

A LOOK AT THE BOOK JUDE

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AUTHOR AND DATE

The author simply describes himself as a servant and the brother of James.

He is not likely to be the apostle Judas because he never mentions it and because he distinguishes himself from the apostles (17).

Some have supposed him to be the son of James but the word used clearly designates him as his brother, a fact which no manuscript contradicts.

The most likely possibility is that he is the brother of the best known James of that period. He would thus be the half brother of Jesus.

The book was probably written after 2 Peter (A.D. 67) inasmuch as the apostasy seems to have increased notably.

Judas must have died before A.D. 100, probably by A.D. 80-90.

It is therefore, assumed it was written during the period between A.D. 67 and 80.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Not many historical clues are given in this short book.

It is addressed to people who have been "called by God."

Though it was probably sent to a particular group of believers, they are not identified.

He originally planned to write them concerning the doctrine of salvation (3).

A problem arose because of the presence of false teachers who were misleading the people and he wrote because of this urgent need.

The false teachers had perverted the doctrine of grace and liberty into libertinism.

They also denied Jesus.

Therefore, Jude wrote with great urgency.

PURPOSE AND THEME

Jude's purpose:

To condemn the practice of the false teachers.

To condemn the doctrine of the false teachers.

To encourage the true believers to stand firm and contend for the faith.

His message: Direct exhortation to believers to fight for the truth.

JUDE

FIGHT FOR THE TRUTH

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Greeting 1-2	Purpose 3-4	Historical Examples of Judgment 5-7	Description of the False Teachers 8-16	Exhortations to the Faithful 17-23	Doxology 24-25
	Original purpose 3a	Israel 5	Their rebellion 8-11	Beware of the ungodly 17-19 Build yourselves up 20a	Praise for God's work 24
	Revised purpose 3b	Angels 6	Their character 12-13	Pray in the Holy Spirit 20b Keep yourselves in God's love 21	Praise for God's worth 25
	Motivation to change 4	Sodom and Gomorrah 7	Their destiny 14-16	Help the doubting 22 Save the fallen 23a Show mercy to the contaminated 23b	