

# The Book of Jude

## INTRODUCTION

This is one in an ongoing series of studies on the New Testament. These are edited in that they are the notes from which the study was taught. There is no effort to bring any lofted verbiage to these notes - they were spoken extemporaneously. It is neither scholarly nor exhaustive. Rather, they are done with the desire to meet the average person where they are.

These studies were delivered first at Olive Branch Missionary Baptist Church, for those in the congregation. If these notes find their way to someone else, may the same blessings be given to you? My prayer is that this will help those who read God's word to grow into warriors for the Lord.

### Introduction

In this little book will be found wagonloads of food for the soul, each day as we draw closer to the Lord's return these verses will take on more and more significance. There were false prophets and teachers in Jude's day and there are certainly many more today along with an ever growing apostasy in Christianity especially here in America.

### The Writer

The writer is Jude this being the English equivalent of Judas. He is the brother of James and the half-brother of Jesus - Mt. 13:55, "Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his Mother called Mary?" We see here that two of his brothers wrote letters. It is interesting that neither James nor Jude used their relationship to Jesus to their advantage, they simply state they are his bond servants. The reason is that they didn't receive Him as savior until after Jesus' resurrection, before then they thought He was a little off center. After salvation, both men became pillars in the church.

Date 66-69 A.D.

Theme: Assurance for the believer in days of false prophets and apostasy. Jude intended to write on one of the doctrines of the

church. However, the Holy Spirit knew best and had him write on the present apostasy.

Paul and Peter said they were coming, these false prophets and teachers left the truth and chose a path of Gnosticism or super knowledge wherein they claimed to have knowledge that the average believer did not and could not have therefore everyone should listen to them as they gave new revelations about god; sound familiar. Jude will give a great expose on them.

## Remarks

Jude gives us 2 interesting insights found nowhere else. First - the contention between Satan and Michael over Moses. Second - the prophecy of Enoch which is not recorded in Genesis but was known and read in the first century as history and not inspired. This little book is placed in its most appropriate place as an introduction to Revelation.

## Outline

- I. Reason for the Letter - v. 1-3
  1. Assurance - v. 1,2
  2. Apostasy - v. 3
  3. Three words: sanctified, kept, called
  
- II. Incidents of apostasy — v. 4-16
  1. The Beginning - v. 4
  2. Israel destroyed for unbelief- v. 5
  3. Rebellious angels - v. 6
  4. Sensual destruction - v. 7
  5. Apostate teachers revealed - v. 8-10
  6. Three men as examples - v. 11
  7. Apostates defined - v. 12-16
  
- III. Believer's Role in Apostasy - v. 17-25
  1. Warned-v. 17-19
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- a. Build Up
- b. Pray
- c. Keep Ourselves
- d. Look
- e. Be Compassionate
- f. Save Others
- g. Hate Evil

## The Book of Jude

We have the reason for this letter given to us in the first 3 verses. Jude wanted to write one type of letter one of love and encouragement concerning salvation and the Holy Spirit changed his mind. Instead he was led to write a letter of warning of apostasy and coming judgment.

Verse One: Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called:

Jude - In the New Testament there are three mentioned, Judas (not Iscariot), Judas

Iscariot, and Judas the half-brother of Jesus.

The servant of Jesus Christ - servant means bond slave. This laid to rest those who were

trying to make Jesus' family into something to be held up.

The brother of James - Jude acknowledges that James is his brother and Paul declares he is a pillar in the church.

To them that are sanctified by God the Father - Jude is writing to those who have been

set apart to God by himself through His son Jesus.

Preserved - "kept" is used 4 times. We are preserved (kept) in Jesus Christ. In days of

apostasy, it is a great comfort to know we are preserved by Jesus Christ - Jn. 10:11, 27-29.

If a sheep is kept safe, it isn't by the sheep. It has no fangs, claws and it can't run. We are

sheep. We cannot defend or keep ourselves safe, only Jesus can. If we doubt his ability to

do so, what a reflection that is on the one who died for you. Your safety (assurance)

depends upon the word. Do you believe it or not?

