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These People Speak Abusively Against Whatever They Do Not Understand Jude 10 and Second Peter 2:1

These people speak abusively against whatever they do not understand DIG: What two things does Jude say about the apostate teachers? What are the two different uses for the Greek words for understand in Jude 10. To whom is this message written about? Righteous believers? Backslidden believers? The intellectually convinced? What actually destroys them in the end? How does Jude destroy their claim to superior knowledge? What does "progressive" thinking lead to?

REFLECT: How can you spot a wolf in sheep's clothing where you worship? What are the clues? How were you saved from the foolishness of this world?



Yet these people speak abusively against whatever they do not understand. And what they do understand naturally, without thinking, like animals – by these things they are brought to ruin (Jude 10 NIV and **CJB).**

But these people blaspheme in matters they do not understand. They are like brute beasts, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like beasts they too will perish (Second Peter 2:12).

Whereas **Michael** did not dare accuse **the devil**, these **apostates**, by contrast, spoke **abusively** against **God's** holy **angels (Jude 8)**. **They** are totally without any kind of spiritual understanding. Things of **the Spirit** are beyond **their** natural intelligence. So when spiritual matters are brought to **their** attention, **they** treat it with scorn and mocking. **Jude** says **two things** about **the apostate teachers**.

First, they criticize everything that they don't understand. Yet these people speak abusively, *blasphemeo*, **against whatever they do not understand** in a worldly way **(Jude 10a** and **Second Peter 2:12a).** With the word **these** at the beginning of **verse 10**, **Jude** returns to **his** characterization of **the false teachers**. **He** uses two different Greek words for **understand** in **verse 10**. The first is *oida* meaning *mental comprehension* and *knowledge.* Anything out of **their** experience **they** disregard as worthless and irrelevant **(First Corinthians 2:14)**. Having no spiritual discernment, **they** are blind to, and contemptuous of, all spiritual realities. All this points to the fact that **they** are not believers who went astray. **Jude** is writing about **people** who never were believers to begin with. **They** simply began associating with the messianic synagogue in **their** area and pretended to be believers for satisfying their sexual appetite's and spreading **their** own false teaching.[63]



We must not forget that **Jude 10** is not written primarily about atheists, who despise our faith in total blindness to the truth: **So if indeed our Good News is veiled, it is veiled only to those in the process of being lost. They do not come to trust because the god of [this age] has blinded their minds, in order to prevent them from seeing the light shining from the Good News about the glory of the Messiah, who is the image of God (Second Corinthians 4:3-4 CJB).** Neither is it written about the righteous of the TaNaKh, but rather about the intellectually convinced **(Hebrews 3:7-19)**. Those unbelievers who once had knowledge of the truth, but did not cross the line from knowledge to

faith, and afterward fell away. It is not surprising that an atheist or an **apostate** would **speak abusively against the Lord's people**. In reality, they are **wolves in sheep's clothing**, and this is why **Jude** wrote his letter – to warn us of **their** coming.

Second, they allow themselves to be corrupted by the things they do understand. And what they *do* understand naturally by **instinct, without thinking,** are the sensual instincts that **they** share with **the animals (Jude 10b CJB).** The second interpretation of the Greek word for **understand** in **verse 10** is *epistamai,* meaning *sensual enjoyment.* **Even though they may be looked upon as having a form of godliness, their animal** nature dominates **them**. **They love the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (First John 1:16)**.

They are like brute beasts, creatures of instinct, and like unreasoning animals they are **born only to be caught and destroyed (Jude 10b NIV** and **Second Peter 2:12b).** Here **Jude** refers to **the false teachers** as unreasoning **beasts**. **They** could not speak reasonably because **they** cannot reason. No matter how educated the apostates are, no matter how profoundly philosophical **they** think **their** teaching is, or how many mystical visions and insights **they** claim to have had, **they** still **are like brute beasts**. Like the rest of sinful humanity: **Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools (Romans 1:22; First Corinthians 3:18; Second Corinthians 10:5** and **12; Galatians 6:3; Ephesians 4:17; Second Timothy 3:2** and **4).**[64]

Rather than comprehending **the angels** above, **they** really only understood **the animals** below. Therefore, **Jude** demolished their Gnostic claim to superior knowledge (**to see link click Ac – The Book of Jude from a Jewish Perspective: Purpose**). And **their** understanding – polluting **their own bodies** in **Jude 8** – was, like the sin of **Sodom and Gomorrah** in **Jude 7**. **They** became self-destructive. **They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil (Romans 1:29-30a).** In the end **they** are **destroyed** by **their** own lying and deceiving heresies, which will bring upon **them** the judgment of **ADONAI (Genesis 6:17, 19:24; Second Kings 22:17; Jeremiah 30:16; Matthew 7:22-23, 13:40-42, 25:41; Hebrews 10:27)**.

Ironically, **by these things they are brought to ruin, and like brute beasts**

without reason **they too will perish (Jude 10c** and **Second Peter 2:12c). They** may possess a degree of *animal perception*, but even that *perception* will end up destroying them. With the three warnings of **Jude 5, 6** and **7** before **them**, his readers are urged to beware of the spiritual corruption of **the apostates**. It reached every aspect of **their** personalities. Physically, **they** became immoral. Intellectually, **they** became arrogant. And spiritually, **they** denied **Adonai**.

“Progressive” morality and “progressive” thinking too often lead to progressive deafness and blindness to the voice of **God**. It is a terrible thing for **people** to reach a stage where **they** are deaf to **the LORD** and blind to goodness. And that is exactly where **the people** whom **Jude** attacks have reached. **For the Message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate (First Corinthians 1:18-31).**

Without exception, **the wisdom** of the world elevates itself and lowers **ADONAI.** In its own **wisdom** the world inevitably exchanges **the truth of God for a lie** and worships **created things rather than the creator (Romans 1:25).** Human wisdom cannot understand **the Message of the cross.** With all **their** supposed **wisdom**, mankind has never been able to know **Adonai**, much less have a personal relationship with **Him**. **God** chose to use that which the world views as **foolishness**, to save those in the world who would simply *believe* (*pisteo*, *to believe, to have faith in, to trust in*). For those who will exchange their **wisdom** for **His**, **YHVH** offers transformation, regeneration, new birth and a new life through the power of the cross of **Jesus Christ**, **His Son**. This **foolishness** is our only hope.[65]