

Episode 13: Jude 12

Jude 12

These are in your love-feasts craggy rocks; feasting together with you, without fear shepherding themselves; clouds without water, by winds carried about; trees autumnal, without fruit, twice dead, rooted up; wild waves of a sea, foaming out their own shames; stars wandering, to whom the gloom of the darkness to the age hath been kept.

In our last podcast we addressed the first item in the 12th triad: “craggy rocks”. But there are 2 more: “shepherding themselves” and “clouds without water”. Let’s pick up with “shepherding themselves”.

Shepherding Themselves

The second statement in **Triad 12** speaks of these teachers shepherding themselves without fear. The implication is that they are without the fear of **Yahweh**.

The fear of **Yahweh** is one of the most powerful Biblical concepts. The fear of **Yahweh** is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge; the fear of **Yahweh** is to hate all evil; the fear of **Yahweh** is pure and prolongs life for it is a fountain of life so that one may sleep satisfied untouched by evil. In the fear of **Yahweh** there is strong confidence for it is the instruction for wisdom, but fools despise wisdom.¹

These teachers, these dreamers are fools, for they do not allow themselves to be shepherded by wisdom and knowledge—by the fear of **Yahweh**. Rather, without fear, they shepherd themselves. The idea here is not that they are lone rangers who do not have some sort of ministry oversight, but that they do not let **Yahweh** be their shepherd, and the Word of God is not their ultimate authority.

One of God’s names is **Yahweh Raah**, our Great and Good Shepherd.² By His name, He is responsible for all those in His household. He leads them and guides them where He wants. Sometimes it is down a path of darkness and calamity (literally “evil”) and at other times light and well-being (literally “peace”).³ Either way, He is the one who does it, for He is **Yahweh** and there is no other.⁴

But these apostates do not care for the way **Yahweh Raah** leads their lives. Therefore, without the fear of **Yahweh**, they do what they want, rebelliously acting as if they are the “Lord” of their own lives. They arrogantly believe they have the wisdom to direct their own steps. The irony is that even in their choosing their own paths, they are subject to the sovereignty of **Yahweh Raah** as He supports and cements them in their decision. Surprisingly, **Yahweh** is quite emotional when it comes to this issue. He says:

Psalms 32:8-9

I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you. **Do not be**

¹ Job 28:28; Psalm 19:9, 111:10; Proverbs 1:7, 8:13, 9:10, 10:27, 14:26-27, 15:33, 19:23

² Psalm 23; 78:52; 80:1; Isaiah 40:11; Jeremiah 31:10; Ezekiel 34:11-13; Hebrews 13:20; 1 Peter 2:25; 5:4

³ Isaiah 45:7

⁴ Deuteronomy 4:35, 39; Job 9:23-34; Isaiah 45:5-6, 21-22, 46:9; Daniel 3:29; Joel 2:27

like a senseless horse or mule that needs a bit and bridle to keep it under control.

Isaiah 29:13-14

These people say they are mine. They honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far away. And their worship of me amounts to nothing more than human laws learned by rote. Because of this, I will do wonders among these hypocrites. **I will show that human wisdom is foolish and even the most brilliant people lack understanding.**

Isaiah 50:11

But watch out, you who live in your own light and warm yourself by your own fires. This is the reward you **will receive** from me: **you will soon lie down in great torment.**

Now that is quite a reward for self-shepherding: torment experienced in the here and now and torment for all eternity.⁵ Accordingly, **Yahweh** gives us this **WARNING**: "*Don't waste your breath on fools, for they will despise the wisest advice. Commit yourself to instruction; attune your ears to hear words of knowledge. Get the truth and don't ever sell it; also get wisdom, discipline, and discernment.*"⁶

Thus, we must not be deceived by a flurry of religious activity. Just because a person goes to church and to prayer meetings, is involved in small groups, and frequently uses their giftedness in ministry, or even leads a ministry and perhaps has a global platform, it does not mean that their heart is towards **Yahweh**. It all comes down to whether in practice they play God over their own lives, or whether they fear **Yahweh** and embrace the pathways down which **Yahweh Raah** leads them.

