

Such clouds are waterless places. That's what this metaphor is speaking of. These clouds are waterless places. They provide the earth with no rain, no life-giving water.

Every false teacher has a negative effect in churches when they infiltrate and they have certain characteristics. That is what Jude is teaching us.

These false teachers produce no rain, no life-giving water of the Word of God; they are empty, they have nothing of substance.

Well now we come to one further metaphor concerning these clouds and that is that they are “driven by the winds.”

Clouds move on currents of wind, and in verse 12, these “waterless clouds,” the “false teachers,” move on a figurative wind.

Their movement is described by the present passive participle of “*περιφέρω*” – “*periphérō*,” which means “they are carried away.”

They are, in essence, aimless drifters, and they have nothing to show for having floated by. They're soon gone, without watering or growing anything.

The false teachers speak as if they are full of water, ready to provide believers with the water of the Word of God. They are the picture of false doctrine that can have no lasting impact.

They speak as if they are going to provide you with everything you need to live in this life as a Christian. But they have nothing. They produce nothing but fleeting words of relativism and of human viewpoint. Here today, gone tomorrow. Empty rhetoric for believers in Jesus Christ.

The Word of God abides forever in the souls of those who are watered by it. And it never changes. It's absolute truth and power for spiritual growth. That's the difference. Never forget it!

A Christian who isn't growing spiritually is like a tumbleweed with no stability. You know what the wind does with tumbleweeds; wherever the wind blows, that's where the weed goes.

It's blowing with the wind suggests the state of being governed by fleeting emotion. Emotion that comes and goes, blows with the winds of circumstances. Good circumstances, high emotion. Bad circumstances, low emotion.

But emotion moves aimlessly as feelings dictate, or as circumstances dictate. Emotionalism offers no steadfastness of soul.

The emotional, unstable believer rides the winds of religion or humanism. There is no anchor of Bible doctrine in the soul. Emotional living precludes the consistent metabolizing of Bible doctrine.

Through the doctrine you learn and application of that doctrine, the Holy Spirit empowers your life.

Believers without the water of Bible doctrine have no access to divine viewpoint and they have no capacity for happiness, no ability to handle adversity without generating stress in their souls, because they have nothing to divert the diversity or adversity.

Those believers who are not growing spiritually have no ability to handle the trials and tests of life. So they become aimless Christians, blowing with the wind here and there and everywhere, not knowing which way to turn, without doctrine.

So, the infiltration of waterless teachers provides no refreshment to the souls of believers. False teachers have no sound doctrine to offer to anyone. And yet, thousands and thousands of Christians trot down the trail of “waterless clouds who blow with the wind.”

Now we have the third metaphor in Jude 12c. It's the metaphor of emptiness and it comes again from the incredible pen of Jude as he describes false teachers.

The third metaphor reads like this, verse 12c, “are autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted.”

In other words, the metaphor means false teachers can grow nothing spiritually in believers without, of course, watering them with the Word of God and with the Doctrine of Grace.

But the false teachers certainly cannot water believers with grace and so, if there is no growing in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior from such clouds, then there is a complete loss of the spiritual life.

In this next metaphor of trees, they are called “autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead.” Clouds without water cannot produce life on earth, and false teachers that are “doubly dead” cannot produce living trees.

In this third metaphor, the “autumn trees” are “false teachers” and just as clouds are waterless, so trees are without fruit. False teachers are trees that fail to produce fruit.

They produce nothing. No fruit to give to nourish others.

In other words, these false teachers, the dead trees with no fruit, cannot grow spiritually, and they fail to produce spiritual growth in believers. So there is no spiritual fruit.

They were trees without fruit, clouds without water. They were present at the love feasts as we saw in verse 12a, which was a time of Christian fellowship, a time of doctrinal preparation for the communion service, and a time of expression of virtue love from doctrine resident in the soul. They had no virtue love, they had no doctrinal preparation, they had no Christian fellowship.

But as shameless, false shepherds, as it's said, “they only served themselves.” They were incapable of demonstrating or participating in the very purpose of the assembly of believers.

“φθινοπωρινός” – “*phthinopōrinós*.” “*Phthinopōrinós*” is not just autumn, but late autumn. It's a particular time in autumn.

