

# The Epistle of Jude

## Table of Contents

Introduction.....	2
Outline of the Epistle.....	3
Chapter 1.....	5

This booklet prepared by  
Richard Thetford  
April 2006  
***www.thetfordcountry.com***

# The Epistle of Jude

## Introduction

### Author

The writer identifies himself as a “brother of James” (1). James was a leader in the Jerusalem church (Acts 15:13-21; Gal 1:19; 2:9). Since James was one of the brothers of Jesus, Jude was likewise one of His brothers (Matt 13:55; Mark 6:3). “Judas” in both places in the NIV indicates that Jesus had a brother by that name. Six other Judes or Judases are referred to in the New Testament, but the writer of this epistle is not to be confused with any of them. He differentiated himself from others of the same name by the mention of his brother, rather than his father. Jude was not an apostle, as indicated by the omission of the apostolic title. Almost nothing is known about the life of Jude. He was apparently convinced of the deity of Christ after the resurrection.

### The Recipients of the Letter

A comparison of this epistle with the Second Epistle of Peter indicates they were addressed to Christians in general with a common problem. Peter predicted that false teachers would come (2 Pet 2:1-3), Jude says they have already come (4, 8, 10-13, 16). The readers are to remember what the apostles had said about “*scoffers*” (compare vs 18 with 2 Pet 3:3). Jude emphasizes the importance of “*contending for the faith*” (3).

### Date and Place of Writing

The inroads of apostasy and heretical doctrine stirred up the author to write and to warn the faithful Christians against this danger. The date is undeterminable; any time from A.D. 66 to A.D. 75-80 could be possible. It is commonly dated around A.D. 75 by Zahn and others.

### The Purpose of the Epistle

This is one of the general letters dealing primarily with false teachers (4-6) and in this respect resembling 2 Peter. Jude expresses affectionate solicitude for the Christians (1-3, 20-25) and urges them to contend “*earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.*” His language is extremely stern toward heretics. He denounces and threatens them rather than refuting them. Although the epistle deals with conditions that were incipient in the writer’s time, nevertheless the scope of the book comprehends conditions at the end of the age and so has a suitable place before the book of Revelation.

---

## **Key Verse: Jude 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.**”*

---

### **Outline of the Epistle of Jude**

- 1. Introduction (1-2)**
- 2. The occasion of the letter: Apostasy (3-4)**
- 3. Historical examples of apostasy (5-7)**
  - a. Of Israel (5)
  - b. Of Angelic Beings (6)
  - c. Of Sodom and Gomorrah (7)
- 4. Description of False Teachers (8-13)**
- 5. Authoritative Declarations of God’s Judgment of the Wicked (14-19)**
- 6. Encouragement of True Believers and Their Full Duty to Christ (20-23)**
  - a. Edification and Prayer in the Holy Spirit (20)
  - b. Preservation in the Love of God and Expectation of Divine Mercy (21)
  - c. Exhortation to Soul-Winning (22-23)
- 7. Conclusion: Benediction (24-25)**

(Outline from “*The New Unger’s Bible Dictionary*” 1998)

## Review Questions for the Introduction

1. The writer identifies himself as: \_\_\_\_\_
2. How much is known about Jude? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. The epistle of Jude can also be compared with what other general epistle? \_\_\_\_\_  
Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. The readers are to remember what the apostles had said concerning what? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Jude emphasizes the importance of what? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. The faithful Christians that Jude was writing to were warned about what danger? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What is the generally accepted date of writing? \_\_\_\_\_
8. This epistle deals primarily with who? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Jude encourages the Christians to do what? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. The language of Jude is especially stern toward who? \_\_\_\_\_  
What does he do? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# The Epistle of Jude

## Chapter 1

**1** Jude, a bond-servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To those who are called, 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.

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.

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 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 vengeance of eternal fire.

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

9 Yet Michael the archangel, in 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.

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.

12 These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. They are clouds without water, carried 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.

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."

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 sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit.

