

The main objective of this epistle is to describe enemies of God. In other words, enemies of certain churches in the time in which Jude wrote this epistle.

These same enemies are just as present today as they were in AD 60 or AD 1000 or AD 1500, or any other time in the church age.

The enemy comes, as Jude makes clear, in the form of false teachers who have infiltrated these churches, and present doctrine that is false; doctrine that removes believers from the plan of God and destroys their Christian life.

Those are the enemies. And, at this time, they are wreaking havoc. That's why Jude writes this epistle, and that's why this epistle is so important today.

In the first nine verses that we have now studied, there have been six, both general and specific, descriptions of these enemies, of these false teachers.

In verse 4 it describes three different characteristics. It says, *“for certain men have crept in.”* These are the false teachers. They are deceivers, they are unrecognized until they begin to do their damage.

Here is the first description. It's a general one, *“they are ungodly men.”*

The second is a specific description *“who turned the grace of our God into lewdness.”*

And the third description, *“they deny the only Lord God and our Lord, Jesus Christ.”*

These false teachers are believers in reversionism, or unbelievers, and they pose as Pastor/Teachers.

That's the first three descriptions. But then, we go to verse 8 and we find three more descriptions.

It says, *“likewise, also, these dreamers,”* dreamers are the false teachers.

The fourth description, *“defile the flesh.”*

The fifth, *“reject authority.”*

And the sixth, *“they speak evil of dignitaries or authorities.”*

JUDE 1-7:

Verse 1: “Jude, a bond-servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to the called (believers in the Lord Jesus Christ), who have been and are being loved by God the Father, and we have been and are being preserved by Jesus Christ:” (EXT)

Verse 2: “May compassion and tranquility of soul and love be multiplied (by growing spiritually) to you.” (EXT)

Verse 3: “Beloved ones (fellow believers), while I was making all haste to write you about our common salvation, I felt it necessary to write you, urging you to vigorously defend the faith (Bible Doctrine in the soul) which was once for all handed down to the saints (you and me – believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.)” (EXT)

Verse 4: “For certain persons have snuck in without detection, those (creeps) who were long beforehand written out for this condemnation (judgment) (in the Divine Decree), ungodly (without God and without Christ - unbelievers) who are distorting the grace of our God into lewdness (perversions) and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.” (EXT)

Verse 5: “But I want to remind you (he is reminding his readers), though you once for all time knew all of these things, that the Lord, having saved the people (that is, the Israelites) out of the land of Egypt, afterwards destroyed those who did not believe.” (EXT)

Verse 6: “And angels who did not maintain their own domain (keep their first estate), but abandoned their own place of residence, Jesus Christ has kept in eternal chains of darkness for the judgement of the great day (Great White Throne).” (EXT)

Verse 7: “Just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, having given themselves over to sexual immorality (that is, homosexual immorality) and pursued a different kind of flesh that is aberrant sexuality, an unnatural desire, (a desire for the same sex) are put on display as an example in undergoing the punishment of being held under eternal fire.” (EXT)

Jude 8: “Also in a similar way, these dreamers (who are the ungodly of verse 4), actually defile (like excrement from a chamber pot) their flesh (starting with the body and spreading to the soul), and on the other hand, reject the authority of, and malign the Majesties (illustrious Persons of the Trinity).” (EXT)

Jude 9: “Yet Michael the archangel, when disputing with the evil one (Satan), disagreed vehemently concerning the body of Moses (over who gets it). He did not dare to bring judgment by maligning, but (leaving the judgment in God’s

hands) said: “May the Lord rebuke and punish you (based on His omnipotence and divine standards).” (EXT)

Jude 9 was an illustration from the angelic realm. It was a battle in the angelic conflict. It's an illustration that uses a confrontation between truth and falsehood.

The illustration that we have in verse 9 points to the false teachers that are the subject of the Epistle of Jude.

In Jude 9, Satan represents the false teachers who are arrogant, the arrogant opposition to God and to Bible Doctrine. And, the Archangel Michael represents those believers who are not taken in by the false teachers who have not, or who do not, depart from the plan of God, who refuse, as Michael did, to show disrespect to and rejection of the Lord by following the false teachers. They were, and continue to be, obedient to God.

In the confrontation that we have just studied, Michael did not disobey God by daring to accuse the devil, as we have studied. He left everything to the justice of God, as should you, the believer in Jesus Christ, in the angelic conflict, and in all the human conflict that you are involved in throughout your life.

The justice of God, as we saw in our last class, is your greatest frontline defense against all the injustice and all the problems that you deal with in life.