Next, we have “δένδρον” – “*dendron*,” correctly translated “trees.”

“*Phthinopōrinós*” characterizes these trees as belonging to late autumn, “dry,” “leafless,” and “without fruit.”

Late autumn is normally the time of harvest for fruit trees, the time when these fruit trees should be at their peak. The branches of these trees should be sagging, producing tremendous amounts of fruit.

But the verse says these trees are a “*ἄκαρπος*” – “*ákarpos*.” Now “*karpos*” means fruit, but we have an alpha privative, an alpha prefix, and the alpha prefix is negative. So, alpha plus “*karpos*” means without fruit.

It is the time of harvest in the late autumn, and these trees are totally unproductive trees without fruit.

1. The false teachers are “dead trees,” are “without fruit.” That means they are devoid of any value for spiritual food.
2. How can a false teacher provide the nourishment of fruit of Bible doctrine when they have none? That's the analogy. The dead tree has no fruit and so it cannot be provided for nourishment.
3. The dead tree provides nothing but spiritual starvation. The false teacher starves a believer. They may think they're getting something from a false teacher, but they get nothing, and they starve spiritually.
4. Hence, without production, they are the dead trees of unbelief. Dead trees are unbelievers. “Doubly dead.”

“Doubly dead” is the aorist active participle of the verb “*ἀποθνήσκω*” – “*apothnḗskō*” and is correctly translated “dead,” but it also includes the adverb “*δίς*” – “*dis*,” which means “twice.”

Not only were they dead trees, in the sense of not producing fruit at a time when they should be heavily producing, but they were actually dead, rotting trees, incapable of ever bearing fruit.

Jude 12c, gives a time frame here, late autumn, and these trees were not producing. Hence, they were not producing as dead trees, but they were in fact dead.

They were nothing but rotten wood and they were never going to produce fruit. So the meaning of the metaphor of the trees having died twice is this.

1. The trees are the spiritually dead false teachers and have no doctrine for the spiritually alive.

2. But the false teacher, the dead tree, will face a second death. And that, of course, is the last judgment in the spiritual life. As unbelievers, there's another death that's coming their way.
3. Not only will they stand as dead trees, as unbelievers, bereft of any spiritual production, but they will be cut down, they will be burned as dead wood in the lake of fire. So, a double death for the trees. They are dead and they will die again and will be removed or uprooted and used for firewood.

When fruit trees are dead and are of no use, they are “ἐκρίζω” – “*ekrizóō*.” This verb is an aorist passive participle, “meaning pulled up by the roots.”

The passive voice means that the tree receives the action of being “pulled up by the roots.”

The pulling up here means that they are going to be utterly destroyed twice, dead, uprooted, utter destruction. They cannot be left standing so, like Korah (Jude 11), the trees will be utterly destroyed.

Hence, they've got to be uprooted from the church, as they are spiritually dead.

1. The spiritually dead false teacher cannot produce anything of spiritual value. No fruit, dead trees, no production.
2. In other words, they are unbelievers. As unbelievers, they are incapable of producing anything that derives from the spiritual life.
3. They have no filling of the Holy Spirit. A dead tree cannot have the filling of the Holy Spirit. They have no Bible doctrine. They are eternally dead, and they will experience eternal death. They will be chopped down, uprooted, and burned up in the lake of fire.
4. There can be no service for the Lord by an unbeliever. And yet, that's what fruit is. Well, they talk a great fight, they're great servants of the Lord in their false teaching, but they can produce nothing by way of service for the Lord.
5. Dead trees can produce nothing in the spiritual life of believers. No harvest. And that's a true fact according to the metaphor of verse 12c.

We covered the Doctrine of Eternal Security early in our study of Jude. But, since we're talking about fruit production, I want to make sure you know it is not necessary to prove salvation, least of all to others, but also to oneself.

When you are afraid that you're not producing enough fruit, and therefore you may not be saved, you live in fear.

You should never be confused about eternal security and about the fact that if you've spent some time in carnality or reversionism and your spiritual life has not gone anywhere, you're still a believer.

