**Jude**

**Written:** Sometime around 67-69 AD

**Author:** Judah (Hebrew) Judas (Greek), half brother of Jesus and brother of the apostle James.

**Application:** Warning the Christian to avoid doctrinal error that yields to a life of rebellion. All Christians must avoid denying Christ’s lordship, promiscuously following fleshly desires, rejecting authority, being divisive, and living for self.

**Primary doctrinal error addressed: Gnosticism.**

**Vs. 1-2. Jude a slave of Jesus Christ**

Jude didn’t believe in Jesus (Mar 3: 20-21, John 7:1-5)

**20**Then He went home, and the crowd gathered again so that they were not even able to eat. **21**When His family heard this, they set out to restrain Him, because they said, “He’s out of His mind.” – Mark 3:20-21

**7**After this, Jesus traveled in Galilee, since He did not want to travel in Judea because the Jews were trying to kill Him. **2**The Jewish Festival of Tabernacles was near, **3**So,His brothers said to Him, “Leave here and go to Judea so Your disciples can see Your works that You are doing. **4**For no one does anything in secret while he’s seeking public recognition. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world.” **5**(For not even His brothers believed in Him.) – John 7:5

Jude wasn’t convinced by the miracles of Jesus.

Jude is convinced by the resurrection of Jesus (1 Cor. 15, Acts 1:14).

“Now brothers, I want to clarify for you the gospel I proclaimed to you; you received it and have taken your stand on it. **2**You are also saved by it, if you hold to the message I proclaimed to you—unless you believed for no purpose. **3**For I passed on to you as most important what I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, **4**that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, **5**and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve. **6**Then He appeared to over 500 brothers at one time; most of them are still alive, but some have fallen asleep. **7**Then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles. **8**Last of all, as to one abnormally born, He also appeared to me”. – 1 Corinthians 15:1-8

**“17**And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. **18**Therefore, those who have fallen asleep in Christ have also perished. **19**If we have put our hope in Christ for this life only, we should be pitied more than anyone.” – 1 Corinthians 15:17-19

**Jude wants you to know the assurance of Jesus’ resurrection.**

**Vs. 1: To those who are the called, loved by God the Father and kept by Jesus Christ.**

**Those who are called:**

Romans 1:6, 8:30

1 Corinthians 1:24

Ephesians 4:4

2 Peter 1:3

**Loved by the Father:**

1 John 3:1

Romans 8:15-16

**Kept by Jesus:**

1 Thes 5:23

2 Tim 1:12

1 peter 1:5

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Jude is encouraging us with the past, present and future aspects of God faithfulness. He called us past. The father loves us present, and will keep us in the future.

Jude also is making a trinitarian play here. He is pointing to the character and nature of God as Father (the one who loves), Son (the one who keeps), and Spirit (the one who calls).

**Vs. 3-4: Contend for the faith**

Contend - ἐπαγωνίζεσθαι – epagōnizesthai – “Agonize earnestly”

**14**Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens—Jesus the Son of God—let us hold fast to the confession. - Hebrews 4:14

Some men will come in who were designated long ago for judgment

Isaiah 8: 19-22

Jeremiah 5:13-14

2 Thes 2:6-10

2 Peter 2:3

Common characteristics of these false teachers:

They are ungodly.

They pervert the grace of God.

They encourage promiscuity.

They deny Jesus Christ in some way.

**Vs. 5: Out of Egypt (5-12)**

God was faithful (Exodus 12:12)

1. Ex 14:10-12 – God ends army of Egypt

2. Ex 15:22-24 – God makes water drinkable by tree

3. Ex 16:1-3 – God rains bread from Heaven

4. Ex 16:11-20 – God gives them meat in quail

5. Ex 16:25-30 – God provides them enough for sabbath

6. Ex 17:1-4 – God provides water by having Moses hit the rock

7. Ex 17:8-15 – God saves them from the Amalekites

8. Ex 32:1-6 – God doesn’t kill them for their calf idolatry

9. Num 11:1-3 – God holds back fire from consuming them

10. Num 11:4-34 – God provides them food

11. Numbers 21:4-9 God saves the people from snakes

Yet God destroys the people for their lack of belief (Numbers 13-14, Deuteronomy 1:19-46)

**Vs.6: God eternally damned angels for their rebellion**

Isaiah 14:12-15

Revelation 12:4, 7-9

2 Peter 2:4

**Vs. 7: Sodom and Gomorrah and surrounding towns’ sexual rebellion (Genesis 19:1-29)**

Genesis 19:1-29

**View one**(Most common view in Christian Orthodoxy): verse 7 reference to “In the same way”, and “just as the angels did” is Jude quoting from the Book of Enoch (a non-inspired, non-Biblical book, that was a widely recognized historic book in Jewish literature. It was not ever considered Biblical cannon by the apostles, or the church. It also has no claim of being the inerrant word of God. In Jamie’s view Enoch isn’t authoritative as God’s Word and actually contains a number of historic errors. Yet, still a historic text worthy of consideration as a written history book).

