

Jude

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This Study of the book of Jude is written for women to discover or review the truths from God's Word as it speaks to Christians who were troubled by false teachers.

Jude

Opening Prayer

Introduction

1. Who is the author of this book?

Jude, from the tribe of Judah, or perhaps even Judas. After Judas Iscariot, many men named Judas preferred to be called by another name. Jude was not one of the original apostles.

2. What do we know about him?

He is the brother of James (who wrote the book James and the half brother of Jesus (Mary was his mother, but he had a different father) Matt. 13:55, Mark 6:3)

3. Note that Jude was a half brother to Jesus, but doesn't identify himself as such, but only as a servant of Jesus Christ. Why?

John 7:5, Mark 3:21, Mt. 12:46, John 3:4 point out his brothers initially didn't believe in Jesus and tried to interfere with His ministry. Jude, in humility, did not seek honor from his blood ties to Jesus.

4. Jude points out three things God does to aid us in salvation. What are they (vs. 1)?

Called, loved, and kept. "What a comfort that our Lord labors to keep us in the faith!" Jeske, p. 324

5. What is the "triple prayer" at the end of Jude's greeting?

*For **mercy**... compassion, **peace**...calm and happy relationship Christians enjoy with their Father, **love**...God's conscious decision to treat us as children, not criminals.*

6. When Jude writes that we are to “contend for the faith” what does he mean and what does he not mean?

He does not mean we have to fight to get the power to have faith, only the Spirit can impart faith. He means to fight for the message people need to hear and fight to keep the message straight and true.

7. Why is it important that we fight to keep the message pure and straight?

Adding and subtracting and changing the Word jeopardizes our relationship with God.

8. What words does Jude use (vs. 3) to make the statement that God’s Word does not need to be updated and revised every generation?

It was entrusted to the saints “once for all.”

9. What are the two ways Satan assaults the church in all ages?

The outside by unbelievers who hurt, ridicule, legally harass, confiscate property, persecute, imprison, torture and kill the saints.

From the inside as agents of Satan rise to positions of leadership in the church and replace the truth of God with lies from hell.

10. Jude brings two charges against the godless infiltrators. They have changed grace into a license for immorality and they deny the lordship of Jesus Christ.

11. What does the license for immorality entail?

The infiltrators were teaching people they no longer had to struggle against sin and temptation since all is forgiven by God’s grace.

12. What is the danger of this?

The comfort that God intended for repentant sinners now was falsely being extended to impenitent sinners.

13. Hebrews 10:26,27 say, “If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God.” Hebrew 6:4-6 gives more insight into this deadly sin.

14. Where in our culture do we see license to immorality?

Churches that put a stamp of approval on homosexuality, same-sex marriage and living together before marriage.

15. Where in our culture do we see Christ denied as Sovereign and as LORD?

Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism...all other religions and philosophies, Unitarian universalists.

16. Even worse than blatantly denying Christ as LORD is claiming to believe it and deny it. How might we deny it?

By other teachings and actions; for instance, denying the inerrancy and infallibility of the Holy Scriptures is an assault on Christ's Lordship. Dissecting the Bible into fragments of mere human opinion denies Christ's lordship over them, and they actually claim their authority is greater than God's authority.

17. What is Jude's attitude or mood as he writes this letter?

He's writing with urgency for Christians to wake up and fight for the faith!

18. What three accounts does Jude refer to in verses 5-7? What are these examples supposed to show?

- 1) Israelites destroyed in the desert*
- 2) angels who chose to follow Satan rather than God*
- 3) Sodom and Gomorrah destroyed*

Each example shows the severe and deadly consequences of unbelief, both in time and eternity.

19. Why does Jude do this?

In his commentary, Jeske states, "Because Satan has been telling people for all eternity that they "will surely not die" and people have been believing him. Satan always tries to blind us from the painful consequences of sin as he lures us to evil."

20. What had God done for His people at the time of the Exodus and the months/years following?

Rescued them, guided them, defended them from military advancements, miraculously provided for them.

21. What did the Israelites do?

Complained, doubted God, scorned his gifts (manna), revolted against God's leaders, and insulted God by wishing they were slaves again.

22. Read Numbers 11:1-3 and Numbers 12:1-2, 9-10. What do these verses show us?

God is angered by our sin.

23. Read 1 Corinthians 10:5-6. God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered over the desert. These things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did.

24. Read Isaiah 14: 12-15, Ezekiel 28:1-19 and Revelation 12:9.

What will Satan and the demons be doing in hell after Christ comes to judge the earth?

They will not be ruling, but will be tormented in endless pain.

25. Read Genesis 13:10. What did the valley of Siddim, South of the Dead Sea (where Sodom and Gomorrah stood) look like?

It was the lush land that Lot chose.

26. What did the land look like after God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah?

It was permanently destroyed for farming. Nothing will grow there. Much of it is under the water of the Red Sea.