You still have eternal life. And don't ever let anyone tell you that because you have never produced enough fruit, by their standards, you may not be a believer. It may not have been effective for you. Or that your expression of faith just wasn't enough, wasn't good enough, wasn't sincere enough. That is a terrible way to try to live the spiritual life.

In fact, you can't live the spiritual life when you're living under those conditions.

Acts 16:31a: “They said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved” ... (NASB)

1 John 5:13: “These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.” (NASB)

Romans 8:38-39: “For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, (NASB)

Vs. 39: nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (NASB)

But the fact is that the unbeliever is incapable of producing fruit because he has no spiritual life.

He is, in fact, the dead tree, but he's dead because he has failed to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Not because he failed to produce fruit.

Jude 12: “These same false teachers are hidden reefs under the ocean (They are destructive to the gullible and those with no Bible Doctrine in their souls), shamelessly feasting together with you (Those you thought spiritual leaders, but who are really trying to shipwreck you), in your love feasts (Social life) without fear, shepherding themselves, waterless clouds (No Bible Doctrine) they are carried away by the winds (They move from one group, one person to another building cliques and destroying spiritual lives),” (EXT)

Back to our third metaphor which reads like this, verse 12c. “... are autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted.”

The person we are describing in verse 12c has never expressed faith in Christ and, without faith alone in Christ alone, there can be no fruit.

The “dead tree” can never communicate doctrinal principles to believers to metabolize. That's why they are false teachers. That's part of the metaphor.

A believer cannot produce fruit by following a dead tree that cannot produce the fruit of divine good. That's what fruit is. It's the production of divine good.

But the major production of divine good (“fruit”), the late autumn for a believer, is when that believer is growing to spiritual maturity and has a maturing spiritual life. That's when the production is the heaviest. That's when the divine good is being produced consistently.

So the false teacher produces no divine good for himself, only human good.

He is incapable of divine good, which is the objective of the mature spiritual life for a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. That is the living tree producing fruit from that mature spiritual life.

So divine good is based on something that the “dead tree” can never do. It's based on metabolizing Bible doctrine, the filling of the Holy Spirit, and the application of that doctrine.

The false teacher can never do this because they are twice dead. The false teacher is spiritually dead and when the false teacher passes from this life, then that second death will kick in and they will be judged.

1. It's divine good. You are capable of producing divine good and the "dead tree" is incapable of producing any divine good only human good.

Remember that divine good has intrinsic and eternal value. That's what real fruit is.

2. Only the fruit of divine good is acceptable to the perfect standards of God. What are the perfect standards of God? Metabolized Bible doctrine in the soul, the filling of the Holy Spirit, and application of Bible doctrine to life and circumstances.

3. For producing divine good, the believer receives recognition and reward from God in heaven (1 Corinthians 3:11). That's what happens at the judgment seat of Christ. You are rewarded for your "deeds." In other words, what you produce by way of divine good.

4. Divine good production in this life glorifies God. It is the production expected of you as a believer in Jesus Christ and it has eternal repercussions. That's bearing fruit.

5. Production of divine good is the opposite of the unproductive reversionist who is going to arrive in heaven and look around and say, well, where's my reward?

6. The production of divine good is every believer's part in resolving the angelic conflict (Romans 12:21). So, the production of divine good has everything to do with your success in the angelic conflict.

7. Grace orientation is the foundation for producing divine good. Otherwise, the production of any good has nothing to do with the grace of God. It has everything to do with what you are doing for yourself. Production of divine good and grace go hand in hand.

8. Also, the production of divine good is a sign of stability. It's the result of bearing fruit. If you are bearing fruit, it doesn't prove you are saved, but it does prove you have a productive spiritual life, a stable spiritual life, a growing spiritual life.

Divine good has a lot to do with you as a living tree producing fruit. You are spiritually alive at the moment of salvation. Now you go from being spiritually

alive to late autumn (spiritual maturity) when you should be producing the most fruit.