Therefore, we are to keep our eyes open, we are to be vigilant, and we are to look out for each other. If we see someone starting to rely on their own wisdom and begin playing God of their own life (notwithstanding their religious activity done in the name of Jesus), we are to jump in the way and make a scene. Who knows maybe they will repent, or maybe they will not? But at least we can help protect others who might otherwise be hurt by their decisions.

Moreover, if they choose to walk their own way according to their own wisdom, we need to let them go. As painful as it is, we cannot force them to want God. We must trust God with them. But what we **cannot** do is be tolerant of their ways, as it will infect others and wreak destruction as lives will be crashed against the craggy rocks.

There is one final thing to mention about those who shepherd themselves and are in positions of leadership responsible to shepherd others. The judgment which God will bring into their lives is nothing short of terrifying. Read **Jeremiah 5:30-31; 23:9-40; 24; Ezekiel 11; and 34**. It is not pretty.

Clouds without Water

The final phrase in this **12th Triad** says, "*clouds without water, by winds carried about.*" Have you met

⁵ Note: "receive" is rendered in the Hebrew *perfect* connotating a completed circumstance, a determination.

⁶ **Proverbs 23:9, 12, 23**

a person who always moves from one religious' gimmick to another? In fact, I have noticed that the religion of Christianity seems to mutate and morph quite frequently over the years. It is as if Christians are on a perpetual pursuit to try to find, in their own lives, the right formula to experiencing the peace and rest of God (for real this time), and the right means to save the world for Christ. It is a twisted sort of Christian alchemy or witchcraft.

What is fascinating is that these empty clouds are carried or driven by winds. In the Bible, the winds are a metaphor for angels, and in this instance, deceptive demonic angels.⁷ The new winds of doctrine (the clouds) which are transient (coming and going) are demonically inspired.

The most recent "*clouds without water driven by winds*" seem to be the emerging church, the emphasis on experiencing God, on social justice, tolerance, and societal osmosis, on having a subjective and flexible faith, and finding fulfillment in serving those less privileged. But since these clouds are mere inventions of instinctual religious wisdom (even though some of which are rooted in sound biblical ideals and principles), they always end up wanting, empty, and rarely fulfilling what they promise.

People start off all gung-ho and they give it their best ministry shot, and they are excited when they see God move and mercifully do things in the lives of those they serve, but when it does not satisfy that hole that still aches within them, something else new has to be invented to once again try to reach God and ease their pain.

I guess the consolation is that if what they tried did not work, they just need to wait around for a few years until something else, some new movement is blown in by the wind and becomes the rage. This is what is captured in the phrase "*by winds carried about*." It communicates to us the continual churning of the religion of Christianity as clouds come and go and promise everything but deliver nothing. This cycle has been going on throughout the ages.

Many of us have been through several of those churns and have tried our best to find God and do it right in order that we might finally experience His promise of peace and rest. Thankfully, at least for me, every single time I hit the wall of my own humanity. Living by this sort of Christian alchemy keeps a person busy for sure, but that person builds their life on a false sense of hope that ironically leads them, and others, to hopelessness and ultimately tempts them with apostasy.

"*Clouds without water*". What an amazing word picture.⁸ The idea is that we see clouds coming, we have great expectation for rain, provision, refreshment, satisfaction, shade even, and we have great hope for life. After all, we desperately need what they are promising. But they do not deliver, and they cannot deliver because they are dry—they have nothing to give. They look legitimate and they act legitimate, so much so that we are convinced that this time we will finally be drenched in rain, but our hope is in vain.

It is time that we wake up and understand that there is no magical solution to experiencing God. **There is nothing we can do for Him to reach Him.** We simply cannot ascend the mountain no matter how hard or how long we climb nor how much we do.

⁷ *Genesis 41:6; Exodus 10:13, 19, 14:21; 2 Samuel 22:11; Job 27:21; Psalm 18:10, 48:7, 78:26, 104:3-4, 148:8; Isaiah 27:8; Hoshea 12:1; Jonah 4:8; Mark 4:37-41; Luke 7:24; Ephesians 4:14; James 1:6; Hebrews 1:7; Jude 12; Revelation 6:13, 7:1; (note allusions to the angelic impact: Psalm 135:7, Jeremiah 4:13, 10:13, 18:17, 49:36, 51:16; Ezekiel 19:12, 27:26, 37:9)*

