Epistle of Jude - Verse 4 - Dangerous Men Crept In

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In this study we will begin in the fourth verse of Jude which is like pushing off the top of a steep ski run. It will be hard to stop until we get to the bottom, which in Jude will take us to verse 16. We are really getting into the meat of why Jude wrote this epistle - that ungodly men had crept into the church and were teaching false concepts.

Can this happen today? Has it happened? Yes, it certainly has - especially in many mainstream churches that are now embracing much of the sexual practices that have become so commonplace today. Jude is warning the Church to hold fast to the truth and warns similar to Paul in Galatians 6:7 NKJV - *Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.* - Jude warns God will punish those that practice sexual immorality. He cites Old Testament examples. God and Christ haven't changed.

Hebrews 13:8 NKJV - Jesus Christ [is] the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Recap from last time:
v3 NLT - Dear friends, I had been eagerly planning to write to you about the salvation we all share. But now I find that I must write about something else, urging you to defend the faith that God has entrusted once for all time to his holy people.

Jude 1:4 NKJV - For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ. Jude 1:4 NLT - I say this because some ungodly people have wormed their way into your churches, saying that God's marvelous grace allows us to live immoral lives. The condemnation of such people was recorded long ago, for they have denied our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.	2 Peter 2:1 NLT - But there were also false prophets in Israel, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will cleverly teach destructive heresies and even deny the Master who bought them. In this way, they will bring sudden destruction on themselves. 2 Peter 2:2 NLT - Many will follow their evil teaching and shameful immorality. And because of these teachers, the way of truth will be slandered. 2 Peter 2:3 NLT - In their greed they will make up clever lies to get hold of your money. But God condemned them long ago, and their destruction will not be delayed.

From Barclay's Daily Study Bible:

Christianity is based on one **faith**, which was **once for all delivered to the saints**.

4. (Jude 1:4) We need to contend for the faith because there are dangerous men among Christians.

a. **Certain men have crept in unnoticed**: In part, this is what makes them so dangerous — they are **unnoticed**. No one noticed that they were dangerous. They didn't wear a "Danger: False Teacher" name tag. These **certain men** probably claimed to be *more* Biblical than anybody else was.

i. **Crept in** means, "To slip in secretly as if by a side door." (Robertson)

From Albert Barnes Notes on the Bible:

For there are certain men crept in unawares - The apostle now gives "reason" for thus defending the truth, to wit, that there were artful and wicked men who had crept into the church, pretending to be religious teachers, but whose doctrines tended to sap the very foundations of truth. …they had come in "by stealth;" they had not come by a bold and open avowal of their real sentiments. They professed to teach the Christian religion, when in fact they denied some of its fundamental doctrines; they professed to be holy, when in fact they were living most scandalous lives. In all ages there have been men who were willing to do this for base purposes.

From Adam Clarke Commentary:

They had got into the Church under specious pretences; and, when in, began to sow their bad seed.

> Who sowed the bad seed?
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> Matthew 13:25 KJV - But while men slept, his **enemy** came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.
> Matthew 13:26 KJV - But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.
> Matthew 13:27 KJV - So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?
> Matthew 13:28 KJV - He said unto them, **An enemy hath done this**. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?
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> When would it be dealt with?
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> Matthew 13:29 KJV - But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.
> Matthew 13:30 KJV - Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

Adam Clark, cont.

The only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ - *Μονον Δεσποτην Θεον και Κυριον ήμων Ιησουν Χριστον αρυουμενοι.* These words may be translated, Denying the only sovereign God, even our Lord Jesus Christ. But Θεον God, is omitted by ABC, sixteen others, with Erpen's Arabic, the Coptic, Ethiopic, Armenian, and Vulgate, and by many of the fathers. It is very likely that it was originally inserted as a gloss, to ascertain to whom the title of τον μονον Δεσποτην,

the only Sovereign, belonged; and thus make two persons where only one seems to be intended. The passage I believe belongs solely to Jesus Christ, and may be read thus: Denying the only sovereign Ruler, even our Lord Jesus Christ.

The text is differently arranged in the Complutensian Polyglot, which contains the first edition of the Greek Testament: *Και τον μονον Θεον και Δεσποτην, τον Κυριον ήμων Ιησουν Χριστον αρνουμενοι·* Denying the only God and Sovereign, our Lord Jesus Christ. This is a very remarkable position of the words, and doubtless existed in some of the MSS. from which these editors copied. The Simonians, Nicolaitans, and Gnostics, denied God to be the creator of the world; and Simon is said to have proclaimed himself as Father to the Samaritans, as Son to the Jews, and as the Holy Ghost to all other nations. All such most obviously denied both Father, Son, and Spirit.