Our corrected translation of Jude 12: “

“These same false teachers are hidden reefs under the ocean (They are destructive to the gullible and those with no Bible Doctrine in their souls), shamelessly feasting together with you (Those you thought spiritual leaders, but who are really trying to shipwreck you), in your love feasts (Social life) without fear, shepherding themselves, waterless clouds (No Bible doctrine) they are carried away by the winds (They move from one group, one person to another building cliques and destroying spiritual lives), late autumn trees without fruit (No divine good production.), doubly dead (Dying twice – once physically and once spiritually), uprooted.” (EXT)

Verse 13 describes the false teachers in terms of raging waves of the sea foaming up their own shame.

Jude 13: “Wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam; wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever.”

I’m sure you are familiar with the destructive power of hurricanes, the flooding rains, and all of these images are brought to mind by this one simple metaphor, the power of wind and ocean, and that is a destructive false teacher.

1. False teachers can be viciously and visibly destructive.
2. Their very destructiveness in the church is their indictment. Sooner or later, their destructiveness becomes visible.
3. In their destructiveness of the spiritual lives, they can clearly be seen for what they are. They bring nothing but ruin, wreckage, and reversionism, which becomes obvious and visible. This concept of total destructive power is so well demonstrated by the power of the ocean.

This first metaphor in Jude 13 compares the false teachers to, “raging waves of the sea foaming up their own shame.”

The ocean is the greatest natural force in nature. None is more powerful and its capacity for unparalleled destruction is the ocean at its worst. Anyone who has borne the brunt of a violent ocean storm has a visual demonstration of that power and the possible destruction.

False teachers are the “raging waves of the sea” and are one of the greatest problems that the church can have. That is the metaphor we’re now studying.

The concept here of total destructive power is demonstrated by the first two words of verse 13.

There is a nominative plural noun modified by a nominative plural adjective. The noun, “κῶμα” – “*kýma*.” “*Kýma*” does mean waves, but it's a particular type of wave.

It is an ocean wave. Ocean waves are pure sea power. They're visible sea power. They're generated by wind over water and the stronger the wind, the bigger the wave.

Many times, waves that hit shores come from thousands of miles away. Wind with a big storm, blowing across the surface of the water.

Wind is what generates waves. They can be very gentle as they approach a coastline, breaking easily over a reef or a sandbar.

But waves can get much, much larger, even though the destructive power of a wave is often on the coastline. These larger waves, while not threatening destruction to a coastline, a beach, or a structure, certainly fit the definition of verse 13.

The wave in verse 13 is described by the Greek word, the Greek adjective, “ἄγριος” – “*ágrios*” and it means “wild,” “fierce,” “savage,” or “untamed.” It's translated here “raging,” which is not bad.

These are waves that have incredible, terrible potential to destroy anything in their path, especially on land. These are storm waves that crash into a coastline with incredible destructive power.

False teachers then are described as raging waves because believers become wrecked houses. They become eroded souls. Their thinking is inundated with human viewpoint debris.

Waves that are that destructive (like in a hurricane) bring all sorts of things with them. They bring trees, they bring logs, they bring sand, mud, etc. And they deposit it somewhere on the beach or further inland.

That's exactly what happens with false teachers. With them comes all the flotsam that destroys the spiritual life. So, these waves, these false teachers leave only reversionists in their wake.

False doctrine is destructive. False doctrine does not like truth. But in their destructiveness, they can be clearly seen for what they are. That's the warning that Jude gives us with this illustration.

So those of you who know believers who have left the spiritual life behind, who have renounced doctrine, who have said doctrine doesn't work, doctrine, doctrine, doctrine, doctrine, what a waste of time, it's boring, I want emotion.

All of that is destructive. It goes on in the illustration to further describe these false teaching waves of destruction.

He continues the metaphor of destruction using the ocean.

Isaiah 57:20: “But the wicked are like the tossing sea, For it cannot be quiet, And its waters toss up refuse and mud.” (NASB)

“But the wicked,” which could certainly include the false teachers of Jude 13, that is the same image as the raging sea of verse 13.

When a large ocean wave breaks, the sound is not quiet and its waters toss up refuse, sand, and debris of all types. It foams up on shore.

Our word for “foam” in Jude 13 is the present active participle of the verb “ἐπαφρίζω” – “epaphrízō” and it means “foam.” It is a “foaming wave.”

The “foam” versus the actual wave. A “foaming wave” is a breaking wave, and a breaking wave is the moment of its greatest power.