

INFESTATIONS IN OUR CHURCHES:

How Judaizing influences and infestations have apostatized our churches.

Some who start to read this Document may become indignant... But read on. Read to the end. Then weigh the evidence. Do not allow prejudice to keep you from learning the truth. I have a friend who has been engaged in missionary work out in West Africa for more than a quarter of a century. Years ago, he toiled for months and built a church edifice, a place of worship. A short time later, he made a visit to the United States. He was away from the field several months. Upon returning, he found that his beloved building had been reduced practically to ashes. Something had devoured it. Being a wood structure it was literally eaten to the ground by termites. The missionary is today engaged in the task of erecting a new building. This time he is using concrete and corrugated steel, determined that it shall not be devoured by the miserable insects prevalent in that part of the world. This paper deals with an infestation. The Church of Jesus Christ here in the United States is infested with heretical teachings, false doctrines, destructive agencies, vicious termites which are robbing it of spiritual power, reducing it, figuratively speaking, to ashes.

Yet, some of us who love the old faith more dearly than we love our lives, are trying sincerely to build upon the foundations of historical and evangelical Christianity, determined to erect a strong testimony, a strong church of concrete and corrugated steel, capable of withstanding the termites of modernism and kindred evils.

Standing Alone: It is human to stand with the crowd, it is divine to stand alone; it is man-like to follow the people, to drift with the tide; it is God-like to follow a principle, to stem the tide. It is natural to compromise conscience and follow the social and religious fashion for the sake of gain or pleasure; it is divine to sacrifice both on the altar of truth and duty. "No man stood with me, but all men forsook me," wrote the battle-scarred apostle in describing his first appearance before Nero to answer for his life for believing and teaching contrary to the Roman world. Truth has been out of fashion since man changed his robe of fadeless light for a garment of faded leaves. Noah

built and voyaged alone. His neighbors laughed at his strangeness and perished in style. Abraham wandered and worshipped alone. Sodomites smiled at the simple shepherd, followed the fashion, and fed the flames. Daniel dined and prayed alone. Elijah sacrificed and witnessed alone. Jeremiah prophesied and wept alone. Jesus loved and died alone. And of the lonely way His disciples should walk, He said: "Straight is the gate and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." Of their treatment by the many who walk in the broad way, He said: "If ye were of the world, the world would love his own; but because ye are not of the world, therefore the world hateth you."

The church in the wilderness praised Abraham and persecuted Moses. The church of the kings praised Moses and persecuted the prophets. The church of Caiaphas praised the prophets and persecuted Jesus. The church of the Popes praised the Saviour and persecuted the saints. And multitudes now, both in the church and the world, applaud the courage and fortitude of the patriarchs and prophets, the apostles and martyrs, but condemn as stubbornness or foolishness like faithfulness to truth today.

Wanted, today, are men and women, young and old, who will obey their convictions of truth and duty at the cost of fortune and friends and life itself.

Let us turn our attention to the shortest book of the New Testament, "Jude."

Jude wrote very little, yet the book that bears his name is of special importance to the last days of the Church age. The location of the book is also important. It precedes the book of Revelation, which describes in detail the judgments that are scheduled to come upon the world during the Tribulation period. Jude warns of the judgments that will fall upon apostate teachers and preachers who are faithless to the salvation of God purchased by Jesus Christ on Calvary's Cross. This book in miniature, containing only one chapter of twenty-five verses, starts by stating to whom the message is written. Jude speaks to them that are "sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ." In verses three and four he gives his purpose.

"Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." "For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ."

Jude started to write concerning the "common salvation," but was moved by the Spirit to sound the warning note against a certain type of ungodly men and to exhort all faithful saints to beware of these false teachers. He admonishes Christians, not only to be true to the faith, but to earnestly contend for it. Notice, please, these apostates or modernists were to be found in the church. In fact, an apostate is one connected with the local church by profession, while, in reality, he is an infidel with reference to its fundamental doctrines. They are not open and avowed atheists, but profess to belong to the body of Christ, and to have a part in the "common salvation." The Apostle tells us how they got into the membership of the church. He says, "For certain men crept in unawares." They came in under false pretense, wearing a mask. They were wolves garbed in sheep's clothing. They were false teachers speaking lies in hypocrisy. They were false prophets bringing in damnable heresies.

