

Jude 1:12 - 16 (KJV)

¹²These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds *they are* without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots;

¹³Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.

¹⁴And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,

¹⁵To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard *speeches* which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

¹⁶These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling *words*, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.

Jude 1:12 - 16 (NLT)

¹²When these people eat with you in your fellowship meals commemorating the Lord's love, they are like dangerous reefs that can shipwreck you. They are like shameless shepherds who care only for themselves. They are like clouds blowing over the land without giving any rain. They are like trees in autumn that are doubly dead, for they bear no fruit and have been pulled up by the roots.

¹³They are like wild waves of the sea, churning up the foam of their shameful deeds. They are like wandering stars, doomed forever to blackest darkness.

¹⁴Enoch, who lived in the seventh generation after Adam, prophesied about these people. He said, "Listen! The Lord is coming with countless thousands of his holy ones

¹⁵to execute judgment on the people of the world. He will convict every person of all the ungodly things they have done and for all the insults that ungodly sinners have spoken against him."

¹⁶These people are grumblers and complainers, living only to satisfy their desires. They brag loudly about themselves, and they flatter others to get what they want.

In four vivid word pictures taken from nature, Jude further described the false teachers.

1. **They are waterless clouds carried along by the winds.** The false teachers were all show but no substance. Like waterless clouds, they promised rain but floated on by without a drop for thirsty soil.
2. The false teachers are **autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, uprooted.** A fruitless tree in autumn may refer to a sterile tree, which was as good as dead because it produced no fruit. An *uprooted* tree was completely dead. Jude compared the false teachers to trees promising fruit but giving none. They were "once dead" because they had never taken root (they were never believers), and they had never borne spiritual fruit in their lives. They were *twice dead* because just as fruitless trees are uprooted and burned, so the false teachers would face eternal punishment.
3. The false teachers were **wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame.** Like the wild waves that make lots of noise as they restlessly thrash about, the false teachers restlessly and loudly were spewing their teaching. Jude used the image recorded in Isaiah, "But the wicked are like the tossing sea that cannot keep still; its waters toss up mire and mud" (Isaiah 57:20). As debris and filth caught in the foam are cast up on the shore, so the false teachers' *shame* (referring to their shameful actions) would be "cast up" for all to see.
4. The false teachers were **wandering stars, for whom the deepest darkness has been reserved forever.** For centuries, the fixed stars in the heavens have guided seafarers and navigators in travels around the earth. But *wandering* (or shooting) *stars* offer no guidance and no light. They appear bright for a few moments but shoot across the sky and disappear into darkness. The false teachers were as useless as wandering stars because they

offered no direction and no light. Their teachings might seem “bright” for a while, but these teachers would find that for them *the deepest darkness has been reserved forever*. Their eternal judgment and punishment are certain; they have reservations that cannot be changed or canceled.

Empty Words

The false teachers talked a lot but had no substance; their words were lies. Life is filled with promises. We build families on promises, spend careers on promises, and trust God himself for the great promise of a joyous future. If promises fail, life collapses.

Do your best to make good on your word. So many people depend on your integrity. So much happiness rides on your honesty. Don't promise what you can't or won't deliver, as did the false teachers. Their lives were wasted because their promises were empty.

JUDE 1:14-15

It was also about these that Enoch, in the seventh generation from Adam, prophesied, saying, “See, the Lord is coming with ten thousands of his holy ones.”

- We know a little about Enoch from the Old Testament: “When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah. And after he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters.
- Altogether, Enoch lived 365 years. Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away” (Genesis 5:21-24). Enoch was in the lineage of Jesus Christ (Luke 3:37).
- He was the seventh in order because Adam was counted as the “first” in the Jewish way of recording generations.
- During the period between the writing of the Old and New Testaments, Enoch had become a popular figure in Jewish writing. He was thought to be a figure of the Messiah and was considered to have had expert knowledge about the heavens.
- The writer of Hebrews said, “By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God” (Hebrews 11:5).

Monday Morning Moment: Action Step

“Make sure your life is about substance over style!”

1 Corinthians 15:58 (NASB)

⁵⁸Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not *in vain* in the Lord.