

## Jude 1:1-4

### Announcements:

- [Play Men's video](#) - give it a pump!
- [Thank you to Tim](#), great message! *One another!*
- [DR trip](#) - Thank God and team (**compressed summer of travel**) - back for many weeks!

Please open to the **Book of Jude** (need a bible?) (**great Sunday!!**) - **7 WEEKS...**

- **Right before Revelation!** **Chapter 2?** Haha... ([one, short chapter book](#), but [jam-packed!](#))
- Series Title: **Contend for the Faith** - Main theme. Comes out of [our verses this morning...](#)
- Jude is a **serious shepherd** in this letter. Yes, [feed and comfort the flock](#), but also **PROTECT!**

**Regular mail:** [bills](#), [TY's Invites...](#) Then, the **serious stuff:** [biopsy](#), [attorney](#), [offer](#), [acceptance...](#)

- Jude sits to write about **standard Gospel matters**, but then is led to write about **unique items**.

**Message Title:** **"No Ordinary Letter!"** (*Verse 3 makes clear!*)

- **Messianic Jewish** content. [Similarities to 2nd Peter](#) (**dozen+**) (*chicken or egg?*) (*late 60's*)
- **Apocryphal Connections:** Possibly, [Testament of Moses](#), Surely from [1st Enoch](#) (*more later*)
- **Heavy use of Triads in literary style** (*dozen ish...*). We will see [three of them today...](#)

*Today is really the setup*, and [all else in Jude flows from](#) these opening verses...

- **A Secure Foundation** (*verses 1-2*)
- **A Battle Worth Fighting** (*verse 3*)
- **A Sneaky Invasion** (*verse 4*)

[Without further ado](#), let's jump in...!

### **A Secure Foundation** (vv. 1-2)

### **EXPOSITION:**

**Ancient world letters:** [travel difficulties](#); [author](#), [audience](#), [greetings](#), then content; First, the author...

*Author...*

V. 1 - **Jude**, a **bondservant** of Jesus Christ, and **brother of James**

- **Jude (ioudas)** - "Judas (Greek), Judah (Hebrew: yehuda), Jude" (*i.e. - William, Billy, Bill*)
  - Traditionally, the **half-brother of Jesus**, *though not stated*, **serves as a strength!**
  - *Mary went on to have other children with Joseph?*
  - **Catholics would disagree:** **Perpetual virginity of Mary** (*Brother = loosely, cousin?*)
    - **Adelphos** (*brother*) vs **Anepsios** (*cousin/kinsman*) (*Col 4:10*)
- **And brother of James - a helpful qualifier!**
  - **Qualifiers clarify:** Judas of Damascus; Judas Iscariot (*no!* "**Jude**"); Jesus of Nazareth; Simon Bar Jonah; James son of Zebedee; James the Younger; [James, brother of Jesus!](#)
  - Here "**brother of James**" said **all the audience needed to know** ([compelling, lessor](#))

- Matthew 13:55, Mark 6:3 - "Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses [Joseph], Simon, and Judas [aka: Jude]? ...and are not His sisters here with us...?" (a lit. household! Can you imagine being a sibling of Jesus? Favorite? haha)
- John 7:5, Acts 1:14 - "For even His brothers did not believe in Him... these all continued with one accord in prayer... with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers."
  - The resurrection changed things! (also, see Acts 15 - Jerusalem Council)
- Galatians 1:19 - "I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother."
- 1 Co. 9:5 - "Don't we have the right to be accompanied by a believing wife like the other apostles, the Lord's brothers, and Cephas?" (implying, Jude had a wife? Gertrude? Judy?)
- A bondservant of Jesus Christ - Jude takes "lesser" position in two ways now...
- Could have said, half-brother! Name dropped! Went to school, worked with (LinkedIn Bio)
- There's Exhortation, and freedom here for those "scrambling for title" (senior pastor?)
  - Where is your title of identity found... (asks?) What title is most important to you?
- Bondservant (Doulos) - "slave/servant/attendant; subservient to another's will; devoted to another to the disregard of one's own interests" (James 1:1, Romans 1:1, 2 Peter 1:1)
  - Not, I am "related" to Jesus, but I "belong" to Jesus. Love it!
  - Ebed - various servanthood, Eved Olam = (Ex. 21, ear/awl); Dignified role:
- Deut 34:5 - "So Moses the servant [ebed] of the Lord died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the Lord." (Joshua, David, Prophets) = An Honor! (Bondservant!)
- Mark 3:31-35 - "A multitude was sitting around Him; and they said to Him, 'Look, Your mother and Your brothers are outside seeking You.' But He answered them, saying, 'Who is My mother, or My brothers?' And He looked around in a circle at those who sat about Him, and said, 'Here are My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother.'"