What will happen to those who have “crept in”?

Albert Barnes, continued:

Who were before of old ordained to this condemnation - That is, to the condemnation (κρίμα krima) which he proceeds to specify. The statements in the subsequent part of the Epistle show that by the word used here he refers to the wrath that shall come upon the ungodly in the future world. See Jud_1:5-7, Jud_1:15. The meaning clearly is, that the punishment which befell the unbelieving Israelites Jud_1:5; the rebel angels Jud_1:6; the inhabitants of Sodom Jud_1:7; and of which Enoch prophesied Jud_1:15, awaited those persons.

This leads us to the next verses in Jude:

Jude is essentially reminding the people to not think it couldn’t happen to them. He cites scriptural evidence and examples of those who were saved or knew the truth and left it. The third example shows that God is NOT pleased with sexual immorality. (As these impostors were advocating.)

> 1 Corinthians 10:6 NKJV - Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.
> 1 Corinthians 10:7 NKJV - And do not become idolaters as [were] some of them. As it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play."
> 1 Corinthians 10:8 NKJV - Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell;
> 1 Corinthians 10:9 NKJV - nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents;
> 1 Corinthians 10:10 NKJV - nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer.
> 1 Corinthians 10:11 NKJV - Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.
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> Romans 15:4 NKJV - For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.
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> 2 Timothy 3:16 NKJV - All Scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,
> 2 Timothy 3:17 NKJV - that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Jude 1:5 NLT - So I want to remind you, though you already know these things, that Jesus first rescued the nation of Israel from Egypt, but later he destroyed those who did not remain faithful.

Jude 1:6 NLT - And I remind you of the angels who did not stay within the limits of authority God gave them but left the place where they belonged. God has kept them securely chained in prisons of darkness, waiting for the great day of judgment.

Jude 1:7 NLT - And don't forget Sodom and Gomorrah and their neighboring towns, which were filled with immorality and every kind of sexual perversion. Those cities were destroyed by fire and serve as a warning of the eternal fire of God's judgment.

> Are these that have “crept in” doing it (sin) willfully or ignorantly?
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> Hebrews 10:26 NKJV - For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,
> Hebrews 10:27 NKJV - but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.
> Hebrews 10:28 NKJV - Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on [the testimony of] two or three witnesses.
> Hebrews 10:29 NKJV - Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?

Now going directly after the false teachers:

Jude 1:8 NLT - In the same way, these people--who claim authority from their dreams--live immoral lives, defy authority, and scoff at supernatural beings.

> NLT clearer than the NKJV: Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries.

Jude 1:9 NLT - But even Michael, one of the mightiest of the angels, did not dare accuse the devil of blasphemy, but simply said, "The Lord rebuke you!" (This took place when Michael was arguing with the devil about Moses' body.)

Jude 1:10 NLT - But these people <u>scoff</u> at things they do not understand. Like unthinking animals, they do whatever their instincts tell them, and so they bring about their own destruction.

Jude 1:11 NLT - What sorrow awaits them! For they follow in the footsteps of Cain, who killed his brother. Like Balaam, they deceive people for money. And like Korah, they perish in their rebellion.

Jude 1:12 NLT - When these people eat with you in your fellowship meals commemorating the Lord's love, <u>they are like dangerous reefs that can shipwreck you.</u> 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.

Jude 1:13 NLT - They 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.

> 2 Peter 2:17 NKJV - These are wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest, for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.
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> 2 Peter 2:18 NKJV - For when they speak great swelling [words] of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error.
> 2 Peter 2:19 NKJV - While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.
> 2 Peter 2:20 NKJV - For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning.
> 2 Peter 2:21 NKJV - For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than **having known [it]**, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.
> 2 Peter 2:22 NKJV - But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire."

Jude 1:14 NLT - Enoch, 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

Jude 1:15 NLT - to 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."

Jude 1:16 NLT - These 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.

> 2 Timothy 3:1 NKJV - But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:
> 2 Timothy 3:2 NKJV - For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,
> 2 Timothy 3:3 NKJV - unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good,
> 2 Timothy 3:4 NKJV - traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,
> 2 Timothy 3:5 NKJV - having a form of godliness but denying its power. And **from such people turn away!**