

A Study of the Book of Jude

To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore!

Amen.

Jude 1:24, 25

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Introduction to the Book of Jude

1. Who was Jude?

- Jude is taken from the Hebrew name Judah, a very common name. In Greek this became Judas, but because of the evil done by Judas Iscariot, translators have changed this to Jude.
 - Probably the youngest Jesus' half-brothers, which also included James, Joseph, and Simon. (Matthew 13:55, Mark 6:3)
- Names himself as the brother of James in v. 1, author of the book of James and a pillar of the church in Jerusalem.
- An unbeliever at one time. (John 7:5, Mark 3:21)
- Interfered with Jesus' ministry. (Matthew 12:46, John 7:3-4, Matthew 13:57) Jesus gave his mother's care to John rather than his brothers. (John 19:25-27)
- Waited for the Holy Spirit to come after the ascension. (Acts 1:12-14)
- Was married and active in the church. (1 Corinthians 9:5)

2. Who was the letter written to and what are the main points?

- Could have been to a specific group of people or to believers in general.
- Written to Jews (note the many Old Testament references).
- Very similar to 2 Peter 2. Peter possibly repeated things from Jude.
- Dated around 65 A.D.
- Passionately written to alert Christians to the dangers posed by false prophets.

A Study of Jude

Read Jude 1-16.

3. What message is Jude passionately trying to get across in this letter? (vs. 3-5)

4. What two specific issues is he talking about in the last sentence of v. 4?
5. What are some examples of this in our world today?
6. Why do you think Jude used the examples from the Old Testament (rebellion of those delivered from Egypt, the fall of the angels, Sodom and Gomorrah in vs. 5-7, and Cain, Balaam and Korah's rebellion in v. 11) to discuss the problems of unbelief, immorality, and rebellion?
7. How do "these dreamers pollute their own bodies, reject authority, and slander celestial beings" (v. 8)?
8. Jude's passion continues. How do the vivid images in vs. 12-13 further condemn the skeptics?

Read Jude 17-25.

9. What makes people vulnerable to false prophets?
10. Should the existence of false prophets surprise us?
11. What would you say to someone who tolerates even a "very minor" false teaching, or to someone who joins a church because they like the people even though the church is not completely faithful to God's Word?
12. What spiritual body-building plan could you put into place to keep you strong in God's love?
13. What hope do you find in vs. 24-25?

Prayer

References:

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