

**WHAT'S THIS BOOK ABOUT?** Jude wrote to warn Christians—in blunt language—about false teachers who were already within the church.

**WHO WROTE IT?** Jude, a brother of James and, therefore, a brother of Jesus.

**WHEN DID IT HAPPEN?** Not known; possibly around A.D. 65.

**WHERE DOES THIS BOOK FIT?** Sometime in the first century—it's hard to be more specific.

### THE BREAKDOWN

- 1:1-4: Why Jude is writing
- 1:5-7: Old Testament examples of false teachers
- 1:8-16: The false teachers of Jude's day
- 1:17-23: What believers should do about the situation
- 1:24-25: Concluding praise to God

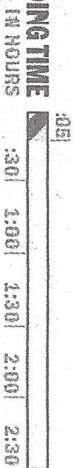
### KEY CONCEPTS

- False teachers
- Holy faith

### SCORECARD

- **Jude:** The writer
- **Michael:** The archangel
- **Moses:** Israel's deliverer
- **Cain:** Oldest son of Adam and Eve, who murdered his brother
- **Balaam:** Tricky prophet during the time of the Exodus
- **Enoch:** Ancient patriarch whom God took directly to heaven

### READING TIME



**1:17-23** Jude warns us about people who might try to hinder our spiritual growth. When we expect to meet such people, we can be prepared to stand up against the temptations they put before us. By learning to recognize our weaknesses and walk humbly, following the Holy Spirit's guidance, we will be able to shun the things that tear us and others down. When we seek to encourage others, our testimony of God's work in our lives must be clear and consistent with our way of life. We can share God's message of hope by showing others the kind of selfless love that God has already shown to us. We cannot live this kind of life under our own power; we can do it only by receiving the power God offers through his Holy Spirit.

### WORTH MEMORIZING

- **1:20-21** You, dear friends, must build each other up in your most holy faith, pray in the power of the Holy Spirit, and await the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will bring you eternal life. In this way, you will keep yourselves safe in God's love.

### THE MASCULINE PERSPECTIVE

- **DISCERNMENT.** There's a time for talk, and there's a time for action. God gave Jude the wisdom to know that the situation was critical. Still, while taking action, we need to show the Spirit of Christ in all things.

### WHAT'S THE POINT OF

Jude?

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Don't put up  
with sloppy  
teaching.

## INTRODUCTION TO JUDE

### BACKGROUND

The Epistle of Jude was probably written to churches east of Judea. The Epistle of Jude has some similarities to 2 Peter. The author of the epistle provides information about himself in verse 1: "Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James." Matthew 13:55 and Mark 6:3 indicate that Jesus had a brother named Judas, and Jude is a shortened form of Judas. Jude's brother James, a leader of the Jerusalem church (Acts 15:13-21; Gal 2:9), wrote the Epistle of James.

### MESSAGE

The Epistle of Jude deals with the subject of apostasy in a preventative way. Its advice: "Content for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (verse 3). Jude compares false teach-

### OUTLINE

- I. Greetings 1-2
- II. Warning about Traitors 3-4
- III. Judgment of the Ungodly 5-16
- IV. A Christian's Hope 17-23
- V. Conclusion 24-25

### TIME

Even though he does not mention the fall of Jerusalem in A.D. 70, Jude probably wrote this letter between A.D. 66 and 80.

ers to Old Testament characters Cain, Balaam, and Core (Korah, see Num 16:1-35) and prophesies that they will face destruction. In making his case Jude refers to extrabiblical traditions concerning the fallen angels, the archangel Michael, and Enoch. Those who accept false teaching will be judged. This judgment can be avoided as the believer grows in faith and looks with anticipation toward Christ's return. Believers can help those struggling to maintain their faith and recognize that God has the power to "keep [them] from falling" (verse 24).



recent book about backpacking in Canada warns us to purchase accurate maps before hiking in remote areas. Several travelers have died by following hastily printed maps with erroneous data. Doctrine is the roadmap of life, and the New Testament writers vigorously warned against following faulty teachers. The tragedy of such heresy is the theme of the small book of Jude.

Jude grew up in the carpenter's family of Joseph and Mary. He was the half-brother of the Lord Jesus. He became a leader in the early church and apparently wanted to write a book about what he called "our common salvation." But the spread of false doctrine caused him to change subject matter and appeal to God's people to stay alert, to contend for the truth, and to keep themselves spiritually and theologically strong.

