

A dramatic sunset over a golden field with a single tree on the horizon. The sky is filled with dark, swirling clouds illuminated from below, creating a fiery orange and red glow. The horizon is a flat line, and a single, dark tree stands in the center. The foreground is a vast field of golden wheat or grain, stretching to the horizon.

CLOUDS WITHOUT WATER

JUDE 17-25

VERSE 17

"But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ..."

- God's people must stand in stark contrast to the troublemakers described in the epistle.
- Do we "remember" the words of the apostles? Notice that their message is placed on the same level as Jesus Christ Himself. Their words carry authority, and we "ought" to remember them (1 John 4:6, 2 Thess. 2:15, 2 Pet. 3:2).

VERSE 18

"That they were saying to you, 'In the last time there shall be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts.'"

- 2 Peter 3:3, 2 Timothy 3:1-9
- We should never be surprised by the attitudes we find in the world, even amongst religious people (James 4:1ff). Self-will has been (and always will be) our biggest problem, even from the very beginning (Gen. 3:1ff).
- Refreshingly honest: lust usually comes first, and then the excuses are fabricated to fit desire.

VERSE 19

"These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit."

- Most false doctrines and rebellious lifestyles are attractive to spiritual and intellectual elitists. They are "above" normal theology or ethics. Yet Jude points out that the further we are from the truth, the more devoid of spiritual depth we are.
- "Worldly-minded" – Sin clouds our ability to define true spirituality. Behind many false doctrines and lifestyles is nothing more than a desire to "fit in" with the world.

VERSES 20-21

"But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith; praying in the Holy Spirit; keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life."

- Acts 20:32
- "Keep yourselves" puts the responsibility of faithfulness on our shoulders (Gal. 5:1, 1 Tim. 5:22, James 1:27, John 14:15, Phil. 2:12).
- "Anxiously" (Luke 12:35ff)

VERSES 22-23

"And have mercy on some, who are doubting; save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh."

- "Who are doubting" – Isaiah 40:27-29. Do not castigate somebody for doubting; help them!
- "Out of the fire" – Some go a step further and must be yanked back (2 Cor. 2:5-8). Be careful not to get burned (1 Cor. 9:27).
- "Have mercy with fear" – Some are so deep in sin that danger abounds in their rescue! Others have lost the privilege of trust (1 Cor. 6:9-11, Matt. 10:16).

VERSES 24-25

"Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen."

- Psalm 37:24
- Psalm 51
- "Before all time and now and forever" reminds me of Hebrews 13:8, Revelation 1:8.