After getting into the church, they denied the faith. Then they began to influence others; thereby, spreading their sedition. They wore the livery of heaven while denying "the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ." Jude leaves no one in darkness. His description is vivid. He calls them "Clouds ... without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots; raging waves of the sea, foaming out their shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever."

We, therefore, learn that it is a serious matter when a preacher or church leader apostatizes. Jude also says that they are "mockers" and "murmurers" and "complainers" and "their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage." In a word, they are men-pleasers, scholarly deceivers, speaking only things that the "itching ears of the carnal and worldly

minded people" want to hear. As a whole, the message of the book of Jude is for the day in which we now live. It is a prophetic book, peculiarly adapted for the use of true believers at the present hour. We have before us the plain statement of the book of Jude that such apostates would characterize the "last times." Here is a terrific denunciation of the present day apostasy. The so-called higher criticism of the last three decades and the modernism of the present are not new inventions; they are simply restatements of age-old anti-Christ doctrines. The same evil principles that are found in them were in evidence in the church, when Jude wrote of the "common salvation." Satan lost no time in sowing the unholy seed in the early church, which is now yielding such a vicious harvest of tares. Today in denominational schools, colleges, seminaries, pulpits and through the printed page, attacks are being made by these apostates upon all the essential doctrines of our "common salvation." Speaking "great swelling words" of scholastic doubt, they would, if it were possible, deceive the very elect.

Peter, who was a little more outspoken than the other apostles, warns them of these same leaders, and declares that they will be successful in leading many away from the holy faith:

"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of." 2 Peter 2:1-2.

"Damnable heresies:" What does this mean? "Denying" Here are a few current negations: Denial of the Virgin Birth and Deity of Jesus Christ, denial that Christ is God manifested in the flesh, denial of the Resurrection of our Lord, denial of the blood Atonement for sin, denial of the Authenticity and Infallibility of the Bible as the inspired Word of God, and denial of the doctrine of Christ's Return. Modernism is, in the last analysis, a collection of negatives.

Notice again that word "denial" as used here. The philosophy of the apostates is essentially negative. They are deniers. They are

destroyers. They build nothing; they only tear down. They may be the pastors of skyscraper churches or presidents and professors of great schools, or heads of ecclesiastical bodies, or leaders of large organizations like the Federal Council of Churches, but to Jude and Peter, they are plain ordinary apostates whose "destruction is certain."

Jude was not a compromiser. He did not shirk from declaring the whole council of God. His epistle is a tornado from the beginning to the end. He tears away the hypocritical robes of apostates and shows their true character so that the saints need not be deceived. He accuses them of speaking "evil of the things they know not." They are spiritually dead, not having been born again. They are "brute beasts, having not the Spirit." This is strong language but it comes from the Apostle, not me.

Jude 11: "Woe unto them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core." The apostates of today, as well as ancient times have "gone in the way of Cain." They have religion, but like Cain's, it is bloodless. Cain is a type of the natural unregenerate man who professes to be a Christian but rejects the atoning blood of Christ. All such have religion, but not salvation. Balaam is a type of the false minister who compromises the truth for money. He is willing and careful to speak smooth words and will prophesy falsely as long as the purse-strings of the ungodly are being unloosed. He loves and takes the "wages of unrighteousness." The sin of Korah "Core" was in rejecting God's appointed High Priest and coming to God in his own name.

The record is in Numbers 16:1-35. Korah, Dathan and Abiram were not priests. They only had a right through the priesthood of Aaron to come into the presence of God. But they ignored God's way and brought strange fire before the Lord. Aaron, in his priestly office, was a type of Him Who was to come, even the Lord Jesus Christ, the great High Priest. In refusing to come to God through the intercession of the high priest, Aaron, these men were rebelling against Jesus Christ.

And today, our modernists deny that the Lord Jesus Christ, as our High Priest, offered Himself a perfect sacrifice for sin upon Calvary's

Cross, and having risen from the dead, is at the right hand of God the Father, our Intercessor. They are following in the ways of Korah, and will perish as surely as he perished.

