

Jude

Wolves Who Look Like Sheep

Jude 1:24-26

May 16, 2020

Today

Author: Jude

The Bible only mentions one “Jude” **{short for Judas}** with a brother “James” - Both were brothers of Jesus.

- **Matthew 13:55** - Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother's name Mary, and aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas?

They were likely older step-brothers who shared the same critical view of Jesus.

- **Mark 3:21** - When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, "He is out of his mind."

At some point each had a conversion experience, because they identify themselves as bondservants of Jesus **{see James 1:1}**.

Date: No date is given, but 65-70 AD is a reasonable guess.

Audience: No specific group is mentioned; however, Jude must have known them as he addresses them as “Dear friends”.

The relationship between 2nd Peter and Jude is striking – they share the same ideas, use of words and sequence of ideas. There is conflict between those who believe Jude points to Peter and those who believe Peter points to Jude. I am in the camp of the former based on the following verse **{Does it really matter? Not really}**:

- **Jude 1:17** - But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ said to you....

From: Jude, a bond servant of Jesus and brother of James ---

To: Those who are loved by God and preserved by Jesus May mercy, peace and love be yours.

I really wanted to send you a letter about salvation, instead it has become necessary to write and urge you to fight for your faith!

It has come to my attention that certain people have snuck in among you unnoticed **{their condemnation was written about long ago}**. They are ungodly people who pervert the grace of God. They use God’s grace as an excuse to live immoral lives and they deny Jesus Christ our only Savior and Lord. **{An Idol called Grace}**

You already know this, but I’m going to remind you anyway....

- The Lord delivered the Children of Israel out of Egypt and he later destroyed those who did not believe. **{Exodus 12:51; 1st Cor. 10:1-11}**
- Angels who were not satisfied with their positions of authority have been kept chained to this earth in darkness until the judgment of the great day. **{Isaiah 14:12-17; Ezekiel 28:12-19}**
- Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, gave themselves up to sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desires and serve as an example by undergoing the punishment of eternal destruction. **{Genesis 19}**

In the same way, these people rely on their dreams, defile their bodies, reject authority, and slander celestial beings.

But when Michael, the Archangel, argued with Satan over the body of Moses, he did not pronounce judgment, but simply said, “The Lord rebuke you.” **{quoting “The Testament of Moses”}**

These people speak evil against anything they do not understand and the things they instinctively understand – like any unreasoning animal – are the very things that will destroy them - Woe to them!

- They walk in the way of Cain. **{Unbelief and Jealousy led Cain to murder Abel - Genesis 4:3-8}**
- They pursue error for the sake of gain like Balaam. **{Balaam was greedy and covetous and prostituted what he knew to be true for financial gain and he was instrumental in leading Israel into idolatry - Numbers 22:1-39; 31:16}**
- They will perish like those in Korah's rebellion. **{Jealousy and envy led Korah to challenge the God-given authority of Moses and Aaron – Numbers 16:1-35}**

- They are dangerous reefs because you don't see them.
- They feast with you without fear caring only for themselves.
- They are clouds without water, swept along by every wind.
- They are like trees in the autumn that have no fruit and have been uprooted – they are twice dead.
- They are like wild waves on the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame.
- They are like wandering stars for whom utter darkness has been reserved.

It was about them that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, “Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousand of his holy ones, 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.” {Quoting the book of 1st Enoch}

- They are discontented grumblers and faultfinders.
- They live according to their own sinful desires.
- They are loud-mouthed boasters who speak arrogantly.
- They show favoritism and flatter people to gain an advantage.

You must remember, dear friends, the words of the apostles of Jesus, who said to you, “*In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions.*” {2nd Peter 3:3}

These are the ones who cause division. They are worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. But you, dear friends, are to build yourselves up in faith and pray in the Holy Spirit, keeping yourselves in the love of God as you wait for the mercy of Jesus to bring you eternal life. Show pity for those who doubt. Save others by snatching them out of the fire {Amos 4:11; Zechariah 3:1-2} and to others, show pity mixed with fear, so that you don't also become defiled. {Zechariah 3:3-5; Revelation 3:4-5}

To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy-- to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

Take Aways

Jude was dealing with a crisis facing the church and his letter reflects that in a vigorous and pointed manner. Jude's message, however, does not resonate in today's world because of his emphasis on God's judgment of evil intruders who attempt to corrupt and divide the church. Many view his words as intolerant, unloving and contrary to the love proclaimed elsewhere in the New Testament.

However, Jude is exactly what today's people of God need to hear, because we are in just as much danger from those who want to corrupt and divide the church as the people Jude originally wrote to --- they are:

- False teachers who claim to be spiritual, but are sexually corrupt
- Lovers of money and personal gain
- Loud and boastful
- Grumblers and fault finders
- People who live according to their own sinful desires
- People who cause division and rejected authority.
- Deniers that Jesus is our Lord and Savior
- Worldly and the Spirit of God is not in them. {see Luke 20:46-47 and Romans 1:18-32}

So, what do we do?

- Be aware that these people exist and that their mission is to corrupt and divide the church and destroy your faith in God.
- See the truth behind the sexual abuses, grumbling, boasting, fault finding and rejection of authority – these things are **NOT** of God and He **WILL** judge them!
- Know and love the truth for yourselves.
- Build your faith – exercise.
- Pray earnestly.
- Be grounded in God's love.
- Extend mercy but don't be gullible.
 - **Matthew 10:16** - I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore, be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.

To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy-- to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.