

Overview

Jude writes this urgent letter to warn believers about false teachers who have stealthily crept into the church, distorting the Gospel and enticing others into sin. In response, he charges the church to earnestly contend for the faith—defending biblical truth and remaining steadfast in God’s Word.

To illustrate the severe consequences of rebellion, Jude draws on powerful Old Testament examples and vivid natural imagery:

- **Historical Warnings:** He references the downfalls of Cain, Balaam, and Korah to expose the roots of pride, greed, and rebellion.
- **Vivid Imagery:** He famously exposes the true nature of these false teachers, comparing them to hidden reefs, wandering stars, and waterless clouds that promise much but deliver nothing.

Ultimately, Jude teaches that believers must remain anchored in their faith. By relying on God’s grace, building themselves up through prayer, and keeping their focus on Christ’s return, they can withstand deception.

Key Verses

But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. (Jude 1:20-21)

Key Truth

God’s people must defend the doctrines of the faith by preserving biblical truth, confronting heresy, and humbly standing up for the Good News.

Background

The Book of Jude is a tiny, one-chapter letter that feels like the gateway to Revelation. It’s written by Jude, one of the half-brothers of Jesus Christ, and it packs more gravity into twenty-five verses than you might think possible. Jude takes you into corners of biblical history and spiritual conflict that most believers rarely explore. It’s fascinating, sometimes unsettling, and always meant to be practical.

Jude is an unusual book. How can a letter this short hold so many mysteries, warnings, and spiritual realities? But the real reason to study Jude is not curiosity; it’s urgency. If Acts records the early advance of the gospel through the apostles, Jude reads like a sober report on what happens when people drift, distort, and defect—when apostasy begins to spread within the visible church.

Jude was written for days like ours.

This letter spans the storyline of Scripture—from Eden to Israel’s wilderness failures, from episodes involving angels to prophetic warnings about judgment and glory. Jude assumes you know what he’s talking about, and that’s part of what makes it so instructive: it forces us back into the Scriptures to verify what we’re hearing and to strengthen our discernment.

Jude is virtually devoted—almost entirely—to the subject of apostasy. It is not a side theme. It's the main burden. And it's timely, because Scripture warns that a "falling away" would precede the final unfolding of end-time rebellion.

Paul writes:

"Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition." (Second Thessalonians 2:3)

He also warns Timothy:

"Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons." (First Timothy 4:1)

And again:

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables." (2 Timothy 4:3-4)