There is an intimate connection between "the way of Cain" and the "error of Balaam" and the "gainsaying of Core." Jude told the early church that these were "spots in your love feasts." The original term here means "hidden rocks." How dangerous to the mariner are hidden rocks. They are marked on the chart by which he steers his ship. They lie beneath the surface of the water. Even so the atheists are marked on the chart. They are out in the open. But with these modernists, wolves in sheep's clothing, it is different. They are hidden in the ranks of the church. They profess to be what they are not. They are in the pulpit and pose as ministers of Christ. They speak of Jesus Christ, and God, and prayer, and the Bible, while denying every revealed doctrine of the plan of redemption. Preachers, who believe thus, should get out of evangelical churches and become Unitarians. They ought to be as consistent as Bob Ingersoll and remove themselves from Christian ranks. Ingersoll was an infidel. He hated Christianity and with his venomous utterances tried to destroy it from the outside, but today, men are disseminating the same teachings in the church and they call themselves Christians. Many other things are said about them in the book of Jude. The writer points to the prophecy of Enoch. The saint, who walked with God, looked down through the long vista of time and saw the deceivers of our day and prophesied concerning them saying:

"And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."

"These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts, and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage." Jude 14-16.

What deeper sin, what greater ungodliness can there be, than that of which our church leaders are guilty, when they deny the plain

statement of the inspired Word concerning the Lord Jesus Christ, His Virgin Birth, Deity, Bodily Resurrection, shed Blood for the sins of the world, and glorious Return.

In the last forty years, right here in our own land, there has grown up the very thing described in the book of Jude. It is the most blatant, egotistical, self-asserting, ecclesiastical, dictatorial organization that has ever been known in the annals of time. It purports to represent twenty-two million Protestants, when as a matter of fact it is run by self-perpetuating and self-appointed leaders. No church has any voice as to what its policies shall be. They raise funds; they have connections with subversive organizations that wrap their slimy coil around everything that we hold dear, whether our homes, our churches, or our souls. It is known as the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, incorporated under the laws of the State of New York. It is being used as a part of Satan's plan to destroy this present civilization, and establish on the wreck and ruins a world-wide anti-Christ dictatorship.

"Now the serpent was more subtle" that means cunning, deceiving, scheming, conspiring. He entered the Garden to deceive the human race, and there were three steps in his temptation: First, to question the divine Word; second, to deny the authority of the Word; and third, to rule God out of the universe. And Satan succeeded in his attempt to deceive mankind, except for the promise to the saved. Peter tells us Satan goes about as a roaring lion. In the early days of the church this was true, he did burn Christians at the stake; he did have them beaten; he did make them walk upon beds of spikes; he did cause them to be thrown to the wild beasts to be torn from limb to limb. But that was in the early centuries.

Since that time, he has changed his form and appears as an angel' of light. Now he comes with pleasing words, comes as Absalom, sitting in the gates stealing the hearts of the American people with one hand, and with the other, snatching the stars and stripes from its mast, unfurling the red flag of Moscow in its place; comes like Joab with the word "brother comrade" on his lips to take a peaceful walk only to thrust the sword of treachery under the fifth rib; comes like Judas, with "hail Master" but with the price of treachery in his hand.

"After these things Jesus walked in Galilee: for he would not walk in Jewry, because the Jews sought to kill him." "Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you."

"Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?"

"Woe unto you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites for ye are as graves which appear not, and the men that walk over them are not aware of them."

"And when it was day, certain of the Jews banded together, and bound themselves under a curse, saying that they would neither eat nor drink till they had killed Paul."

"Ye are of your father the devil, (these words were addressed to Jewish leaders) and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."

We have by no means touched upon all the modernists and modernism of the National Council of Churches. As well as all the other lethal infestations that is permeating the local independent Baptist Churches of our day. The major being Satan's attack on the Textual Position of the King James Bible. Here is Satan's three-fold attack; first to question the Word of God; second to doubt its authority and third to counterfeit its truths.

There is enough material at hand to fill several books the size of our Bible on the radical, communistic, modernistic character of this self-appointed Hierarchy!

"For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. Look to yourselves that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.

'Whosoever "transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds"
2 John 7-11.

"In the day that thou stoodest on the other side . . . even Thou wast as one of them." Obadiah 1:11.