And called - this is a call that is sent out, accepted and made real because of the Spirit of God. Paul makes it clear - I Cor. 1:22-24. If you have found Christ and you have trusted Him, you are one of the called.

Verse 2: Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied.

Mercy unto you, and peace and love be multiplied - Love is an attribute of God and because He is love, He is merciful. He has provided grace (what God is free to do for us that we do not deserve), which in turn brings peace with God and gives us the peace of God. Jesus said, "My peace I leave with you."  
Next we have a change in the Theme of this book: "Apostasy"

Verse 3: Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

Beloved - those who are loved of God, his children. I give all diligence to write unto you - Jude had a strong urge to pen a letter to God's children wherever they may be. He had a thought about the doctrine of salvation. Common Salvation - by using the word "common" Jude lets us know he was writing about something that everyone would understand. Some facets of Salvation had been laid on Jude's heart but just as he started the letter, the Holy Spirit stopped him and gave him new direction. It was needful for me to write unto you when the Holy Spirit wants you to go in a new direction. He sees to it that it is the only way to go. Paul wanted to go to the east, God sent him to Macedonia. So what was the new direction?  
That ye should earnestly contend for the faith - he wants his readers to earnestly (with great effort) to contend (to wrestle or struggle

towards a goal). We are to contend without being contentious - II Tim. 2:24-26. What are we to wrestle and agonize for? The faith -this is the body of truth given once for all. It was called the apostles doctrine in Acts 2:42. God put this first on his list and every church should have this at their forefront. Jude moves now to some incidents of apostasy. Something has begun to happen in the church and Jude throws up a flag.

Verse 4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

There are certain men crept in unawares - crept in means to slip into, to get in by the side, to slip in a side door. This is how they get in, from the side while no one is watching. Who were before of old ordained to this condemnation - these men in type and lifestyle had been written about in the Old Testament, and in the early church letters. Jesus, Paul, Luke, Matthew, Mark, and the rest wrote of these men and their actions. They creep in passing themselves off as one thing and then trying to move a church away from the truth. Paul gives us a good picture in 2 Cor. 11:13-15.

Transforming -changing expressions by assuming an expression from outside. This is not a new thing; it started a long time ago. Paul warned the Ephesians for 3 years about the apostate even with tears - Acts 20:29-31. Yet there came a day when the Ephesians succumbed to them. Jesus warns them in Revelations 3 to go back to their first love. Paul even warned Timothy in II Tim. 3:5, 6, Gal. 2:4. We need to be on guard every moment to new movements that are outside the local church.

Ungodly men turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness - they are by nature ungodly. They are intent on distorting the grace of God using the Bible to fulfill their lustful pleasures. Denying the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ - these people take the truth of

God about the son of God and pervert it. They deny Jesus is God incarnate. They bring in a mixture of works into salvation. The creed of theirs is six fold according to D. Wallace Petty:

1. God is a creation of wishful thinking
2. Religion is a mechanism of escape from reality
3. Man is a glorified gorilla who asks too many questions and represses too many desires.
4. Morals are a matter of taste
5. Love is an art
6. Life is a rocket

They talk of God and Jesus but they deny the truth. Jude will reach into the Old Testament for some glaring examples of apostasy. Israel is the first example. Apostasy has the meaning of standing away from or departing.

Verse 5: I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not.

I will therefore put you in remembrance - the Israelites were taught the Pentateuch, like we are taught reading, writing. Jude says "I want you to keep this portion alive in your mind like a warning flag. The Lord, having saved the people - God miraculously delivered Israel from bondage in Egypt with great power. He told them to go and possess the land of Canaan.

Once they came to the land, the spies brought the report back; 10 said it could not be taken and 2 Joshua and Caleb said it could because the Lord said it could. In their rebellious hearts they refused to possess the land and for 38 years they wandered until that generation died (Num. 14:31).

God says the young ones will go in. Israel had said they would be preyed upon. Even today we use our children as a reason for not serving God. It implies God doesn't care for them. God's will is for them and us to be blessed if we obey.