This brief letter divides into three parts. The first section exhorts God's people to contend for the faith. The second section warns against destructive teachers. The final part urges us to stand firm in truth and love. According to Jude, we're to explain and defend the Gospel as best we can while humbly rooted in the knowledge, love, and practice of the truth.

In today's world, heresy spreads with the click of a button or the turn of a knob. We must follow Jude's call to be built up in the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ and to contend earnestly for the integrity of the faith entrusted to the saints.

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**KEY THOUGHT:**

God's people must defend the doctrines of the faith by preserving biblical truth, battling heresy, and humbly standing up for the Good News.

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**KEY VERSES:**

"But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life."  
Jude 1:20-21

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**KEY ACTION:**

"Contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints."  
Jude 1:3

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**KEY PRAYER:**

Lord, protect me and empower me to stand firm in truth and love.

## BASIC SURVEY

### JUDE

**AUTHOR:** Jude (1:1), possibly Jesus' half brother (see Matthew 13:55; Mark 6:3).

**DATE:** Approximately AD 82.

#### IN TEN WORDS OR LESS

Beware of heretical teachers and their dangerous doctrines.

#### DETAILS, PLEASE

Jude tackles the same problems Peter did in his second letter: false teachers who were leading the early church astray. "Murmurers" and "complainers" who were "walking after their own lusts" (1:16 KJV) were apparently using the grace of God as a cover for their sinful lifestyles—and encouraging Christian believers to do the same. True believers, Jude said, reflect God's love, show compassion, and work to pull sinners "out of the fire" (1:23 KJV).

#### QUOTABLE

> Contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints (1:3 NKJV).

#### UNIQUE AND UNUSUAL

Jude provides details of two Old Testament events not recorded in the Old Testament: the archangel Michael's fight with Satan over the body of Moses (1:9) and Enoch's prophecy of God's judgment (1:14–15).

#### SO WHAT?

Satan tries to sneak "secret agents" into God's church to confuse and ultimately crush true believers. It's the job of every true Christian to "earnestly contend for the faith" as passed down by Jesus' disciples and recorded in the Bible.

#### READ JUDE 1 AND PSALM 145.

- One-Month Course: your next reading is on page 280. →
- Three-Month Course: your next reading is on page 280. →
- Six-Month Course: your next reading is on page 280. →

#### HIDDEN TREASURE

### CONTENTD FOR THE FAITH

Jude wrote a short, urgent epistle to sound the alarm about a heresy making headway in the church. He described "certain men [who] have crept in unnoticed . . . who turn the grace of our God into



The book of Jude emphasizes the importance of standing firm in our beliefs so that others cannot try to improve or revise the gospel of Jesus Christ.

noticed . . . who turn the grace of our God into lewdness" (Jude 1:4 NKJV). Jude called this "the error of Balaam" (Jude 1:11 NKJV). This is the same heresy described in "The Teaching of Balaam" (see page 268). Jude stated, "I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 1:3 NKJV). The true faith—the pure Gospel of Jesus Christ—had been given "once for all," and it didn't need any improvements or revisions. Believers simply needed to stand up and defend it and "contend earnestly" for it.

READ PSALMS 142-143.

#### HIDDEN TREASURE

### THE WORLD'S FALSE GOSPEL

Jude reminded believers that the apostles of Christ had warned them, saying, "In the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts." That time had now come. Jude explained that these people were "worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit" (Jude 1:18–19 NASB). Today there are many teachers following their carnal lusts instead of the Spirit of God. They lack the Holy Spirit because they're preaching a modified Gospel and mocking *true* believers. Their warped Gospel doesn't resemble what Jesus taught, but is tailor made for the worldly and resonates with many people: "Those people belong to this world, so they speak from the world's viewpoint, and the world listens to them" (1 John 4:5 NLT).

READ ISAIAH 64 AND PSALMS 70 AND 77.

# Jude

## BOOK INTRODUCTION

**F**or Jude, family was not everything. He was the brother of James (1)—the well-known leader of the early church—and the son of Mary and Joseph. Jude and James were half-brothers of Jesus. Yet Jude did not come to saving faith until after Jesus' resurrection.