#### Audience...

- V. 1 - To those who are called, sanctified/loved by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ
- Those: plural = many!. Location not specified (Phil. Col. or Thess) (multitudes of churches?)
  - First Triad of the letter:
  - Those who are Called (Kletos: called, invited, summoned, selected, appointed) - Answer?
    - John 16:8 - The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment.
  - Sanctified/loved by God (M.S.?) (both are true! you have been loved and set apart)
    - Perfect tense matters = a settled fact! Rest in it, beloved church... (permanance!)
  - Kept in Jesus Christ (Tereo: guarded, watched over, cared for, preserved) (Psalm 121!)
    - Perfect tense matters = a settled fact! Rest in it, beloved church... (permanance!)
    - Echoes the the reality of the Covenant Keeping God of Israel and His Remanant...
  - Interesting in Jdue! Same verb; two destines: (verse 1 (us), 6 (angels), 13 (false teachers))
    - Romans 8 - can anything separate? Verse 24 in our closing in 7 weeks...

Same type of covenantal language in Numbers 6 and Isaiah 42 (God's people: Called, loved, kept)

- God calls us, sets us apart as His beloved, and protects us... Anyone thankful? (a river!)

#### Greetings...

- V. 2 - Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you
- It's a prayer/greeting of blessing upon them. [May...] Pauline typically, grace and peace...
  - Second Triad of the letter:

- **Mercy, Peace, and Love** (eleos, eirene, and agape)
- **Be multiplied to you** (**Plethyno**: increase, multiply, made to abound) (abundance! lavishly!)
  - Same word in opening greetings of **both 1st and 2 Peter!**

Alright, there's the setup, let's dig into the **purpose of Jude**...

- **A good coach/parent**, encourages with love, then challenges with difficulties...

### **A Battle Worth Fighting** (verse 3)

V. 3 - **Beloved**, while I was **very diligent** to write to you concerning **our common salvation**, I **found it necessary** to write to you...

- **Beloved** (**Agapetos**: highly esteemed, dearly loved) - **Believers!** (for "the church") - **A Plea!**
- **While I was very diligent to write to you** (making every effort | eagerly planning w/ all haste)
- **I found it necessary to write to you** (felt compelled / constrained) - **Something happened!**
  - Conviction, Spirit made clear, a circumstance changed...? (**a sermon of warning**)
  - Ever had that happen? **Prepared with one thing, but the Spirit puts something else?** (**DR**)
  - Or maybe, **a big enough thing has occurred**, there needs to be **a shift from the normal**.
    - **A shepherd** who **smells smoke or spots a wolf** will likely change his agenda...
    - We should also be: **Flexible, but not Flippant!**
- But **something theological we shouldn't skip over** in **Jude's initial intention**:
- **Concerning our common salvation** (**koines soterias**) (the salvation we all share!)
- This is **not to say** it's **cheap**, or **everyone** has it. But it is **non-partial**, and **communal** (explain)
  - **Tim's Message** - **One another** (Thessalonians!)
  - "Upon other matters there are distinctions among believers, **but yet there is a common salvation** enjoyed by the Arminian as well as by the Calvinist, possessed by the Presbyterian as well as by the Episcopalian, prized by the Quaker as well as by the Baptist. Those who are in Christ are more near of kin than they know of, and their intense unity in deep essential truth is a greater force than most of them imagine: only give it scope and it will work wonders." (Spurgeon)

Now for the challenge... (Jude is **finished with pleasantries**, and is **moved by urgency**)

