



literary flow

Summary (Time/People/Purpose) | Themes | Outline

Jude, likely the brother of James and Jesus, wrote to a church in crisis. Current circumstances forced him to give warning about corrupt influences who had “crept in unnoticed” to the body. The rebels and errant prophets in Israel’s past were forerunners to these opponents. Jude not only writes to warn and assure judgment for God’s enemies, but also to affirm God’s eternal salvation. God will guard His beloved. And even rebels experience God’s mercy if they repent.

Themes	Key [Root] Words
<p>Psuedipigrapha: Body of writings between OT and NT, which credits OT figures as their authors (e.g., 1 Enoch). These writings are often apocalyptic.</p> <p>Doxology: Statement of praise and glory to God; often closes NT letters.</p> <p>Eternity: Reality beyond the material existence; for those beloved by God reality is life everlasting; for those opposed to God reality is eternal damnation.</p>	<p>Ungodly (6x)</p> <p>Jesus Christ (6x)</p> <p>Love/beloved (5x)</p> <p>Mercy (4x)</p> <p>Keep/kept (4x)</p> <p>Eternal/forever (4x)</p>

Greeting: From Jude | To God’s beloved | Greeting (1-2)

Jude calls his readers to fight for their faith in light of current opposition (3-4)

Jude reminds his readers of God’s judgment on past opposition (5-8)

Jude exposes the attitudes and motives of current opposition (9-16)

Jude implores his readers to receive and reflect the love of God (17-23)

Farewell: Doxology (24-25)



redemptive threads

Faith | Judgment | Salvation

Jude’s first reference to **faith** qualifies the term as “the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints” (3). In Jude’s mind, *the faith* is something specific, revealed, and historically validated. The **faith** is built on Old Testament revelation (5-7, 11) and apostolic witnesses (17). The **faith** is centered on Jesus Christ as Lord (4). And the **faith** is holy in nature, demanding love and piety from its adherents (20-21). Jude implores his readers to “contend earnestly” for this faith, for opponents often try to redefine belief in God, Scripture, Sin, Salvation and/or Mission.

These opponents will not flourish forever. In fact, Jude makes it abundantly clear that God will **judge** them. OT history is replete with examples of God’s **judgment** on rebels and doubters. Residents of Sodom and Gomorrah, defective angels, and wandering Israelites all met God’s **judgment** (5-7). While Jude does not name Hell (i.e., Gehenna), his description of **judgment** is graphic: eternal, dark, fiery (6, 7, 13). **Judgment** is not limited to false teachers and heretics, but all sinners and ungodly ones (15). **Judgment**, of course, is God’s business.

God is also in the business of **salvation**. Until Jesus returns, the task of the church is to proclaim His **salvation** and wait for His mercy (21-23). Jude understands **salvation** is rooted in God’s grace, love, and mercy (4, 21). Rather than using grace as a license for sin (e.g., sex, greed, and power) like his opponents, Jude recognizes that **salvation** gives birth to holy living (20). Moreover, **salvation** is eternally secure, for God keeps His own (1). In his doxological statement at the end of the letter, Jude artfully presents the final picture **salvation**: “Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, 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” (24-25).

OT References in Jude	Judgment on the unbelieving Israelites after the Exodus (cf. Ex. 32:28; Num 11:33, 16:49) Angels who left their abode (Gen. 6:1-4) Sodom and Gomorrah’s sexuality (Gen. 19) Michael the Archangel/Joshua debates Satan (Zech. 3:1-2) Korah’s Rebellion (Num. 16:1-40) Balaam’s Greed (22-24) Cain’s Envy (Gen. 4:1-15) Enoch (Genesis 5:18, 21-24)
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practical application

The Contender Church:

- To Contend, know your _____: *There will be mockers... (18)*
- To Contend, know your _____: *Building yourselves up... (20)*
- To Contend, know you are _____: *Now to Him who is able...(24)*

Jude Reading Challenge		S	M	T	W	R	F	S
Immersion	Jude 1-25							
Fluency	Jude 1-25							
Essential	Jude 1-25							