

Outline of Jude

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The Curse of Antinomianism

Jude, Part IV

Jude 11-16

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I. Antinomianism in History: Gnosticism

Antinomianism teaches that because God is a forgiving God, we need not concern ourselves with obeying God's moral _____. *Gnosticism* was an early Christian heresy that attempted to merge Christianity and Greek philosophy. They did not believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. They believed that an evil demon called the *Demiurge* created the material world to enslave spiritual creatures like man. The Gnostics insisted, therefore, that "salvation" involved escape from the prison house of our bodies and the realization of our true potential.

II. Woe to them!

Jude 11–16 (NKJV)

¹¹Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

¹²These are spots 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; ¹³raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.

¹⁴Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, ¹⁵to 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." ¹⁶These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage.

| ¶ | Reference | Past Event | Application to false teachers | Reference |
|---|-----------|--|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| 1 | vv. 5-7 | Judgment on Israel, angels, and Sodom & Gomorrah | "Likewise also these dreamers..." | v. 8 |
| | v. 9 | Michael did not rebuke the devil | "But these..." | v. 10 |
| 2 | v. 11 | Cain, Balaam, Korah | "These..." | v. 12 |
| | vv. 14-15 | Enoch's prophesy of judgment | "These..." | v. 16 |
| 3 | vv. 17-18 | Apostolic warnings | "These..." | v. 19 |

A. Three OT Examples plus Interpretation (11-12 cf. Gen 4; Num 22-25; 31:8,16)

In his first paragraph, Jude alluded to *unbelieving Israelites*, *fallen angels*, and the *sexually perverse cities of Sodom and Gomorrah* as examples. Now he cites Cain, Balaam, and Korah (11) to censure these false teachers. *Woe to them!* God's _____ is upon them!

- **Cain** twisted the proper worship of God and murdered his brother (Gen 4; 1 Jn 3:10-12).
- **Balaam** in his greed, eager for profit, counseled the Moabite king, Balak, to entice Israel away from God through sexual temptation (Num 25 cf. 31:8,16).
- **Korah** despised the authority that God established by rebelling against Moses and Aaron (Num 16).

B. Jewish Tradition plus Interpretation (14-16)

Even as Jude alluded to a Jewish tradition about the dispute over Moses' body in the first paragraph, so now he alludes to a tradition regarding Enoch, *the seventh from Adam* (cf. Gen 5:21-23). It is possible that Jude is quoting from an old Jewish writing called *The Book of Enoch*. Regardless, Jude quotes a Jewish tradition that accurately represents Enoch's *prophecy* about *ungodly*, antinomian *men*. God will judge them!

⁹Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. ¹⁰For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. (2 Cor 5:9f)

III. The Curse of Antinomianism

A. The Reality of Curses

There are many Christians who are uncomfortable with the curses of Scripture. They don't know quite what to do with them or even reject them altogether. After all, doesn't Scripture command us, "_____ and do not curse!" (cp. Mt 5:44; Rom 12:14; Jas 3:9-10). But the NT is full of curses like Jude's. For example, Jesus pronounces eight _____ upon the scribes and Pharisees (Mt 23:13, 14, 15, 16, 23, 25, 27, 29). And Luke's Gospel links four of Jesus' beatitudes with four woes:

²⁴*But woe to you who are rich, For you have received your consolation. ²⁵Woe to you who are full, For you shall hunger. Woe to you who laugh now, For you shall mourn and weep. ²⁶Woe to you when all men speak well of you, For so did their fathers to the false prophets. (Luke 6:24–26)*

The Apostle Paul speaks similarly, "If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed" (1 Cor 16:22 cp. Gal 1:8-9). If we are to let the entirety of Scripture shape our thinking, then we must make room for _____.

B. The Reason for Curses (Dt 27:11-28:68 cf. Lev 26)

So why do curses come? Curses come because of our sin and rebellion against God. Cursed is everyone who breaks God's law (cp. Gal 3:10). We do not impose a moral order on a meaningless universe; we are called to conform our lives to the moral order that exists. Curses come because of our rebellion against God and His moral order. This doesn't mean that every bad thing that happens to us is a result of our personal sin. However, it does mean is that if we rebel against God and ignore His moral law, then we are calling down God's curses upon ourselves.

¹⁵*Cursed is the one who makes a carved or molded image, an abomination to the LORD, the work of the hands of the craftsman, and sets it up in secret.' "And all the people shall answer and say, 'Amen!'*
¹⁶*Cursed is the one who treats his father or his mother with contempt.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'*
¹⁷*Cursed is the one who moves his neighbor's landmark.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'*
¹⁸*Cursed is the one who makes the blind to wander off the road.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'*
¹⁹*Cursed is the one who perverts the justice due the stranger, the fatherless, and widow.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'*
²⁰*Cursed is the one who lies with his father's wife, because he has uncovered his father's bed.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'*
²¹*Cursed is the one who lies with any kind of animal.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'*
²²*Cursed is the one who lies with his sister, the daughter of his father or the daughter of his mother.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'*
²³*Cursed is the one who lies with his mother-in-law.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'*
²⁴*Cursed is the one who attacks his neighbor secretly.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'*
²⁵*Cursed is the one who takes a bribe to slay an innocent person.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'*
²⁶*Cursed is the one who does not confirm all the words of this law.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'" (Deuteronomy 27:15–26)*

Jesus died and rose again to transform the world. He didn't die and rise again to get rid of _____ for obedience and curses for disobedience. He couldn't do that. He died that we might be forgiven for violating His moral order and then He rose from the dead so that we might be empowered by His Spirit to obey it (Rom 8:4).

C. The Result of Curses

IV. Conclusion (cf. Gal 3:13-14)