Jude gives a second example: Angels in rebellion.

Verse 6: And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

Angels who kept not their first estate - sometime in the past, these angels left their first estate, which is Heaven and serving God. God created angels there are a set number that he created and that is all he made. Angels do not reproduce as humans, therefore they do not inherit man's sinful nature, but they are created with free wills. Satan caused a third of all the angels to rebel, some God placed in chains and some are still serving Satan. For years, the Christian churches held a view that denied angels altogether, now we've come to a time of worshipping angels.

We need to keep a steady course, steered by the Word. Angels exist, some rebelled and God has them reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

There is a day coming when judgment will fall on these rebellious creatures. Paul says in I Cor. 6:3 Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life? Notice that we will judge angels. These chained angels will be judged and so will the demons. Demonic power is a reality though overplayed. The movie "The Exorcist" is a good example; it is based on a real event but nothing nearly so dramatic as the film. In Rev. 20:10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. - notice the devil is cast into the lake of fire. He will be bound for 1,000 years; as we read in Rev. 20:1-3 "And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season" he will be released for a time and then thrown into the lake.

Verse 7: Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about



them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

Here is Jude's third example of apostasy. These cities were so thoroughly judged that they virtually vanished, until recently when an archaeologist found traces of cities along the Dead Sea. Along with sulfur balls imbedded in the rocks, this area of the Dead Sea is the only place in the world where they are found like this. It was done this way because of the utter rebellion towards God.

Today Sodomy is called homosexuality or an alternative lifestyle, adultery is free love. Drunkard is a social drinker, a murderer is temporary insane. Satan has taught us well.

Verse 8: Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities.

Jude gives modern Apostate's identities: There are 4 things of identification of apostate teachers.

1. Filthy dreamers – these are the people that live in an unreal world. They will not face reality. They were the peace marchers; they see no evil and hear no evil. They don't go to the ghetto after dark.

2. They defile the flesh - they engage in filthy lifestyles while no one is looking, like those lived in Sodom and Gomorrah. They say its just new morality; it is not new or moral. It is just evil.

3. Reject authority. They oppose the death penalty. They want drugs legalized. Everybody do your own thing.

4. Speak evil of dignitaries - they protest rules and authority. They despise police, governors, and the president (not the man, the office). We are living in a day of apostasy. A recent poll of 200 preachers found: 48% denied the inspiration of the Bible; 24% rejected the atonement of Christ on the cross, 12% rejected the resurrection, 27% did not believe Christ will return to judge this Earth and it's nations.

A leading minister in Washington DC said, "In our denomination, what you call the "faith of our fathers" is approaching extinction. I don't know of a single one who believes in Christ or anything that is classified as fundamental."

Verse 9: Yet Michael the archangel,  
when contending with the devil he  
disputed about the body of Moses,  
durst not bring against him a railing  
accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke  
thee.

Even though Satan is a fallen creature, Michael, the chief of all the angels would not bring a derogatory statement towards him over Moses' body. All he can say is "the Lord rebuke thee."

Michael had respect for his position. This is a lesson for all of us. We need to learn to be respectful of God. He is the creator. We have no right to question him on what comes into our lives. Talk to Him about it, yes. Demand something, no. He is high and holy, and always doing what's right. Only an Apostate demands and argues trying to make God see it their way and to allow them to change His word and commands to suit them and their lifestyles.

Verse 10: But these speak evil of  
those things which they know not:  
but what they know naturally, as  
brute beasts, in those things they  
corrupt themselves.

But these speak evil – or blaspheme. They blaspheme what they know by mental comprehension. However, everything cannot be known by pouring it into a test tube. The spirit makes things real to us but these blaspheme them because they are spiritually discerned and they are void of the spirit.

The second is one of understanding; skill in handicraft. It refers to objects of ones sins, sensual enjoyment. These are the things you can pour in a test tube.

They only know what they can feel and see. They have not reached the higher plane of knowledge or spiritual experience that Paul spoke of.

Verse 11: Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.

Woe -means to wail in grief or destruction.

To Them - there is great grief to these men coming.