⁸ The Spirit uses a similar metaphor in *Proverbs 25:14* and *2 Peter 2:17*

**JESUS MAY BE “EXPERIENCED”, BUT HE IS NOT KNOWN,
THROUGH OUR ACTS OF SERVICE, WORSHIP, OR SACRIFICE.
HE IS KNOWN BY HIS NAME.**

God charts out the pathway to knowing Him, and it requires our **willingness** to be enrolled in the school known as “Pain Central.”⁹ Once enrolled, He wages war against us as He desires to eliminate the enemies in our soul that refuse to let Him be our **I AM** teaching us how to capture and destroy every lofty thought that raises itself up against the true knowledge of God.¹⁰

Pain Central is so uncomfortable, painful, and difficult that many choose to drop out of this school. But for those who remain, class after class we learn **WHY** we can trust ourselves to *Yahweh* and **WHY** it is the least risky of all options, despite the war He wages. And then when we start to pass those classes, He instructs us **HOW** to bet our lives on the character and nature of *Yahweh*—**HOW to bet our lives on His name**—deciding once and for all that we are **NOT** God and can never be God of our own life.

No one graduates from Pain Central unless they risk everything to follow Him, for if anyone comes to Jesus and does not hate their own life, they cannot be His disciple, because He will not let them.¹¹ In fact, to graduate Pain Central, a person must be willing to carry his own cross and come after Him. In other words, the journey must be volitional, and they must choose an intentional path of death, so that the *Design Point* can be realized in their life.

The *Design Point* is the theme of each-and-every graduation ceremony, as each graduate stands up before the great audience of witnesses in the heavenly realms (the angels and demons) and declares:

**FOR THROUGH THE LAW I DIED TO THE LAW, SO THAT I MIGHT LIVE TO GOD. I HAVE
BEEN CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST; AND IT IS NO LONGER I WHO LIVE, BUT CHRIST LIVES
IN ME; AND THE LIFE WHICH I NOW LIVE IN THE FLESH I LIVE BY FAITH IN THE SON OF
GOD, WHO LOVED ME AND GAVE HIMSELF UP FOR ME.¹²**

Jesus is found through our now and continually believing (with our heart, mind, soul, and strength) in our abject neediness; hence, our choosing to now live like a little baby child who is helpless and must depend upon *Yahweh* for all things all the time. Graduates of Pain Central learn to turn to *Yahweh*, and only to Him, for everything.¹³

⁹ See *Job 36:15*: But by means of their suffering, He rescues those who suffer. For He gets their attention through adversity.

¹⁰ See *Hebrews 3* and *4*; *1 Corinthians 10:1-13*; *2 Corinthians 10:5*

¹¹ See *Luke 14:26-28* where “cannot” is rendered in the *present passive indicative*.

¹² *Galatians 2:19-20*

¹³ *Matthew 19:14*; *Mark 10:13-16*

FICTION ALERT

You may not be aware but digging down deep in your soul and choosing to live like a little child is a baseline requirement for salvation and for entry into the Kingdom of God as a son of God. Salvation does not come merely by way of saying the sinner's prayer and being born-again. That has been one of the biggest lies perpetrated on evangelical Christianity, and which has set up many for apostasy. Jesus made this clear when He said:

Matthew 18:3-4

Truly I say to you, unless you are **converted and become** like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Conversion, being born again, is the first step in salvation, but it is not the only step. Conversion is done by God, as "converted" is rendered in the *aorist passive subjunctive* and that takes place when we ask **Yahweh** into our lives. But as with all things between us and God, there is the element of choice where we must choose to now and continually believe. This choice is spelled out so clearly in **John 1:12-13**: "*But to all who did receive him, who (now and continually) believed in his name, he gave the right (or the power) to choose to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*"¹⁴

Clearly, we do not automatically become children of God when we believed, or the Spirit would have used the *present* tense and said that they "are children of God." But to those who now and continually believe, they are given the right and the power to **choose to become** children of God. It is a choice!

Moreover, "*become like children*" is rendered in the *aorist middle subjunctive*. Hence, a person must subsequently dig down deep in their soul (use of the *middle voice*) and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, decide to live as if they are dependent upon **Yahweh** and His name for all things all the time! (Hence, the *aorist* tense). And it is rendered in the *subjunctive* because there is an uncertainty to this decision, for not all people make this choice to have their lives identified by complete 100% dependence upon God in the same way that a little child depends upon their parents.