Enoch argues that Genesis 6:1-4 is the Sons of God (fallen angels), and the daughters of men (human women) having sex and producing the Nephilim (powerful and famous or infamous men of old).

Supporting texts:

Genesis 6:1-4

2 Peter 2:4-5

Jude 7

Job 1:6, 2:1, 38:7 (Angels being referred to as the sons of God)

**Drawbacks to this view:**

Matthew 22:29-30 (No biblical evidence that angels can have sex with humans).

The sons of God is overwhelmingly used to describe humans, those who walk with Yahweh.

Numbers 13:33 (The Nephilim exist even after the flood, indicating this is likely a Biblical term for really bad guys).

The book of Enoch has historic errors.

**View two:** verse 7 reference to “In the same way”, and “just as the angels did” relates to the rebellion and violation of God’s good design, more then a direct sexual sin link. This is known as the two lines view. It understands Genesis 6 in terms of its greater context in the book of Genesis. Following the narrative two lines emerge. First, is those who follow Yahweh (the sons of God) and those who do evil (the daughters of man). Every time the two lines come together the people do great evil and meet the judgment of God. The graph below is one Jamie created to pictorially explain it. The visual of what is going on in Genesis helps.



Supporting texts:

Genesis 6:1-4

2 Peter 2:4-5

Jude 7

Almost all references to the sons of God outside the book of Job

**Drawbacks to this view:**

A strong case can be made for Jude quoting Enoch as he does later in the chapter.

“Just as the angels did” can directly be correlated to the sexual perversion of Sodom, Gomorrah and the other cities.

**Vs. 8:** μιαίνουσιν - Miainousin – defile (Titus 1:15, Hebrews 12:15, Romans 1:24,26-27, Ephesians 4:19).

These people reject authority

Slander celestial beings (Don’t see them as real or powerful)

Dreamers, believing they can fulfil their own desires with their own wisdom

**Vs. 9: “The Assumption of Moses”** – Is a pseudo epigraphical book, is not an inspired, inerrant word of God. Yet it was a well-accepted writing in Jewish tradition. Michael the archangel who no doubt has been given great power by God, doesn’t even try to fight Satan in his strength. This is dramatically different than these.

**Vs. 10:** They do not understand the full picture, and so they speak slanderously of the spiritual warfare world. They instead just follow the desire of their flesh like unreasoning animals.

**Vs. 11:** They have taken the way of Cain: having a rebellious heart, designing their own obedience on their terms (Genesis 4:1-7), they were envious (5), and had a murderous spirit (1 John 3:12, Genesis 4:8).

Balaam’s error – Balaam was a prophet of God, who accepted payment to curse the people of Israel. Numbers 22:21-31. These leaders in Jude’s day were doing the same thing, leading people into rebellion, all for financial gain.

Korah led a rebellion against the leadership of Moses and Aaron. Because they had been appointed by God, the rebellion was actually against the leadership of God (Numbers 16).

**Vs. 12-13: These church leaders only give life to themselves**

σπιλάδες - spilades – Stains/Spot/growth

Selfish shepherds (Ezekiel 34:2)

Clouds without rain (Proverbs 25:14)

Twice dead, dead as evidenced by being fruitless and dead by lack of roots

Chaotic waves (Isaiah 57:20)

**Vs. 14-15: The judgment of God from the book of Enoch**

He seems to be quoting from the book of Enoch (1:9), purportedly written by or about Enoch (Genesis 5:4-20). Jude’s comment is inspired scripture, but unlike the beliefs of some, this did not make the book of Enoch the Word of God.

Jude’s point is those who rebel against God will meet Judgment (Matthew 24:30, 2 Thes.1:7-10).

**Vs. 16: The people are ungodly in attitude**

They are grumblers and faultfinders.

They follow their own evil desires.

They brag about themselves (2 Peter 2:18).

They flatter people for their own advantage.