

# Book of Jude

- He says he had plans originally to write to them on a different topic: concerning their common salvation
  - The word in Greek for common is *koinos*, which means common property
    - Today, we might say public property
  - In other words, Jude was to write to the Jewish Christians in the about the nature of the salvation they all shared
- What was Jude's interest concerning their common salvation?
  - Well, we don't know because he changed his topic
  - Perhaps he was going to echo some of the themes of Hebrews, explaining how the Old Covenant gives way to the New Covenant
  - In the end, it's doesn't matter, because the Spirit wanted Jude to talk about other things
- I think that's our lesson to take from Jude's change of heart
  - When we're operating under the Spirit, listening to the Lord, working in His will...our plans will naturally change from time to time
  - And our understanding of Scripture will change as well, since one goes hand in hand with the other
- If our understanding of scripture, and our desires in ministry and our plans for accomplishing those desires NEVER change, what does that say about our willingness to hear from the Spirit?
  - What are the odds that our first inclinations were 100% in line with the Spirit's desires? Probably pretty long odds
  - More likely, our unwillingness to change plans is a reflection of our unwillingness to listen to the Lord
    - Jude listened, so he changed plans

## **His new plan was to write an appeal to the church so they would take action**

- Jude wants the church to contend earnestly for the faith
  - Contend earnestly is a single word in Greek meaning to struggle or fight or resist on behalf of something or someone
  - And the fight in this case is for the faith
    - How do you fight for faith? Isn't faith something that comes into the heart of a person by divine favor (grace)?
    - We can't fight to establish faith, right?
- Yes, this tells us that the fight Jude wants to encourage isn't a struggle to win souls
  - It's a fight to preserve the meaning of the Gospel message
  - It's a fight over doctrine and practice, over truth
  - It's a fight against false teaching
  - The Bible says One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism.
  - Many Faiths, only One God recognizes, what was given to Apostles
  - Then passed down to us.
- Certain persons have crept in unnoticed (unawares)
  - Certain men is literally specific men
  - Jude has certain men in mind as he writes this letter to the church
  - The enemies of the Gospel come in many forms and attack in many ways, as Satan has many weapons at his disposal
  - Nevertheless, Jude's concern is focused on one certain form of enemy
    - So he is intent on describing that enemy in detail
- Secondly, these certain men have crept in unawares
  - The phrase "crept in unawares" is a single word in Greek
  - It is the only occurrence of this Greek word in the NT
    - It's actually a compound of three Greek words
    - *Para* (beside), *eis* (among), and *duno* (to settle in)
  - It means to settle in alongside quietly, without drawing attention
- In Jude's day, itinerant preaching was very common
  - Itinerant preachers were men who moved about the countryside preaching from town to town
  - They earned their living from love offerings
  - And they never settled in any place for long
  - This pattern made it easy for false teachers to enter a church and teach, since the culture accepted strangers as having virtually equal authority as resident teachers
    - Perhaps these men arrived as itinerant preachers and then stayed

- Or perhaps they were homegrown false teachers
  - Either way, these men had already become a part of the church by the time Jude wrote
- He says these false teachers were men marked out for condemnation
  - Condemnation is the Greek word *krima*, which is simply the word for judgment
  - Jude is referring to the judgment of God, the Second Death, the Great White Throne of judgment
  - As enemies of the faith, it shouldn't surprise us that these men will face judgment for their sin
- But Jude says something intriguing concerning this judgment
- who were before of old ordained to this condemnation
  - These men were marked out for this fate beforehand
    - The literal Greek phrase is "long ago written out in advance"
  - In other words, these men and their fate was long ago prophesied or written
  - Jude is referring to how Peter and the other apostles foretold the arrival of such false men
    - In fact, Jesus Himself foretold their arrival
- (Mat 7:13) Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:
- (Mat 7:14) Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.
- (Mat 7:15) Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.
- (Mat 7:16) Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?
- (Mat 7:17) Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.
- (Mat 7:18) A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither *can* a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.
- (Mat 7:19) Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.
- (Mat 7:20) Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.
- Next, their modus operandi is to turn or change grace into a license to sin
  - Licentiousness (lasciviousness) means having a license or a right or freedom to commit sin

