

The Book of Jude

Author: Jude 1

Identification of the author of the Book of Jude is Jude, a brother of James.

This likely refers to Jesus' half-brother Jude, as Jesus also had a half-brother named James (Matthew 13:55). Jude likely does not identify himself as a brother of Jesus out of humility and reverence for Christ.

Date of Writing:

The Book of Jude is closely related to the book of 2 Peter. The Book of Jude was written somewhere between A.D. 60 and 80.

Purpose of Writing the Book:

- The Book of Jude is an important book for us today because it is written for the end times, for the end of the church age.

The church age began at the Day of Pentecost.

- Jude is the only book given entirely to the great apostasy.
Apostasy—renunciation of a religious faith; abandonment of a previous loyalty (defection). He writes that evil works are the evidence of apostasy.
- He admonishes us to contend for the faith, for there are tares among the wheat.

False prophets are in the church and the saints are in danger. This book is worthy of our study as it was written for the Christian of then and today.

Key Verses: Jude 3: "Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints."

Jude 17-19: "But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. They said to you, 'In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires.' These are the men who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit."

Jude 24-25: "To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen."

Brief Summary:

- Jude was anxious to write about our salvation; however, he changed topics to address contending for the faith (a faith that embodies the complete body of Christian doctrine taught by Christ, later passed on to the apostles).

- After Jude warns of false teachers (verses 4-16), he advises us on how we can succeed in spiritual warfare (verses 20-21).

Here is wisdom we would do well to accept and adhere to as we go through these days of the end times.

Connections:

The Book of Jude is filled with references to the Old Testament:

(Well-known historical illustrations of Sodom and Gomorrah, Cain, Balaam, and Korah)

All of the names above remind the Jewish Christians, the Gentile believers, and us of the necessity of true faith and obedience.

Practical Application:

- With us living in a unique time in history, Jude can help equip us for the many challenges of living in the end times.
- We must be on guard for false doctrines, which can so easily deceive us if we are not well versed in the Word.

Know this about the evil contenders for our faith:

1. *They criticize everything which they do not understand,*
2. *They allow themselves to be corrupted by the things they do understand.*

- We need to know the Gospel—to protect and defend it—and accept the Lordship of Christ, which is evidenced by a life-change.
 - Remember....Authentic faith always reflects Christ-like behavior.
- Our life in Christ should reflect our very own heart-knowledge that rests on the authority of the Almighty Creator and Father who puts faith into practice.
- It is imperative that we have that personal relationship with Him; only then will we know His voice so well that we will follow no other.

Jude is a challenge for us to always stand for truth and never compromise God's principles and precepts!