Still, once Jude signed on as a believer, he was committed. He knew the meaning and purpose of the faith that Jesus had introduced to the world, and he would rebuke anyone who maligned it—or its Founder. That is exactly what he did in this brief epistle.

Apparently, as Jude was planning to write a longer letter "concerning our common salvation," he received reports of false teachers who had infiltrated local congregations. So Jude addressed the crisis at hand with a letter equivalent to a modern-day e-mail with a red exclamation mark (3). His vigorous memo urges God's people to stay alert, to contend for the truth, to stay strong in the Lord, to protect the vulnerable, and to remain certain that God would judge false teachers.

The salutation reads, "To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ" (1). At first glance, Jude's letter seems to be generally addressed—a letter perhaps written for circulation among regional churches. One factor that argues against a general audience, however, is Jude's description of those creating havoc in the church: "Certain men have crept in unnoticed" (4). This may suggest that false teachers had infiltrated a particular church or a close group of churches.

The stealthy nature of the troublemakers recalls both Paul's warning to the Ephesian elders in Acts 20:29 and Jesus' warning about false prophets in Matthew 7:15. False teaching does not always announce its presence. It often comes cleverly disguised, containing just enough of the truth to captivate the unwary Christian. Such deception calls for an urgent response. It was an urgency that Jude took seriously.

### WHAT IT SAYS | *Stand Firm with Eyes Wide Open*

Whether Jude's readership is the endangered first-century church or the twenty-first-century church, the message is the same: be on guard.

Jude's brief letter divides naturally into three parts. In the first section (3, 4), he gives his reason for writing: God's people must contend for the faith! In the second section (5–19), Jude warns against

JUDE

a new group of devious, destructive teachers who are attempting to undermine the Christian faith from within. In the third section (20–23), he urges believers to stand firm, to resist whatever is not true, to persevere by building each other up, and to take responsibility for those who have been misled by false teaching. Jude then closes his letter by refocusing his readers' attention away from the ungodly to God Himself.

Jude's benediction (24, 25), one of the most beautiful in all of Scripture, feels like radiant sunlight breaking through the clouds after a storm (24, 25). It reminds us that no one can resist false teaching by his or her own effort; the only way to stand firm is through the power that God provides.

### WHAT IT MEANS | *Get Involved in the Battle for Truth*

The gospel is worth fighting for, and Jude made sure God's people were equipped.

- **Engagement:** Not surprisingly, Jude would not allow complacency when the church was under attack. He writes for the purpose of "exhorting [them] to contend earnestly for the faith" (3). Because the enemy's strategy is to often creep in "unnoticed" (4), God's people must be constantly vigilant and fully engaged so that false teachers gain no ground in the war for people's souls (20–23).
- **Heresy:** Jude reminds us that heresy is not only wrong belief; it is also, and just as importantly, wrong practice. The teachers were using God's grace as an excuse for indulging in immoral behavior. Sin of any kind must immediately be identified, and the church must spring into action (4).
- **Judgment:** Jude uses key examples from the OT to illustrate that sin does not go unpunished (5–15). God punished sin in the past; He will do it again!
- **Perseverance:** Jude summarizes what the Christians should do in the face of attacks by false teachers: earnestly struggle for the faith (3), remain strong, pray, look for Christ's return, be merciful to the confused, and save the deceived (20–23).

### WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOU | *Humbly Stand Up for the Good News*

Jude reminds God's people that they have two vital responsibilities when they hear the Good News being slandered, distorted, or misrepresented. First, they are to explain and defend the gospel to the best of their ability; then they must stay strong, confident, and humbly rooted in the knowledge and practice of the gospel.

In today's world, just as in the first century, people present lies and misleading messages about the gospel and about Jesus. Even so, Christians must be careful to follow both Jude's call to "contend earnestly for the faith" and Paul's reminder that the Lord's servant "must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition" (2 Tim. 2:24, 25).

In a world that prizes tolerance and claims that standing for truth is unacceptable, Jude demonstrates that tolerance has its limits. When the truth of the gospel is challenged, God's people must take a stand—all the while remembering to act with love and mercy.

# James and Jude

Older brothers and sisters sometimes set high standards that are difficult to live up to. It can be equally difficult, and sometimes more painful, to live down the reputation of a notorious or embarrassing older sibling. James and Jude dealt with both challenges. Their older brother Jesus was perfect but, in their minds, his perfection was embarrassing.

