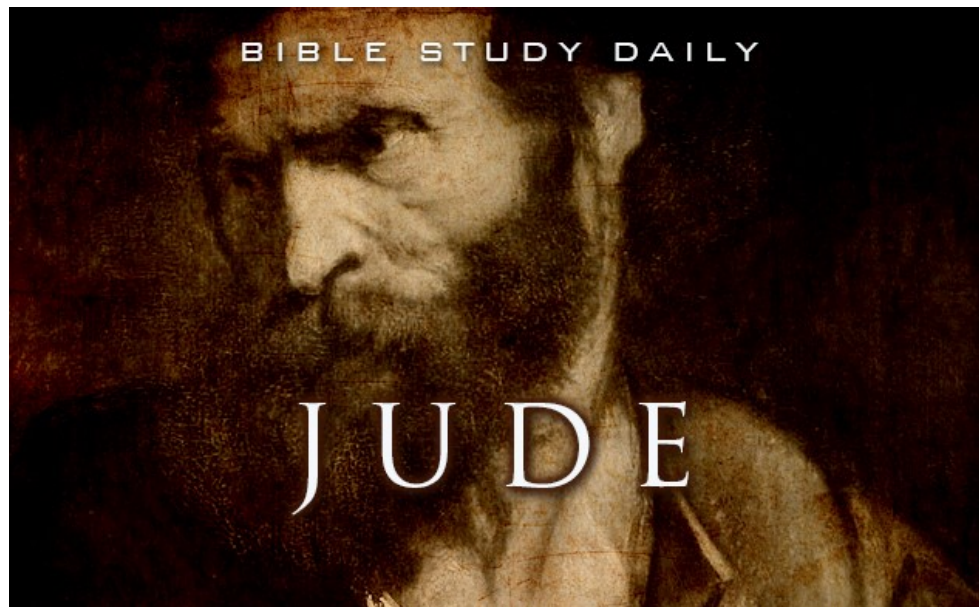




# BIBLE STUDY DAILY



This document contains the introduction to the book of Jude as well as my study notes for the book.

## Name

The title “Jude ” comes from the name of the author (v.1).

## Author

Jude referred to himself in verse 1 as a brother of James. James the son of Zebedee, was martyred early (Acts 12:1-2) so it cannot be him. The other James is the half-brother of Jesus and leader of the church in Jerusalem (Acts 15:13-21). If Jude was the brother of James he was also the half-brother of Jesus. Most scholars accept Jude, the half-brother of Jesus as the author.

External evidence comes from a number of early church fathers who ascribe authorship to Jude, including: Hermas, Polycarp, Tertullian, and Eusebius.

## Genre

General Epistle

## Literary Form

Jude bears the marks of a traditional letter format (an opening, the letter body, and a close). Its form is exhortation and encouragement, with some apocalyptic language.

## Time Frame

Dating the book of with precision is difficult because there are few clues in the letter itself. Many scholars believe Jude was heavily influenced by 2 Peter which was written about A.D. 67-68. Peter predicted that false teachers would arise (2 Peter 2:1), but Jude says they have slipped in among the congregation (v. 4). For this reason most scholars assign a date of A.D. 67-80.

## Emphasis

The emphasis of Jude is an exhortation to reject false teachers who teach a different Gospel, and encouragement to believers to hold firm to the Gospel they had been taught.

## Outline

- Greeting (1-2)
- Purpose in writing (3-4)
- Examples of Apostates and judgement (5-19)
- Exhortation and benediction (20-25)

# What I Noticed Today (Jude 1)

In verse 1 Jude introduces himself as a slave of Jesus and the brother of James.

**Note:** The James referred to here is not James the son of Zebedee, but in all likelihood is James the half-brother of Jesus. Thus, Jude is also a half-brother of Jesus.

- To all those called, and loved by God the Father and kept by Jesus Christ.

**Note:** Each of the three aspects of the recipients is referred to again in the letter. Those who have been called refers to salvation we share (v. 3), the love of God (v. 21), and the Lord Jesus Christ who brings eternal life (v. 21, 24).

- May mercy, peace and love be multiplied to you. (Similar to 2 John, and 3 John)

In verses 3-4 Jude's purpose in writing is a warning about apostasy:

- Jude wished to write about the salvation we share, but....
- I find it necessary to exhort you to contend for the faith.
- Some men are teaching falsehoods in the church. They are ungodly, turning the grace of God into promiscuity and denying the Lord Jesus Christ.


In verses 5-12 Jude provides examples of three apostates who were destroyed:

- The Lord saved those out of Egypt, and then destroyed those who did not believe.
- God has kept angels in chains in darkness who deserted their proper dwelling until judgement day.
- God judged with eternal fire the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah for their sexual immorality and perversions.
- They defiled their flesh, rejected authority, and blasphemed glorious ones.

**Note:** The phrase "glorious ones" (other translations "celestial beings") often is used in reference to angels.

- Michael, in a dispute with the Devil over the body of Moses, called on God to judge, rather than condemn Satan himself.

**Note:** Most scholars agree this story (v. 9) refers to a story from an apocryphal book, *The Assumption of Moses*, in which Michael and the Devil are arguing over who can take Moses' body for burial.

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- But these people blaspheme anything they don't understand and destroy themselves in the process. Woe to them, they have become like Cain, Balaam, and Korah who all rebelled against God.

In verses 12-19 Jude describes the judgement coming to present day apostates:

- These dangerous apostates feast with you nurturing only themselves.
- They are like waterless clouds; fruitless trees twice dead, pulled out by the roots; wild waves foaming up (raging back and forth only producing foam); or wandering stars of blackness (shooting stars bright for a moment then dark).

**Note:** Jude is not describing unfruitful believers, but apostates who have rejected God and will spend eternity in darkness.

- Enoch prophesied about them (Enoch 1:9). The Lord will come with thousands of angels to execute judgement on them for their ungodly acts and things they have said against God.
- They are discontented grumblers living according to their desires. They are arrogant, flattering people for their own advantage.
- But you remember what the Lord told you; in the end times there will be scoffers walking according to their own desires (Acts 20:29-30).
- These people create division and are unbelievers. They do not have the Holy Spirit in them.

In verses 20-23 Jude exhorts them to build themselves up:

- Build yourselves up in the faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.
- Keep yourselves in love with God, expecting the mercy of our Lord Jesus for eternal life.
- Have mercy on those who doubt.
- Save others by snatching them from the fire of hell (Amos 4:11).
- Show mercy to heretics, but be wary of them lest you be defiled by them.

In verses 22-23 Jude closes the letter with a benediction.

*Some thoughts for additional consideration:*

- *Jude commands us to contend for the faith, to build ourselves up in the faith, to save others from the fire of hell, and to be wary of heretics who would defile our relationship with the Father and the Son.*