

**A LOOK AT THE BOOK
JUDE
FIGHT FOR THE TRUTH**

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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 that the book 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.

The Judaizers never could understand grace (Compare Romans 6-7).

If they were not under law, the alternative was liberty to sin.

They also denied Jesus.

The exact issues were not further explained here.

Titus 1:16 -The ungodly deny God by their lifestyle, though they profess to know Him.

2 Peter 2 -False teachers deny the person and work of Christ.
-False teachers deny the authority of God's Word.

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.

ORGANIZATION

After a brief greeting (1-2), Jude states concisely his purpose and message (3-4).

He presents three examples from history of God's judgment for sin (5-7).

He describes the true nature of these libertines and their destiny (8-16).

He then exhorts believers as to what we should do in the light of this problem (17-23).

Finally he concludes with a doxology (24-25).

ARGUMENT

GREETING 1-2

First Jude greets the recipients of the letter.

PURPOSE 3-4

Then Jude states his purpose for writing to them.

HIS ORIGINAL PURPOSE 3a

Originally he thought he would write them concerning our salvation.

HIS REVISED PURPOSE 3b

However, while he was still considering what to say, he was informed about a group of false teachers who had begun to infiltrate the church.

They were using grace as an excuse to live godless lives.

He decided that he must write them immediately and urgently.

HIS MOTIVATION TO CHANGE 4

The false teachers were using the doctrine of grace as an excuse to live godless and immoral lives.

In addition to the practical error, they were also denying Christ.

Therefore, Jude wrote out of urgent concern for the saints.

HISTORICAL EXAMPLES OF JUDGMENT 5-7

Jude's answer to the teaching of the false teachers is based on three instances when God judged drastically those who sinned against Him.

ISRAEL 5 - UNBELIEF => DISOBEDIENCE

First, he uses the case of Israel at Kadesh-Barnea.

God judged some of His own redeemed people, whom He had delivered out of Egypt when they did not believe and disobeyed Him.

God destroyed His people who did not believe.

ANGELS 6 -REBELLION => INSUBORDINATION

Second, God even judged the angels.

Rather than recognize the position of privilege God had given them,
they left their proper place
and sought to establish themselves elsewhere.

God bound for judgment the angels who abandoned their proper place.

They rebelled against God's authority and sought to establish their own.

Sounds more like Satan's sin than Genesis 6 (compare Ezek. 28 and Is. 14)

Therefore, they were confined in darkness and await judgment.

SODOM AND GOMORRAH 7 -PERVERSION

Finally, the perversion of Sodom and Gomorrah caused their immediate physical destruction.

God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah and other cities for immorality.

They are examples of the eternal punishment which awaits those who follow their lifestyle.

Those who use grace as an excuse for sin commit all three offenses.

They refuse to believe God.

They rebel against His authority.

They practice immorality and perversion.

Thus they may expect similar consequences.

DESCRIPTION OF THE FALSE TEACHERS 8-16

Having warned them of the danger of the false teachers' course, Jude describes the false teachers.

THEIR REBELLION 8-11

Four examples are given to emphasize the importance of submission to the authority God has established (8-11).

The archangel Michael is mentioned as a **positive example of submission** (8-10).

Michael recognized Satan as a superior creature to himself, by divine order at creation.

Therefore, instead of rebuking or accusing him directly, he left that in God's hands.

By way of contrast, the false teachers reject authority they don't even understand.

[Use of non-biblical literature:

Verse 9 -Assumption of Moses

Verses 14-15 -Enoch

Use of a source neither documents its authenticity nor its reliability.

Compare Paul's use of Greek philosophers and poets.

Inspiration only authenticates the contents of the passage cited as there interpreted--no more!

He includes this here because its true, not because it's in the source cited!]

Three negative illustrations of failure to obey God are presented.

Cain -*Rejected revelation*

Tries to worship his own way, rather than God's way.

Finally kills his brother rather than repent and submit.

Balaam -*Greed*

Puts personal profit before seeking to do what would please God.

Korah -*Rebellion*

Rebels against God's designated authority.

Tries to intrude into office, ignoring the authority God has established.

Each of these was judged by God for his disobedience.

These false teachers do the same things,

therefore, they can expect the same results.

THEIR CHARACTER 12-13

Jude next uses several illustrations to demonstrate the true character of these false teachers.

They are useless and destructive!

They are like lepers (= blemishes) at a love feast.

Their impurity ruins the celebration for the rest.

They bring impurity into the house.

They are like shepherds who grab the food for themselves.

They don't care if they leave any for the rest.

By their profession they seek the good of their sheep,

But they really just use their position for their own personal gain.

They are like clouds without rain.

They look like they will bring rain.

But they are good for nothing--useless.

They are like dead, uprooted trees in the autumn.

Total lifelessness—"doubly dead"

After leaves fall, only deadness remains.

Besides they are uprooted.

Total uselessness (as plants)

They produce no useful fruit.

They are like the wild waves of the sea.

They make a lot of noise and rage furiously.

They accomplish nothing.

Their only function is destructive.

Finally, they are like falling stars.

They wander off into the darkness of space and disappear forever.

In short, they serve no useful purpose.

All they do is destroy the good that others might provide.

THEIR DESTINY 14-16

The rebellious and useless path of the false teachers produces their destiny.

Their ungodly lifestyle will bring about their judgment.

Their pride, deceit, and murmuring will receive its proper repayment.

EXHORTATIONS TO THE FAITHFUL 17-23

Those who want to follow God should learn from the bad example of these false teachers.

BEWARE OF THE UNGODLY 17-19

We should pay close attention to Christ's warning and beware of these ungodly mockers,

lest we fall into the same trap.

BUILD YOURSELVES UP 20a

Rather than destroy God's work by such false teachings and ungodly lifestyle,
we should concentrate on building up one another and prayer (20).

PRAY IN THE HOLY SPIRIT 20b

KEEP YOURSELVES IN GOD'S LOVE 21

Our lives ought to be demonstrations of God's love.

HELP THE DOUBTING 22

We should care enough about one another to help those who have doubts.

SAVE THE FALLEN 23a

We should be willing to risk our own security to pull others out of the fire.

SHOW MERCY TO THE CONTAMINATED 23b

We should carefully assist those who have been contaminated by sin.

Avoid personal contamination by the sin.

Help those who have surrendered to it.

This concept of love and care is not a natural response.

It comes from God.

We should also try to rescue those who have fallen.

DOXOLOGY 24-25

Jude's concluding praise to God assures us that He is able to keep us from falling into this dangerous trap.

It has special significance for those who obey the preceding exhortation to assist those who have fallen.

We don't need to be afraid of contamination!

PRAISE FOR GOD'S WORK 24

God is able to protect us.

PRAISE FOR GOD'S WORTH 25

Such a great God deserves our praise and our submission forever.