It is probable that Mary, their mother, had always told James and Jude that Jesus was unique. But probably James and Jude had no idea just how special Jesus was. One thing is certain: Jesus would have been a hard act to follow. It may have been difficult for James, Jude and the rest of their siblings to feel close to their wonderful, different, older brother. The situation probably escalated after the death of their father, Joseph. As the oldest child, Jesus probably had to take on the role of a substitute father to o.

After Jesus' public ministry began, James and Jude seemed to take a stand-back-and-watch attitude. One day Jesus would perform great miracles and receive acclamation as a hero. Yet the very next day he might present a convicting message that offended the powerful religious and political authorities. Jesus even claimed to be not only the promised Messiah but also God himself! Ultimately, he angered too many people and was sentenced to death. Without a doubt, James and Jude probably suspected that their brother was crazy (see Mark 3:21).

Yet Jesus' resurrection from the dead overcame the doubts of his younger brothers. Both James and Jude later became leaders in the early church. Their confidence in their big brother had been restored. James became one of the great leaders of the Christian community in Jerusalem. And both brothers are remembered for the books they wrote.

The transforming power of Christ's resurrection is still available for us today. The same power that transformed James and Jude can transform us and turn us from unbelieving cynics to faithful followers of Christ.

## STRENGTHS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

James and Jude both apparently wanted to understand and know Jesus. Both grew beyond their misunderstandings about Jesus and became effective leaders and writers in the early church.

## WEAKNESSES AND MISTAKES:

James and Jude did not really understand Jesus until after his resurrection. They became disillusioned with Jesus' claims when he faced opposition.

## LESSONS FROM THEIR LIVES:

Even those who are confused and disillusioned about Christ can regain trust and hope in him.

## KEY VERSE:

*"Whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother" (Matthew 12:50).*

James and Jude are named or alluded to in the Gospels and Acts 1:14. James is mentioned in Acts 15: 21; Galatians 1:19; 2: the book of James and Jude 1. Jude's name is found in Jude 1.

## Tactics

"Christians are intolerant or people who believe differently."

### TACTIC EMPLOYED

4:11 & Walking Contradiction (see page xiv)  
(in Bible intro)

First, ask what they mean by intolerant. Many people today say all views are equal. In this light, you are intolerant if you think your religious views are right and others are wrong. Thus tolerance means accepting everyone's views. However, people who define tolerance this way often contradict themselves. After all, the belief that Christianity is the one true religion is obviously a viewpoint. If all views are equally valid, the Christian's view is just as valid as other views and should be tolerated. And yet people who criticize Christians for being intolerant are rejecting the Christian viewpoint and are thus being intolerant by their own definition.

## ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY

### Confronting Those Who Do Wrong

Jude 20-23

God gives us the responsibility of honestly confronting those who do wrong. For some, such confrontation is a difficult task; for others, it is all too easy. We should not delight in finding fault in others, nor should we be so busy looking for sin in others' lives that we avoid facing our own problems. However, God may choose to use us to help others recognize the sin in their lives.

Jude the brother of Jesus reminded his readers that they were to deal honestly and mercifully with those who were doing wrong: "Be merciful to those who doubt; save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh" (Jude 22-23). Paul instructed his readers to do the same: "If someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted" (Galatians 6:1).

Jesus gave specific instructions for dealing with people who have sinned but refuse to see the truth and confess their sin.

*"If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses. If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector." (Matthew 18:15-17).*

Responsible relationships with others are essential to our spiritual growth. As we humbly help others see their faults, we practice obedience to God and his ways. We are not responsible for their behavior, but we are responsible to tactfully point out areas that may cause them to stumble, to fall or to lose their way.

Move on to Key 5 and turn to Matthew 18.

# JUDE

## THE BIG PICTURE

Jude wrote this letter to young believers who had left their old lives behind to follow Christ. They had made a spiritual and moral commitment to do what God wanted them to do. But it was not long before false teachers claimed that believers could live however they wanted to because God had paid for their sins and would forgive them. Consequently, many new believers were tempted to go back to their old ways of life.

Jude urged his readers to stand up for the truth and not fall back into their old ways as the false teachers wrongly counseled. Jude explained that it did matter how believers lived their lives; their actions did have consequences. Returning to their old sinful ways would cost a terrible price.

