

# Reading Through the New Testament

Jude

## Background to the Letter

- Jude (Judas or Judah) was a very common name in that day. This brief letter was written by Jude, brother of James, and of Jesus (Matthew 13:55).
- The Lord’s brothers did not believe in Him, during His earthly ministry, but later came to faith (Jn. 7:5).
- Unlike James, whose ministry is mentioned in the book of Acts, we know very little about Jude.
- We are given no information about the original readers of the letter, but they were likely Jewish Christians. Jude uses OT Scripture extensively and even makes reference to popular Jewish writings.
- Even though Jude appears to quote from non-biblical sources, this doesn’t mean he affirmed the inspiration of those works. Paul occasionally quoted Greek poets to make a point, without endorsing their entire work (Acts 17:28; 1 Cor. 15:33; Titus 1:12).
- Jude has many similarities to 2 Peter, and was likely written around the mid 60’s
- Much of the letter resembles a judgment oracle, comparable to those found in the OT prophets, or Christ’s condemnation of the religious leaders of Israel in the gospels (Mt. 23:13-36).

## \*Outline:

- I. Introduction (v.1-2)**
- II. The Alarm (v.3-4)**
- III. The Argument (v.5-16)**
- IV. The Admonition (v.17-25)**

*\*From “The Exposition Commentary,” Warren Wiersbe*

## Timeline of Events

AD 30    35    40    45    55    60    65    70    75

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●      Death and Resurrection of Christ

●      James and Jude become believers



Jude may have served as a traveling missionary

●      James writes his letter

Jude writes his letter      ●

Peter writes his letters      ●●

1. Although Jude was the brother of Jesus, he didn’t introduce himself in this way. What does he call himself, in verse 1? What does this suggest about his character?

2. In the opening verses, Jude tells his readers that he had originally intended to write about our s\_\_\_\_\_ in Christ. What did the Spirit of God lay on his heart, instead (v.3)? What made this such a pressing issue for them (v.4)?

3. What does it mean, “to contend earnestly for the faith”? Should Christians have a passive, lackadaisical attitude when it comes to witnessing and defending the faith? (Acts 6:9-10; 17:16-17)

4. What do we learn about those who were causing trouble for believers, in verse 4?

5. Most of us would rather talk about the love of God, as opposed to the wrath of God. What are some of reasons that Scripture tells us about the judgment to come? Why do we need to hear this?

6. Verses 5-7 of Jude convey the same message as 2 Peter 2:4-10... *“the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment”* (2 Pet. 2:9). Like Peter, Jude appeals to three examples, from the OT, showing the certainty of this judgment:

- Those who perished in the w\_\_\_\_\_ after leaving Egypt, because they did not believe the Lord could bring them safely into the Promised Land (Num. 14:32-35)
- A group of fallen a\_\_\_\_\_ “who abandoned their proper abode” are currently bound in chains in darkness until the day of judgment (Genesis 6:1-2; compare with Job 1:6)
- The cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed by f\_\_\_\_\_ because of flagrant immorality (Genesis 19:24)

7. Jude tells us, in verse 7, that these events where God demonstrated righteous judgment against the wicked are an example of what?

8. In verse 11, Jude makes a series of comparisons to describe the wickedness of these opponents:

- a.) *“...they have taken the way of Cain...”* – (Genesis 4:3-8; 1 John 3:12)
- b.) *“...they have rushed...into Balaam’s error...”* – (Numbers 22:32; 31:16)
- c.) they have *“...perished in the rebellion of Korah...”* – (Numbers 16:25-35)

9. Jude uses a series of metaphors, in verses 12-13, to show the seriousness of their sin. They are:

- like hidden reefs (or blemishes) in your l\_\_\_\_\_ feasts (i.e. communion observance)
- like shepherds who only c\_\_\_\_\_ for themselves
- like c\_\_\_\_\_ with no rain (empty, they look good but have nothing to offer)
- like trees, in the harvest, that do not bear f\_\_\_\_\_, “twice dead”
- like wild w\_\_\_\_\_ at sea, foaming with shame
- like w\_\_\_\_\_ stars (useless to navigators looking for directions)

10. According to verses 14-15, what prophecy has been uttered against the wicked?

11. Should God’s people be surprised, or feel defeated, when we see the growing darkness of this world (v.17-18)? What four instructions does Jude offer us in verses 20-21?

12. Three groups of people are mentioned in verses 22-23. How do we show God’s mercy to each?