

Jude

Jude Overview – Along with the letter of James, Jude is the second letter written by a brother of Jesus.¹ The two best known passages are his appeal “to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints” (verse 3); and the closing doxology (verses 24-25). ~mid-late 60’s A.D.

Greeting – Jude 1-2

- “a servant” (full brother, half brother, cousin?)

Contend for the Faith – Jude 3-4

- “the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints”
 - Not an early book (faith is established and widely known).
 - *Received* tradition
 - St. Vincent of Lerins: “Care must especially be had that that be held which was believed *everywhere, always, and by all.*” (5th century A.D.)
 - C.S. Lewis: “Mere Christianity”
- “contend” – active struggle
 - Examples of later corruption: Mormonism; Islam

Judgment of False Teachers – Jude 5-16 (note parallels with 2 *Peter* 2)

- Egypt – “Jesus...saved a people”
“a prime example of the apostolic understanding of the OT, according to which the Son of God, in his eternal divine nature, was active in the world from the beginning of creation, long before the incarnation.” (*ESV Study Bible*)
- Rebellious angels (see *Genesis* 6.1-4; *Revelation* 12.7-9)
- Sodom and Gomorrah (*Genesis* 18-19)
- Archangel Michael – extrabiblical example
- Cain (*Genesis* 4), Balaam (*Numbers* 22), Korah (*Numbers* 16)
- “hidden reefs”; “waterless clouds”; fruitless trees” (he’s referring to false Christians)
- Enoch – extrabiblical source
- “grumblers, malcontents...loud-mouthed boasters” (are we too nice sometimes?)—**contend!**

¹ Matt. 13.55/Mark 6.3; Jude 1.1

“The evil men who were corrupting the church did not regard themselves as enemies of the church and of Christianity; they regarded themselves as the advanced thinkers, a cut above the ordinary Christian, the spiritual elite. Jude chooses his examples to make clear that, even if a man has received the greatest privileges, he may still fall away into disaster, and even those who have received the greatest privileges from God cannot consider themselves safe but must be on constant watch against the mistaken things.”²

A Call to Persevere – *Jude 17-23*

- Remember the predictions of the apostles... “In the last time there will be scoffers...
- **But you** beloved:
 - Build yourself up in your faith
 - Pray in the Holy Spirit
 - Keep yourself in the love of God
 - Wait for the mercy of Jesus
 - Have mercy on those who doubt
 - Save others by snatching them out of the fire
 - Show mercy with fear, hating even the garment...

“When the power of reclaiming the lost dies out of the church, it ceases to be the church.” ~Sir John Seeley³

Closing Doxology – *Jude 24-25*

² William Barclay, *The Letters of John and Jude, Revised Edition*, (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1975), pp. 181-182

³ Quoted in Barclay, p. 205