

Jude 1:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.

Analysis

How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. Jude specifies the apostolic teaching they should remember: prophecies about false teachers. "They told you" (Greek *elegon hymin*, ἔλεγον ὑμῖν) indicates repeated apostolic warnings—this wasn't isolated comment but consistent message. "There should be mockers" (Greek *esontai empaiktai*, ἔσονται ἐμπαῖκται) predicts people who scoff, ridicule, and deride sacred things. "Mockers" denotes those who treat serious matters with contempt, making light of divine truth, mocking godliness as foolishness.

"In the last time" (Greek *ep' eschatou chronou*, ἐπ' ἐσχάτου χρόνου) refers to the entire period between Christ's first and second coming—the "last days" begun at Pentecost (Acts 2:17, Hebrews 1:2) and continuing until Christ's return. The New Testament consistently teaches that the church age is eschatological period characterized by both gospel advance and increasing apostasy. False teachers aren't surprising anomalies but predicted features of this age.

"Who should walk after their own ungodly lusts" (Greek *kata tas heautōn epithymias poreuomenoi tōn asebeiōn*, κατὰ τὰς ἑαυτῶν ἐπιθυμίας πορευόμενοι τῶν ἀσεβειῶν) repeats v. 16's description—lifestyle governed by sinful desires, not divine revelation. Their mockery flows from ungodliness; they reject truth not from intellectual conviction but moral rebellion. People suppress truth to justify preferred behaviors (Romans 1:18-25). Doctrine and ethics connect inseparably—bad theology enables bad living; bad living requires bad theology.

Historical Context

New Testament apostles consistently warned about coming false teachers: Jesus (Matthew 24:4-5, 11, 24), Paul (Acts 20:29-30, 1 Timothy 4:1-3, 2 Timothy 3:1-9, 4:3-4), Peter (2 Peter 2:1-3, 3:3), John (1 John 2:18-19, 4:1-3), Jude. This wasn't pessimism but prophetic realism—the church would face internal threats from those claiming Christian identity while denying Christian truth. Such warnings prepared believers to recognize and resist error.

The concept of "mockers in the last time" draws on Old Testament prophecies about scoffers who deny God's judgment (Isaiah 5:18-19, 28:14-15). Jewish eschatology expected intensified rebellion before Messiah's coming. Early Christians recognized they lived in eschatological tension—already experiencing Messianic age blessings while awaiting final consummation. This "already but not yet" period would feature both gospel triumph and satanic opposition.

First-century mockers included those denying Christ's return (2 Peter 3:3-4), rejecting resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:12), dismissing judgment (2 Peter 2:3), and ridiculing Christian morality as prudish legalism. Such mockery continues throughout church history—sophisticated intellectuals scorning biblical supernaturalism, cultural elites dismissing Christian ethics, religious liberals mocking doctrinal precision.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing that apostles predicted false teachers help believers respond to contemporary apostasy?
2. What forms does mockery of biblical truth take in contemporary culture, and how should Christians respond?
3. Why is it important to understand that rejection of biblical truth often stems from moral rebellion, not merely intellectual disagreement?

Interlinear Text

ὅτι ἔλεγον ὑμῖν· ὅτι ἐν ἐσχάτῳ χρόνῳ ἔσονται
How **they told** **you** **How** **in** **the last** **time** **there should be**
G3754 G3004 G5213 G3754 G1722 G2078 G5550 G2071

ἐμπαῖκται κατὰ τὰς ἑαυτῶν ἐπιθυμίας πορευόμενοι τῶν
mockers **after** **their own** **lusts** **who should walk**
G1703 G2596 G3588 G1438 G1939 G4198 G3588

ἀσεβειῶν
ungodly
G763

Additional Cross-References

2 Peter 3:3 (Parallel theme): Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

2 Timothy 4:3 (Parallel theme): For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

2 Timothy 3:13 (Parallel theme): But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

2 Peter 2:1 (Parallel theme): But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in

damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

Acts 20:29 (Parallel theme): For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.

Jude 1:16 (Parallel theme): These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.

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