27. Put these three scenes in perspective:

1,200,000 graves in the desert (the adults)

demons chained in hell for eternity

Dead Sea's bleak shores

28. Is God serious about holding impenitent sinners accountable?

Yes.

When spiritual leaders speak words that poison people's faith, they become spiritual murderers.

29. In verse eight Jude gives us three characteristics of the godless men he is talking about. What are they?

1) They pollute their bodies.

2) They reject authority.

3) They slander celestial beings.

30. What does Jude mean when he says they pollute their own bodies?

They throw off the restraint of God's words and will which brings them into all kinds of sin.

31. How do we reject authority?

We question and despise earthly authority and God's The "nobody tells me what to do!" attitude.

32. What is meant by “they slander celestial beings” or literally, angels?

Ridicule the concept of Christ calling the universe into being, question his death, resurrection, and second coming.

33. Jude says the things people do, like unreasoning animals, destroy them. What things is he talking about?

Sex, violence, pleasure and, as a result the destruction of alcoholism, addictions, abuse, violence, disease are inevitable.

34. We are given an example in verse 9 of the archangel Michael disputing with the devil. What is this example meant to show us?

Michael would not speak abusively to Satan. This should be an example to us to keep our words in check.

35. What was the dispute between Michael and the devil concerning Moses’ body about?

Perhaps the devil wanted Moses’ grave known so he could turn it into a shrine. Perhaps God resurrected Moses immediately so he could appear with Elijah (who never died) on the mountain of transfiguration.

36. What basic points do Jude 8-10 make?

Impulses for immorality, contempt for authority and abusive speech come from hell.

37. Verse eleven gives us another trio of bad examples. Write down what each person did.

*1) Cain-murdered brother, heart wasn’t in offering, jealous, resentful, hateful.
When people surrender to inward evil their outward actions become evil as well.*

*2) Balaam (Numbers 31)- sorcerer who could only bless Israel...then plotted to seduce Israel with Moab’s and Midian’s women and use the sexual attraction to idolatrous worship.
He is an example of persons who exploit their positions and people for money.*

3) Korah (Numbers 16)- incited a rebellion against Moses’ leadership and God’s plans and ways. God swallowed him with the earth, incinerated 250 co-conspirators and sent a plague to destroy 14,700 people who vocally abused Moses.

38. In verses 12 and 13 Jude gives us six analogies to show the true nature of false teachers. List them.

1. *stains/blotches on the congregation*
2. *shepherds who don't care about the sheep, only themselves*
3. *rainless clouds*
4. *fruitless trees*
5. *foamy waves full of sound/fury, but signify nothing*
6. *stars that wander out of their track (useless for navigation)*

39. Each example illustrates two things. What are they?

Hollowness and disappointment. Things with the right form that don't fulfill their function.

40. What is reserved for them?

Blackest darkness forever.

41. What word does Jude use over and over in verse 15 to characterize these false teachers?

Ungodly

Jude reminds us that these false teachers and ungodly people have been around since before the flood ...seven generations after Adam!

42. Verse 16 again characterizes the false teachers' true nature. They are grumblers, faultfinders, driven by their own appetites, braggers and flatterers.

43. What two jobs will God's angels have on Judgment Day?

1. *Bring believers to heaven*
2. *Round up shrieking unbelievers and drag them away from the Lord forever.*

44. What is Jude's message in verses 17-19?

Christ and his apostles told us this would happen, expect assaults, be ready.

45. Jeske says, "The sad fact of our times is that most Christians today are members of congregations and church bodies that are not orthodox, that is, completely faithful to God's inspired, infallible, inerrant biblical Word. Most Christian churches have come to tolerate and even promote pastors and professors who deny the historical truthfulness of the Bible, teaching evolution, decriminalize adultery, advocate the legitimacy of homosexuality and abortion, deny the existence of hell and a last judgment, and accept the spiritual legitimacy of all world religions as though equal to Christianity". Jude says the people who teach these things are _____,

_____, _____, _____.
(*scoffers, divisive, worldly, and without the Spirit of God*).

46. What are we to do about these false teachers and their license for immorality (vs. 20-21)?

We should build ourselves up in the faith, through Word and sacrament. Strength in our relationship to God comes through the means of grace.

Pray in the Holy Spirit.

Keep ourselves in God's love.

Wait for eternal life....this world will never be perfect, so we wait for the world that is perfect.

47. In verse twenty-three Jude tells us to show mercy to those who doubt. We do that by encouraging, rebuking, teaching and loving. He also wants us to show mercy to those who have one foot in hell. He wants us to do that by warning and sharing God's promises, but in a way that we ourselves are not dragged away.

48. Jude's doxology reminds us that the battle is bigger than we are, but we need not fear because: God is able to keep us from falling, He's all powerful and He can strengthen us to overcome.

Closing Prayer

**References: Jeske, Mark A., People's Bible Commentary—James, 1,2
Peter, 1,2,3 John, Jude Milwaukee, WI: Northwestern Publishing
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