"Incline your ear and hear the words of the wise, And apply your mind to my knowledge; For it will be pleasant if you keep them within you, That they may be ready on your lips." -- Proverbs 22:17,18

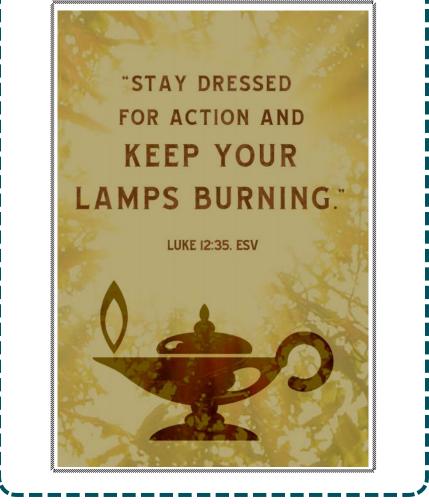


This fossil footprint, a left sandal print, was found by William J. Meister on June 1, 1968 in Wheeler Shale 43 miles west of Delta, Utah. The print contains crushed trilobites (upper left and lower right) of the species *Elrathia kingii*, and supposedly dates to 500 million years ago. The slab of shale split open, and one half is shown here. Creation Museum, Glen Rose, TX

It happened that while Jesus was praying in a certain place, after He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples."

Luke 11:1





## Question of the week:

In the days of Elisha, the captain of the army of Syria, Naaman, was told to dip [Septuagint - Greek verb *baptizo*] himself how many times in the Jordan River to be cured of his leprosy?

Last week's question: In Antioch of Pisidia, as Paul was explaining that he was going to quit working with the recalcitrant Jews and go to the Gentiles, he quoted from Isaiah about his being a light to the world. For what purpose? *Answer: "To bring salvation to the end of the earth"* (Acts 13:47).

## ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

Bible School – 67	Wednesday Night (6/26) — 56
Morning Assembly – 104	Butte Lord's Day – 9
Evening Assembly – 70	GF Lord's Day – 61,78 Wed 50



Jewels from Jude

## **Remember the Words of the Apostles**

From the time the church began, the basis for its instruction is "the apostles' doctrine" (Acts 2:42). Jesus delivered the words of His "voice" through the Holy Spirit to these tested and trusted men, and through them eventually to the church at large and in the future. Praying for the apostles on the west side of the Kidron, He went on to pray for that future church in these words: "I do not ask in behalf of these [apostles] alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word..." (John 17:20). Hence, the honest appeal in matters of faith and doctrine is to the words of the apostles. Jude, not being an apostle, does rightly appeal to the words of the apostles in exhorting the brethren not to fall pray to the destroying influences working in the early congregations.

"Ought to remember" – Jude is contending earnestly for the brethren to maintain the "faith once and for all delivered." In his appeal, he of necessity brings in the apostles and their teaching. "But you, beloved," he enjoins, "ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Jude 1:17). Jesus Himself had warned, "Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves" (Matthew 7:15). The apostles, then, having been trained by the Master and inspired by His Spirit, also passed on many warnings about false teachers. The apostle Paul, in his final meeting with the elders from the congregation in Ephesus, exhorted them to "be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock." "Savage wolves," he warned them, "will come in among you, not sparing the flock" (Acts 20:28,29). "False prophets also arose among the people," the apostle Peter reminded his readers, concerning

the history of Israel, "just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies" (2 Peter 2:1). "Be of sober spirit," was another of Peter's alarms. "Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour" (1 Peter 5:8). Jude, in his concern, can rightly appeal to "the words spoken beforehand by the apostles."

The mockers – There are those who "mock" anyone who is following Christ, and who

also mock the words of Christ Himself. They raise their voices so that folks around them can hear their jesting comments, such as, "Better get saved before it's too late," (which is a correct statement, but not the correct context), o "Here come those Bible-thumpers." "Tell somebody who cares," would be another type of their mocking comments, or "Smile, Jesus loves you!" The mockers of the direct context of Jude were those who were frequenting the assemblies of the saints, often in teaching positions, calling those who would stand for the truths of scripture as "legalists," while they espoused their licentious positions. "The apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ," is Jude's reminder, "were saying to you, 'In the last time there shall be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts' " (Jude 1:18). Their hidden motive is justifying their embracement of lust; their outer exhibition is mocking the truths of the new covenant and its system of faith.

"Where jealousy and selfish ambition exist," James pointed out, "there is disorder and every evil thing" (James 3:16). Where there is lust, there is selfishness; and where there is selfishness, there is chaos. "These are the ones who cause divisions," is Jude's addition, "worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit" (Jude 1:19). The agenda of Christ, executed through His church on earth, is to seek and save the lost, and a unified team effort is most desirable in carrying out that mission. But those who are described as "devoid of the Spirit" are actually on the devil's side, and do everything they can to disrupt that unity and teamwork in the execution of the mission. Jude is warning the brethren that these people, working inside the church, are "turning the grace of God into licentiousness" and are following after their own lusts in attempting to divide the efforts of the church. They are dangerous and disruptive, and their judgment is not asleep.

"In the last time there shall be mockers..."

JAY WILSON