

## Jude

**Who was Jude?** One of the half-brothers of Jesus. Mark 6:3: *“Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon?”* Jude was a nickname for Judas – he was not Judas Iscariot.

**How did Jude refer to himself in relation to Jesus (v. 1)?** A servant of Jesus Christ. **How could he have referred to himself?** A brother of Jesus. **What does that say about Jude and his perspective on his relationship with Jesus?** He saw it as more important to have Jesus as his master instead of his brother. To Jude, the blood of the cross that saved him was far more important than the family blood in his veins that related him to Jesus.

**How did Jude describe his readers (v. 1)?**

1. Called—a person is a Christian because God has called him/her (2 Timothy 1:9).
2. Loved—they were loved by God the Father (Romans 5:8)
3. Kept—by Jesus Christ, our guardian and our protector (1 Corinthians 1:8).

**What was Jude's original intent in writing this letter (v. 3)?** He wanted to write about their shared salvation. But his focus switched. **What then became Jude's motivation for writing this letter (vv. 3-4)?** One of warning, exhortation, fervent appeal. Believers were under attack.

**What is the main theme of the letter of Jude?** Defending the Faith. Jude warned about false teachers and their heresy. The signature verse of Jude is v. 3 *“...contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints.”*

**What did he mean by “the faith?”** It is more than our individual, personal salvation faith. It is the body of Christian doctrine found in the Scriptures. It is all that we believe about God, the Bible, sin, Christ, etc.

**What does it mean to “contend for the faith?”** We contend for the faith when we give an unflinching witness, are engaged with God's work, are not ashamed of the gospel, share our faith, teach Sunday school, live uncompromising Christian lives, speak out against ungodly and unbiblical gospels, etc. The ancient Greek word translated “contend” speaks of hard and diligent work. We must contend without being contentious (2 Timothy 2:24). This is the calling of every Christian.

**“....The faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints.” What are the implications of the word “once?”** The faith doesn't need to be delivered again. There is no volume 2, no sequel, no new revelation.

**What are the implications of the words “for all?”** “For all” means that this faith is available for everybody. It is not offered to a select group.

**What are the implications of the phrase “entrusted to the saints?”** Saints is a New Testament word for believers. The faith is given to believers -- not to scholars or politicians.

Jude warned that they were under attack from godless men. **What was their strategy (v. 4)?** “Certain men” had subtly crept into the church unnoticed. They didn't wear a “Danger: False Teacher” name tag. They were perverting the grace of God by claiming that salvation by grace gave them license to sin since their sins would no longer be held against them.....and in doing so, they denied Christ (Romans 6:1-2).

**Who might correspond to these “certain men” today?** Liberal ministers of the Gospel/seminary professors/higher education (thinkers) in the church who proclaim a different Christ.....one who is stripped of glory, majesty, dominion and authority (Galatians 1:8-9).

**What three illustrations of failure from the past did Jude use to warn his readers of the danger involved in departing from God's truth (vv. 5-7)?**

- Unbelieving Israelites who rejected the promise of God and died wandering in the wilderness.
- Angels who rebelled/were disobedient and consequently face certain condemnation.
- Sodom and Gomorrah i.e. those who practice gross immorality and sexual perversion.

### What behaviors characterized the false teachers (v. 8)?

1. Lust -- Polluted their bodies through sensuality
2. Rebellion -- Rejected the authority of God
3. Irreverence -- Slandered celestial beings

**How were false teachers compared to animals (v. 10)?** They were critical of what they don't understand, unreasoning, didn't use their brains, their conduct was based on natural instinct, i.e. if it feels good, do it.

### Who were the three Old Testament examples Jude used to warn his readers (v. 11)?

1. Cain – lacked faith and rebelled. Prideful, selfish, greedy, hatred
2. Balaam - lusted after riches and prestige
3. Korah - resented the authority God. Rebellious unbelief

### Which five illustrations from nature did Jude use to emphasize the seriousness of the false teachers error (vv. 12-13)? How do the false teachers compare to each?

1. Blemishes at your love feasts – they were selfish
2. Clouds without rain – empty, nothing to offer
3. Autumn trees - fruitless
4. Wild waves of the sea – stirring up moral filth
5. Wandering stars – unpredictable, useless, untrustworthy. Like shooting stars flying off into oblivion

**What did Enoch prophecy about these false teachers (vv. 14-15)?** Certain judgment

**How did Jude describe these “certain men” (v. 16)?** Grumblers and fault finders. They followed their own evil desires. Boasted about themselves and flattered others for their own advantage (hypocrites and manipulators).

Having warned his readers about the false teachers, Jude now exhorted them to persevere in spite of the dangers that lie ahead. **What was the practical response of the people to be (vv. 20-23)?**

1. Build yourselves up in your most holy faith (v. 20). **How do we do that?** Keep growing spiritually. We are responsible for our own spiritual growth (Philippians 2:12). We cannot wait for spiritual growth to just happen or expect others to make us grow. **What are some ways we can do this?**
2. Pray in the Holy Spirit (v. 20). **Meaning?** This means praying in the power and strength of the Holy Spirit—guided by Him and aligned with the will of God as revealed in Scripture (Romans 8:26-27).
3. Keep yourselves in God's love (v. 21). **How do we keep ourselves in the love of God?** John 15:9-10: Obedience is key; living lives of holiness and godliness. Jude does not mean that we should keep ourselves in such a way as to make us more lovable to God. We are not lovable based on our performance.
4. Be merciful to those who doubt (v. 22). **Meaning?** Come alongside those doubters who were struggling to discern truth from error as a result of the influence of the false teachers.
5. Rescue believers from judgment (v. 23). **How do we do that?** By rescuing those believers who have already fallen under God's discipline as a result of following false teachers -- before God's judgment falls. We should have pity on them rather than condemning them without compassion.

### What does Jude's doxology reveal about our God (vv. 24-25)?

**Are his warnings relevant to us today?** Today, it is essential that we do not neglect Jude's message. Jude writes of a present, alarming threat. Today, the gospel is under attack, by its avowed enemies, but also by many who claim to be friends of the gospel. There is a war going on -- a battle for our minds and hearts (Ephesians 6:12). It's a largely invisible battle but nevertheless very real. And our opponent is formidable (1 Peter 5:8).

Jude is a book full of warning, but it closes with supreme confidence in God. Dangerous times should make us trust in a mighty God.