

Jude

Contending for the Faith Without Being Contentious

Required Text:

Kistemaker, Simon J, *James, New Testament Commentary, Epistles of John, Peter and Jude*, Baker Books, Grand Rapids, MI, 1995

Other Readings:

Any good, modern, commentary on the book of Jude

Introductory Matters:

Author

The name ("Judas" in Greek) occurs 44 times in the NT and refers to at least eight men

See Matthew 13:55 & Mark 6:3 for a list of Jesus' brothers

Luke 6:16 – "of James" (compare Matthew 10:3 & Mark 3:18, seems to be Thaddaeus)

Describes himself in v. 1

An apostle? See vs. 1 & 17

Recipients

What do we learn from v. 5 – 7, 9, 11, 14

Date

Given the lack of Gentile references

Story recorded by Hegesippus about Jude's grandsons

Structure / Outline

- I. Salutation (1, 2)
- II. Purpose statement & exhortation (3, 4)

- III. The false teachers (5 – 19)
- IV. The second exhortation (20 – 23)
- V. Concluding doxology (24, 25)

Note: No benediction at the end

Literary Characteristics

The use of the OT (vs 5 – 7, 11)

The Use of Jewish Apocrypha (v 9, 14, 15)

The use of “threes” (vs. 1, 2, 8, 16 [note the verbs], 19, 25 [textual variant])

Comparison to 2 Peter

Jude		2 Peter
4	Godless men who deny the sovereign Lord	2:
6	Angels held in darkness for judgment	2:
7	Sodom and Gomorrah an example	2:
8	Speak evil of dignitaries	2:
9	Michael did not bring a slanderous accusation	2:
10	They are like brute beasts	2:
11	They have followed the way of Balaam	2:
12	Clouds without rain, driven by a storm	2:
13	Blackest darkness is reserved for them	2:
16	They lust, boast and flatter	2:
17	The apostles foretold	3:
18	Mockers in the last time	3:

Purpose

1: 3 – 4

Homework

I. Salutation (v 1, 2)

The author identifies himself by name. Who was he? See page 1 of the notes.

He is a “slave of Jesus Christ”

Greek = *doulos*, not *diakonos*. How does one become a slave of Christ? 1 Corinthians 6:20; 7:23 & 1 Peter 1:18ff

The slave relationship seems to be a redemptive one.

What is the mood of the implied verb?

He is a “brother of James.” Which James?

What is not stated? See James 1:1 also.

Three attributes: called, loved and kept

“Called” = The term is used different ways. (== named, addressed, etc.) We usually divide the biblical data related to salvation into “external call” and “effectual call”

External call – Matthew 9:13 (and parallels); 22:14

Effectual call – Romans 8:29ff; 9:11, 24ff; 1 Corinthians 1:9; 7:17 – 24; 1 Thessalonians 5:24; 1 Peter 2:9

What are the constituent parts? Gospel proclamation, External call, Regeneration, Conversion

Who does the calling?

The Father – 1 Corinthians 1:9; 1 Thessalonians 2:12; 1 Peter 5:10

The Son – Matthew 11:28; Luke 5:32; John 7:37; Romans 1:6

The Spirit – Matthew 10:20; John 15:26; Acts 5:31 – 32

See WCF, chapter 10

“Loved by God the Father”

This is a textual variant. Compare 1 Corinthians 1:2

What does it mean to be loved by God the Father? See 1 John 3:1; Ephesians 2:4ff; 1 Thessalonians 1:4; 2 Thessalonians 2:13

What conclusion do we make about those who are loved by God the Father? Compare this to a general, non-specific definition of God’s love.

“Kept by Jesus Christ”

The verb is used five times by Jude

It is used elsewhere with a number of meanings, “obey” (keep the commandments), protect or secure (see Acts 12:5, 6; 1 Thessalonians 5:23f (with “called”))

What is the meaning here? Kept “by” or “for” Jesus Christ?

Let’s not get lost in the weeds! Why does Jude list these three attributes that you have?

Jude wants God to give you three blessings. Define them:

Mercy (differentiate between mercy and grace)

Peace

Love

What does it mean for them to be “multiplied” to you?

II. Purpose statement and exhortation (v 3, 4)

Jude had been doing what when he wrote this letter?

What is a “common” salvation?

Instead he determined what? Define “exhorting” and “contend”.

What is the difference between *fides qua* and *fides quae*? Which one is Jude using here?

Compare Galatians 1:23 and Ephesians 2:8 examples of each.

Jude says this faith was “once for all delivered to the saints”.

Why was it necessary for Jude to exhort the people to “contend earnestly”?

What do we know about these men?

Crept in unnoticed

Crept into what?

Long ago marked out for this condemnation? What condemnation?

Ungodly

Turn the grace of God into lewdness.

See Paul’s development in Romans 3:8 and 6:1ff

Deny the Lord and the Lord Jesus Christ

How do they do this and remain in the church?