

65 ARE THERE WICKED ANGELS IN JUDE?

INTRODUCTION: In the Book of Jude we read of angels who did not keep their proper domain or place. This is often used as proof that angels sinned in the ancient past. We will seek to show that the “angels” who did not keep their proper domain were Korah and his followers in the Book of Numbers. Read Numbers chapter 16 regarding the ancient dissidents who Jude likened to the degraded rebels infiltrating the Christian assemblies in his day. Please note: it is said there are more than 30 allusions to the Book of Enoch in 2 Peter 2 and Jude, but contrary to validating this book and its tale of fallen angels, Jude deconstructed this blasphemous intertestamental writing.

1. “For there are certain men who crept in secretly, even those who were long ago written about for this condemnation: ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into indecency, and denying our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.” Jude 4

These indecent men, who had crept into the Christian assemblies in Jude’s day and had been prophesied in Daniel 9:26-27, were the zealots of whom we have reported extensively. They drove the war with Rome as documented by Josephus in “The Wars of the Jews”. Daniel prophesied the people of the Messiah would destroy Jerusalem and the temple, and consequently end the Old Covenant in a great War. That is precisely what happened. See P.P. #54

2. “Now I desire to remind you, though you already know this, that the Lord, having saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who didn’t believe.” Jude 5

Jude, writing around the end of AD 64, reminded his readers of a well-known Old Testament event where, after being delivered from slavery in Egypt, insolent ministers, Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, along with 250 other princes of Israel, rebelled against their God-given leaders, Moses and Aaron.

3. “Angels [angelous] who didn’t keep their proper domain, but deserted their own dwelling place...” Jude 6a

Korah, Dathan, Abiram and 250 other leaders of Israel were not content with their office as ministers, but wanted to be priests as well. Moses said to them, “Does it seem too small a thing to you that the God of Israel has separated you from the community of Israel to bring you near to Himself, to perform the service of the tabernacle of the LORD, and to stand before the community to minister to them?” Num 16:9 (see endnote A for references to people as angels.)

4. “...He has kept [them] in everlasting bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day.” Jude 6b

The leaders of Korah’s rebellion were swallowed up by the earth and these ancient rebels remained in Sheol at the time of Jude’s writing awaiting the soon to be final judgment with the destruction of the old covenant age as anticipated in Hebrews 9:8-9

5. “Even as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, having in the same way as these given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are shown as an example, suffering the punishment of eternal fire.” Jude 7

In his history, Josephus cited zealot perversions, among them transvestism and using women for sport. In Korah’s rebellion, 250 men who believed they could usurp Aaron’s priestly authority, were consumed by fire in the same way as were Sodom, Gomorrah and their surrounding cities. Zealot-led Jerusalem was similarly destroyed by fire in AD 70. (“Eternal fire” pertains to the destructive finality of fire and has nothing to do with eternal torment.)

6. “Yet in the same way, these also in their dreaming defile the flesh, despise authority, and slander celestial beings.” Jude 8

The zealots of Jude’s day were despisers of government authority and apparently proponents of the popular, uninspired “Book of Enoch”. The Book of Enoch reported that 200 celestial angels lusted after human women and had sexual relations with them. Jude regarded these teachings to be blasphemous of God’s sinless angelic messengers.

7. “But Michael, the archangel, when contending with the devil [the slanderous] and arguing about the body of Moses...” Jude 9a

This is an allusion to the situation in the repopulation of Jerusalem by the Jews after the Babylonian captivity. See Zech 3:1-5 and Ezra 4:1-5 “The Body of Moses” is a reference to the returning Jews similar to the way believers are referred to as “the body of Christ”. The long-time dwellers in the land in Israel, along with their leaders (the devil = the slanderous, satan = adversary) were accusing the newly arrived Jews from Babylon of being illegitimate occupants. Joshua, the newly arrived high priest, was pronounced legitimate by the angel Michael and those who accused him of being illegitimate were calmly rebuked by Michael.

