

*reasons for
hope**  **Jesus*

JUDE

The Letter Jude Wrote

The Bible tells that the Last Days will be characterized by great spiritual deception in the world and apostasy in the church.

AUTHOR: Jude / DATE: 70-80

Jude identifies himself as the brother of James (Jude 1). He was also a leader of the Jerusalem church (Acts 15), and a half brother of the Lord Jesus (Mat 13:55, Mark 6:3).

There are five one-chapter books of the Bible: Obadiah, Philemon, 2 John & 3 John and Jude; Jude is the shortest book in the New Testament.

The Letter Jude Wrote



Purpose: This letter was written to defend the apostolic faith against false teachings that were arising in the churches—specifically a form of Gnosticism (not asceticism, like that attacked by Paul in Colossians).

The Gnostics viewed everything material as evil and everything spiritual as good. They therefore cultivated their "spiritual" lives and allowed their flesh to do anything it liked. The result was all kinds of lawlessness — antinomianism.

The Letter Jude Wrote



Readership: The readers are not identified, but we know that they were beset by false teachers who were immoral, covetous, proud, and divisive.

Contents: Condemning the heretics in no uncertain terms. Jude exhorted his readers to "contend earnestly for the faith" (v. 3).

Jude is the only book devoted ENTIRELY to the great apostasy. "Shall the Son of Man find faith on the Earth?" (Luke 18:8).

The Letter Jude Wrote



Apostasy, “falling away” 2 Thess 2:3;

Departure from the faith 1 Tim 4:1;

Unwillingness to endure sound doctrine 2 Tim 4:3-4;

False teachers, damnable heresies 2 Pet 2:1; 3:3.

The beginning of the Church: Acts of the Apostles/ book of Acts

The end of the Church Age: Acts of the Apostates/ book of Jude

The Letter Jude Wrote



The underlying structure of the book of Jude: first two verses parallel the last two; vs 3 parallels the next three verses at the end; etc)

*Assurance for the Christian vs 1-2

*Assurance for the Christian vs 24-25

**The Believer and the Faith vs 3

**The Believer and the Faith vs 20-23

***Apostates Described vs 4

***Apostasy Described vs 17-19

****Apostasy in OT History vs 5

****Apostasy in OT Prophecy vs 14-16

*****Apostasy in the Supernatural Realm vs 9-10

*****Apostasy in the Natural Realm vs 12-13

In the middle of the letter is an ancient trio of three apostates vs 11

The Letter Jude Wrote

Using colors we can see the interesting structure of the book:
Assurance & Faith/Apostasy/Three apostates/Apostasy/Faith & Assurance

*Assurance for the Christian vs 1-2

**The Believer and the Faith vs 3

***Apostates Described vs 4

****Apostasy in OT History vs 5

*****Apostasy in the Supernatural Realm vs 9-10

—> Three Old Testament Apostates vs 11 <—

*****Apostasy in the Natural Realm vs 12-13

****Apostasy in OT Prophecy vs 14-16

***Apostasy Described vs 17-19

**The Believer and the Faith vs 20-23

*Assurance for the Christian vs 24-25

The Letter Jude Wrote

In Jude we find warnings about:

1. Subtle imitation (vs 5)
2. Satanic invasion (vs 6)
3. Sexual perversion (vs 7)
4. Social upheaval (vs 8-10)
5. Spiritual distortion (vs 11a)
6. Semitic persecution (vs 11b)
7. Self expression (vs 11c)
8. Strong delusion (vs 12-13)
9. Secular humanism (vs 14-15)
10. Subversive criticism (vs 16)

“Jude” (and Judas) is a Greek form of the Hebrew name Judah

We call our sons “Paul,” “Peter,” “Matthew,” “John,” etc. And our dogs “Nero,” “Caesar” ... but never Judas. And in Germany, it is actually against the law to name your child Judas.

The Letter Jude Wrote



Jude 1:1-2 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.