Like Satan, the false teachers also spoke evil of spiritual things. They were opposed, they were ignorant, and they were liars concerning the truth. The truth was not in them in any sense of the word. And so, the false teachers are the epitome of those who are the enemies of God and would like to make all believers enemies of God by their false teaching.

We're going to leave the illustration aspect of verse 9 and return to real descriptions of false teachers as we saw in verse 8.

Jude 10: “But these men revile the things which they do not understand; and the things which they know by instinct, like unreasoning animals, by these things they are destroyed.” (NASB)

We again have a description of false teachers. But these revile “*whatever they do not know.*”

In verse 10, we began with the plural nominative pronoun “*οὗτος*” – “*hoûtos*,” and it is correctly translated “these”.

“*οὗτος*” – “*hoûtos*” – “these” leads off verse 10, and it refers back to the “dreamers” of verse 8 (which are the “ungodly” of verse 4).

A pronoun always has an antecedent, and “*hoûtos*,” in this case, the antecedent is back in verse 8, which is the “dreamers”. They are the false teachers, the corrupters of the churches, which Jude is writing and describing and warning of in Verse 8.

We were given three descriptions of the false teachers (the “dreamers”) in verse 8 and now we can add a fourth characteristic to the false teachers.

They speak evil. In fact, that is what verse 8b says about the “dreamers”. They speak evil of dignitaries.

It's the same word as we have in verse 8, “*βλασφημέω*” – “*blasphēmēō*”, from which we get the word “blasphemy”.

In verse 10, as in verse 8, it means to “revile,” “to rail against.” But, unlike verse eight, it's not “dignitaries” or “authorities” they speak evil of.

But these false teachers speak evil of “**whatever they do not know.**”

This verse will validate Operation Z, the Grace Apparatus for Perception. It validates what we have always understood about spiritual knowledge, the human spirit, and the doctrine that comes from that operation: what we call Operation Z, and what comes from it, which is “*epignosis*” and spiritual growth.

In our verse, there are two Greek words that we need to focus on that are the key to understanding: what they are “reviling.”

In the first two clauses, we find these two Greek words, and they're both translated in the English “to know”.

Both words are “to know” but they are different Greek words. Even though they are translated the same in English, Jude used them in two different ways and with two different meanings.

The first verb we find in the first phrase is “*οἶδα*” – “*oída*,” which is in the perfect tense and is translated “to know”. So we have “*oída*” plus the negative, “*οὐκ*” – “*ouk*.”

“*Oída*” in this context refers to knowledge of a specific kind, knowledge which is known by the maturing believer, what an advancing believer knows.

This is a believer who is growing in spiritual knowledge, which is the mandate for all believers according to 2 Peter 3:18.

Your spiritual life consists of knowledge and grace. Grace orientation and doctrinal orientation. “*Oida*” represents doctrinal orientation. It represents the entire process of metabolizing Bible Doctrine, by which we grow up spiritually.

Believers know “*oida*,” spiritual things. That is what this is talking about. “*Oida*” is knowledge of spiritual things that are spiritually appraised by the believer's human spirit.

So, these false teachers are speaking evil of Bible Doctrine in the souls of believers. What is the process of the metabolizing Bible Doctrine that these false teachers are attacking? What is the process of “*oida*”?

The human spirit is our means for understanding Bible Doctrine. “*Oida*” here means believers who know spiritual things that are spiritually appraised by the human spirit.

Therefore, “*oida*” represents the entire process of metabolizing Bible Doctrine. Which, of course, is the biblical truth: the doctrine communicated by Joe, and taught by the Holy Spirit to your human spirit. Joe's just the mouthpiece. The Holy Spirit is your teacher when you are in fellowship.

The end product of “*oida*” in the believer is “*epignosis*” in the right lobe.

When you have positive volition to this doctrine that has been ascertained through the human spirit, then the Holy Spirit, with whom you are filled, once again takes this information, transfers it to the right lobe where it becomes “*epignosis*.” This whole process falls under the category of “*oida*” and that is what “*oida*” is in this case.

“*Oida*” is metabolized doctrine by which believers live the spiritual life and apply Bible Doctrine.

These false teachers, the “*hoûtos*”, have no such knowledge or ability to have “*oida*”. They do not know what the believer can know. “*Ouk*” - “*oida*.”

As unbelievers, they have no human spirit. They have not been regenerated. If they are believers in reversionism, they are out of fellowship, and have no filling of the Holy Spirit.

So, either way, they have no filling of the Holy Spirit which drives this whole operation. Without it, it doesn't work. And they cannot then convert academic knowledge, “*gnosis*,” into “*epignosis*.”

