Jude has referred to past examples of rebellion that led to destruction include:

1) Israelites that were delivered out of Egypt, but later did not trust God wholeheartedly

2) Angels that were in a holy position, but later abandoned that position

3) Entire cities that chose perversion as their purpose in life…like Sodom and Gomorrah

OK. So Jude lays out his introduction, his purpose, and then he lays out three examples of rebellion that led to destruction…three examples of the path of an apostate. Next, in v8-10, Jude gives another list of three…he says apostates are immoral, irreverent, and they take lightly the word of God. Finally, in v11-13 Jude gives another list of three…apostates take the way of Cain, Balaam, and Korah.

So this is really nice of Jude to lay out his descriptions of apostates like this. He begins his letter by telling us that we need to watch out for these apostates…but they’re sneaky. So he gives us three lists of three to provide us with a detailed description of what an apostate looks like.

To summarize what an apostate might look like –

* He can be a of a chosen nation, a holy one, or a heathen
* He is immoral, irreverent, and will take lightly the word of God
* He will take the way of Cain, Balaam, and Korah (we’ll go into detail on those later)

v8 –

**In the very same way, these dreamers pollute their own bodies, reject authority and slander celestial beings.**

Likewise yet also these dreaming [ones], [the] flesh indeed defile, authority moreover set aside, glorious [ones] and blaspheme.

My quick summary of v8 is – apostates are immoral (defile their flesh), irreverent (reject authority), and take lightly the word of God (blaspheme glorious ones).

*Likewise yet also these dreaming [ones] –*

*Write down you findings regarding ‘dreaming’ using biblehub.com tools –*

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The Greek origin is *enup-nia-zo-mai*, which means ‘to dream’. Seems simple enough, however, I’m curious as to why this specific word is only used one other time (Acts 2:17) in the NT.

What’s the other word for dream in the NT?

The Gospels talk about an angel appearing to Joseph in a dream (Mt 1:20)…the Greek for dream here is *onar*. Now, I should point out there are fundamental differences between *onar* and *enupniazomai*. The most obvious difference is *onar* is a noun vice a verb. It means ‘a dream’…not ‘to dream’. This is a big difference and should be noted. In other words, the only other time the word ‘dream’ is used in the NT it refers to an instance…Joseph had ‘a dream’. It is a noun…not a verb. It was Joseph had a dream…not Joseph is a dreamer.

To further illustrate how Jude is using the word dream here, we should go to the other instance *enupniazomai*…Acts 2:17 –

**In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and your daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.**

Peter is quoting from Joel 2…Joel 2 is referring to ‘The Day of the Lord’…in other words, in the last days, the Day of the Lord, visions and dreams will be had. So Peter uses *enupniazomai* to describe divine revelatory dreaming. And I believe Jude is also using the word ‘dreamer’ to refer to dreams that provide revelation.

Now, in order to understand what kind of revelation Jude is talking about, we must put the word ‘dreamers’ into context.

Jude begins v8 with ‘likewise yet also these dreaming ones’ – likewise refers back to the scripture he just wrote…it can also be rendered, ‘in the same manner’. So Jude is saying, ‘in the same manner as we just spoke of’. Well, we just spoke about what apostates may look like. And Jude says ‘likewise these dreamers’…who are ‘these’? They are the sneaky, ungodly, apostates Jude has been talking about. And what do apostates do? They defect from the faith…tweak the truth…they are stealthy…they turn grace into evil…they spread heresy.

And where do they get this heresy? From their dreams! OK, so if we look at the context of v8 it appears the word ‘dreamer’ *does* likely refer to a divine revelatory event…however, the source of the revelation lies in the dreamer…it lies in the apostate…the source of the dream is not of God.

So the first half of v8 can be summarized – ‘in the same way we’ve already been talking about regarding these stealthy apostates, they are nothing but dreamers coming up with heresy that resembles godly revelation…but in fact it represents satanic revelation and is not of God.

This is very interesting. Jude is telling us that apostates…heresy…false teaching…false prophets…false religion…they all come from what *appears* to be divine revelation…but it’s really just satanic revelation.

Does this statement of Jude’s hold true today?

In order to determine if this statement is applicable today we need to answer a few questions that will help us fairly distinguish between God’s revelation and false revelation –

* How was God’s revelation delivered to man?
* What was the approximate timeframe that God used divine revelation? Is it still applicable today? If not, will it ever be in effect again?

How was God’s revelation delivered to man?

For the most part, words from God are delivered via angels. Their very name means messenger and that is what they do…they deliver words and revelation to the prophets.

Da 10 – Daniel receive a great revelation from the Angel of the Lord

Zech 1 – Zechariah receives a word of the Lord from an angel

Mt 1 – Joseph is told by an angel to marry Mary

The point is, there is *usually* an angel involved when God speaks to his people as recorded in scripture.

