

The Book of Jude

Introduction:

The author of The Epistle of Jude is revealed at 1:1 as Jude the brother of James. James was a physical brother of Jesus (Matt. 13:55) and latter an elder in the church in Jerusalem (Acts 15:13; Gal. 1:18). 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 participating in prayers (Acts 1:12-14). The only other bit of information about Jude is that he was apparently married (cf. I Cor. 9:5).

The date and place of writing of this epistle is impossible to say due to a lack of information in the letter itself. Interestingly, there is not a lot known about Jude or his work; however, his short 25 verse epistle helps us to see and know his zeal and conviction.

I. General Introduction to the Epistle:

A. Identification of the author:

1. Jude
2. Servant of Jesus Christ
3. Brother of James

B. Those to whom the letter is addressed:

1. The called
2. Beloved in God the Father
3. Kept for Jesus Christ

II. The Reason this Epistle is Necessary:

A. Jude had apparently begun to write a letter to these unspecified saints regarding their “common salvation.” Due to a current onslaught of false teaching he was rather “constrained” to change the subject of the letter from our “common salvation” to a call for the saints to defend the truth.

B. Jude presents a case for the truth being the standard by which all teaching is measured:

1. Truth is to be “contended” for.
2. Truth is identified as “the faith.”
3. Truth is “once for all delivered.”
4. Truth is identified with the “grace of our God.”

C. Certain men had:

1. Crept into the church.
2. These men are compared to those of old who had no respect for authority (cf. Jer. 23).
3. Identified as “ungodly men.”

- D.** These ungodly, creeping men:
 - 1. Turned God's truths into lasciviousness
 - 2. They are condemned
 - 3. They deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

III. Lessons Learned:

- A.** Jude is the Lord's brother.
- B.** Jude intended to write about salvation; however, due to false teachers invading the church he changed the content to that of defending truth.
- C.** Jude gives authority for the modern day saint to contend, defend, battle, debate, and dispute over the standard of truth.
- D.** Those who do not represent truth are termed "ungodly" and those who "deny our only Master."