Epistle of Jude - verses 8 - 16 - Continuing Admonitions against False Teachers:-

Verses 8 – 10:-
There are three ‘sins’ mentioned here. In ancient (and modern) gnosticism the body was of little importance – the inner ‘spirit’ was everything. In some present day thinking if the inner ‘spirit’ feels that it is of the opposite sex to its body then that is all that really matters. Jude says they ‘defile the flesh’, ignoring the fact that the spirit and flesh constitute the *“living soul / being”* (Genesis chapter 2, verse 7).
Rejection of authority is apparent in both church and secular life. Yes, there may come a time when ‘authority denies or contradicts the Word of God *“the faith once delivered to the saints”* (verse 3). In which case the Christian believer must speak out.
Irreverence appears to be the chief sin of the ‘ungodly persons’ of verse 4. The sense of the word *“dignities”* or *“glorious ones”* is not clear. However the text in 2 Peter chapter 2, verses 10 -12 speaks of this as referring to angelic beings as does the comment about the archangel Michael rebuking the devil. These ‘ungodly persons’ *“revile whatever they do not understand”* treating everything that does not fit into their scheme of things as so much rubbish.

Verses 11 – 13:-
Jude pronounces a woe, again employing three examples from the Old Testament – Cain, Balaam and Korah. Cain (Genesis chapter 4, verses 1 – 16) is typical of unrighteousness, Balaam (Numbers chapters 22 – 24) of the spirit of deceit and covetousness and Korah (Numbers chapter 16) of the rebellion of malcontents against duly constituted authority. These kinds of sin undermine the whole church and destroy those who practice them. They produce no fruit and cause rifts and problems within the church fellowship; spoiling the meeting together for common meals (love-feasts) which often involved the sharing of Holy Communion.

Verses 14 – 16:-
These verses contain a quote from the Book of Enoch which was part of the Jewish Apocrypha but has never been included as part of Christian Scripture. The Enoch of Genesis chapter 5 is noted as living 365 years. He *“walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.”* While this prophecy has no canonical status its predictions are paralleled and supported by numerous Biblical passages such as Matthew chapter 25 verses 31 – 46. These ‘sinners’ are noted as being *“grumblers, malcontents self-willed . . . . . loud-mouthed boasters”*. They promote themselves by flattery to get advantage.

Read 1st Epistle of John chapter 3, verses 11 – 18. These verses could be a commentary on the above text!
Also:- Ephesians chapter 6 verse 12

1
Soldier, Rouse Thee! War Is Raging,
God And Fiends Are Battle Waging
Every Ransomed Power Engaging,
Break The Tempter’s Spell.
Dare Ye Still Lie Fondly Dreaming,
Wrapt In Ease And Worldly Scheming,
While The Multitudes Are Streaming
Downwards Into Hell?

Chorus
Through The World Resounding,
Let The Gospel Sounding,
Summon All, At Jesus’ Call
His Glorious Cross Surrounding.
Sons Of God, Earth’s Trifles Leaving,
Be Not Faithless But Believing,
To Your Conquering Captain Cleaving,
Forward In The Fight.

2
Lord, We Come, And From Thee Never
Self Nor Earth Our Hearts Shall Sever;
Thine Entirely, Thine Forever,
We Will Fight And Die.
To A World Of Rebels Dying,
Heav’n And Hell And God Defying,
Everywhere We’ll Still Be Crying,
“Will Ye Perish-Why?”

Chorus
Through The World Resounding,…….……

George S. Railton 1849 - 1913

Sung to the tune *‘Men of Harlech’*

Terry Brighton 17 / 9 / 2026