

The Book of Jude

Author of Book

The author of the epistle of Jude is revealed in chapter one, verse one as Jude: the brother of James. James was a physical brother of Jesus (Matt. 13:55) and later an elder in the church in Jerusalem (Acts 15:13; Gal. 1:18). Note that Jude's (Judas') name is mentioned with James in Matthew 13:55 as the brother of Jesus. Neither Jude nor James were ever named as apostles (cf. Jude 1:17). Jude did not even believe in the deity of Jesus early on (Jn. 7:3-6). After the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus we find Jude assembling with the apostles in Jerusalem and participating in prayers (Acts 1:12-14). The only other bit of information about Jude is that apparently he was married (cf. I Cor. 9:5).

Date of Epistle

The date and place of writing of this epistle is impossible to state due to a lack of information in the letter itself.

Contents of Epistle

Jude had begun to write his audience about their "*common salvation*" (Jude 1:3); however, due to the current false teaching of ungodly men, Jude was compelled to write a letter exposing their true character. There is a striking similarity between the book of Jude and II Peter 2. Such a comparison helps us to make a clear judgment as to who Jude has in mind when he refers to the "*ungodly*" that "*turn the grace of God into lasciviousness*" (Jude 1:4). Jude has false teachers in mind. Jude exposes a precise distinction between the character of men who hold and teach error and those who hold to nothing but the truth (compare chart below with Jude 1:20-21).

Jude on False Teachers

Jude describes false teachers with words that leave no doubt in his reader's mind as to where he stands on the subject.

False Teachers	Reference in Jude
Likened to God's disobedient people of days gone by	Jude 1:5, 11
Likened to angels that were not satisfied with their heavenly abode	Jude 1:6
Defile their flesh with unauthorized dreaming (new doctrine and new ways)	Jude 1:8
Have little respect for those in positions of authority	Jude 1:8-10
Represent a great danger to the church	Jude 1:12, 13, 19

Over all message of Jude

False teachers have the potential to destroy the faith of individuals and churches (cf. Jude 1:12, 19). The ungodly work of these teachers must be challenged. Jude admonishes the faithful to “*contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered unto the saints*” (Jude 1:3). We live in no different times today. The Christian who would deny the existence and work of false teachers is living a deluded life of self-imposed joy, peace, love, and non-confrontation. The word of God reveals the real world and real spiritual battles to be fought (cf. Eph. 6:10ff). Those who so choose to believe that there are no battles have surely been defeated. Let the faithful today stand up and gain the victory in this most violent and gruesome fight that we are in against the devil and his angels. The battle is to the death, spiritual eternity is at stake, and it is with Christ alone that the child of God will gain the victory over sin and death!