

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 associate 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 say 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