Gone in the way of Cain - Cain was a religious man. He believed in God but on his own terms in his own way. He denied he needed a blood sacrifice for his sins, lets read Heb. 11:4 By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh. The way of Cain is the way of self and not of faith. It is the way of religion based on personal good or good works to earn a relationship with God.

After the error of Balaam this was a sin of covetousness; in Revelation we see how this doctrine is the teaching of compromise to obtain what you can get out of others. Here we have the error - expecting God to punish Israel for their sins - not realizing that God would forgive them if they turned to Him.

Perished in gainsaying of Core; or Korah; who led a rebellion against Moses authority. He decided Moses wasn't the only one God placed in charge. He intruded into the office of priest and died for it.

Verse 12: These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots;

These are spots in your feasts of charity - "Spots" is a word that means the hidden rocks that wreck ships.

Feasts of charity these were the love feasts held before communion. They were a time of food and fellowship. These types of people Jude that is referring to are those that ate more than anyone else being concerned only with themselves.

Clouds they are without water – their spirit appears like those big, beautiful, fluffy clouds, but dry and empty. These men have had all the right courses: speaking, how to make scripture say nothing at all. Trees whose fruit withereth on the vines - Mt. 7:20 states "by their fruits ye shall know them." Their fruit is dried on the branch, spiritually dead, yet trying to lead others.

Verse 13: Raging waves of the sea,  
foaming out their own shame;  
wandering stars, to whom is reserved  
the blackness of darkness for ever.

Raging waves of the sea - They use current events for their sermons. They do not give the interpretation of the Word. Ranting around, saying nothing.

Wandering stars Jude says they are like asteroids, just going around in circles, following no course whatsoever.

To who is reserved the blackness of darkness - Hell is awaiting them. In all its blackness; Men carry blackness inside them. There it will be all around them.

Here is an extra Biblical prophecy, placed here to show us that from the beginning God was well aware of apostates.

Verse 14: And Enoch also, the  
seventh from Adam, prophesied of  
these, saying, Behold, the Lord  
cometh with ten thousands of his  
saints,

Enoch is the same person that is mentioned in Gen. chapter 5, there we are told nothing of this prophecy of false teachers. Notice Enoch was the seventh generation from Adam this is God's complete number. He is a type of the church raptured out before judgment and before the Lord's return.

The number "Ten Thousand" was used to denote numbers beyond counting. Saints here refers to all of the church coming to reign with him. This being so we must leave before this happens.

Verse 15: To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

To execute judgment upon all; Christ will be judge and jury and He alone will issue the decree of final judgment. One thing that all who stand before Him can rest assured of is this He will be absolutely fair and right in what He gives out and there will be no appeal or excuse.

To convince all that is ungodly among them. He will bring conviction to all those who are destitute of a reverential awe towards God. They leave God out of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed. Their works are actually anti-God. Some are even done under the guise of Church work.

And all their hard speeches - harsh things, they are always putting God and his ways down; such as statements like there is no need for doctrine, when the Lord said all doctrine is inspired from Him. These types of statements are pure rebellion.

Verse 16: 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.

Here we have 5 traits of an apostate:

1. Murmurers are those who mumble and complain against God in an undertone.
2. Complainers they are about life, discontented, they blame God for everything that is going on in their lives.
3. Walk after their lusts –they are interested in their desires good or bad, whatever they are they leave God out.

4. Great swelling words; they are arrogant, using extravagant language they are a lot of fizz and foam, with no real content. They say a great deal but if they are carefully assessed they really are saying nothing of lasting value.

5. Mens persons in admiration; these men are those that do and say what is needed to gain advantage in our lives - James 2:1-4. We are not to build up anyone because of their station in life.

All are to be equally treated. Jude changes now from apostate description to what we are to occupy ourselves with in days of apostasy.

In Verses 17-19 believers are warned that apostates will come.

Verse 17: But, beloved, remember ye  
the words which were spoken before  
of the apostles of our Lord Jesus  
Christ;

But, Beloved - these that were loved of God whom Jude loves in the faith.