“the servant of Jesus” — Jude grew up in Nazareth with Jesus and his brother James. Neither James nor Jude were among the 12. They didn’t believe at first:

John 7:5 For neither did his brethren believe in him.

Jude no longer sees Jesus simply as a human man, but now as God. Jude and James had a unique experience in the Christian church, being the disciples of the One with whom they grew up. If Jesus had not been who He said He is, James and Jude could have easily exposed Him, but instead they worship Him.

The Letter Jude Wrote



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“Brother of James” — James was head of the Church in Jerusalem; the author of the Epistle of James; the “Lord’s brother” (Gal 1:19); one of four “brothers” of Jesus:

Mark 6:3 Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon?

Note that Jude introduces himself by giving his credentials: First, servant of Jesus. Second, brother of James. Often, brothers and sisters of someone well-known don’t like being introduced as the person’s brother or sister. But Jude is quite content to say he is the brother of James. It’s likely he admired his brother’s work for the Lord, and he seems to understand that it is God who determines how we serve Him.

The Letter Jude Wrote



Jude 1:1-2 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.

James and Jude's letters serve as clear testimonies to the deity of Jesus.

If anyone was in a position to refute the claim of Jesus of being God, it would have been His brothers. They grew up with Jesus, and during His earthly ministry they did not believe. Had Jesus not been God, they would have been credible witnesses and could easily have denied His divinity.

Because they affirm it, their letters are like a seal of confirmation that all the claims of the New Testament concerning Jesus are valid.

The Letter Jude Wrote



Jude 1:1-2 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.

Jude wrote to “them that are sanctified ... preserved ... called”

Sanctified: made holy and set apart

Preserved: sealed unto the day of redemption by the Holy Spirit

Called: to be an ambassador for Jesus

Contrast the epistles written by the Lord’s brothers: both are written to Christians about sanctification, earthly life after justification and before glorification.

- James—good works as evidence of saving faith.*
- Jude—evil works as evidence of apostasy.*

The Letter Jude Wrote



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Jude opens with “mercy” instead of grace. Mercy suits the message in Jude, because mercy is not getting what is deserved. It implies a failure.

“Peace” — We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Rom 5:1).
There is no peace for the wicked (Isa 57:20-21).

“Love” — This word appears in each of the first three verses, indicating its importance. It is our badge of identity (Jn 13:34-35).

There will be a lack of love in the end times (the church of Philadelphia is followed by Laodicean church). The Ephesian pitfall was “they left their first love.”

The Letter Jude Wrote

Key verse:

Jude 1:3 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.

Jude sat down to write about “the common salvation.” He intended to write about the joy of being a new creation in Christ that he shared with all believers, but, something changed his mind.

“common” does not mean ordinary. It means shared.

“it was needful for me” -- Jude was divinely moved to change the topic of his letter—and as we will see, he willingly did. The Holy Spirit compelled him to write about apostacy.

This was the same “must needs” as Jesus in John 4:4 and Acts 17:3; and Paul’s “necessity is laid upon me...” in 1 Cor 9:16.

The Letter Jude Wrote

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earnestly contend for the faith — We have to stand uncompromisingly for that which we know is the truth of the Word of God.

Contending for the faith might sound like an academic or mental exercise—but it's not. Because **the root of all false doctrine is not weak minds, it's proud hearts.** The mind, generally, just “kicks-in” to justify that which the heart desires.

The Letter Jude Wrote

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How do we contend for the faith? Jude tells us to grow and pray and stay in the love of God and depend on his mercy before he says anything about how we should contend for the faith.

The best argument for the faith is when the saints live it. That's why Peter says to “*sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asks you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear (1 Pet 3:15).*”

The manner in which we contend is as important as the content of our contending. It's not likely we will win with our logic, if we don't contend in love.

The Letter Jude Wrote



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How do we contend for the faith?

