

I. Introduction to Jude

A. External Evidence for Authenticity

1. more than 2 Peter
2. Church Fathers alluded to Jude
 - a. The Didache
 - b. Clement's Epistle to the Corinthians
 - c. The Epistle of Barnabas
 - d. The Shepherd of Hermas
 - e. Polycarp's Epistle to the Philippians
3. by late 2nd century the evidence is undeniable
4. early 3rd Century
 - a. Tertullian - called the epistle Scripture and Jude its author
 - b. Clement of Alexandria wrote a commentary on the NT including Jude
5. 5th Century
 - a. Eusebius includes Jude and 2 Peter on a list that some doubted but not on his list of spurious books, he did acknowledge that some accepted it
 - b. Didymus the blind - head of Christian training school in Alexandria - defended Jude against its detractors
6. biggest reason doubted - quotes the Apocrypha

B. Author

1. name was popular b/c of
 - a. Judah, the founder of the tribe of Judah
 - b. Judah, the hero of the Maccabean revolt
2. NT lists eight men named Judas or Jude in English
 - a. only 2 are associated with James
 - i. the apostle Jude
 - not likely since His father was James - Lk 6:16; Ac 1:13
 - would have identified himself as an Apostle
 - ii. The half brother of the Lord
 - identified with James the Lord's brother, - Ga 1:19 - the leader of the Jerusalem church Ac 12:2
 - one of several children of Mary and Joseph - Mt 13:55-56
 - the only NT writer who identifies Himself by family relationship
 - deep humility reflected in identifying as a servant of Christ like James - Jas 1:1
 - b. Irony - the one who condemns apostasy holds the same name as the greatest apostate
 - c. little known about Jude outside of the epistle
 - i. he was married and was an itinerant preacher - 1Co 9:5
 - ii. legend says that his grandsons stood before Roman emperor Domitian b/c he heard they were descendants of King David and questioned their loyalty, they convince him they were simple farmers and were released
3. those that deny
 - a. internal evidence shows written after his lifetime - see date below
 - b. Greek was too good for a common Galilean
 - i. Galilee was close to a predominately Gentile region known as the Decapolis
 - ii. Greek was commonly used in the first century Israel

c. the use of the Apocryphal material

- i. he used parts of 1 Enoch and possibly the Assumption of Moses
- ii. referring to part does not endorse the whole , Paul quoted Greek poets - Act 17:28; 1 Co 15:33; Tit 3:8

C. Date and Place of Writing

1. Deniers claim it was written in the 2nd century

- a. they say vs 17 says the apostolic age is long over
- b. Jude speaks to a false teaching, Gnosticism from the 2nd century

2. Reasons for earlier date

- a. vs 17 merely suggests that all the apostles except John were Dead
- b. vs 18 implies that Jude's readers heard those apostles preach
- c. Jude speaks to a false teaching but not Gnosticism which fully developed in the 2nd century to which Paul, Peter, and John spoke
- d. 2nd century date is difficult to harmonize with the early attestation to Jude in the early church fathers

3. Possible Date and Origin

- a. as early as the mid 50s before the death of Peter and Paul, (see F below)
- b. Since Jude doesn't mention the destruction of the Temple, (70 A.D.), he probably wrote before that event 68-70 A.D.
- c. because James was head of the church in Jerusalem, it was probably home base for the itinerant preacher and where the letter originates

D. Recipients

1. Specific group not known

2. With illustrations from OT and Apocrypha, likely a predominantly Jewish audience

E. Occasion

1. Jude had originally desired to write a positive letter - **vs 3**

2. the alarming news of false teachers invading the church changed his plans - **vs 4**

- a. their teaching is not clear
- b. there is no evidence of Gnosticism or its 1st century version in Jude
- c. Jude doesn't speak to the nuances of the teaching,
 - i. he denounces their godless lifestyle 6 x's using "ungodly" - vs 4,15,18
 - ii. Mt 7:16,20 - You will know them by their fruits
- d. Jude's picture painting reveals depths of their depravity - vs 4,
 - i. For certain men have crept in unnoticed
 - ii. who turn the grace of our God into lewdness - Tit 2:1-12
 - iii. deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ. - vs 6-13, 19 - Ro 8:9

F. Relationship of Jude and 2 Peter

1. 19 of 25 vs find a parallel in 2 Peter

- a. Jude could have used 2 Peter in writing or visa versa
- b. Jude and Peter could have been using the same source

2. 2 arguments for 2 Peter written first

- a. Peter predicts false teacher will come - 2:1-2; 3:3, while Jude describes them as already present - **vs 4,10-12,16**
 - i. some say Peter uses the pres. Tense when talking about false teachers
 - ii. Uses it when speaking to their character, not their coming
- b. wording of vs 17-18 almost identical to 2 Peter 3:3 - no other similarly worded prophecy in scripture
 - i. mockers only appears in these two in NT
 - ii. Vs 17 Apostles plural, only quotes Peter, indicates others also spoke to this problem - 1 Ti 4:1; 2 Ti 3:1-5; 4:3