

LESSON 24 The Book of Jude

Key Verse: 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 Jude 24 & 25

Introduction:

Author: Jude

Year: A.D. 68

Jude (English) is Judas in Greek and Judah in Hebrew. The Hebrew meaning of Judah is “to give thanks or praise”. Most versions of the Bible use the English “Jude” instead of Judas to distinguish him from Judas Iscariot. Jude introduces himself as a servant of Jesus Christ. The word for servant is slave (doulos in Greek) and it means to completely and absolutely assign all personal rights over to the authority and will of another person; to be in a permanent relation of servitude to another, his (the slave’s) will altogether swallowed up in the will of another. Based on this definition, does our behavior indicate that we are Christ’s servants? _____

The Book of Jude is basically written to Christians whose ranks had been infiltrated by false teachers who were peddling a message that promoted immorality, theological error, destructive pride, and divisiveness. In other words, they were heretics -- people who perverted the message of grace. Their position was that “the law is dead and they are under grace”; but they took it to the extreme. They believed that they could do anything they wanted to - that “Grace is supreme; it can forgive any sin; the more the sin, the more opportunities for grace to abound” (see Romans 6:1-2, where Paul speaks out against this). So for them, nothing was forbidden. - They turned the grace of God into an excuse for flagrant immorality (see Jude verse 4). Does this sound anything like some of the churches of today?

This study provides an in depth analysis of false teachers. Jude states in the epistle that he wanted eagerly to write about the salvation Christians share but that he was moved to write instead about the need for Christians to fight for their faith. In this Bible study we will examine the names, the actions, the characteristics, and the motives of false teachers. These early Christians had been infiltrated by false teachers who declared the law was dead and they were under grace. They believed they could do anything and it would be forgiven. Paul addressed this issue in Romans 6:1-2.

Day One: Read Jude 1 - 3

Prayer: Father as we study this book of Jude use it to motivate us to action for You. Amen!

1. What was the relationship between Jude, James, and Jesus? Matthew 13:55

2. How did Jude and James feel about Jesus earlier in their lives? John 7:5

3. What were James and Jude doing after Jesus’ ascension? Acts 1:14

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4. Who did Jesus' brothers take with them on their missions? 1 Corinthians 9:5

5. What group of people was Jude writing to? See Romans 1:7; 8:28 and 1 Corinthians 1:2

6. Why did Jude find it necessary to write this letter?

Day Two: Read Jude 3 - 7

Prayer: Heavenly Father you are all knowing and as we study Your word we implore you to help us recognize the dangers of false teachers in our day and time. Give us understanding of difficult scriptures that without Your help appear to be inconsistent. Amen!

7. Define "contend" v. 3

8. How can one turn the grace of God into lewdness? V. 4

9. What did the Lord do to those who did not believe after they came out of Egypt? V. 5. What should we learn from this? 1 John 2:19 - 21.

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10. What happened to the fallen angels? V. 6 Where are these angels now? How long will they be there? See 2 Peter 2:4. _____

11. What caused the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah? _____

12. Why are they set forth for us? 7b _____

Scholars believe that Jude arranged these examples to teach us about apostasy which starts with unbelief and leads to rebellion against God, immorality and anarchy. The same steps observable in the history of Israel that we studied in the Old Testament.

Day Three: Read Jude 8 - 10

Prayer: Father you are the Righteous Judge. Help us to have such a reverent fear of You as judge that we will actively seek to obey all Your commands. Amen!

13. What sins are these dreamers guilty of? _____

14. Who is Michael? Where else do we read about him? _____

15. What dispute did Michael have with the devil? V. 9 Why do you think this was important? What authority did the archangel Michael call up and who should we call upon?

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16. Why are these false teachers compared to brute beasts? V. 10 _____

Day Four: Read Jude 11 - 13

Prayer: Father we praise You for making Yourself known to us through Your Holy Word. We know that Your ways are higher than our ways and Your thoughts than our thoughts. You have established rules for us and given us examples to help us worship You in spirit and in truth. Help us to honor Your rules and instructions. Amen!

17. How have these false teachers gone the “way of Cain”? See 2 Peter 2:12

18. How have these false teachers followed the example of Balaam? Numbers 22-24

19. What was the rebellion of Korah? Numbers 16:1-35

20. What is a “love feast”? _____

21. What are the false teachers compared to in Jude 12 & 13?

Day Five: Read Jude 14 - 15

22. Who was Enoch (Genesis 5:21 – 24 & Hebrews 11:5)? What did he prophesy about?

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23. When will the ungodly be convicted of their evil deeds?

24. How are the false teachers described in Jude 16?

25. What type of person causes division? 17-19

26. What is “praying in the Holy Spirit”? See Romans 8:26 & 27; John 14:26 and John 15:26

27. How do we keep ourselves in the love of God?

28. How will the redeemed be presented before the presence of God?

Prayer for today is our key verse.