

JUDE

There are several opinions of who this Jude, or Judas is. There was an apostle, named Judas, other than Judas Iscariot, who was numbered with the apostles. This is the Judas who was the brother of James.. He would have been the half-brother of Jesus. He, like James, had not believed Jesus to be Messiah until after Jesus rose from the dead. Like most, if not all, of Jesus' immediate family, Jude did not respond favorably to Jesus' ministry during His earthly days. Yet later he may have been among Jesus' brothers who had preaching ministries. As a close relative of Jesus and a brother of James, himself a Jewish Christian leader in Jerusalem, Jude wrote with authority and the assurance that his earliest readers would give him a careful hearing. The doctrinal and moral apostasy discussed by Jude, closely parallels that of 2 Peter 2. I personally believe this book to be by the half-brother of Jesus.

1 Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called:

This statement seems to be from some one who is humbled by the fact of who Jesus is. "Sanctified", means made holy, or set aside for God's purpose. All believers are preserved in Christ. The devil cannot take them away from Jesus. Called means those whom God has called.

2 Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied.

"Mercy and peace and love", was a common Jewish greeting. Only here in the New Testament do these 3 qualities appear so closely together. Where law and works prevail, there is failure and death. Where grace prevails, there is mercy, and peace, and love, in abundance. Peter is the only one of the other writers who prayed the blessings would be multiplied. The love added to the blessing is as if it is said by John. I believe all these men of God had great influence on Jude.

3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

Salvation is a simple thing and is received by everyone, in this age, the very same way, by simple belief in Jesus, and what He did at Calvary. See 1 Cor. 15:2-4 for the bottom line on salvation. Something happened that caused Jude to find it necessary to write this letter. The message is a simple one. Do whatever is necessary to expose others to the salvation message, but to beware of false teachers. This is a letter begging them to seek out salvation. The salvation message had been given earlier to the saints. Jude does not want anything to happen to cause them to miss the opportunity of salvation. He explains it is simple to receive and is for everyone who will.

4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

These were infiltrating, false teachers pretending to be true. On the surface these men looked like the real thing, but whose intentions were to lead God's people astray (Matt. 7:15); These apostates were Satan's counterfeits. They were characterized by 3 features: (1) They were ungodly; (2) They perverted grace; and (3) They denied Christ. Their doom was "pre-written" in Scripture as a warning to all who would come later. Jesus had warned about them in Matt. 7:15 and following. This is that famous passage that preachers sometimes use, incorrectly, to scare their congregations. Here it is; **Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.** This is not people in the congregation but false teachers. **{7:16} Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? {7:17} Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. {7:18} A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither [can] a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. {7:19}**

Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. {7:20} Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. Now comes the part used to scare us. **{7:21} Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. {7:22} Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? {7:23} And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.** So this passage ,in Matthew,applies to what Jude is writing about and not to born again Christians. If you have done what God has said to do regarding your salvation,then believe God.

5 I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not.

Now,We often hear it taught that God destroyed everyone of the Israelites,above the age of forty,for their unbelief. In other words,those adults that came out of Egypt ,and refused to believe God,and go into the promised land at Kadesh Barnea,died in the wilderness. This verse says it a little differently. It says only that those who “believed not” were destroyed. Both are correct of course.

6 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.

We see a pattern here. First the false teachers,then the unbelievers in the wilderness and now the angels which left their first estate. Apparently, this is a reference to the fallen angels of Gen. 6; sons of God. The transition to Sodom and Gomorrah,in verse 7, points to the similarity of the sin of homosexuality and what these angels did in leaving their place and cohabiting with human women,that is,going after strange flesh. These angels who sinned , are currently imprisoned and destined to continue in everlasting chains through to

the final judgment, when all demons, fallen angels and Satan are forever consigned to the “lake of fire”.

7 Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

Now Jude adds homosexuality to the list. Be sure to notice also that he includes fornication along with this charge of homosexuality and the angels going after strange flesh.

8 Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities.

This is just saying, that the sins of the flesh lead a person to come against all authority of God and the authority He has set up upon the earth. To defile the flesh, is to do things against the laws of nature.

9 Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.

Michael is the chief archangel of God who especially watches over Israel , and leads the holy angels. Nowhere else in Scripture is the struggle over the body of Moses mentioned. Michael had to fight with Satan there, to do God’s bidding. Moses died on Mt. Nebo in Moab without having entered the Promised Land and was secretly buried in a place not known to man. That’s Deut. 34:5-6 if you want the reference. It would likely be that this confrontation took place as Michael buried Moses to prevent Satan from using Moses’ body for some diabolical purpose not stated. Rather than personally cursing such a powerful angel as Satan, Michael deferred to the ultimate, sovereign power of God. This is the supreme illustration of how Christians are to deal with Satan and demons. Believers are not to address them, but rather to seek the Lord’s intervening power against them.

