

Do Not Be Deceived

Jude 8-16



Charles Spurgeon



A time will come when instead of shepherds feeding the sheep, the church will have clowns entertaining the goats

AZ QUOTES

Not one iota

- In the year 318, a priest of Libya named Arius began to preach a doctrine about the Son of God. He denied that the Son is God in the same sense that the Father is God. According to Arius, the Son is not eternal nor of the same substance with the Father but is a creature.
- In Greek, the dispute was expressed in the words homoosios versus homoiousios. Essentially, the letter “i” – the Greek letter iota – ended up becoming the difference .

Not one iota

- In the year 325, the Emperor called all the bishops of the Church together at Nicaea to address this issue
- Using the Gospels and writings of Paul, under the direction of the Holy Spirit, they concluded that Jesus is the same essence as the Father and part of the Trinity
- **John 1:1-2 NIV** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning.

Not one iota

- Why was this issue important?
 - Arius was not using the revelations and experiences of the Apostles for his conclusion, but simply his own thoughts
 - He was defining the character and understanding of Jesus downward that would eventually end up with Jesus being nothing more than a religious Santa Clause

Luke 2:46-47 NIV 46 After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. 47 Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers.

- Understanding of what?
- What was His understanding about the Scriptures?
- **Luke 2:52 NIV** And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man (*through the wisdom of the Scripture*).

Matthew 16:24-25 NIV 24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 25 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.

- Which Jesus?

Which Jesus?

- **Jehovah's Witnesses** believe that Jesus is God's "only-begotten Son", and that his life began in heaven. He is described as God's first creation and the "exact representation of God" but is believed to be a separate entity and not part of a Trinity.

Which Jesus?

- **Muslims** - Various sects of Islam have different views regarding this topic; traditionally, mainstream Muslims believe that Jesus was not crucified but was bodily raised up to heaven by God, while Ahmadiyya Muslims reject this belief and instead contend that Jesus survived the crucifixion, was taken off the cross alive.

Which Jesus?

- **Mormons** - Believe Jesus is the Son of God, the Only Begotten Son in the flesh. We believe the accounts of Jesus' life and ministry recorded in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John in the New Testament to be historical and truthful. We believe that He was born of a virgin, Mary, in Bethlehem of Judea. We believe Jesus is the Son of God the Father and as such inherited powers of godhood and divinity from His Father, including immortality, the capacity to live forever.

Which Jesus?

- **Mormons** - We believe Jesus suffered in the Garden of Gethsemane and that He submitted to a cruel death on the cross of Calvary, all as a willing sacrifice, a substitutionary atonement for our sins. He died, was buried and rose from the dead and that His resurrection was a physical reality. We believe that the effects of His rise from the tomb pass upon all men and women. “As in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive” (Corinthians 15:22).

Which Jesus?

- There is a social Jesus, your friend's Jesus and even a Satanic definition of Jesus
- The true, pure Jesus is found in only one place
- This place records the life and teachings of Jesus by eyewitnesses that were recorded then carefully preserved over time

Which Jesus?

- This place contains authorized letters sent to local believers as teachers were redefining Jesus and what it means to be a believer of His
- This is why Jude was writing his letter to believers to “contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God’s holy people.”, Jude 3

Which Jesus?

- Because there are “ungodly (*unauthorized*) people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.”, Jude 4

Which Jesus?

- Contend for it where?
 - Yes, in our church and denomination
 - But here in your individual mind and heart
- Jude does not want you deceived, cheated, hoodwinked, misled
- Jude in his short letter gives us some things to look for to keep yourself from being deceived and he gives us three categories to watch out for

Rejection of the absolute authority of scripture

- An Arlington, Virginia, minister said, “We have closed our minds to such trivial consideration as the question of the resurrection of Christ. If you fundamentalists wish to believe that nonsense, we have no objection, but we have more important things to preach than the presence or absence of an empty tomb twenty centuries ago.”

Rejection of the absolute authority of scripture

- **Vs. 8** In the very same way, on the strength of their dreams these ungodly people pollute their own bodies, reject authority and heap abuse on celestial beings.
- Reject what authority?
 - God's Word
 - Apostolic authority

Rejection of the absolute authority of scripture

- **Vs. 11** Woe to them! They have taken the way of Cain; they have rushed for profit into Balaam's error; they have been destroyed in Korah's rebellion.
- Korah was a Levite from the Kohathite clan that enjoyed favored positions among the three clans of Levi in the assignment of priestly responsibilities

Rejection of the absolute authority of scripture

- **Numbers 16:1-3 NIV** Korah son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, and certain Reubenites—Dathan and Abiram, sons of Eliab, and On son of Peleth—became insolent (*rude and arrogant lack of respect*) 2 and rose up against Moses. With them were 250 Israelite men, well-known community leaders who had been appointed members of the council.

