

JUDE

Synopsis: *^ The book is named after its author, “Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James” (v.1). The letter is addressed to all Christians, and challenges them to realize that apostasy can take place. It encourages them to make a stand for the truth. See v.3, “Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.”

Author: Jude

Chapters: 1

Background:^ Jude (Judas) is thought generally to be another half-brother of Jesus, like James (Matthew 13:55, 56). The epistle is similar to II Peter (cf. II Peter 2:1-3). Apparently Jude intended to write concerning “our common salvation” but became convinced that he needed to write to encourage Christians to “contend earnestly for the faith” (v. 3). Perhaps he saw a copy of Peter’s second letter and was referring to it in v. 17. The letter is thought to have been written between A.D. 65 and A.D. 75.

Five Great Lessons*

1. We must contend for truth and righteousness.
2. Not every brother is faithful.
3. There is a hell.
4. We should keep ourselves in God’s love.
5. The Bible is without error.

Outline*

- I. Introduction and purpose of the book (vv. 1-3).
- II. Why they must take a stand (v. 4).
- III. Examples for them to ponder (vv. 5-7).
- IV. A list of more dangers (vv. 8-16).
- V. Their faith will make a difference (vv. 17-23).
- VI. God will see them through these times (vv. 24-25).

*Butterworth, Ken. *God Hath Spoken: An Open-Bible Study Series – New Testament Workbook*, 2006.

^Roper, David. *Through the Bible: A Systematic Study of the Old and New Testament Scriptures*, 1999.

Lessons ^*

False teachers still abound; never doubt it. Their fate—as well as the stance we must take toward them—is still the same. “Contend earnestly for the faith” (v. 3). Contend means to strive, argue, wrestle. The church and truth are worth fighting for. The faith has been delivered once for all.

If angels do not escape God’s wrath, neither will these false teachers. Compare to Matthew 25:41 and II Peter 2:4.

When, where, and what, verse 9 is all about is not revealed in the Scriptures. The teaching is that if the archangel used restraint against Satan, then these false teachers should exercise restraint in their railing condemnations against others.

The statement quoted in verse 14 is not found in the Old Testament, but the Holy Spirit revealed to Jude that Enoch said it. The reference is to the angels that will accompany Jesus on Judgment Day (14-15; Matthew 25:31; II Thess. 1:7-10).

Challenging Themes*

- v. 3 The Bible is the complete, revealed, and inspired will of God. (Cf. II Peter 1:3, 20-21; II Tim. 3:16-17).
- vv. 17-23 Apostasy can be prevented by remembering and practicing what the Bible teaches.

**Butterworth, Ken. God Hath Spoken: An Open-Bible Study Series – New Testament Workbook, 2006.*

^Roper, David. Through the Bible: A Systematic Study of the Old and New Testament Scriptures, 1999.