

# Beware of Dreamers

**Jude 8-10**

Jeremiah 23:16-32

2 Timothy 3:16-4:4

**A Letter to Saints** (Jude 1-2)

**A Serious Call** (Jude 3-4)

- A call to “earnestly contend”.
- Ungodly men (by God’s definition) have crept into the church - just as Peter warned in 2 Peter 2:1-3
- Turning GRACE (a transforming power of God) into license to sin. See Romans 6:1-2.

**Warnings from the Past** (Jude 5-7)

- Israel coming out of Egypt • Fallen Angels • Sodom and Gomorrah
- ★ All had privileges like no others and yet they fell! (1 Cor 10:12; Rom 11:21-22)
- ★ Only a fool would ignore these real, severe warnings of God. (Psalm 14:1)

**Warnings Warnings Warnings** (Jude5; 2 Peter 1:12-15)

- Tendency to Forget (Deut 4:9; 6:12)
- “for our safety” - Philippians 3:1
- These warnings, as with all of the warnings in God’s Word, are expressions of God’s love for His own. They were written down for OUR admonition. (1 Cor 10:11; Proverbs 7:1-2)

**Beware of Dreamers** (Jude 8)

- These false teachers were motivated by “dreams” or thoughts of their minds.
- These false teachers had been corrupted with LEAVEN of false doctrine and now it (false doctrine) was leading them and those whom they deceived. (Matthew 16:6-12; Mark 8:15; Luke 12:1)
- Moses commanded the Israelites to put DREAMERS to DEATH. (Deut 13:1-5)
- God, through Jeremiah, commanded the Israelites NOT to LISTEN to those who came to them with DREAMS. (Jeremiah 27:9-10)
- God, through Jeremiah, told the Israelites that their false prophets spoke of “visions from their own hearts” and NOT from the mouth of the LORD (the Word of God). (Jeremiah 23:16-40 [v. 16])
- God was (and is) against false teachers teaching dreams **causing His people to err and do things that do not profit!** (Jeremiah 23:32)



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- These false prophets/teachers (in Jeremiah's times) were trying to make **God's people forget God.** (Jeremiah 23:25-27)

## Defiling the Flesh (v. 8)

- Connect this to 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:18-20; 2 Peter 2:10-12

## Rejection of Authority (v. 9)

- ALL authority comes from the throne of God. God is the CREATOR. God RULES the nations! (Genesis 1:1; Psalm 22:28; 47:7-8; 99:1; Rev 19:6)
- Jesus said, "ALL authority has been given to Me . . ." (Matthew 28:18; John 3:35; 5:22-27; 17:1-2)
- There is no authority apart from God. (John 19:10-11)
- ALL authority includes in the State, Church, and Home.

### → **STATE** (Government)

- All government leaders are appointed and empowered by God and are God's ministers. (Romans 13:1-7; Daniel 4:17, 25, 35; 5:18-20)
- God gives authority of nations to whomever He pleases. (Daniel 4:17,32; 5:18-20; John 19:10-11; Psalm 115:3; 135:6)
- Jesus understood Pilate's authority came from God. (John 19:10-11 with Acts 3:13)

### → **CHURCH**

- Jesus taught that leaders in the church are to be SERVANTS to the people. (Matthew 20:25-28; 1 Peter 5:3)
- We are commanded to OBEY and HONOR those appointed over us. (Hebrews 13:7, 17; 1 Timothy 5:17)
- Leaders are accountable to God for the souls that God gives them. (Hebrews 13:17; Acts 20:28)
- Church leaders are UNDER SHEPHERDS and Christ is the CHIEF SHEPHERD. (1 Peter 5:1-4)
- Church Leaders
  - Qualification (1 Timothy 3:1-7)
    - God, not man, set the qualifications for elders. Man has no authority to ignore even one of God's qualifications.
    - An elder must be blameless. (v. 2; Genesis 17:1)
    - An elder must be the husband of one believing wife. (v. 2; Romans 7:2; 1 Corinthians 7:39)
    - An elder must be temperate in all things. (self-controlled, discreet). (v. 2; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27)
    - An elder must be sober-minded (vigilant, sober, circumspect). (v. 2; 1 Peter 1:13; 5:8)
    - An elder must be of good-behavior (orderly, modest). (v. 2)
    - An elder must be hospitable. (v. 2; Rom 12:13; 1 Peter 4:9)