Rejection of the absolute authority of scripture

- **Numbers 16:1-3** 3 They came as a group to oppose Moses and Aaron and said to them, “You have gone too far! The whole community is holy, every one of them, and the Lord is with them. Why then do you set yourselves above the Lord’s assembly?”
- Korah’s rebellion is not so much against God’s anointed leaders as it is against God Himself

Rejection of the absolute authority of scripture

- Cain, Balaam and Korah all three rebelled against God's revealed Word and will
 - Cain refused to bring a blood sacrifice as God required
 - Balaam refused to separate himself from heathen nations as God required seeking profit for himself
 - Korah rebelled against God and thus Moses, God's chosen servant

Rejection of the absolute authority of scripture

- Remember the Jewish Religious Leaders crucified Jesus because He was not the Messiah they wanted
- Can we do this as well today?

Spiritual pride and arrogance

- A leading minister in Washington, D.C., said flatly, “In our denomination what you call the ‘faith of our Fathers’ is approaching total extinction. Of course a few of the older ministers still cling to the Bible. But among the younger men, the real leaders of our denomination today, I do not know a single one who believes in Christ, or any of the things that you classify as fundamentals.”

Spiritual pride and arrogance

- **Vs. 8** In the very same way, on the strength of their dreams these ungodly people pollute their own bodies, reject authority and heap abuse on celestial beings.
- **Vs. 10** Yet these people slander whatever they do not understand
- **Vs. 11** Woe to them! They have taken the way of Cain; they have rushed for profit into Balaam's error; they have been destroyed in Korah's rebellion.

Spiritual pride and arrogance

- **Vs. 12** shepherds who feed only themselves.
- **Vs. 16** These people are grumblers and faultfinders; they follow their own evil desires; they boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage.
- Warren Wiersbe, “Simply put, the way of Cain is the way of religion without faith.”

Spiritual pride and arrogance

- This is man establishing his own righteousness and rejecting the righteousness of God that comes through faith in Christ
- They twist the words of God to say whatever they desire rather than what God intended
- Rob Phillips describes this group as; religious, arrogant, devious, self-centered, counterfeit
- They have a form of godliness, but it is an empty shell

Spiritual pride and arrogance

- **Jude 9-10a NIV** But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not himself dare to condemn him for slander but said, “The Lord rebuke you!” 10 Yet these people slander whatever they do not understand

The promise of false hopes

- Word of Faith movement – God wills our prosperity and health therefore to be a Christian in poverty or sickness is outside the will of God. Faith is believing we have whatever we say. We have a divine birthright to financial prosperity and good health.

The promise of false hopes

- **Vs. 11** Woe to them! They have taken the way of Cain; they have rushed for profit into Balaam's error; they have been destroyed in Korah's rebellion.
- **Vs. 12** They are clouds without rain, blown along by the wind; autumn trees, without fruit and uprooted—twice dead.

The promise of false hopes

- We find Balaam in Numbers 22-24
 - He was a prophet for hire, greatly gifted by God, who allowed greed to drive him to sin
 - Balak, king of Moab, hires Balaam to curse the people of Israel as they wander in the wilderness
 - God rebukes Balaam, speaking to him through a donkey and tells him, he is empowered only to bless Israel

The promise of false hopes

- We find Balaam in Numbers 22-24
 - He can't curse Israel, but he can tell Balak how to weaken Israel through moral corruption by promoting marriage between the Israelites and their pagan neighbors

The promise of false hopes

- Moses identifies Balaam as a corrupting influence
 - These are identified as; love for money and influence, exploiting people for gain, telling them what they want to hear, promising temporal blessings as a guarantee of God's faithfulness

The promise of false hopes

- **Micah 3:11 NIV** Her leaders judge for a bribe, her priests teach for a price, and her prophets tell fortunes for money. Yet they look for the Lord's support and say, "Is not the Lord among us? No disaster will come upon us."
- **2nd Peter 2:2-3a NIV** 2 Many will follow their depraved conduct and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. 3 In their greed these teachers will exploit you with fabricated stories.

- A minister from a prominent denomination said, “We are interested in human life and human destiny on earth. We don’t know or care whether there is a life beyond the grave. We presume there is a God, but we know that he will ever be a mystery to us. We do not know or care whether God possesses personality or not. He may be just an impersonal force. Religion means very little, if anything. In the modern world religion has no vital place. The function of the modern ministers is to guide the thinking people along social and economic lines. Morals, like religion, are out of date. The world today requires a new social order.

So which Jesus are you following?

- Is your faith on God's revealed Word or someone's interpretation of it, even mine?
- Do you really know Jesus, His work, promises and commands?
- **2nd Peter 3:3 NIV**, "Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires."

So which Jesus are you following?

- This is why it matters who you are listening to
- This is why it is important you teach your children and grandchildren and whoever will listen the truth of God's Word in love
- This is why it is important you live God's Word and not just know it
- This is why it is important you stay connected to a local, Bible believing congregation

So which Jesus are you following?

- This is why it is important you contend for the Gospel in your life and not become deceived

Do Not Be Deceived

Jude 8-16



Charles Spurgeon



A time will come when instead of shepherds feeding the sheep, the church will have clowns entertaining the goats

AZ QUOTES