They can have no “*oida*,” and no “*epignosis*” knowledge. They can only understand academically.

It's not as if they don't really understand the words of doctrine. They can understand “rebound” and they can understand what it means. They just don't believe it. That's why there is no positive volition, there is no filling of the Holy Spirit, there is no transfer, but fundamentally there is disbelief in all of this.

That's the base, that's what happens when there is no Operation Z. There is no capability of “*epignosis*” because there is no positive volition, there is no filling of the Holy Spirit, there is rejection of the information.

They can hear but that is all they can do: hear the words. The Holy Spirit doesn't teach.

So, these false teachers are uncaring, and they are ignorant of spiritual things. In fact, the very nature of the problem in the churches, to which Jude is addressing his epistle, is the false teacher's ignorance, arrogance, and, hence, their opposition to the truth of doctrine.

They cannot help but be in opposition when they can't teach Bible Doctrine in the church. What else is the church for but teaching doctrine? Believers must grow in grace and knowledge. All the other things that go on in churches, social life, et cetera, are certainly superfluous to “*oida*,” to the learning and metabolizing of doctrine.

The false teachers cannot help but be in opposition to Bible Doctrine, and therefore, they are in opposition to God himself, and certainly to the advancing spiritual life of believers.

Believers who do not have doctrinal and grace orientation cannot understand the spiritual life.

And so, the false teachers adversely affect all those believers who are vulnerable. And the shell of protection that you have is the doctrine in your soul. If you are not rooted and grounded in God's word, you will be picked off one at a time like a sniper would do.

So, the false teacher's contempt for spiritual knowledge can only lead believers into “*ouk*” “*oida*.” Believers who should have spiritual knowledge, who have the capability of spiritual knowledge, but reject it ,or are unable to understand it, because they are not getting the true doctrine.

All these false teachers speak is evil. That's what Jude says. They speak evil. They distort doctrine for their own purposes, and they also fear accurate Bible doctrine because it is an indictment of their “*ouk*,” “*oida*.”

So, we have so far in verse 10: “On the one hand, these (false teachers) continually malign things they do not understand (like Bible doctrine and fellowship with God),

The next phrase makes all this clear because they do have a certain knowledge. And what is it? It's whatever they know naturally.

This knowledge is a stark contrast from what all believers in the church should know, which is spiritual knowledge.

But the knowledge that these “*hoûtos*,” (the false teachers), what they have is a knowledge that corrupts and misleads.

It is the difference between the knowledge of spiritual things and the knowledge of natural things. 1 Corinthians 2:13-16 perfectly describes spiritual versus natural. This verse confirms Jude 10.

1 Corinthians 2:13-16: “Which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom (that’s all an unbeliever can have), but in those taught by the Spirit (the Holy Spirit), combining spiritual (“*πνευματικὸς*” - “*pneumatikós*”) thoughts with spiritual words.

Verse 14: But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them (no human spirit, no filling of the Holy Spirit), because they are spiritually appraised.

Verse 15: But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one.

Verse 16: For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he will instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.”

The two knowledges are completely incompatible.

What are the natural things? What is the knowledge that these false teachers have? It's answered by the phrase, “*what they know naturally*.”

“To know” in this phrase, is not “*oída*.” It can't be because “*oída*” is spiritual knowledge derived from metabolized doctrine.

Rather, this second “know,” in the second phrase, is the present active indicative of “ἐπίσταμαι” – “*epístamai*.”

“*Epístamai*” is an accumulation of knowledge, but it is an accumulation of knowledge apart from spiritual knowledge.

From “*epístamai*” comes a very interesting word that you've heard of before, and that is “epistemology.”

Joe has used this word, epistemology, and put it into a spiritual context, epistemological rehabilitation. What does that mean?

In fact, Joe just used this word in his Shreveport Conference on page 7, point 7: “post-salvation epistemological rehabilitation”. This English word actually gives us a clue as to the meaning of “*epístamai*” in this verse.

“It’s the study of the nature and grounds of knowledge. The nature of knowledge, especially with reference to its limits and validity.” (Wikipedia)

As I mentioned above, Joe used this word in Shreveport and he has taught us “postsalvation epistemological rehabilitation” in the past. I think this definition will help give us a better understanding of this word as taught by our pastor.

In R.B. Thieme, Jr.’s Bible Doctrine Dictionary, under the entry, “Postsalvation Epistemological Rehabilitation,” Page 201-202:

“Epistemology” is the study of knowledge itself, addressing the question of how man knows what he knows.

