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The Description of Apostates

Jude 8-16

Jude now begins a detailed description of **the apostates**, whose deadly work he has revealed. They are the Adversary's own personal agents within the believing body. However subtle, shrewd, cunning or clever they are, **Jude** reveals **their** true character, and gives us a complete record of **their** spiritual condition and **their** end. The righteous of the TaNaKh must be on their guard, spiritually alert, alive and awake.⁵¹ What were **their** beliefs and what was **their** way of life? From **Jude** we can conclude **three things** about these **heretics**.

First, they were antinomians, or people who believed that the moral law did not apply to them. Antinomians (to see link click [Ac - The Book of Jude From a Jewish Perspective: Purpose](#)) have existed in every age of the Church. **They** are people who prevent **grace**. **Their** position is that the Torah is dead and **they** are under **grace**. The Torah reveals the standard of righteousness demanded by **God**. They think it may apply to other **people**, but it no longer applies to them. **They** can do absolutely whatever they like and no repentance is necessary. **Grace** is supreme. It can forgive any sin. In fact, the greater the sin, the more opportunities for **grace** to **increase (Romans 6)**. **They** believe that the body is of no importance, what matters is the inward heart. All things belong to **the Messiah**, and, therefore, all things are **theirs**. And so, for **them**, *nothing* is forbidden.

Jude's apostates turn the grace of God into a license for immorality (Jude 4); they indulge in shameless unnatural conduct by going after strange flesh as did the men of Sodom and Gomorrah. They pollute their own bodies and do not consider it to be a sin (Jude 7-8). They allow animal instincts to rule their lives (Jude 10). With their sensual ways, they are likely to wreck the love feasts of local messianic synagogues or churches (Jude 12), and it is by their own evil desires that they direct their lives (Jude 16).



Second, they denied the deity and uniqueness of Jesus Christ. They are godless people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Yeshua Messiah our *only* Master and Lord (Jude 4b). As so often in the New Covenant, we again encounter what became known as Gnosticism (see [Ac - The Book of Jude From a Jewish Perspective: Purpose](#)). So, **the apostates** whom **Jude** attacks were **people** who **denied** the oneness of **the LORD** and split Him into an ignorant creating **God** and a truly spiritual **God**. **They denied** the uniqueness of **Jesus Christ** and saw **Him** as only one of the links between **God** and human beings, and **they** created class distinctions with the body of believers and limited fellowship with **ADONAI** to a supposedly intellectual few who were on a higher spiritual plane than everyone else.

Third, they denied and insulted ADONAI's holy angels. It is said that **they reject authority and slander celestial beings (Jude 8).** The words **authority** and **celestial beings** describe the ranks in the Jewish hierarchy of **angels**. Regarding the death and burial of Moses, if Michael, the archangel, on such an occasion said nothing against the prince of evil **angels**, clearly no one can speak evil of the **angels**.

The Jewish belief in **angels** was very elaborate. Every nation had a protecting **angel**. Every person, every child, had an **angel**. All the forces of nature, the wind and the sea and fire and all the others were supposedly under the control of **angels**. It could even be said that every blade of grass has its **angel**. Clearly, the false teachers attacked the **angels**. It is likely that **they** said that the **angels** were the servants of the ignorant and hostile creator **God** and that believers should have nothing to do with **them**. We cannot quite be sure what lies behind this; but, to all **their** other errors, **the apostates** added the despising of **angels**, and to **Jude** this seemed an evil thing.⁵²