

Sunday January 23rd 2011
The Second of Peter
Part Nine
Study Questions

1). 2Pe 2:17 *These are wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest, for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.*

- a). Who are the 'these' at the beginning of v17?
- b). What have we learned about these people immediately before Peter gives us this description?
- c). What time periods are covered in this description?

2). Jude 1:12: *They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots; 13 raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.*

- a). In the companion scripture in Jude what is added to the description we find in Peter?
- b). What literary device do both writers use in giving their descriptions?
- c). How many metaphors does Peter use and how many metaphors does Jude use?

d). What one phrase is common to both descriptions and why do you think that is?

3). *These are wells without water*

a). How should we understand the word 'well'?

b). This phrase is an oriental expression – how should we understand it with regards to first century Palestine?

c). What two scriptures from John's Gospel did we look at to help us better understand the context in which to place this metaphor?

d). In both our scriptures from John who is the source of the water for those who are thirsty?

e). In John Chapter 4 what is the result of drinking this water?

f). In John Chapter 7 what is the result of drinking this water?

g). What is the water and how would we know?

h). On a basic, practical level how do we drink this water?

i). What other expression would we use to describe this process?

j). What would being filled with the Spirit specifically refer to and how would we know?

k). What does scripture teach us about the way this is to be done?

l). So what would it mean that the false teachers are 'wells without water'?

4). *They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds*

a). How does the metaphor 'clouds without water' compliment that which we have just studied?

b). What additional information is added in this metaphor here in Jude?

c). What scripture might this remind us of and what further insight does this give us?

5). *clouds carried by a tempest*

a). Peter also uses the metaphor of 'clouds', but then speaks of a tempest rather than winds – what would we learn from this about the character and nature of false teachers and their followers?

6). *late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots*

a). How does the metaphor 'late autumn trees without fruit' build on Jude's previous metaphor of 'clouds without water'?

b). What would it mean for them to be 'twice dead, pulled up by the roots'?

7). Jude's next metaphor describes the false teachers as - *13 raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame*

a). What does this teach us about them?

b). Do you see any connection between this and Peter's use of the word 'tempest'?

8). Explain Jude's final metaphor - *wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.*

a). What overall impression do you get of the false teachers from these metaphors in Peter and Jude?

9). Both Peter and Jude end their use of metaphors in this section of scripture with reference to the blackness of darkness and both then speak of the false teachers using 'great swelling words'. What is placed in Jude between these two points that we do not find in Peter?

a). What does Enoch's prophecy say?

b). Who is he prophesying about?

c). What is remarkable about this with regards to time?

d). Only 2 OT characters from the ancient world are recorded as ministers of God's word. Who are they? Where do we find reference to them being so? And what is remarkable about that?

e). What does this demonstrate the importance of for us as we study scripture?

f). What is significant about the fact that God chose Enoch to give this prophecy concerning the false teachers? [Think about who he is, where he is placed in scriptural history, who he is a type of and what we can learn from the 6th and 7th generations from Adam]

g). What do you think is God's purpose in placing Enoch's prophecy as He does in the Book of Jude? [What Book follows Jude?]