NEW TESTAMENT · GENERAL EPISTLES · BOOK 65 OF 66

Jude

Earnestly contend for the faith (v. 3)

25	c. A.D. 60–80	Threes	“Contend”
Verses, 1 Chapter	Written	Throughout	(v. 3)

BACKGROUND

A Short, Urgent Letter

NAME

Jude

Greek Ioudas (Judah, Judas). English Bibles use Jude to set him apart from Judas Iscariot.

AUTHOR

Brother of James

A brother of the Lord (Mark 6:3), calling himself only His servant (v. 1).

DATE

c. A.D. 60–80

No date is given; near the time of 2 Peter. Some date it later in the first century.

PURPOSE

A Change of Plan

He meant to write of “the common salvation,” but had to warn of false teachers (v. 3).

JUDE’S FAMILY

Brothers of the Lord

1 Mark 6:3

Four Brothers

James, Joses, Juda and Simon

2 John 7:5

Unbelief

His brethren did not believe

3 Acts 1:14

Believers

With the disciples in prayer

4 Jude 1

Servant

Of Jesus Christ, brother of James

JUDE’S STYLE

Groups of Three

v. 1

Sanctified, preserved, called

v. 2

Mercy, peace, love

vv. 5–7

Israel in the wilderness, the angels, Sodom and Gomorrha

v. 8

Defile the flesh, despise dominion, speak evil of dignities

v. 11

Cain, Balaam, Core

v. 19

Separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit

STRUCTURE

The Book in Four Parts



Each bar shows that part’s share of the 25 verses.

I vv. 1–4 · 4 verses

Greeting and Purpose

Contend for the faith.

II vv. 5–7 · 3 verses

Three Examples of Judgment

Israel, the angels, and Sodom and Gomorrha.

III vv. 8–16 · 9 verses

The Ungodly Intruders

Their character and Enoch’s prophecy.

IV vv. 17–25 · 9 verses

A Call to Persevere

Keep yourselves in the love of God.

Contend for the Faith

VERSES 1–4

Contend for the Faith

v. 1

Called and Kept

"Sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called."

v. 2

Multiplied

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

> *"Ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."*
>
> Jude 3 (KJV)

"Certain men crept in unawares ... turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ" (v. 4).

JUDE AT A GLANCE · PART 3 OF 4

Examples and Intruders

VERSES 5–7

Three Examples of Judgment

v. 5

Israel

Saved out of Egypt, then destroyed for unbelief.

v. 6

The Angels

“Which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation.”

v. 7

Sodom and Gomorrha

“Suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.”

VERSES 8–13

The Intruders

Michael the archangel, disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, “said, The Lord rebuke thee” (v. 9).

Three Bad Ways (v. 11)

- The way of Cain: hatred
- The error of Balaam: greed
- The gainsaying of Core: rebellion

Pictures (vv. 12–13)

- Clouds without water; fruitless trees
- Raging waves of the sea
- Wandering stars

VERSES 14–16

Enoch’s Prophecy

> *“Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment upon all.”*
>
> Jude 14–15 (KJV)

Enoch, “the seventh from Adam” (v. 14). The words are also found in the book of Enoch.

JUDE AT A GLANCE · PART 4 OF 4

Keep Yourselves; the Doxology

VERSES 17–23

Keep Yourselves in the Love of God

"Remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles" (v. 17): mockers would come in the last time.

1 v. 20

Build Up

On your most holy faith

2 v. 20

Pray

In the Holy Ghost

3 v. 21

Keep

In the love of God

4 v. 21

Look

For the mercy of our Lord

v. 22

Compassion

"And of some have compassion, making a difference."

v. 23

Rescue

"And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire."

BIG IDEAS

Key Themes

Contend

For the faith once delivered.

v. 3

Judgment

The ungodly judged.

vv. 5–7, 14–15

Grace

Not a licence to sin.

v. 4

Remember

God's word and works.

vv. 5, 17

Kept

Keep and be kept.

vv. 1, 21, 24

Mercy

Received and shown.

vv. 2, 21–23

KEY VERSE

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

Jude 24–25 (KJV)