- An elder must be able to teach. (v. 2) He must be sound in doctrine and have a working knowledge of the whole counsel of God. (v. 2; 1 Tim 5:17; 2 Tim 2:15)
  - An elder must not be given to wine. (v. 3; Eph 5:18)
  - An elder must not be violent. (v. 3)
  - An elder must not be self-willed. (Titus 1:7)
  - An elder must not be greedy for money. (Proverbs 15:27; 1 Peter 5:2)
  - An elder must be gentle. (Gal 5:22-23; 2 Tim 2:24)
  - An elder must not be quarrelsome. (v. 2 Tim 2:24-25)
  - An elder must not be covetous. (v. 3; Hebrews 13:5)
  - An elder must be one who rules his house well, having children in submission with all reverence. (vv. 4-5)
  - An elder must not be a novice. (v. 6)
  - An elder must have a good testimony among those who are outside. (v. 7)
- **One of the topmost characteristics:** For one to lead he must set and be an example to those he leads. (1 Corinthians 11:1; 4:16; Philippi 3:17; 1 Thess 1:6; 2 Thess 3:9; Heb 6:12; 13:7)

## → FAMILY

- God given authority structure in the family.
  - Children are to HONOR **and** OBEY their parents. (Exodus 20:12; Leviticus 19:3, 32; Ephesians 6:1-3; Colossians 3:20)
    - The penalty for striking, cursing or continuous disobedience was DEATH by stoning. (Exodus 21:15, 17; Deut 21:18-23)
  - Wives are to submit to their husbands **as to the Lord**. (Ephesians 5:22, 24; 1 Peter 3:1-6)
  - Husbands are to lead the family. He is to love his wife *just as Christ loves His Church*. He is to honor his wife. He is to serve his wife.. (Eph 5:23, 25-28; Matt 20:28; 1 Peter 3:7; 1 Cor 11:3; Philip 2:7)
- All those in authority come UNDER God's authority.
  - To reject any God appointed authority (State, Church, Family) is to reject God.
  - Those who REJECT God's authority set themselves up as their own authority - making themselves gods.
  - Once a person rejects God's authority he/she feels free to live as he/she wants - he/she sets his/her own standards!

## Respect for Authority (vv. 8-9)

- Even the Archangel Michael knew that it was the LORD's place to rebuke Satan.
  - See Zechariah 3:1-5
  - We have Christ, in Heaven, to speak for us! 1 John 1:5-2:2.

- If an Archangel was careful about the way he dealt with the devil, how careful ought we be. (See 1 Peter 5:8-9)

### **Ignorant Leaders** (v. 10)

- These leaders spoke of things they did not understand! They really did not know what they were talking about. (Romans 1:22)
- They spoke from their hearts – not the Word of God!
- Jude (and Peter [2 Peter 2:12, 22]) likened these false teachers to “brute beasts”.
- One who lives by “natural instincts” and NOT by the Word of God is NOT higher than an animal!
- Church elders are to “rightly divide the Word being approved by God” - which is a high standard. (2 Timothy 2:15; Galatians 1:10)

### **Maturing Children vs Brute Beasts**

- False teachers, and those who pass on false teachings without testing all they hear, are likened in Scripture, by God, as “**brute beasts**”. (v. 10; 2 Peter 2:12)
  - Brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed.
- False teachers, and those who listen to them, disregard God’s authority to command what is right and wrong. They establish their own righteousness. (Romans 10:2-3)
- False teachers, and those who listen to them, set themselves over God as they “redefine” **the** faith that they are commanded to “earnestly contend”. (Jude 3-4)
- **WE** must PREACH (*kerusso*) THE WORD as it is **WRITTEN**. We cannot change the WORD to fit our times or traditions. We cannot preach our opinions. (2 Timothy 4:1-4)
- We are commanded to “submit” to God’s appointed government (1 Peter 2:13-15); “honour the king” (1 Peter 2:17); “speak no evil of appointed leaders” (Exodus 22:28).
- We are commanded to honor our parents and spouses. (Exodus 20:12; Eph 6:1-3; 1 Peter 3:7)
- We are commanded to obey and honor the elders of the Church. (1 Tim 5:17; Heb 13:17)
- “Children of God” manifest themselves by living in/by the righteousness of God. (1 John 3:6-7, 9-10)
- “Children of God” love God and keep His commandments. (1 John 5:2-3)
  - ➔ The “children of God” do not follow their hearts but the Word of God.
  - ➔ Our hearts do NOT decide what is right or wrong – **ONLY** the Word of God dictates right and wrong. (Jeremiah 17:13; Hebrews 5:13-14)
- ★ **BEWARE: WHAT and HOW** you hear! **TEST EVERYTHING!** **DO** the Word of God! (Luke 8:18; Mark 4:24; Acts 17:11; 1 Thess 5:18; James 1:22)