

# **Contending for the Faith**

## **Apostate Metaphors**

### **Jude 12-13**

#### **Introduction**

After giving three examples of apostates in the Old Testament, Jude reveals the characteristics of apostates and the heresy they teach.

1. Apostates corrupt and pervert the gospel and blaspheme and \_\_\_\_\_ against divine authority.
2. Apostates hide out among Christians but embrace the ideals and behaviors of the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The New English Translation says they are \_\_\_\_\_ clouds.
4. The early Church met together often for \_\_\_\_\_ and to share a meal. They would regularly celebrate Communion during these meals.
5. Like clouds blowing over dry land without giving rain, these apostates promised everything and produced \_\_\_\_\_.

#### **I. Hidden Reefs In Your Love Feasts**

6. Jude says hidden reefs can cause shipwreck of a believer's \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Apostates always have an ulterior motive for their \_\_\_\_\_ and always put themselves above others.
8. Apostates are like \_\_\_\_\_ in the sea, submerged and invisible beneath the surface of the water.

9. None of the disciples had a clue that \_\_\_\_\_ was the betrayer among them!
10. The members Jude is addressing also didn't realize the nature of \_\_\_\_\_ teachers! They thought these apostates were sincere followers just like them.
11. This metaphor suggests at least two characteristics of apostates. First, they \_\_\_\_\_ themselves and their true intentions (wolves in sheep's clothing), and secondly, they are a spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ to unsuspecting and immature sheep in the flock.

## II. Waterless Clouds

12. Clouds that promise rain but fail to produce what people hope for are a \_\_\_\_\_ to those who desperately need water.
13. Apostates boast of their abilities, but they are unable to produce any \_\_\_\_\_ of faith.
14. False teachers and demons share a mutual connection with \_\_\_\_\_.
15. They are spiritually barren, offering nothing that nurtures the \_\_\_\_\_.
16. Not only are apostates unstable themselves, but those who follow them will be led astray from the path of \_\_\_\_\_ and purity.

## III. Fruitless Autumn Trees

17. Autumn is the season when farmers and gardeners expect to \_\_\_\_\_ the final crops of the year.
18. The phrase "autumn trees without fruit" pictures the disappointing reality of a \_\_\_\_\_ harvest.

- 19.If you uproot a fruitless tree, it is dead forever, or as Jude says, "It is \_\_\_\_\_ dead."
- 20.Manufactured "results" are sterile and dead, but real fruit continues to grow and \_\_\_\_\_ itself in the lives of others.
- 21.The fruit God seeks in us is righteous and loving acts that bring peace and harmony to the body of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 22.God's solution for peace and a life of purpose is a personal \_\_\_\_\_ with Jesus.
- 23.Promise without performance is \_\_\_\_\_.
- 24.To avoid being pulled into error, keep a firm grip on the \_\_\_\_\_.

#### **IV. Wild Waves of the Sea**

- 25.The sea is often pictured in Scripture as \_\_\_\_\_ and refers here to spiritual leaders who do not have any real knowledge of God.
- 26.Wild sea-waves are conveyors of \_\_\_\_\_ spewed forth from the belly of the sea.
- 27.Jude compared the apostates to "raging waves of the sea" not because of their power, but because of their \_\_\_\_\_ and arrogant speech.

#### **V. Wandering Stars in Black Darkness**

- 28.Jude also calls apostates, "wandering stars in black - \_\_\_\_\_." The ancients called planets, comets, and meteors "wandering stars."

29. Just as you cannot use moving stars for navigation so false teachers are \_\_\_\_\_ and untrustworthy.

30. The fate of these wandering stars is \_\_\_\_\_ darkness.

31. False teachers are wayward \_\_\_\_\_.

## Conclusion

32. The apostates Jude speaks about have a reservation of eternal darkness awaiting them. It is the outer darkness that is far from the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

33. All false teachers have the same characteristics:

- a self-serving spirit,
- they are devoid of spiritual substance,
- they have no real spiritual \_\_\_\_\_,
- they have no sense of shame, and
- their teaching leads people away from God.

34. Jude's advice is to keep yourself in the love of \_\_\_\_\_!

Only a perfect person can offer a single sacrifice, and the only perfect person who did was Jesus. Jesus is our only hope to escape eternal darkness and receive eternal life.

## Answers:

- |               |                  |              |
|---------------|------------------|--------------|
| 1. Rebel      | 14. Satan        | 27. Pride    |
| 2. World      | 15. Soul         | 28. Darkness |
| 3. Waterless  | 16. Truth        | 29. Useless  |
| 4. Fellowship | 17. Harvest      | 30. Outer    |
| 5. Nothing    | 18. Barren       | 31. Stars    |
| 6. Faith      | 19. Twice        | 32. Presence |
| 7. Serving    | 20. Reproduce    | 33. Fruit    |
| 8. Reefs      | 21. Christ       | 34. Jesus    |
| 9. Judas      | 22. Relationship |              |
| 10. False     | 23. Useless      |              |
| 11. Conceal   | 24. Truth        |              |
| 12. Danger    | 25. Chaos        |              |
| 13. Fruit     | 26. Filth        |              |