Remember ye - we are told repeatedly to remember, the Word should be so ingrained that when we need a verse it will come to us.

Of the apostles - we need to heed what the apostles have to say. So many Christians fall in their walk because of a lack of knowledge of God's Word.

Verse 18: How that they told you  
there should be mockers in the last  
time, who should walk after their own  
ungodly lusts.

The apostles in their New Testament writings and Old Testament prophets wrote that mockers would come in the last days living in their own lusts. The ministry is full of child molesters, adultery, and other sexual deviance, gamblers, etc.

Verse 19: These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.

These are they who separate themselves - they make themselves right and a Pharisee; they are separatists causing division among the churches. Liberalism in the early part of this century caused great rifts in the denominations in America. Go back and read the creeds of the Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist, etc. They are all almost identical. These who do this are sensual or a life centered about self. We get our word psychology from it "I come first" or living on an animal's plain. Having not the Spirit - they speak churchese, attend faithfully but they do not have the spirit.

Verse 20: But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

But ye beloved, believers, what can we do? Building up yourselves: just like a body-builder eats right, exercises daily to build their bodies to perfection. You must take in all 66 books. Paul said to "study to show thyself approved unto God."

People fall by the wayside, they are found in the weeds of the devil because they had no deep spiritual roots. Instead of deep roots we build ourselves on a few select verses that suit us.

Your most Holy Faith - this is not your faith, but the whole body of truth.

Praying in the Holy Ghost Spirit we are to pray in. It is not a gimme list. It is however a complete praying in accordance with the Lord's will. Praise, thanks, confession, petition, praise - Rom. 15:30. The Spirit helps our inability to pray properly. From Venezuela "Prayer is the Holy Spirit speaking in the believer, through Christ, to the Father."

Verse 21: Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Here are two more activities:

Keep Yourselves in the love of God - we need to relish the thought of being one of the beloved of God. Instead, we all too often put up roofs and umbrellas so we cannot feel the warmth of His love.

Looking for the mercy – looking here means to expect, to wait for. Jesus wants us to be daily expecting his return. When it happens, if you are living here you will leave because of His mercy towards you.

Verse 22: And of some have  
compassion, making a difference:

Of some have compassion - we are to care greatly and look after those who are in doubt. So many today have so many questions, we need to be compassionate, ready to assist from the word of God. One of the great joys of teaching is to be able to open the Word to a young Christian and encourage them to develop a desire hunger for His word.

Verse 23: And others save with fear,  
pulling them out of the fire; hating  
even the garment spotted by the  
flesh.

And others save with fear - this is an admonition to each of us to never give up hope on those we think are hopeless. Continuing in prayer and admonition of the Gospel some will be snatched from the fire of hell - Zech. 3:2. No one is beyond hope if they want to be saved.

Even the garment spotted by flesh - flesh is the psychological part of man. The part of man that can only go so far towards being right - morally speaking. We should hate anything the flesh produces, because it is repulsive to God.

Verse 24: Now unto him that is able  
to keep you from falling, and to  
present you faultless before the  
presence of his glory with exceeding  
joy,



Who can keep you standing strong - Jesus can. Who can keep you safe until time to be with Him and then to present you faultless (forgiven) in his glorious presence - Jesus can. Then there will be great joy.

Verse 25: To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

Our God and Savior Jesus Christ is God. He deserves all glory for salvation work, majesty for his creative work, power for He alone can execute both in righteous judgment. He does it now in us and through us. One day soon he will physically reign supreme on this earth.

In these closing days of this age we need to be alert to apostates, expose them, stand firm on the word and rejoice in the work the Lord has done.

Here is a composite list of words that describe an Apostate  
Profile of an Apostate

1. Ungodly
2. Morally Perverted
3. Deny Christ
4. Defile Flesh
5. Rebellious
6. Holy Angels
7. Dreamers
8. Ignorant
9. Corrupt
10. Fault Finders
11. Self-Seeking
12. Grumblers
13. Arrogant
14. Flatterers
15. Mockers
16. Devious
17. Worldly
18. Without the Spirit