20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,

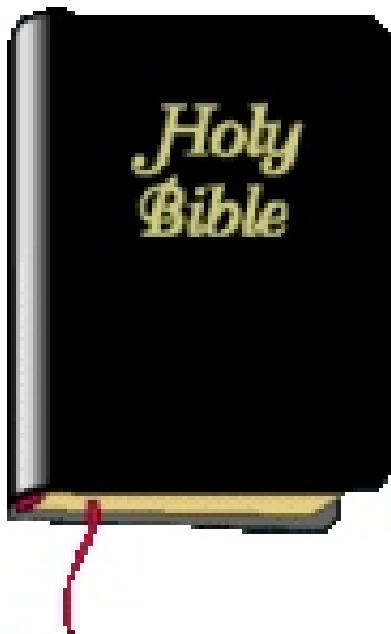
21 keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

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 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.



## Review Questions - Chapter 1

1. What three things does Jude say about his readers? Discuss the meaning of each. (1-2)
  - A. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - B. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - C. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How does Jude's salutation vary from the usual form in New Testament Epistles? (1-2)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What is meant by the expression, "*our common salvation*" (3; Titus 1:4) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What urgent exhortation does Jude make to his readers? (3) \_\_\_\_\_
  - A. Look up the word, contend, in your dictionary. According to the definition of this word, what kinds of activities are included in "*contending for the faith*"? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - B. Discuss the difference between "*contending for the faith*" and being "contentious." \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - C. What is the significance of the phrase, "*the faith which was once for all delivered*" (Acts 2:42; Romans 6:17; Galatians 1:9-10, 23; 2 John 9; Hebrews 9:28)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Why does Jude find it necessary to write this letter? What situation had arisen? (4) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



6. Identify and discuss four characteristics of these men. Include what their ultimate destiny will be. (4) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Please read 2 Peter 2 and notice the similarities and the differences from Jude 5-16.**

7. Of what three examples of divine judgment upon the ungodly are Jude's readers reminded? (5-7)  
A. \_\_\_\_\_  
B. \_\_\_\_\_  
C. \_\_\_\_\_
8. What three points of comparison does Jude make between these examples and the false teachers who have sneaked in among the saints? (8)  
A. \_\_\_\_\_  
B. \_\_\_\_\_  
C. \_\_\_\_\_
9. What does he mean by calling them "dreamers"? How is their life a fantasy? (8, 19)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. What contrast does Jude make between Michael the archangel and these false teachers? (9-10) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. In pronouncing a woe upon false teachers, what three characteristics of these teachers are illustrated from the Old Testament? (11)  
A. \_\_\_\_\_  
B. \_\_\_\_\_  
C. \_\_\_\_\_

12. What picture of the false teachers is drawn by the six metaphors in verses 12-13?
- A. \_\_\_\_\_
- B. \_\_\_\_\_
- C. \_\_\_\_\_
- D. \_\_\_\_\_
- E. \_\_\_\_\_
- F. \_\_\_\_\_
13. Who was Enoch? What did he prophesy concerning the ungodly? Notice the repetition of the words **“all”** and **“ungodly”** in verses 14-15. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- A. To whom does Jude apply the prophecy of Enoch? What further characteristics of these people are added? (16) \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- B. What does this passage suggest about the purpose of the day of judgment? Will it be a day in which guilt or innocence is determined (reference Matt 7:21-23; 25:31-46). \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
14. What words which had been spoken before by the apostles should be remembered? (17-19; Acts 20:39; 1 Tim 4:1ff; 2 Tim 3:1ff; 2 Pet 3:2) \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
15. Identify four things the faithful Christian should do to protect himself from being led away by false teachers? (20-21)
- A. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- B. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- C. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- D. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

16. What should a Christian do when he sees his brethren falling under the influence of false teachers? (22-23) What different approach should be made with regard to the two different classes of people mentioned? (Amos 4:11; Zech 3:3-4)

A. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

17. What encouragement does Jude’s description of God give for Christians who are confronted with false teaching and seductive morals? (24-25; ref Eph 3:20) Why should I, like Paul, be “*persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed unto Him until that Day*”? (2 Tim 1:12) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

18. In view of what Jude says in this epistle, do the promises implied in verse 24 refer to an *unconditional* preservation of the saints? What in addition to God’s ability to guard them, is required if we are to be “*faultless before the presence of His glory*”? (17-23) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Most of the study questions were taken from:  
“*The Epistles of Peter, John, and Jude*” by James E. Cooper