Pressures to fall back into sinful ways surround us. There will always be people who want us to give up in our spiritual walk. Some suggest we bend or give in just a little. Others discourage us by their contempt for our beliefs or lack of hope that we will ever change completely.

Recognizing and standing up for God's truth, however, will pay off, for it is the truth that sets us free. God has given us his truth in the Bible. We must study God's Word to know this truth, then stand up for it and live it out in our lives.

## SPIRITUAL RENEWAL THEMES

### THE IMPORTANCE OF ACTION

This letter is a call to action, a call "to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people" (Jude 3). Spiritual growth is an active process, not a passive one. When things are going well in our lives, we can be tempted to sit back and relax. But spiritual growth is an ongoing process of honestly reflecting on our lives, confessing our sins, accepting responsibility, making restitution, grieving, forgiving, letting go and allowing God to redirect our course back into line with his will. We need to persevere in this process to preserve the spiritual gains we have made.

### SHARING THE MESSAGE WITH OTHERS

Following Jesus is not a solitary activity. Jude urged his readers to help one another. He told them to be merciful and help each other by gently confronting one another, keeping others from falling prey to destructive beliefs and activities (see Jude 22-23). Spiritual renewal always gets us involved with other people. Our spiritual growth will not continue as God intends unless we make sharing the message of hope an integral part of our lives. As we share what God has done for us, we will gain new strength to persevere.

## THE EPISTLE OF JUDE

**FIGHT! CONTEND! DO BATTLE! WHEN apostasy arises, when false teachers emerge, when the truth of God is attacked, it is time to fight for the faith. Only believers who are spiritually "in shape" can answer the summons. At the beginning of his letter Jude focuses on the believers' common salvation, but then feels compelled to challenge them to contend for the faith. The danger is real. False teachers have crept into the church turning God's grace into unbounded license to do as they please. Jude reminds such men of God's past dealings with unbelieving Israel, disobedient angels, and wicked Sodom and Gomorrah. In the face of such danger Christians should not be caught off guard. The challenge is great, but so is the God who is able to keep them from stumbling.**

The Greek title *Ioudas*, "Of Jude," comes from the name *Ioudas* which appears in verse 1. This name, which can be translated Jude or Judas, was popular in the first century because of Judas Maccabaeus (died 160 B.C.), a leader of the Jewish resistance against Syria during the Maccabean revolt.

### WATCH WORDS

- Lord (owner or master)—9
- able (having both the inherent strength or capacity to do something and the willingness or disposition to do it)—24

## SCRIPTURE

*And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day. —Jude 6*

There are two ways to think about the grace of God: One is to look at yourself and see how sinful you were and say, "God's grace must be vast—it must be huge as space to forgive such a sinner as I am." That's one way and that's a good way—and probably that's the most popular way.

But there's another way to think of the grace of God. Think of it as the way God is—God being like God. And when God shows grace to a sinner He isn't being dramatic. He's acting like God. He'll never act any other way but like God. On the other hand, when that man whom justice has condemned turns his back on the grace of God in Christ and refuses to allow himself to be rescued, then the time comes when God must judge the man. And when God judges the man He acts like Himself in judging the man. When God shows love to the human race He acts like Himself. When God shows judgment to "the angels which kept not their first estate" (Jude 6), He acts like Himself.

—The Attributes of God I

A. A CAUTION TO BELIEVERS (1-16)

B. A CHALLENGE TO BELIEVERS (17-25)

## Essential Facts

### PURPOSE:

To warn believers of the dangers of false teachings about God.

### AUTHOR:

Jude, the brother of James and half-brother of Jesus.

### AUDIENCE:

All believers everywhere.

### DATE WRITTEN:

Probably around AD 65-70.

### SETTING:

From the beginning, the early church had been threatened by false teachers. Jude wrote this letter warning all believers not to accept just any teaching about God but to defend the truth that they had received from the apostles.

### KEY VERSES:

"But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life" (20-21).

### KEY PEOPLE AND RELATIONSHIPS:

Jude with his audience.

