers*], like irrational animals, creatures of instinct, born to be caught and destroyed, blaspheming about matters of which they are ignorant, will also be destroyed in their destruction, 13suffering wrong as the wage for their wrongdoing. They count it pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, while they feast with you.

B. 12b – Waterless Clouds

This is **not** a scientific statement. That is not what Jude is doing. When *Scripture speaks of science*, it is 100% accurate, but this is *not about science*. The idea was *they looked like storm clouds, ready to provide life giving water to the ground and people, but the clouds never rained*. These "*clouds*" **appear to provide, but don't**.

B. 12b – Waterless Clouds

False teachers promise *life, blessing, prosperity* (in our day), and *more*. Yet, **they cannot fulfill it**. Why? Because they deny Scripture, deny God's authority, deny those whom God has set up as authorities, and depend on themselves, their so called "*dreams*" and hide their sinful lifestyle.

C. 12c – Fruitless Trees

A fruit tree is *supposed to produce fruit in late autumn!* **If not**, it's not doing what it was created to do. The one who planted the tree, watered it, waited for it to grow, only to find out that it will not produce fruit! That's *devastating!* Without fruit, the one who depends on this tree will not survive!

C. 12c – Fruitless Trees

These trees are twice dead, and uprooted. The trees are declared dead because they do not produce fruit, and uprooted, determining their judgment. False teachers appear to have the life of Christ, but are **dead inside** and *don't know Jesus*, nor the gospel. They are **NOT** Christians.

D. 12d – Wild Waves

During a storm the *waves of the sea are wild*.

Have you been on a boat in stormy water? What happens?

You *can't navigate* and at the time of Jude, you may not know which direction you are going!

D. 13a – Wild Waves

A rogue wave is a natural ocean phenomenon that is not caused by land movement, only lasts briefly, occurs in a limited location, and most often happens far out at sea.^[2] Rogue waves are considered rare but **potentially very dangerous**, since they can involve the spontaneous formation of **massive waves** far beyond the usual expectations of ship designers, and can overwhelm the usual capabilities of ocean-going vessels which are not designed for such encounters.

- Wikipedia - Rogue Waves

D. 13a – Wild Waves

*Whichever Jude refers to, he uses this image to show the confusion and destruction false teachers cause. They may sound good, but if *think about what they say*, it is **very confusing** and mostly **nonsensical** and **very dangerous**. They *cast up the foam of their own shame*... Their *lifestyle is **sinful***.*

E. 13b – Wandering Stars

This image refers to *constellations and navigation*. It could be *referring to planets* rather than *stars*. In the ancient world, it was thought that planets would disappear into the dark for no reason. It could also refer to *shooting stars*. The **principle is the same**. The idea is *these stars or planets **mislead** those who are using them for navigation*.

E. 13b – Wandering Stars

Though they *appear to provide light*, like a star, *false teachers lead people into darkness*.

Related to this, they **mix** the *truth or light*, with *error or darkness*. I'm *not* talking about personal convictions, or secondary matters, but guided by satan, they *infuse error* with what *sounds true*, or *what is true!*

E. 13b – Wandering Stars

The enemy knows Scripture! We *need to know* what the Bible says, so that when *satan or his teachers take it out of context*, we can stand on *what it says in context*. The Bible is a sword, defensive and offensive. Jude says *the gloom of utter darkness is reserved for them*. They **WILL** be judged!

F. 14-15 – Enoch’s Promised Judgment

Jude quotes from 1 Enoch 60:8, referring to Enoch as the *7th from Adam*. 1 Enoch was a Jewish writing outside of the Bible. It was *not inspired Scripture*, but was well known by the Jews in the first century. Enoch is *called a prophet*, who said *God would send tens of thousands of His holy ones, angels, to judge*. The phrase in verse 14 is *as if it has already happened*, which means it **WILL** happen!

F. 14-15 – Enoch's Promised Judgment

What about the Bible's use of outside references, like **1 Enoch**? *Daniel 4:34-37* quotes a speech by King Nebuchadnezzar. *Ezra 1* has a proclamation of Cyrus, for the *exiles from Israel to return to their land if they chose*. Paul quoted from writers of his day in *Acts 17:28* and *Titus 1:12-13*. Jude does the same thing. It does **not mean** everything from the references quoted was accurate or inspired by God.