1. By proclaiming the truth. As Charles Spurgeon said, "*The truth is like a lion. Whoever heard of defending a lion? Just turn it loose and it will defend itself.*" If we begin to proclaim God's Word, it will defend itself.
2. Having an uncompromising witness and being diligently prepared with knowledge:

2 Pet 1:5-8 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, {6} to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, {7} to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. {8} For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Letter Jude Wrote



Key verse:

Jude 1:3 ...you should earnestly contend for the faith ...

3. Withholding support and encouragement from those who compromise or deny the whole counsel of God”

Prov 19:27 Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge.

4. By service and support of faithful churches and ministries

Rev 3:2 Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.

5. Being prepared to speak boldly by putting on the armor of God (Eph 6:10-17) and praying for the right words, at the right time, to be spoken in the right way:

Eph 6:18-20 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

The Letter Jude Wrote

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Jude is writing to believers about “the faith.” This is more than just salvation. His readers are already saved and are now walking in “the faith.” It takes faith to get saved and it takes faith to live life.

The Faith

2 Cor 13:5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

1 Tim 3:9 Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.

1 Tim 4:1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils

The Letter Jude Wrote

Key verse:

Jude 1:3 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 you should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

1 Tim 5:8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

Acts 16:5 And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily.

1 Cor 16:13 Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.

Acts 14:22 Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

The Letter Jude Wrote



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Jude 1:3 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 you should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

Deu 4:2 Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

Rev 22:18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

There is great need for a “Fight for the Faith” (Eph 6:10-20)! Put on the whole armour of God!

The main point of Jude is verse 3. Jude writes to say that it is the duty of every believer to contend for the faith that was once delivered to the saints.

The Letter Jude Wrote



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“The faith” is not something that man created. Our faith was delivered to us.

It is the “body” of facts that God has given to the world to reveal Himself and, specifically, to reveal Himself through His Son, the Lord Jesus.

It was consistently delivered by the apostles. It has been delivered to us, through them, and through following generations of believers by testimony and by the written and preserved Word of God.

Furthermore, Jude says that it was once delivered. It was only given at one time in the history of the world. It does not need any additions.

The Letter Jude Wrote

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In this verse Jude has written that:

**There is a faith once delivered to the saints.*

**This faith is worth contending for, and*

**It was needful that he write to exhort them to contend for the faith.*

Jude will explain that the faith was being threatened from within the church. That has happened throughout the centuries and continues in our day.

The Letter Jude Wrote



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Jude 1:3 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 you should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

Apostasy vs Apostates

- The Greek word “**apostasia**” means “falling away.” It is a sin of rebellion, disobedience, and prolonged unbelief that leads to falling away from the gospel.
- An **apostate** is someone who has totally abandoned or rejected their religion.

A true believer can commit the sin of apostasy, falling away into a season of rebellion against God, even an unbelief of some doctrines. But can a true believer become an apostate, totally rejecting God?

Jude 1:1-3 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.

We talked about who Jude was.

Not Judas Iscariot or the other Judas who was among the apostles

He was the brother of James, the brother of Jesus.

He was the youngest of Jesus' four brothers (Matt 13:55)

He was not a believer while Jesus was alive but came to faith in the risen Christ.

Jude 1:1-3 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.

We talked about to whom this letter was written, i.e. believers, those sanctified by God (set apart from the world) and preserved and called.

We talked about mercy that God gives; peace and love that they are to multiply.

We discussed that which Jude planned to write about, i.e. the common salvation;

And Jude's need to change his message and write about contending for the faith.

We talked about the steadfastness of the faith. It had not changed and never will.

Key verse:

Jude 1:3 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 you should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

We talked about apostasy vs apostates

- The Greek word “**apostasia**” means “falling away.” It is a sin of rebellion, disobedience, and prolonged unbelief that leads to falling away from the gospel.
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A true believer can commit the sin of apostasy, falling away into a season of rebellion against God, even an unbelief of some doctrines. But can a true believer become an apostate, totally rejecting God?

