

Jude Bible Study

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:

Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied.

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. 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.

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

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

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

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. But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.

But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh. 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, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever.

Amen.

Introduction

Though a short book with only one chapter, Jude is the only book whose sole purpose is to exhort believers to contend for faith in the last days. Richard Hester notes in New Testament Bible History Illustrated Handbook that, though there is no date or place mentioned, it was most likely written after the martyrdom of Peter to many of the same saints to whom both James and Peter wrote. It holds many similarities to 2 Peter. Hester notes, “Jude alludes to (2 Peter 3:3) and now sees that Peter’s prediction (of the coming apostasy) is already beginning to occur among these churches to whom he is writing.”

At this time, Gnosticism was a source of many false teachers. Gnostics believed that salvation could be achieved through gnosis, or secret knowledge, which enabled individuals to understand their divine identity and reconnect with the spiritual realm. This teaching was contrary that salvation came through Jesus Christ alone. They also denied that Jesus came in the flesh, but only appeared to men to impart this secret knowledge. Several apocryphal books were written by Gnostics, such as *The Gospel of Thomas* and the *Apocryphon of John*. These books were rejected by the early church fathers.

Jude was the half-brother of Jesus, the full brother of James, the pastor of the church in Jerusalem. Matthew 13:55 mentions him by name. Mark 6:3 and John 7:3-8 reveal his unbelief during the life of Jesus. In the time between Jesus’s resurrection and ascension, James and Jude must have believed, as they were mentioned in the upper room with the apostles in Acts 1:14.

Questions

1. List any unfamiliar words and definitions.

2. List any words you may think you know but would be helpful to define.
3. List any repeating words or themes from the book.
4. In verse 4, Jude admits that he was only going to write about the common salvation.
What did the Spirit move him to write about instead?
5. The Greek word for “earnestly contend” only appears once in the New Testament. Its singularity elevates its importance. Though Gnosticism has become less of a challenge, what other movements have twisted Scripture to create new religions that deny the need for Jesus alone for salvation?
6. Where had these false teachers “crept” into unawares? Is it possible for false teachers to be in positions of authority in Bible-believing churches today? What other means do false teachers use to influence Bible-believers?
7. Verses 5-7 again lists some of the same moments of judgment that Peter listed in 2 Peter. One is different. Jude reminds the believers of the Israelites in the wilderness. How did their unbelief lead to their destruction? (Numbers 14:28-35)

8. Jude likes to write in threes. In what three ways does he say that the false teachers behave in verse 8?
9. In contrast, how did Michael the archangel address Satan? What lesson should we as believers take from this example?
10. In verse 11, Jude again uses three examples of men who were false teachers. Look up these men and write a summary of their rejection of God's truths.
11. How does Jude describe these apostates (unbelievers) who mingle with those who follow Jesus in verses 12-13,16?
12. Verse 17 changes direction from describing the false believers to instructing the saints. What instructions does Jude give to believers in the final verses of his book?
13. In verse 20, Jude says that believers should "keep themselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ." While at the beginning, he wrote that believers should contend for the faith, here at the end, he cautions them to center themselves in God's love and to keep looking for Jesus' mercy. How does this define how believers should interact with those who oppose the truth of the Gospel?

14. Verses 22-23 give more instructions on interacting with those who may be deceived by false teaching. What two ways will people come to faith in Jesus?
15. What comfort does Jude end his book with in verses 24-25? How does this reminder help believers in the last days to stay faithful?
16. What is a practical way that believers can contend for the faith while also practicing compassion toward those who do not believe?
17. What verse or passage will you memorize to help you stand strong in these last days?