

**Key theme:** Overcoming the apostates = The danger of false teachers (1-16) The duty to fight for God's truth (17-25)

### Key outline

- I. INTRODUCTION—verses 1-2
- II. THE ALARM—verses 3-4
- III. THE ARGUMENT—verses 5-16
- IV. THE ADMONITION—verses 17-25

### Key statistics

**Purpose:** To remind the church to be vigilant against heresy and to remain strong in the faith

**Author:** Jude, brother of Jesus and James

**To whom written:** Jewish Christians, and all believers everywhere

**Date written:** About A.D. 65

**Setting:** The church was being threatened by heresy and false teaching.

### Key verse:

Jude 1:3 (KJV) <sup>3</sup>Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort *you* that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

### Key messages

- False Teachers, Apostasy.

**False Teachers (vv. 4, 8, 10-19).** *Jude warned against false teachers and leaders who reject the lordship of Christ, undermine the faith of others, and lead people astray. He pointed out that these men had already infiltrated the church, making them even more dangerous. He also explained that these leaders and any who follow them will be severely punished by God.*

- ✓ **IMPORTANCE FOR TODAY.** We must stoutly defend Christian truth, avoiding all compromise of the basics of the faith and rejecting all who would twist Scripture to fit their own immoral agenda. (*"FrankenFaith!"*) Make sure that you avoid leaders and teachers (even in the church) who change the Bible to suit their own purposes. Genuine servants of God will faithfully portray Jesus as God in their words and conduct. Watch out for anyone who tries to make Jesus anything less than the King of kings and Lord of lords and who tries to make the Bible anything less than the inspired, inerrant Word of God.

**Apostasy (vv. 4-9, 10-11, 14-19, 22-25).** Jude also warned against apostasy—turning away from Christ—presenting examples from the Old Testament of those who turned away and were punished. We must remember that God punishes all who rebel against him. We must be careful not to drift away from a firm commitment to Christ.

- ✓ **IMPORTANCE FOR TODAY.** People who do not seek to know the truth in God's Word are susceptible to apostasy. Become a student of the Scriptures and keep your focus on Christ. Guard against any false teachings that would distract you or pull you away from God's truth.

### Key background

Since the author of this epistle was the brother of James, this would make him the half brother of our Lord Jesus Christ (see Mark 6:3). Our Lord's brothers in the flesh did not believe in Him while He was ministering (John 7:5). But after the Resurrection, James was converted (see 1 Cor. 15:7), and we have every reason to believe that Jude was also saved at that time. Acts 1:14 informs us that "His brethren" were part of the praying group that was awaiting the Holy Spirit; 1 Corinthians 9:5 states that "the brethren of the Lord" were known in the early church.

## Key thoughts

### WHY DID JUDE WRITE THIS LETTER?

- To warn his readers that the apostates were already on the scene! Peter had prophesied that they would come, and his prophecy had been fulfilled. Apparently Jude wrote to the same believers who had received Peter's letters, intending to stir them up and remind them to take Peter's warnings to heart. You will discover a number of parallels between Jude and 2 Peter as you study this fascinating letter.

#### **2 Peter 2:1 - 3 (KJV)**

<sup>1</sup>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.

<sup>2</sup>And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

<sup>3</sup>And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

#### **2 Peter 3:3 (KJV)**

<sup>3</sup>Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

- He wrote to "exhort" them (Jude 3). In the Greek language, this word was used to describe a general giving orders to the army; hence the atmosphere of this letter is "military." Jude had started to write a quiet devotional letter about salvation, but the Spirit led him to put down his harp and sound the trumpet! The Epistle of Jude is a call to arms.

#### **Jude 1:3 (KJV)**

<sup>3</sup>Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort *you* that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

## Key people

Jesus Christ

Jude

Michael the Archangel

Balaam

Moses

Cain

Korah

Enoch

Adam

## Key places

Egypt

Sodom and Gomorrah

**Monday Morning Moment:** Action Step - "Become a student of the Scriptures!"

#### **2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV)**

<sup>15</sup>Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.