

Short Books of the Bible

Lesson Six | The Book of Jude (vv. 10-25)

Background

This short epistle was written by Judas (traditionally translated “Jude”) the brother of James (Jude 1) and half-brother of Jesus. He was not a believer during Jesus’ earthly ministry (John 7:2-5) but was after the resurrection and was among the disciples in Acts 1:14. The epistle parallels 2 Peter 2, and it is debated which was written first. More likely, 2 Peter was written first because it speaks of false teachers that will come while Jude speaks of false teachers that already came. Many believe Jude was written in the late 60s, but it could have been later in the first century.

Occasion

Jude warns of false teachers in the churches that have turned grace into a license to sin and denied Jesus Christ (Jude 4). Jude’s primary exhortation is to take a stand for God’s Word, and in particular, the doctrine of Jesus and his apostles.

Bible Study Tip

Look for repeated words and themes that function as unifying “connection points.”

Contend for the Faith Once Delivered to the Saints

A basic outline of the epistle is the following:

- I. Salutation (vv. 1-2)
- II. Warnings Concerning the False Teachers (vv. 3-4)
- III. Past Examples of Disobedience and Judgment (vv. 5-7)
- IV. Actions of the False Teachers Now (vv. 8-16)
- V. Recognize the False Teachers (vv. 17-19)
- VI. Hold Fast to the Apostolic Faith (vv. 20-21)
- VII. Be Merciful to Those in Doubt (vv. 22-23)
- VIII. Praise to God Who is Able (vv. 24-25)

1. The false teachers show their true colors by their words. (v. 10) Their **speech** is one primary “connection point” unifying the book—see vv. 4, 8, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, and 18.

2. Verse 10 relates their words to their inward nature or instinct that is like that of “unreasoning **animals**.”

3. As Jude used a triplet of examples of judgment on groups of people or angels for disobedience from the Old Testament in vv. 5-7, Jude uses a triplet of examples to focus more specifically on the conduct of the three individuals in v. 11:

— “traveled in the way of Cain” who in Genesis 4 murdered his brother Abel, envying his good works

— “the error of Balaam” the prophet who led the people to fornication and idolatry at Baal-Peor (Num. 22-24, 31:16)

— “in Korah’s rebellion,” the one who rebelled against the authority of Moses and Aaron as the divinely appointed leaders of Israel and was destroyed (Num. 16)

4. The “love feasts” of v. 12 are the communal meals where church members would keep the **Lord’s supper**. The false teachers are “dangerous reefs” that threaten the holiness of these meals.

5. The destruction of the false teachers was prophesied by Enoch (vv. 14-15). This ties back to v. 4 that said the false teachers were “designated for this judgment long ago.”

6. The false teachers are complainers, arrogant in their speech, and flatter people to **manipulate** them. (v. 16)

7. While we are to give no space to the false teachers, we do need to try to help those who experience doubt as a result of the false teaching. (vv. 22-23)