

The Epistle Of Jude



**A Study Guide With Introductory Comments,
Summaries, And Review Questions**

Student Edition

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The outlines were developed in the course of my ministry as a preacher of the gospel. Feel free to use them as they are, or adapt them to suit your own personal style.

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This study guide was designed for adult Bible classes, though it might be suitable for junior and senior high classes as well. Some have used it for personal devotions, and others in small study groups. In whatever way it can be used to the glory of God, I am grateful.

- **Points to ponder** for each chapter are things I emphasize during the class.
- **Review questions** are intended to reinforce key thoughts in each chapter. There is a “teacher’s edition” available with answers included.

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Introduction

In several passages throughout the New Testament, we find serious warnings about impending apostasy...

- Jesus warned that false prophets would arise, the love of many would grow cold, and only those who endure to the end would be saved - **Mt 24:11-13**
- Paul foretold of many disciples being drawn away - **Ac 20:29-30**
- Peter warned about the rise of false teachers, and how many would follow their destructive ways - **2Pe 2:1-3**

By the time the epistles of John and Jude were written, the danger was no longer pending, it was very much in existence...

- Antichrists were present, and false prophets were in the world - **1Jn 2:18; 4:1; 2Jn 1:7**
- Jude was forced to change his original purpose to deal with the crisis - **Jude 1:3-4**

If the danger of apostasy was already present in the 1st century A.D., we should not be surprised that the danger exists in the 21st century. We would do well to pay close heed to those epistles written to tell us how to deal with apostasy, and that makes **The Epistle Of Jude** especially relevant.

Author

Jude, as stated in the salutation (**Jude 1:1**). That he does not identify himself as an apostle, and appears to distinguish himself from the apostles (**Jude 1:17**), suggests he was not the apostle Jude (cf. **Lk 6:16; Ac 1:13**). His self-identification as “the brother of James” leads many to believe the author to be Judas, brother of James and also of the Lord Jesus (cf. **Mt 13:55**). Like James, Jude chose not to accentuate his physical relation to Jesus, but his spiritual one (“a bondservant of Jesus Christ,” cf. **Jude 1:1; Jm 1:1**).

Recipients

The letter is addressed “to those who are called” (**Jude 1:1**) without any specific designation as to who they were or where they lived. The references to Old Testament incidents and extra-biblical sources (cf. **Jude 1:5-7,9,11,14**) strongly suggests that the original readers were **Jewish Christians**, perhaps living in Palestine.

Date

Similarities between the **Epistle of Jude** and the **Second Epistle of Peter** indicate one author may have influenced the other. Since Peter wrote of false teachers who were to come (cf. **2Pe 2:1**) and Jude warned of those who had already “crept in unnoticed” (cf. **Jude 1:4**), it is possible that that Jude wrote after Peter.

Peter’s death in during the reign of Nero (which ended in 68 A.D.) places his own epistle sometime before 67 A.D. The lack of any mention of the destruction of Jerusalem (which

occurred during the fall of 70 A.D.) suggests that Jude wrote before that notable event. If so, then the date of composition may have been **between 67-70 A.D.**

Purpose and Theme

Jude's original purpose in penning this epistle was to write of the common salvation he and his readers shared (**Jude 1:3**). But the presence of ungodly men and the danger of them leading Christians astray forced a change in **purpose**:

- To encourage his readers to contend earnestly for the faith that had been delivered to the saints (**Jude 1:3**)

As for the **theme**, Jude's first admonition serves us well:

Contend earnestly for the faith

Outline

Here is a simple outline of the book...

Greetings (**1-2**)

1. Purpose for writing (**3-4**)
2. God's judgments in time past (**5-7**)
3. Character and doom of false teachers (**8-19**)
4. Exhortations to build their faith (**20-23**)

Concluding doxology (**24-25**)

Review Questions

- 1) **Who is author of The Epistle Of Jude? (1)**
- 2) **Who were the recipients of this epistle?**
- 3) **When was it written?**
- 4) **What has been suggested as its purpose?**
- 5) **What has been suggested as its theme?**
- 6) **What are the main divisions of this epistle as outlined above?**

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Chapter One

Following his salutation (1-2), Jude explains the purpose for writing (3-4). He reminds his readers of God's judgments in the past (5-7), then describes the character and ultimate doom of false teachers (8-19). Exhorting them to build up their most holy faith (20-23), he concludes with praise to God (24-25).

Points To Ponder

- The faith revealed once for all (literally, one time for all time)
- The character of false teachers
- How to build up our most holy faith

Review Questions

- 1) **What are the main points of this chapter?**
- 2) **How does Jude describe the recipients of his epistle? (1)**
- 3) **What did Jude find necessary to exhort his readers? Why? (3-4)**
- 4) **List both biblical and extra-biblical examples given by Jude. (5-7,9,11)**
- 5) **List the qualities of the false teachers are condemned in this epistle. (8-19)**
- 6) **What counsel does Jude give to build oneself up in the faith? (20-21)**
- 7) **In his doxology, what does Jude say God is able to do? (24)**