

# Jude

By James West

**Key message of the book:** *All believers should earnestly contend for the faith, understanding the true character, fate, and strategies of the ungodly deceivers who have crept into the church.*

## Background information:

This book is written by Jude, the brother of James (author of James) and of the Lord Jesus. Neither he nor James were of the twelve, and so were not apostles. Jude was probably converted sometime between the resurrection and the ascension of Jesus.

Jude covers similar subject matter to that mentioned in Peter's second epistle. Peter was writing to the dispersed Jews. For this reason, and also for the reason that Jude is the brother of James, one of the elders at Jerusalem, it is very likely that Jude is also writing to Jews predominantly. Add to this the fact that he uses some apocryphal information, likely known only to Jewish readers. One difference between 2 Peter and Jude is that Peter prophesied of the false teachers who were soon to come. Jude speaks about them as already present. Maybe we could assume, as Hester does, that Peter had just been martyred when Jude wrote this epistle about A.D. 68.

Jude's objective in writing is to encourage the brethren to earnestly contend for the faith, being alert to the presence of ungodly deceivers, and to pro-actively strengthen themselves in their faith, and to look to the all-sufficiency of God.

## Outline:

*Earnestly contend for the faith!*

1. Greeting (vv. 1-2)
2. Contend for the faith (v. 3)
3. Ungodly men have crept in! (vv. 4-16)
  - a. Their destruction is sure, proven by God's dealings in history: (vv. 5-7)
    - i. Unbelievers destroyed, even after the exodus from Egypt (v. 5)
    - ii. Angels reserved to judgment, after leaving their first habitation (v. 6)
    - iii. Destruction of the cities that gave themselves over to sexual perversions. (v. 7)
  - b. Similarities listed and enlarged upon (vv. 8-10)
  - c. Woe unto these men! (vv. 11-16)
    - i. They follow the ways of three Bible apostates: (v. 11)
      1. Cain: Hating the brethren (Gen 4:8; 1 John 3:12)
      2. Balaam: Greedy for gain (Num 22-24)
      3. Core: Rebelling against authority (Num 16:1-3)
    - ii. Their character described by way of five metaphors (vv. 12-13)
      1. Spots in your feasts

2. Clouds without water
    3. Trees whose fruit withereth
    4. Raging waves
    5. Wandering stars
  - iii. Enoch's prophecy (vv. 14-16)
    1. Of coming judgment (vv. 14-15)
    2. Applied to them (v. 16)
4. Specific instructions for the beloved: (vv. 17-23)
  - a. Identify these men according to the prior warnings of the apostles and Jesus. (vv. 17-19)
  - b. Keep yourselves in the love of God. (vv. 20-21)
  - c. Contend for souls (vv. 22-23)
5. Final blessing, looking to the all-sufficiency of God (vv. 24-25)



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