

# Contend for the Faith – Jude Series

## Introduction & Salutation

**Text: Jude 1:1-2**

### Introduction

1. Date of writing
  - A. A.D. 68
  - B. One of the last Epistles to be written
  - C. Only John's Gospel, Epistles & Revelation come after Jude.
2. Placement in the N.T. Order
  - A. God's providential hand in the order of the Books.
  - B. Jude comes right at as the inspired Revelation comes to its climax in the Revelation.
3. Theme & Key Verses
  - A. Theme – Contend for the faith against apostates and their false teachings.
  - B. Key Verses – Vs. 3-4
4. Defining the words 'apostate' & 'apostasy'
  - A. Apostate = someone who has deliberately turned their backs on God's revealed truth. The word 'apostasy' means to depart (I. Tim 4:1-2). An apostate, strictly speaking, is of necessity unsaved as they deny the central truths of the Gospel. Refer end of Verse 4.
  - B. Apostasy – While true believers cannot deny the Person of Christ and the Gospel to the degree as the Apostates, they can be guilty of departing from or turning their backs upon Revealed truth.
5. Style of writing
  - A. Passionate, descriptive, forthright & fiery.
  - B. Rich in O.T. examples and illustrations from nature.
  - C. The inspired words of the Holy Ghost. To be taken seriously and reverently as any other part of sacred Scripture.
  - D. Striking resemblance to Peter's Second Epistle.
    1. *"Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,"* 2 Peter 3:3
    2. *"How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts."* Jude 1:18
    3. Repetition = importance
6. Structure/Outline of the Book
  - A. Part 1 – Apostates De Masked (Vs. 1-19)
  - B. Part 2 – Believers Exhorted (Vs. 20-25)

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### Salutation: Vs. 1-2

#### I. The Author (Vs. 1a)

##### A. His name

1. Same as Judas
2. Based on the Hebrew name 'Judah'

##### B. His background

1. His relationship to Christ
  - a. The half-brother of Jesus Christ
  - b. Matthew 13:55-56 *"Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas?"*
2. His relationship to James
  - a. Not James the Apostle
  - b. James the half-brother of Christ who wrote the Epistle of James and pastored the Jerusalem church.

##### C. His Conversion

1. Jude initially rejected Christ along with his other siblings.
2. John 7:1-8 *"After these things Jesus walked in Galilee: for he would not walk in Jewry, because the Jews sought to kill him. Now the Jews' feast of tabernacles was at hand. **His brethren** therefore said unto him, Depart hence, and go into Judaea, that thy disciples also may see the works that thou doest. For there is no man that doeth any thing in secret, and he himself seeketh to be known openly. If thou do these things, shew thyself to the world. For **neither did his brethren believe in him**. Then Jesus said unto them, My time is not yet come: but your time is always ready. The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil. Go ye up unto this feast: I go not up yet unto this feast; for my time is not yet full come."*
3. Likely after the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
  - a. 1. Corinthians 15:7 speaks of Christ appearing to James, Jude's brother after the resurrection.
  - b. Acts 1:13-14 – We find Jude listed along with Mary and Christ's brethren waiting in the upper room for the Holy Spirit.
  - c. Jude refers to himself as *"the servant of Jesus Christ"* and refers to *"our Lord Jesus Christ"* (Vs. 4) and *"God our Saviour"* (Vs. 25).

##### D. His title

1. 'servant'
  - a. Means "bondslave" from birth
  - b. Reveals Jude's humility and recognition of Christ's Divinity

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- c. Teaches us that salvation involves a change of Master. John 8:34 teaches that “...*whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.*” ‘servant’ = bonds slave

### II. The Audience (Vs. 1b)

Jude writes to those who are partakers of a blessed position through salvation:

#### A. Sanctified by God the Father

1. ‘sanctified’ – means to be set apart, made holy
2. Illustration: The nation of Israel – “And ye shall be holy unto me: for I the LORD am holy, and have severed you from other people, that ye should be mine.” Lev 20:26
3. Illustration: The vessels of the tabernacle set apart for special use.
4. Titus 2:14 “*Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*”
5. Perfect tense – a permanent, unchangeable fact
6. “by God the Father” – a Divine work done on our behalf by Almighty God

#### B. Preserved in Jesus Christ

1. ‘preserved’ – means to be kept or guarded. It means to be watched over, to be kept safe from harm.
2. Perfect tense – a permanent, unchangeable fact
3. “in Jesus Christ” – a Divine work done on our behalf
4. Doctrine – The Eternal Security of the Believer
5. Hebrews 7:25 “*Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.*”
6. I. Peter 1:5 “*Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*”

#### C. Called of God

1. While we do not see the Spirit’s Title in the text, we certainly see his Agency.
2. He is the one who convicts men of their sin and draws them to Christ (Jn. 16:8-11); He is the Agent of the New Birth, regenerating the repentant sinner and making him alive in Christ.

### III. The Prayer/Desire (Vs. 2)

In this verse, Jude desires the multiplication of three graces for his readers:

#### A. Mercy

1. Definition: “The outward manifestation of pity.” “The compassion that pities the needy and wretched and acts to meet their need.”

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2. Note: The word ‘mercy’ also appears in the opening salutation of 1 & 2 Timothy and 2 John against the backdrop of false teaching.
3. Observe Vs. 22-23 – We need God to increase our compassion in order to snatch people from the flames.

### B. Peace

1. “Peace with God” – takes place at salvation and has to do with my standing before God (Rom 5:1)
2. “Peace of God” – the peace that rules the heart of the Christian and is a fruit of the indwelling Spirit (Phil 4:7; Col 3:15; Gal 5:22)

### C. Love

1. ‘love’ – the Divine love that God is (I. John 4:8, 16). Self-less love, love that goes beyond human emotions and demonstrates itself in service for others (I. Corinthians 13).
2. Biblical love is prepared to confront error. It is not some emotional feeling that makes us gloss over sin and apostasy. True love is willing to correct and confront.

## Conclusion:

1. Who is your Master? Are you truly saved?
2. Are we seeking growth and increase in our spiritual lives?