What is the approximate timeframe that God used divine revelation?

God has been speaking to his people from the beginning of time. But there have been periods of silence…for instance, there was a 400 year prophetic silence between Malachi and the arrival of John the Baptist. There was a 200 year period just prior to Zechariah that the Angel of the Lord had not appeared to Israel. Of course, when Jesus walked the earth, it was God speaking divine revelation directly to us. And when Jesus ascended, he left behind his commissioned apostles full of the HS and ready to complete the divine revelation of God.

And when Paul said faith, hope and love remain, perhaps he was referring to another draught of divine revelation. Perhaps John’s Revelation 22 warning to ‘not add or take away’ from his writing was a sign *sealing* the book that is now canonized.

And the canon we have today…perhaps God is telling us this is all the divine revelation you need. This is enough for now…it will sustain you through the ‘Age of the Gentiles’…through the ‘Church Age’.

All that said, Acts 2:17 says dreams and visions will be back…but not until the Day of the Lord…not until the end days.

All of this discussion about the timeframe of divine revelation to say…if it isn’t the last days, and someone is telling you God spoke to them through their dreams and gave them revelation…you’d better have your Bible handy…you’d better hold on tight to Scripture.

Back to the main point…Jude says apostates will have dreams and the dreams will likely be of the revelatory kind. And since they’re apostates, these revelatory dreams will likely be proclaiming heresy in the name of God’s revelation. Now we’ve discussed how God actually delivered his revelations and when we should expect the active period of revelation to occur…and we discussed all of that so that we can be on guard and we can compare the real deal to the fake deal. God’s way versus false prophet’s way. Because Jude said these apostates would be sneaky…we should probably expect their means of revelation and their doctrine will be very familiar.

Given that line of thought, I believe there’s no coincidence that popular false religions like Mormonism, Jehovah’s Witness, and Christian Science all share similar beliefs with Christianity. Note that Joseph Smith was guided by angels to golden tablets with the book of Mormon on them…Jehovah’s Witness believe Jesus is the son of God, and oh by the way, was God’s very first creation…and Mary Baker Eddy loved the Bible so much that it was beneath the surface of the Bible that she discovered the ‘divine mind’.

You see, Jude was right then…and he’s still right today. False religion will take on a form of godliness…yes, maybe the false doctrine was received from ‘angels’…yes, maybe you claim Jesus to be the son of God…OK, I get that the Bible is a foundation for your religion…but even the Galatians were duped into believing a nice Jesus Christ-focused testimony from the Judaizers…and Paul railed against them telling them that they are to be accursed if they preach different gospel.

*[the] flesh indeed defile, authority moreover set aside, glorious [ones] and blaspheme –*

*Write down you findings regarding ‘defile’ using biblehub.com tools –*

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The Greek is *miaino*…it means ‘stain’ or ‘pollute’…or ‘to corrupt’. So these apostates stain the flesh…or pollute humankind…they are immoral.

*Write down you findings regarding ‘authority’ using biblehub.com tools –*

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The Greek root is *kurios*…it means ‘lordship’ or ‘divine or angelic lordship’. So these apostates are immoral and they ignore angelic authority…they are irreverent.

It’s interesting that *kurios*…can refer to angelic authority. Do you remember who gave the law at Mount Sinai? Both Stephen and Paul refer back to Dt 33 when they say the angels ordained the law and gave it to the mediator (Acts 7:53; Gal 3:19).

So it sounds like Jude is saying, ‘these apostates ignore angelic authority in that they ignore the law of God…moreover, they ignore the word of God as delivered and ordained by the angels’.

So apostates are immoral and irreverent.

*Write down you findings regarding ‘blaspheme’ using biblehub.com tools –*

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The Greek root is *blasphémeó*…it means ‘to speak evil against’ or ‘to speak lightly or profanely of sacred things’. So these apostates are immoral and irreverent…and they speak lightly of sacred things…specifically, they speak lightly of glorious...or *doxa*…which can mean the infinite intrinsic worth of God.

A practical example might be one of the oldest examples…when Satan spoke lightly of God’s worth, and God’s word, to Adam and Eve. You see, Satan was the first apostate…the first false prophet. He was immoral, and he polluted mankind…he was irreverent as he ignored God’s authority…and he spoke lightly of God’s worth and word to Adam and Eve…and what was the result? Destruction…sin…the fall of man. In Ge 3:4 the Serpent said, ‘You surely will not die! 5For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’

Yes, apostates speak lightly of sacred things…they speak lightly of the infinite intrinsic worth of God…they take lightly the word of God. And in doing so, they base an entire false religion off the word of God…all by twisting, adding and taking away from the truth.

*Summary – write v8 using the study above in an expository manner.*

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Likewise, these apostates dream up false doctrine and try to pass it as God’s doctrine. You can recognize apostate by these three characteristics – they’re immoral, irreverent, and take lightly the word of God.