

## Jude 1:17-19 Being on the Lookout for the Coming Scoffers

<sup>NKJ</sup> **Jude 1:17** But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ:

- It is important to keep reminding ourselves of the basic truths of Scripture in order for us not to be caught off guard when in fact, the warnings come to fruition (cf. 2 Peter 1:12).

<sup>NET</sup> **2 Peter 3:1** Dear friends, this is already the second letter I have written you, in which I am trying to stir up your pure mind by way of reminder: <sup>2</sup> I want you to recall both the predictions foretold by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your **apostles**. <sup>3</sup> Above all, understand this: In the last days blatant **scoffers** will come, being propelled by their own evil urges <sup>4</sup> and saying, "Where is his promised return? For ever since our ancestors died, all things have continued as they were from the beginning of creation."

- Who are the apostles that both Peter and Jude refer? What requirements are there to be an apostle?
  - Acts 1:21-22; to be numbered among the 12, you had to have been a witness of John's baptizing ministry up through the resurrection of Jesus.
  - 1 Corinthians 9:1-2; 15:5-8; Paul writes that he was an apostle of Jesus Christ because he had seen the resurrected Lord in person (Acts 9).
  - 2 Corinthians 8:23 (Greek); "messengers of the Churches"; literally, "apostles of the churches". This seems to be referencing another group of "apostles" who are not "sent" by Jesus Christ Himself, but instead by the local churches. The Greek word *apostolos* means "sent one". The verb form, "to send". Philippians 2:25 has Paul speaking of Epaphroditus as "your apostle". This would follow the idea of being sent by the local church.
  - Acts 14:4, 14; 15:2; these passages label Barnabas as an apostle alongside Paul. Barnabas could have been one of the 500 to see Jesus (1 Cor 15:6).
  - 2 Corinthians 12:12; This passage highlights that certain miraculous signs accompanied apostolic authority and activity in confirmation of their office by the Lord Jesus Himself.

<sup>NKJ</sup> **Jude 1:18** how they told you that there would be **mockers** in the **last time** who would **walk according to their own** ungodly lusts.

- **Mockers**; very rare word that only appears again in Isaiah 3:4 and 2 Peter 3:3 (see above). The OT idea of a scoffer/mocker is one who questions not the existence of God per se, but most specifically the coming of the Lord in judgment, "Where is your God" (Psalm 42:3, 10; 79:10) and:

<sup>NET</sup> **Jeremiah 17:15** Listen to what they are saying to me. They are saying, "Where are the things the LORD threatens us with? Come on! Let's see them happen!"

- The key thing in understanding the NT flavor is in 2 Peter 3:3-4 where he quotes the mockers explicitly as they seek to deny the promise of the Lord's coming. It is ironic in that the longer the Lord delays, the more they mock, but also the greater the surprise will be when it finally arrives.
- The scoffers will be coming in the **last times**. This is a phrase that comes from the OT use of "latter days" and can refer to a wide range of meaning (Gen 49:1; Num 24:14; Deut 4:30; 31:29; Isaiah 2:2; Jer 23:20; 30:24; 48:47; Ezek 38:16; Dan 2:28; 10:14; Hosea 3:5; Micah 4:1).
- The **last times** in the NT also has a wide range of meaning: Hebrews 1:2; 1 Peter 1:20; Acts 2:16-17; 1 John 2:18; James 5:3; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; 1 Timothy 4:1; 1 Peter 1:5.
- The lifestyle of the mockers will be characterized by those who follow their own desires for ungodliness. He is going to paint a contrast between those who are out for themselves and those who are controlled by the Spirit.

<sup>NAU</sup> **Jude 1:19** These are the ones who **cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit.**

- The first characteristic is that these scoffers will cause “divisions” or “classifications”. This is reminiscent of certain Charismatic or Pentecostal churches where there is an unfortunate arrogance on the part of those who considered themselves spirit-filled because they speak in other “tongues”. They will look down on others who are not as “spiritual” as them because of some external display. It becomes the haves and have-nots. This is similar to the factions/divisions spoken of by Paul at Corinth (1 Cor 1:10-13; 11:18-19- schisms and heresies).
- The second characteristic is that they are “soulish” or “worldly-minded”. This word is used in 1 Cor 2:14 in a description of those who are unspiritual or unregenerate and still have their mind darkened (Eph 4:17-18). It’s also a reference to the “natural” or “of this world” body (1 Cor 15:44, 46). Finally, James contrasts heavenly wisdom with this kind of wisdom (James 3:15- demonic).
- The final characteristic is not having the Spirit of God which confirms that these people are unbelievers (John 3:3-5; Romans 8:9; 1 Cor 12:13; Galatians 5:16-22).