10 But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves.

Jude is still speaking of the false teachers here. Apostate preachers, and teachers, are intellectually arrogant and spiritually ignorant in that they don't know because they are blinded by Satan. Spiritual matters are beyond their unregenerate capacity to understand. In spiritual matters, they are no brighter than the dumbest beasts.

11 Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.

Jude is still speaking of false teachers and preachers. He compares them to Cain, a murderer, Balaam who sold out the nation of Israel for money, and Core (Korah), who opposed Moses in the wilderness. Cain's heart was not right before God. Balaam, by accepting the bribe, led Israel to sin, that's Numbers 22 – 24. Korah led a rebellion against Moses and thus against God (Numbers 16). The rebellion of Korah plus 250 Jewish leaders rejected the God-appointed leadership of Moses and Aaron in an attempt to impose his will upon God and God's people.

One final observation before we leave this verse. Notice these words in the above verse, "and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward". Moving this to modern times, could this apply to Bennie, Joyce, Joell and others like them?

12 These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots;

We have a huge crop of these people today in both our TV evangelists and in most of our pulpits. What do these things in verse twelve have in common? They are all, completely useless. Preaching should always teach you something about God and/or God's word. It is not about sports, politics, putting on a show, or to make you feel good.

13 Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.

“Wandering stars” most likely refers to a meteor or shooting star which has an uncontrolled moment of brilliance and then fades away forever into nothing. Apostates promise enduring spiritual direction, but deliver a brief, aimless and worthless flash. The waves, spoken of, are out of control. These things are lost. Notice that blackness and darkness awaits them. Blackness and darkness, spiritually speaking, represent evil.

14 And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,

This is the Enoch that walked with God, and was not, because God took him. He pleased God and was carried into heaven to be with God without going the way of the grave. In other words he was raptured and is our type of the rapture of the Church. This verse begins to speak about the Second Coming of our Lord. From this, and some of the apocraphal writings it does seem that there was a “book of Enoch”. So, why don't we have that book? We do not have it because the Holy Spirit did not include it in our bible. If someone found a “book of Enoch tomorrow it would not matter. God has given us all that we need.

15 To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

The word “ungodly” is used four times in this verse and is still being used to describe false teachers standing at the judgment bar. This boils down to a failure to reverence God and God's word. Jesus is the Judge. It is the Lord Jesus who executes judgment.

16 These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.

Their message is attractive, but is void of divine truth. They tell people what they want to hear for their own profit rather than proclaiming the truth of God's Word for the listener's benefit. This judgment will be executed against both the false teachers and the people who believe and accept this. The sins listed in the verse above, are sins of the flesh. They are caused by worldliness.

17 But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ;

This is a total contrast to the people mentioned in verse 16. This is speaking to the followers of God [the beloved]. We, Christians, are reminded to keep our thoughts on the true gospel and true doctrine.

18 How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.

These apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ had warned that in the end times there would be scoffers who walk after the ways of the world and, also, try to lead others in this wicked way. Throughout this present dispensation, between the first advent and the second coming of Christ, there have been those who ridicule true believers. We have already seen these multiply as we move toward the close of the age. Immoral and amoral, they seek their own unholy sensual desires, following "after their own ungodly lusts." If you doubt this, spend an hour in front of your television.

19 These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.

Jude seems to have in mind their tendency to be divisive, to set forth heretical notions and then separate themselves and their followers from those who hold to the truth. But note that they get their start in the church itself. They fracture the church rather than unite it. Sensual or worldly-minded people are people who are controlled by their flesh

and not the Spirit of God. I am sorry to say that our churches, in our own denomination, are full of this type of people.

20 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

Notice, it is our obligation to build our faith, and the best way to build faith is to study the Word, pray often and use the faith we have. The more we use it, the more it grows. When we do not know what to pray for, God the Holy Ghost prays for us, if we will allow Him. What exactly does that mean? If, at times, you just can't seem to get prayer going, then simply be quiet, in a prayerful attitude, and let the Holy Spirit take over. Letting God pray through you, for you, builds you up more than you could ever imagine.

21 Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Jesus Himself said, "if you love me keep my commandments". This is one of those commandments and shows the believer's responsibility to be obedient and faithful by living out a Christian life, while God works out His will. This is waiting, in eager anticipation, for the Rapture and, later, for Christ's second coming. Paul called this "loved His appearing" in 2 Tim. 4:8, and John, in 1 John 3:3, wrote that such a steady anticipation was purifying. Purifying he said. Think about that.

22 And of some have compassion, making a difference:

Now we come to very different types of witnessing or preaching. Be easy and gentle with some in order to reach them.

23 And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

To these others preach and witness hellfire and damnation to scare them into accepting Christ. Give a little of your time now to save someone from an eternity in the lake of fire. I hate the thought of anyone winding up in the lake of fire. The question is, do you hate it enough to spend your time keeping others from going there? There is no greater task on this earth.

24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

Christians possess Christ's imputed righteousness through justification by faith and have been made worthy of eternal life in heaven. This is also a good security verse. You did not save yourself and you do not keep your salvation. It is kept by the One who gave it.

25 To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.
