

The Struggle Is Real

Study in the Book of Jude

The book of Jude is among the shortest books of the Bible. Matter of fact it is the 5th shortest with 461 words. This one chapter 25 verse book is a powerful book. It may be low on quantity but it is high on quality.

I. The Burden to Warn against Apostacy (Jude 1:1-3)

*1 Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James,
To those who are called, [a]sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus
Christ:
2 Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.
3 Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common
salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly
for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.*

1 Jude's Period

The Book of Jude is closely related to the book of 2 Peter. The date of authorship for Jude depends on whether Jude used content from 2 Peter, or Peter used content from Jude when writing 2 Peter. The Book of Jude was written somewhere between **A.D. 60 and 80**.

2 Jude's Purpose

The Book of Jude is an important book for us today because it is written for the end times, for the end of the church age. It is what I call an eschatological book. Eschatology is a part of theology concerned with the final events of history, the end times, the end of the church age. The church age began at the **Day of Pentecost**. **Jude is the only book given entirely to the great apostasy**. **Apostasy** is the abandonment or the renunciation of the faith. Jude writes that evil works are the evidence of apostasy. He admonishes us to contend for the faith, for there are tares among the wheat. False prophets are in the church and the saints are in danger.

3 Jude's Person (v1)

Jude, the author of the book, identifies himself in verse 1 as a **bondservant**. A bondservant is a slave. Often times the word bondservant is the translation of the Greek word *doulos*, which means "one who is subservient to, and entirely at the disposal of, his master; a slave." Other translations use the word slave or servant.

He also identifies himself as the brother of James. This likely refers to Jesus' half-brother Jude, as Jesus also had a half-brother named James (Matthew 13:55). Jude likely does not identify himself as a brother of Jesus out of humility and reverence for Christ. (He did not want to name drop)

The name Jude means praise of thanks. The name Jude is literally “Judas.” But to avoid connection with Judas Iscariot, the infamous man who betrayed Jesus, most English translators have used the name “Jude.” There are six people named “Judas” mentioned in the New Testament, but the best evidence identifies this as the one mentioned in Matthew 13:55^L and Mark 6:3^L: Jude, the half-brother of Jesus.

4 Jude's People (v1b)_(His intended audience)

Jude wrote to the church. He wrote to Christians. He was not writing evangelistically to potential believers, he wrote to those who were already believers.

Jude identified his readers as Christians in three specific ways:

- They were called - A person is a Christian because God has called him. The important thing is to answer the call when it comes, just as we answer the telephone when it is ringing.
- They were sanctified by God the Father. This means that they were set apart – set apart from the world and set apart unto God.
- They were preserved in Jesus. Jesus Christ is our guardian and our protector.

5 Jude's Prayer (v2)– The prayer is for multiplied mercy, peace and love. Things he knew we would need in the end times.

6 Jude's Plan (v3a) - He originally planned to write concerning God's wonderful salvation, but he calls it “our common salvation”. Common, not as in cheap or that everyone has it, but common in the sense that it is available to all and all saved persons have the same salvation in common.

Ephesians 2:8 gives us 3 things we have in common as it relates to our salvation.

1. We are saved by grace (it is a gift)
2. We are saved through faith (faith in Jesus and His saving power)
3. We did not save ourselves through works (our works are not good enough)

7 Jude's Perception (v3b) – He felt led of the Spirit to write and warn against apostasy.

II. The Need to Warn Against Apostasy (1:4a)

4 For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Why the Warning?

1. They come in through a side or back door (crept in)
2. They blend in at first (unnoticed)
3. Seem to be more biblical or spiritual than others (certain men)
4. They cannot fool God (marked for condemnation)

III. Historical Characters of Apostasy (vv5-7, 11)

5 But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.

6 And the angels who did not keep their [a]proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;

7 as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the [a]vengeance of eternal fire.

11 Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

- 1 The Nation of Israel (v5) – Apostasy caused by Unbelief
- 2 Fallen Angels (v6) – Apostasy caused by Rebellion
- 3 Sodom & Gomorrah (v7) – Apostasy caused by Sexual Immorality
- 4 Cain (v11) – Apostasy caused by Religious Perversion
- 5 Balaam (v11) – Apostasy caused by Financial Greed (sell out)
- 6 Korah (v11) – Apostasy caused by Rejection of Divine Appointed Authority

IV. The Characteristics of Apostasy (4,8-10, 16-19)

4 For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord [a]God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

8 Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of [a]dignitaries.

9 Yet Michael the archangel, in [b]contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"

10 But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves.

16 These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage.

17 But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ:

18 how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts.

19 These are [a]sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit.

1 Using God's Grace as a License for Immorality (v4)

2 Denying the Deity of Jesus (v4)

3 Not in Touch with Reality (v8)

4 Degrading the Human Body (v8)

5 Rejecting Authority (v8)

6 Slandering Celestial Beings (vv8, 9)

7 They have Animalistic Attitudes, Bestly Behaviors (v10)

8 Faultfinding (v16a)

9 Flattering others only for their own advantage (v16b)

10 Scoffing & divisive, following their own evil instincts, which are devoid of God (vv17-19)

V. Metaphors for Apostasy (vv12-13)

12 These are [g]spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. They are clouds without water, carried [h]about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots;

13 raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.

1 (Hidden Rocks) in the Food (v12a) Selfishness

2 Waterless Clouds (v12b) Good for Nothing

3 Dead Autumn Trees (v12c) Deceptive

4 Wild Empty Waves of the Sea (v13a) Turning into only Foam

5 Wandering Stars (v13b) A shooting Star, Untrustworthy for Direction

VI. The Divine Judgment of Apostasy (vv7b, 14-15)

7 as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

14 Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, 15 to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."

1 Past Judgement (v7a) Jude reminds of the fiery judgement upon Sodom and Gomorrah
2 Future Judgment (v14-15) Jude predicts God's fire judgement on apostasy and reminds us of Enoch's prophecy concerning Christ's second coming.

4 Things God will Judge

Ungodly People

Ungodly Deeds

Ungodly Ways

Ungodly Words

VII. The Safeguards against Apostasy (vv20-25)

20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

22 And on some have compassion, making a distinction; 23 but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.

24 Now to Him who is able to keep [m]you from stumbling,

And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

25 To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.

1 The Believer and Self (vv20-21)

Build on Your Faith (Word)

Pray in the Spirit (Word)

Remain in God's Love

Look for God's Mercy

2 The Believer and Sinners (vv22-23)

Have Compassion

Make a Distinction (Discernment of Comforting or Confronting)
Help in an Humble Way (Fear/Respect)

3 The Believer and the Savior (vv24-25)

Jesus' Ministry (v24)

Present Ministry is to Keep Us From Falling

Future Ministry is to Present Us Faultless

Jesus' Magnificence

Glory, Majesty, Dominion, Power, Now and Forever

Possible Test Questions

How many chapters does the book of Jude have?

How many verses does the book of Jude have?

Eschatology – Study of End Times

Jude – Praise or Thanks

Apostate – Fallen from the FAith

Apologetic – Defender of the Faith

Apocrypha – Hidden Books

When did the period of the last days begin?

Jude is the only book given entirely to the great apostasy.

The Book of Jude was written somewhere between A.D. 60 and 80.