“Rehabilitation” is the process of renewing, of bringing something into a condition of new life and usefulness. In the spiritual realm, epistemological rehabilitation describes the process of renewing the mind with the knowledge of God and His absolute truth. Epistemological rehabilitation is how we as believers obey the command to “not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renovation of your thinking” (Rom. 12:2a, corrected translation).

At salvation, we instantly become a new spiritual species with an entirely new basis for knowledge and a whole new method of thinking. There is a new language, a new vocabulary, and a new system of cognition to learn. God’s declaration,

“My thoughts are not your thoughts,” means there is no place for human viewpoint in His plan (Isa. 55:8–9). Nothing of our presalvation thinking—no human philosophy or intellectual understanding— will aid us in living the postsalvation spiritual life. By replacing human



viewpoint with divine viewpoint, we renovate our thinking. We adopt God's thinking and goals as our own and "prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect" (Rom. 12:2b, corrected translation).

To learn God's viewpoint, we must learn Bible doctrine. With the Bible in hand, the very textbook of the "mind of Christ" (1 Cor. 2:16), we must concentrate on learning how the many principles of His truth work together to become our thinking, motivation, application, and action. We must learn these doctrines in detail, study and restudy them, so that our "inner man [the soul] is . . . renewed day by day" (2 Cor. 4:16). If a Christian is ignorant of God's revelation of Himself, of the standard of thinking God has designed for His children (Rom. 12:3), then no matter how intelligent, accomplished, famous, or respected that believer may be, he will lose out on the most important aspect of his life on earth.

Keep in mind, however, that no believer can understand the entire realm of doctrine, learn his place in the plan of God, and attain spiritual maturity simply by reading the Bible for himself. God designed His Word and the spiritual life of this age to be learned under authority, and that authority is vested in the spiritual gift of pastor-teacher. The prepared pastor is guided by the Holy Spirit to communicate to his congregation the doctrinal details that produce a renovated mind. The believer's consistent positive volition interacts with that communicated truth, and the grace ministry of the Holy Spirit makes the information understandable (1 Cor. 2:4-16). By utilizing this grace process, the believer replaces ignorance with cognizance and moves forward to spiritual maturity.

So "postsalvation epistemological rehabilitation" denotes a change from human to divine viewpoint.

You must be "epistemologically rehabilitated". You must go from human viewpoint to divine viewpoint. How do you do that? The Grace Apparatus for Perception. So, the process involved in the change is the metabolizing of Bible Doctrine process.

In other words, how we know what we know as believers in Jesus Christ. And that is the metabolizing process of Bible Doctrine, "epistemological rehabilitation." Believers must be epistemologically rehabilitated.

In summary, "epistemology" is how we know what we know. That's a very simplified understanding. In other words, what do we know and what is the process of knowing it?

Normally "epistemology" deals in the realm of human and philosophical knowledge. That's the way it's normally used.

Here is the limit of what the unbeliever can know in "epistemology". They cannot know anything other than what their five senses and physical mental capacity comprehends. That's what the unbeliever has for "epistemological" processes, five senses and physical mental capacity to comprehend.

These false teachers have no spiritual capacity for spiritual knowledge. It's not there and it can't be there. They have no human spirit. They have no filling of the Holy Spirit. They can only learn and have knowledge of natural things.

So, in our context, the verb, "*epístamai*," is nothing more than humanistic knowledge. The knowledge that any human being can have about anything in this world, including abstract or philosophical knowledge.

"*Epístamai*" refers to how an unbeliever knows what he knows from the surrounding natural world, or from his own mental capacity.

So "*epístamai*" is in distinct contrast to "*oída*." That's why it's "*oída*," "*ouk*." They cannot know what they do not know. "*Epístamai*" is all they can know.

Jude uses these two different verbs "to know" as a contrast. To highlight the difference between what believers should know, and sometimes don't and sometimes do, and how they come to know it.

It's the difference between metabolizing of spiritual information and the processing of physical information.

So what exactly, then, is the knowledge to which "*epístamai*" refers?

The text says it is what the false teachers know, "*epístamai*," "naturally". Naturally, as opposed to spiritually.

"Naturally" is the adverb "*φυσικῶς*" – "*physikōs*." It means, "by instinct." Knowledge by instinct. Knowledge that they come by naturally.

So, they arrive at humanistic knowledge, or "*epístamai*," by natural instinct.

This natural instinct is knowledge validated by human logic or contact with surroundings or environment. You learn by the contact that you have around you, your senses, or, in this case, "*epístamai*" may be learned by prolonged practice and repetition in that environment.

It's the natural world. It's everything that's around you. The instinctive knowledge is limited to things physical, not spiritual.