

# The Book of Jude

(Part 3)

*“Yet in like manner these also in their dreamings defile the flesh, and set at nought dominion and rail at dignities”*

**Jude 1:8**

## **Introduction:**

Jude’s intention was to write to some unspecified Christians regarding their “*common salvation*;” however, due to a current threat to the standard of truth he switched gears (Jude 1:3). Jude exhorts his readers to contend for the once delivered truth because within it alone is salvation (Jude 1:3). Jude warns his readers of apostatizing from truth by turning to the apostasy of OT times when Israel (Jews) and Sodom and Gomorrah (Gentiles) rejected God’s truths and suffered eternal consequence of fire. Jude goes on to say that just as there were those who had no respect for God’s authority in the OT days even so men in Jude’s generation rejected God’s precepts. Another triplet is used to illustrate modern day apostasy. First, those in error defile their flesh with dreams. Secondly, those who err set at nought dominion. Thirdly, those in error rail at dignities. All three of these actions expose the one in error. Let us examine the triplet of verse eight.

### **I. Dreamings defile the flesh:**

- A. “*Dreamings*” (*enupniazomai*) = “A thing seen in sleep... a dream or vision in sleep... a dream” (LS 267). “To dream delusion” (Moulton 143).
- B. To “*defile*” (*miaino*) = “to stain, defile, sully, esp. with blood... of moral stains, to taint, defile” (LS 512). “To tinge, dye, stain; to pollute, defile... to corrupt, deprave... pollution, moral defilement” (Moulton 269). “To render impure; corrupt” (AHD 375).
- C. The idea of being defiled is parallel to being in sin (cf. Heb. 7:18-19).
- D. The fleshly side of man looks for gratification of desires (Rom. 13:14). If my desire is to gratify my lust, as opposed to having a desire to please God, I am guided by my flesh rather than by the Holy Spirit

### **II. Set at nought Dominion:**

- A. To “*set at nought*” (*atheteo*) = “to set aside, to deny one, to refuse his request” (LS 17).
- B. The word “*dominion*” (*kuriotes*) = “dominion” (LS 459). “A lord, master, owner, possessor, potentate, sovereign, a power, Jehovah, Jesus, a term of respect of various force... sir, Lord... constituted authority...” (Moulton 244).

### **III. Rail at Dignities:**

- A. To “*rail*” (*blasphemeo*) at someone is to “to drop evil or profane words, speak lightly or amiss of sacred things... to utter ominous words... to speak ill or to the prejudice of one, to speak slander... to speak impiously or irreverently of God” (LS 151).
- B. A “*dignity*” (*doxa*) = “dignitaries as used in II Pet. 2:10 and Jude 8.

## **Conclusion:**

Those in error today are like those of old who had no respect for authority or authoritative positions. God’s request is for order. Where there is order there is a successful chain of command. Where there is a command there must be those who follow out the orders. Let us recognize our place and humbly submit to the Lord’s teachings alone.