- Before we truly understand grace as the Bible teaches it, our flesh can be tempted or persuaded to see God's limitless forgiveness as a green light to go on sinning
- Paul addressed this problem in Romans
- (Rom 6:1) What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?
- (Rom 6:2) God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

- - Paul's question was likely the essence of the false teachers' argument to the church
    - Grace is the forgiving of sin, and it is without limit
    - Christ's sacrifice on the cross was sufficient to cover all sin
  - Therefore, the false teachers were those, who taught the church that they could glorify Christ through their sin
    - Because as they sinned in the flesh, they were creating a need for more of God's grace to be made available to cover that sin
    - By allowing the flesh to engage in sin, the believer was increasing God's grace, which is a good thing
    - And since the flesh was to be replaced one day anyway, it mattered not to God that we allowed the flesh to sin
    - They dismissed the need to observe moral laws of any kind, which is called antinomianism
  - Let's address this notion clearly. This is heresy and false teaching.

As Paul said,

(Rom 6:1) What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

(Rom 6:2) God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

- - In fact, every true believer need only search their hearts to know the answer to that question

- For the Spirit convicts us of our sin and leads us to an understanding that God is calling us out of sin
    - Paul says we are to glorify the Lord in our body, since He dwells within it
  - Our body is to die, Paul says, making it a sacrifice to God
    - Just as the Jews never sacrificed imperfect animals
    - Our earthly life is to be used to prepare our bodies as a sacrifice
    - So that our body is a pleasing sacrifice in life and in death
  - These men on the other hand, aren't seeking to glorify their bodies, much less the Lord
    - Their warped theology was merely a cover for their corrupt morals
    - These men wanted to engage in all manner of sin and do so within the context of the church and without the bother of condemnation or judgment
    - They weren't content to carry on with their sinful choices outside the church
      - They wanted to bring their sin into the church
      - Yet at the same time, they brought with it teaching that made an argument for why their sin wasn't actually sin
      - And then along the way, they encouraged others to join in with them
- **Finally, Jude says these men deny Jesus Christ as master**
    - This last part of Jude's fourth verse is a quote of 2 Peter 2:1-2
  - (2Pe 2:1) But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.
  - (2Pe 2:2) And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.
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- **Notice Peter also mentions secretly introducing heresies**
  - **Denying the Master**
  - **Prepared to receive judgment**
  - **Following their sensuality**
  - **Thus maligning the faith**

- **Their denial of Jesus wasn't a specific repudiation of Christ or Christianity**
  - They denied Jesus in that they demonstrated they didn't know Him
  - As John says:
- (1Jn 2:4) He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

**So Jude has not-so-subtly reminded his readers that they ignored Peter's good advice, and now they find themselves fighting an enemy inside their city walls**

- The enemy looks like one of them, but he can be known by his fruit
  - The fruit is sin, done in the name of grace
  - And by their sin, they deny the Master
  - Corrupting the truth
- So Jude reminds the church how the Lord has historically dealt with such people

(Jud 1:5) I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not.

(Jud 1:6) And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

(Jud 1:7) Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

- So as Israel left Egypt, and received the Law and prepared to enter the Promised Land the first time, they revealed their true hearts along the way
  - Time and time again the people of Israel chose to satisfy their flesh, in conflict with God's instructions
  - They grumbled about the lack of water, the lack of food, and even worshipped idols
  - Scripture says they did these things as a result of a lack of faith
  - Hebrews says specifically

(Heb 3:16) For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses.

(Heb 3:17) But with whom was he grieved forty years? *was it* not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness?

(Heb 3:18) And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not?

