

Bible Study of Jude

Jude – The Half-Brother of Jesus Reminds Us, **“We Serve our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ”**

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Lesson: 1



A. THE TEXT

(1) Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for **Jesus Christ:** (2) May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

(3) Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to

contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. (4) For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the **grace of our God** into sensuality and deny our **only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.**

(5) Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that **Jesus,** who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. (6) And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until **the judgment of the great day--** (7) just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire. (8) Yet in like manner these people also, relying on their dreams, defile the flesh, reject authority, and blaspheme the glorious ones.

(9) But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, "**The Lord rebuke you.**" (10) But these people blaspheme all that they do not understand, and they are destroyed by all that they, like unreasoning animals, understand instinctively.

(11) Woe to them! For they walked in the way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error and perished in Korah's rebellion. (12) These are blemishes on your love feasts, as they feast with you without fear, looking after themselves; waterless clouds, swept along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted; (13) wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever.

(14) It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, **the Lord** came with ten thousands of his holy ones, (15) to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him." (16) These are grumblers, malcontents, following their own sinful desires; they are loud-mouthed boasters, showing favoritism to gain advantage.

(17) But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of **our Lord Jesus Christ.** (18) They said to you, "In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions." (19) It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. (20) But you, beloved, build yourselves up in your most holy faith; pray in **the Holy Spirit;** (21) keep yourselves in **the love of God,** waiting for **the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ** that leads to eternal life.

(22) And have mercy on those who doubt; (23) save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.

(24) Now to **him who is able** to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before **the presence of his glory** with great joy, (25) to the **only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord,** be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

B. THE STUDY

Canonical status

The Epistle of Jude is held as canonical in the Christian Church. The book's competent Greek style are such that conservative scholars date it to 68 A.D. More remarkable is the evidence that by the end of the second century Jude was widely accepted as canonical. Clement of Alexandria, Tertullian and the Muratorian canon considered the letter canonical. The letter was accepted as part of the Canon by the Church Fathers such as Athanasius and the Synods of Laodicea (c. 363) and Carthage (397).

Authorship

As the brother of Jesus, he refers to the apostles as a third party. There are many Judes, named in the gospels, first among the apostles and then among the relatives of Jesus, Not a lot is known of Jude, which would explain the apparent need to identify him by reference to his better-known brother James, who was also Jesus' half brother.

Style

The *Epistle of Jude* is a brief book of only a single chapter with 25 verses. It was composed as an *encyclical letter*—that is, one not directed to the members of one church in particular, but intended rather to be circulated and read in all churches. The form, as opposed to the earlier letters of Paul, suggests that the author knew Paul's *Epistle to the Ephesians* or even that the Pauline epistles had already been collected and were circulating when the text was written.

The wording and syntax of this epistle in its original Greek demonstrates that the author was capable and fluent. The epistle is addressed to Christians in general, and it warns them about the doctrine of certain errant teachers to whom they were exposed. Examples of heterodox opinions that were circulating in the early 2nd century include Docetism, Marcionism, and Gnosticism.

The epistle's style is combative, impassioned, and rushed. Many examples of evildoers and warnings about their fates are given in rapid succession. The epithets contained in this writing are considered to be some of the strongest found in the New Testament. The epistle concludes with a doxology, which is considered to be one of the highest in quality contained in the Bible.

Identity JUDAH = JUDAS = JUDE

Jude and James were the Lord's half-brothers, but they did not ask to be heard because of this.

(Mt 12:46-50; 13:53-58; Mk 3:31-35; 6:1-6; Lk 8:19-21; Jn 7:1-10; Acts 1:14; 1 Cor 9:5; Gal 1:19)

They shared Mary as mother, and Joseph was their father. Since James was the Lord's brother, and Jude calls himself James' brother, thus they were both Jesus' brothers.

James, the Lord's brother: **(Acts 12:17; 15:13; 21:18; 1 Cor 15:7; Gal 1:19; 2:9-12; James 1:1)**

God the Father was of course Jesus' Father (not Joseph), and Mary was his earthly mother.

There were two Judes among the 12 apostles **(Lk 6:12-19; Acts 1:12-26)**

Also there was a Judas among the associates of the apostles **(Acts 15:22,27,32).**

Of course, Judas Iscariot was the betrayer of Jesus, who hanged himself.

THE TEXT:

(1) Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ: (2) May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

(Jn 6:37-40; 14:22,27; 17:11,12; 20:19; Rom 1:1,6,7; 8:28-39; Gal 1:3; 6:16; Eph 1:2; Col 1:17; 1 Tim 1:2; Heb 1:3; 1 Pet 1:3-5)

C. THE LIFE APPLICATION-

1. If we are those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ, how does this set us apart from unbelievers in the world?
2. What does it mean to you that mercy, peace, and love are multiplied to you in the benedictions we hear each Lord's day?