## JUDE IN REVIEW

### WHO SAID IT?

1. See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones to judge everyone." Who does Jude quote?

- A. Enoch
- B. Moses
- C. Ezekiel
- D. Haggai

### MINUTIAE & MISCELLANY

2. What does Jude say he was compelled to write about?

### TIME TRAVELER

3. You are the cities that serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire. What are you?

### Top 5! Questions

Why would the biblical writers ever quote sources outside of Scripture? • 9, 14, 15

Jude quotes twice from non-canonical books (books that are not part of our Bible). His first quotation (9) is from the *Assumption of Moses*; the other (14, 15) is from the *Apocalypse of First Enoch*. Both quotations provide information not found anywhere else in the Bible.

Because Jude was writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:20, 21), and because the material he quoted is accurate and true, the Holy Spirit incorporated it as inspired revelation. The apostle Paul also quoted from the writings of Greek poets and philosophers (Acts 17:28; 1 Cor. 15:33; Titus 1:12), and his quotations are likewise inspired.

Jude knew that his readers would be familiar with both of the works he cited. Paul's audience certainly knew the Greek poets. Just as a pastor today might supplement a sermon with an illustration from C. S. Lewis, the biblical writers quoted other sources so they could speak effectively to the cultures they were in and the people they were trying to reach.

1, 2 | Jude's passion to protect his readers from false teaching is evident from his first words as he recalls God's saving work on their behalf. Called and sanctified refer to being selected and set apart as his holy people at salvation (Rom. 1:17); preserved means salvation secured for eternity (John 6:37-44; 17:11, 12; Rom. 8:29-39). The truth is a believer's best defense: to stand firm in one's identity as God's child and His ability to safeguard one's soul is strength indeed.

1 | Although Jude was Jesus' half-brother, he was skeptical at first of Christ's divinity (Mark 3:21). Years later, however, he calls himself a bondservant of Jesus Christ. Servant (or slave) is one of the most commonly used titles in Scripture for those who submitted their lives to the Lord, Paul, Peter, James, and John all humbly adopted the title (Rom. 1:1; James 1:1; 2 Peter 1:1; Rev. 1:1).

2 | Jude wants mercy, peace, and love to characterize his readers rather than the selfishness, slander, and division of the false teachers (4).

3, 4 | Here is the context and main point of Jude's letter: ungodly men, whose words and deeds deny the truths of the faith, have infiltrated the church. Believers must contend (exert intense effort) for the purity of the gospel by preserving it as it was once and for all delivered by the apostles (Phil. 1:27).

4 | These false teachers abused grace to justify immorally and denied the deity of Christ to control the church. The voice here indicates that their willful sins merited themselves for condemnation. God did not single them out for punishment.

5-7 | Referring to three epic accounts from Scripture as examples—Israel's rebellion in the desert (Num. 25:9; 1 Cor. 10:5-10; Heb. 3:16), the incarnation of Satan and his angels (2 Pet. 2:4), and Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 19:24; 2 Pet. 2:6)—Jude reminds his readers that God consistently punishes idolaters, heretics, and rebels.

8 | False teaching is not just incorrect doctrine; it also produces incorrect living. These teachers defile the flesh by satisfying their own immoral desires. When Jude calls them dreamers, he may mean either that they relied on dreams and visions or that they were out of touch with reality. They even dared to reject authority and slander angelic beings (*aligkhatras*).

9 | The title archangel means the angel who is "first, principal, chief." Unlike the false teachers, Michael never spoke evil, even against Satan. God's people must reject and correct false doctrine but resist the temptation to revile their opponents. Judgment is in God's hands (Rom. 12:19; Heb. 10:30).

LIFE LESSONS: You will be judged for the things you do (verses 14–15).

# DID YOU KNOW JUDGE

Jude included quotes from two historical documents that are not a part of the Bible: Testament of Moses (cited in verse 9) First Book of Enoch (quoted in verses 14–15)

## KEY PASSAGE

"But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life" (verses 20–21).

### Name Dropper

Jude referenced several biblical names and places, including Egypt, Sodom, Gomorrah, Moses, Cain, Balaam, Korah, Enoch, Adam and even the archangel Michael.

### BY THE NUMBERS

CHAPTER 1  
VERSES 25  
WORDS 624

### In the Word

Jude passionately appealed to believers to beware of false prophets and deceivers. Jude reached back as far as "Enoch, the seventh from Adam" to evidence his concerns (verse 14).

## AUTHOR! AUTHOR!

Jude, a brother to James, addressed his letter: "To those who have been called, who are loved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ" (verse 1).

LIFE LESSONS: Focus on God's future plans for your life while you trust and obey him today (verses 20–21).