(Heb 3:19) So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

- **So Jude reminds the church that even though God's nation left Egypt together, they were not all equally God's people**
  - Among the camp of Israel were unbelieving men and women who looked the part but lacked a true heart
  - They were like the false teachers of Jude's day
  - They didn't get credit for showing up...they were condemned for lack of faith
- **As a result of their unbelief, God eventually destroyed an entire generation of Israel in the desert**
  - Only the remnant entered into the Promised Land
  - The rest were destroyed, Jude says
- **What lesson do we learn from Israel in the desert?**
  - God knows who are truly His, and who are hiding in the camp
  - And those who are not His will perish
  - As Peter taught:

(2Pe 2:9) The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

- **So let's sum up these three examples**
  - The enemies of the faith may be hard to see, but God knows them
    - They are the ones who do not believe
    - They reject God's authority
    - So He will reject them and destroy them
  - The enemies of the faith have been exposed to great and wonderful truths and wonders of the faith
    - They are like the angels that willingly left the proper place
    - They despise the majesty of God's glory in Christ
    - They will experience eternal darkness
  - The enemies of the faith are motivated by an indulgence in their flesh
    - They are seeking to defile the flesh

- But they will experience eternal fire
- **Jude gives us that summary in v.8**

(Jud 1:8) Likewise also these *filthy* dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities.

Despise dominion...Church government. Don't need Pastor.

• History taught the church God knows these men; He sees their hearts and He will judge him

- **And the Lord will do the same for all false teachers and any who come to destroy the work of God among His people**
  - But Jude's history lesson was also a reminder to the church itself
  - An incentive for them to steer clear from these men and their influence
  - Once the false teachers have been identified, it's our responsibility to remove them from the church
    - But at the very least, we are obliged to shield ourselves from their negative influence
- **Paul told Timothy in 1 Tim 6:11**
- (1Ti 6:11) But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.
- (1Ti 6:12) Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.
- This is the Bible's command to the church
- It's fight or flight
  - Jude is asking this church to fight these men and their ungodly influence
  - And to flee their immorality and ignore their example, knowing the judgment that awaits
- **There is a reason we're told to Desire the sincere milk of the word.**
  - It's the source for life and godliness God has provided so we will mature
    - Sitting under great teaching doesn't guarantee our marriages won't have difficulty
    - Or that our kids will turn out perfect
    - Or that we won't suffer even as Job did
  - But it does assure us we will have the maturity and understanding to face it in a godly way, as Job did



(Jud 1:9) Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.

What is the body of Moses?

Moses was a *Type* of Christ. The Church is the body of Christ

So Israel was the body of Moses. Devil wanted to destroy Israel.

Michael contended with the devil over Israel, we should contend for the faith!

(Jud 1:10) But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves.

(Jud 1:11) Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.

Way of Cain? False worship. Worship God they way he wanted to worship God.

Error of Balaam? Preaching for money!

Gainsaying of core? Rising up against the authority of the church!

Core or Korah Moses cousin, jealous. Earth opened up swallowed Korah and 250 men.

(Jud 1:12) These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds *they are* without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots;

(Jud 1:13) Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.

(Jud 1:14) And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,

10 thousand 10 thousand. Daniel and revelation Glorified church would number 10 thousand x 10 thousand that's 100 million. Caught up in the rapture. More during tribulation.

Moses got the pattern from God for the tabernacle on Mt Siani All measurements equal those in rapture.

Solomon constructed the temple. Everything according to pattern.

Corresponds with what Daniel saw, around about the throne and what John saw in the book of revelations in the throne.

What did Enoch see them do?

(Jud 1:15) To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard *speeches* which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

Convince here does not mean to persuade, it means to overpower.

(Jud 1:16) These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling *words*, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.

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(Jud 1:17) But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ;

(Jud 1:18) How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.

(Jud 1:19) These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.

(Jud 1:20) But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

(Jud 1:21) Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

(Jud 1:22) And of some have compassion, making a difference:

(Jud 1:23) And others save with fear, pulling *them* out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

(Jud 1:24) Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present *you* faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

(Jud 1:25) To the only wise God our Saviour, *be* glory and majesty,

dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

3 Methods by which we keep ourselves in Gods Love

1. Build yourself up in the most holy faith
2. Praying in the Holy Ghost
3. Looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life

Rapture!!!