And just to make the point, the Greek word translated "children" refers to a little child who is entirely dependent upon their parents for provision. We are given the power and we are given the choice, but we must exercise that power and that choice to be a child of God.

This notion of choosing to become like a little child is not something we can do in a day, it is not an instantaneous process, hence the need for Pain Central. In His wisdom and in His timing, **Yahweh** takes us down a path of learning what it means to believe in His name and teaches us **WHY** we can believe in His name and **HOW** to believe in His name. And if we have ears to hear what He is instructing us in each

¹⁴ Note: "believe" is rendered in the *present active participle* and "become" is rendered in the *aorist middle infinitive*.

classroom lesson, we will grow in dependence upon Him in all areas of our life, just like a little bitty child.

Think about each of His names, **Yahweh: Adonai, Nissi, Raah, Rapha, Shammah, Tisidkenu, Mekoddishkem, Qana, Jireh, Shalom, Sabbaoth, Yahsa**. Each name applies to a critical aspect of our lives in which He wants us to know Him fully and to trust Him with our heart, mind, soul, and strength—with our entire being. This is the pathway to Salvation, not just saying a prayer.

SALVATION IS ALL ABOUT KNOWING YAHWEH PERSONALLY, BY NAME. FOR BY HIS NAME, HE SETS US FREE AND DELIVERS US FROM ALL THAT NOW AND CONTINUALLY OPPOSES HIM BEING OUR I AM.

A little side note. If you did not follow our 4th Season, “**Jesus Has a Name**,” all the podcasts can be found at our website: thresermediagroup.com. This 4th Season takes a deep dive in to each name helping us know **WHO** He says He is, **WHY** we can trust Him and a bit on **HOW** we can trust Him.

With that said, we must stop chasing apparitions (those empty clouds), and we must remember that the obedience of God is merely to be **willing** to let Him cause us to trust ourselves to Him (i.e., to believe Him),¹⁵ for without faith it is impossible to please God.¹⁶ So, whether it is a person who comes forward with a new promise, a new method, a new discipline, or a new means to experiencing God, or even if the entire direction of the religion of Christianity shifts to the next best thing, **we must not follow** the empty clouds, for the winds will soon push them away.

WE MUST STAY FIXATED ON LIVING IN ABJECT NEEDINESS FOR YAHWEH, ALL THE TIME IN EVERYTHING! FOR THIS IS HOW WE LIVE BY HIS GRACE.

Obviously, this means we must personally know Him and know how He speaks into our life and how He leads us, and there is no shortcut to knowing God in this manner. This is a big part of the instruction in Pain Central. **Hence, we must never mistake knowing about Yahweh with truly knowing Him through dependence upon His Name.**

The true knowledge of God begins when, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we start to let Him be our “**I AM**” regardless of our circumstances, despite our feelings about our circumstances, and despite His apparent intangibility and distance during our circumstances (I say apparent because **Yahweh Shammah** is always there, for He never leaves us nor forsakes us, which is why we can confidently say the Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid).¹⁷

Clearly this means we must know **WHY** we can trust ourselves to God. The **WHY** is the crux of faith; after all, most of our life’s circumstances militate against our trusting Him. As a result, few know **WHY Yahweh Raah** has led them down the difficult paths that **Yahweh Adonai** and **Yahweh Mekoddishkem**

¹⁵ *John 16:9*

¹⁶ *Hebrews 11:6*

¹⁷ *Hebrews 13:5-6*

has deemed necessary for their lives, and even fewer believe that each-and-every step was not just necessary, but good, pleasing, and perfect.¹⁸ Once we come to understand **WHY** we can trust Him, the Spirit will lead us in the next step, the **HOW** to trust ourselves to Him—how to bet our lives on His most glorious name.

But again, we must stop looking for these empty clouds that are driven by the winds of deceit.

In our next podcast, we will finish with the remaining phrases in **Jude 12** and **13**, and we will skip **Jude 14-15** and instead pick up **Jude 16**. We will most definitely go back to **Jude 14-15**, but that will be in the subsequent podcast.

¹⁸ *Romans 12:2*