There were apostates in the churches and that’s why Jude felt it necessary to write to warn about their presence and their works.

The Letter Jude Wrote



Jude 1:4 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.

Jude now describes these men:

They were in the church. They were not outsiders.

They presented themselves as believers, but they were spreading a specific heresy—saying they could act any way that they want to act. They taught that the more believers sinned the more they magnified grace.

Their behavior was lasciviousness/licentiousness, which is associated with the sexual immorality and unethical behavior.

While a believer can fall away/apostatize (Greek, apostasia) for a time, these men were apostates. They had “crept in unawares” to the local churches.

They claimed to be believers, though in reality they were not. How do we know?

Jude wrote, *“These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit” (Jude 1:19).*

The Letter Jude Wrote



Jude 1:4 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.

The apostates Jude wrote about are not true believers and that is the reason the church needed to contend for the faith. Jesus warned of this and Paul wrote of it:

John 10:12 But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep.

Mat 7:15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

Acts 20:29-30 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

The Letter Jude Wrote



Jude 1:4 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 Tares among the Wheat (Mt 13:24-30)
- False brethren have stolen into the Church (Gal 2:4-5)
- The saints are in peril (2 Cor 11:26)
- Paul warned of doctrines of demons in the latter days (1 Tim 4:1,6)
- Jude warned that judgment would come for such men Jude 1:14-15

The Letter Jude Wrote



Jude 1:4 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.

- These ungodly are apostates in the church. They received some light, but not full life. They heard the written Word, but did not know the Living Word. They “crept in unawares,” sat down alongside believers, claimed to be one of them, and taught damnable heresies.

2 Pet 2:1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

- This is not indifference, error, or some involvement in heresy. This is deliberate rejection (like Judas). They have gone the way of Cain, Balaam, and Korah (v. 11).

The Letter Jude Wrote



Jude 1:4 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.

- Apostates might hear the Word but they do not understand it. They do not bring forth fruit

Jude 1:12 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

Three Identifiers of Apostates

1. Ungodly; 2. pervert grace; 3. deny Jesus.

- *In verse 11, Jude wrote of examples of this:*
 - *Cain, ungodliness*
 - *Balaam, perversion of grace*
 - *Korah, denial of God's appointed leader.*

The Letter Jude Wrote



Jude 1:4 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.

1. Apostates are ungodly = destitute of reverential awe toward God. Heart vs. outward appearances is key (1 Sam 16:7; Isa 66:2)

- They have a form of godliness, but deny the power thereof (2 Tim 3:5)
- They deny the Gospel of Christ (Rom 1:16)
- They deny the transforming power, new life (Phil 3:10)
- They deny wrath against sin; God's holiness and God's acceptance of the finished work of Jesus Christ on behalf of sinners (1 Tim 4:1)
- They promote a Universal Brotherhood of Man through world unity and uniformity (Jn 1:12; Gal 3:26). This refutes the ecumenical movement.

The Letter Jude Wrote



Jude 1:4 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.

2. Apostates pervert Grace.

Rejection of Word of God occurs whenever it is displaced by tradition, custom, creed, loyalty to an organization, etc.

They pervert Paul's teaching in Titus 2:11-13

3. Apostates deny the Lord Jesus Christ:

“Lord” — They deny Jesus as Master over all (2 Peter 2:1,2)

“Jesus” — They deny Jesus is God who came in the flesh (1 John 4:3)

“Christ” — They deny Jesus is the prophesied Messiah (1 John 2:22,23).

The Letter Jude Wrote



Jude 1:4 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.

“before of old ordained”

This phrase can be confusing. We think of something being “ordained as being designated or appointed by decree; eg. We are ordained to good works (Eph 2:10).

That is not what the word here means. The Greek word is “prographo” and it means to write previously; fig. to announce, prescribe.

The condemnation of such men was written of aforesaid in an ordinance or law and was descriptive of what will be, or what should be. Eg. the psalms that speak of the condemnation of the wicked.