8. “...[Michael] dared not bring against him [the adversary] an abusive condemnation, but said, ‘May the Lord rebuke you!’” Jude 9b

The book of Enoch taught that the archangel Michael judged the wicked fallen angels abusively. Jude emphasized that Michael, a messenger of God, would never be contentious like this literature portrayed him to be. He simply conveyed a “it is God who rebukes you” message to the adversary of Joshua. Heavenly angels always carry out God’s will, not their own.

9. “But these men do not understand the things they slander, and they are being destroyed by the very things that, like irrational animals, they instinctively comprehend.” Jude 10

In following after false teachings, these first century rebels were destroying themselves, becoming more licentious and beast-like. In calling the zealots “irrational animals” Jude added weight to their identify with the Beast of Revelation. (See also Preterist Papers #55, #37, etc.)

10. “Woe to them! For they went in the way of Cain, and ran riotously in the error of Balaam for hire, and perished in Korah’s rebellion.” Jude 11

The zealots were following the tracks of Cain and Balaam and would perish like Korah and company.

11. “These are hidden rocky reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you, shepherds who without fear feed themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots; wild waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, for whom the blackness of darkness has been reserved forever.”

Echoing phrases and images in the book of Enoch, Jude called out those causing havoc in the ecclesia of his day.

12. “About these also Enoch, the seventh from Adam*, prophesied, saying, ‘Behold, the Lord came with ten thousands of his holy ones, to execute judgment on all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their works of ungodliness which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the hard things which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.’” Jude 14-15

In an ironic twist, Jude turned the book of Enoch’s past prophecy of the Noahic flood, against the “indecent men” who were such proponents of this literature. God would be bringing his ten thousand holy sinless angels in judgment against these godless rebels. Daniel had predicted, “the end shall come as a flood.” Dan. 9:26

END NOTES:

A. Angel (Angelous) means messenger and can refer to person/people, as well as celestial beings.

1. **Messengers of Jesus were angelous:** “He [Jesus] sent messengers [angelous #32] on ahead of him. As they went along, they entered a Samaritan village to make things ready in advance for him.” Lk 9:52
2. **John the Baptist was an angelous:** “This is the one about whom it is written: ‘Look, I am sending my messenger [angelous #32] ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’” Mt 11:10
3. **The two spies Rahab hid were angelous:** “Was not Rahab the prostitute also justified by works when she welcomed the messengers [angelous #32] and sent them out by another way?” Ja 2:25

B. Celestial Angels cannot die or be destroyed, therefore they cannot sin, because “the wages of sin is death”.

1. “But those who are regarded as worthy to share in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. In fact, they can no longer die, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, since they are sons of the resurrection.” Lk 20:35-36
2. As the flame went up from the altar toward the sky, the LORD’s messenger went up in it while Manoah and his wife watched. They fell face down to the ground. Jud 13:20
- 3 “They saw that those men were physically unharmed by the fire. The hair of their heads was not singed, nor were their trousers damaged. Not even the smell of fire was to be found on them! Nebuchadnezzar exclaimed, “Praised be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent forth his angel and has rescued his servants who trusted in him...” Dan 3:27-28

C. No sinful celestial angels. All serve and exalt Yahweh.

1. “The Lord has established his throne in heaven; his kingdom extends over everything. Praise the Lord, you angels of his, you powerful warriors who carry out his decrees and obey his orders! Praise the Lord, all you warriors of his, you servants of his who carry out his desires! “Ps103:19-21
2. “Praise him, all his angels! Praise him, all his heavenly assembly!” Ps 148:2
3. “Are they [angels] not all ministering spirits, sent out to serve those who will inherit salvation?” Heb 1:14

Recommended: The Real Devil, by Duncan Heaster. Out of print but free online. We agree to disagree on some points.

Also recommended: The Wars of the Jews by Josephus. (Especially book 2 chapter 15 thru book 6)

***Enoch, the Seventh From Adam** may have been the full title of the book at the time.

Papers regarding the zealots: #54, #55, #56 (end), #53, #52, #37, etc.