V. 3 - Exhorting you to **contend earnestly** for **the faith** which was **once for all delivered** to the saints

- **Exhorting you** (**Parakaleo**: appeal, admonish, instruct, strengthen, "come along side")
- **To contend earnestly** (appealing to you / urging you) - **olympic language!**
  - **Epagonizomai** - (From agon: athletic arena; wrestling, boxing, runner training (English: **Agonize**)) (**epi** - intensifies it! ...not casual, not comfortable) - **Effort involved!** (you?)
    - Now, **contend** doesn't mean we are to be **contentious or obnoxious**.
    - But it is **fighting for** what is **true and valuable**. (Matt 13: **hidden treasure. pearl**)
  - **Present infinitive** (verbal noun) - **Continuous Christian Struggle** (**Pilgrim's Progress**)
  - 1 Timothy 6:12, NIV - "**Fight the good fight of the faith** (**agonizou ton kalon agona**). Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called...) - every way is not the right way!
- **For the Faith** - **not subjective, but objective** - **Content of the Gospel!** - **Some contend for the minors stuff**. Not "**our**" preference/ traditions (though they may exist, **that's not the point**)
  - **Essentials** (authority of Scripture, deity of Christ, substitutionary atonement, bodily resurrection; **Convictions** (spiritual gifts, church government, some eschatology elements); **Preferences** (music styles, paint color, service length/time, parking, etc)

- And there's wisdom in knowing the difference... Phil. 1:27 - "Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel" (corporate "team" sport, shield to shield; not antler to antler!)
- **Which was once for all** (hapax: one time, once for all) - It doesn't ever need a re-vamping!
- And, it's not an individualized personal, squishy, faith journey, but the **body of apostolic truth!**
  - Ephesians 2:19-20 - "Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone..." - we're not looking for a newer, fresher, version 2.0 of faith...
  - "There is no other gospel, there will be none. Its content will be more fully understood, its implications will be developed, its predictions will be fulfilled; but it will never be supplemented or succeeded or supplanted." (Charles Erdman) - **Amen!?**
- **Delivered Paradidomi** - giving into the hands of another for power or one's use; delivered to keep safe, take care of, manage (i.e. handing down a fixed tradition) (i.e. Sinai: Deut 4-6)
  - **Called to be stewards!** (prudency involved... you and I have the baton now...)
  - 1 Cor. 15:3-4 - "For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures..."
- **Are you able to contend?** Do you know the elements of "the faith"? Are you tempted to hide?
- **To the Saints** (God's Holy People). **Every Christian is called to the fight.** Jude writes this to **"the beloved saints"** - to ordinary church members, not to a special forces unit. **You** = plural!
  - **All y'all, you'uns, yoons, youz guyz! Not just the pastors! (Eph 4:12, equipping...)**
- Missionaries and evangelists? **Yeah!** But also... Sunday school teachers, home group leaders.
- At the water cooler, to our neighbors, with our children, **All... contend earnestly for the faith**

**But Jude, why the serious tone and plea of urgency?** Because of verse 4...

### **A Sneaky Invasion (verse 4)**

V. 4 - For **certain men** [ungodly men] have **crept in unnoticed**

- **For** - transitions us to the reason. The threat is not "at the gate." It's already "inside the walls."
- **Certain men** (tines anthropoi) (some people / certain individuals) - **obviously, false teachers!**
- **Ungodly men** (ungodly people) = **No reverence as if not there!** Thunders 4 times in verse 15!
  - **Not true Christians!**
- **Have crept in unnoticed** - **creepers!** But, unnoticed? (may that not be us... **Notice, out!**)
  - **Pareisdyno**: "to enter secretly; slip in stealthily; infiltrate" side door; in disguise! **U seen?**
- Gal. 2:4. CSB - "This matter arose because some **false brothers had infiltrated our ranks to spy on** the freedom we have in Christ Jesus in order to enslave us." - **legalism**
- Acts 20:29-30 - "For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also **from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse [misleading] things, to draw away the disciples after themselves...**" - **appear loving, biblical**
  - They use Christian language, may have a cross on shirt or building, and quote verses...
- Matthew 7:15 - "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves."
- **Do you hear the warnings, friends?**



- Jude will give O.T. examples in verse 11: Cain, Balaam, Korah (more when we get there...)
- **Examples:** Trojan horse! (Greeks tricked the trojans!) Malware! (ordinary download)
- Typically, **not announced as a blatant threat!** Homeowner peril! (slow leak, quiet rot)

**Church, don't be duped** by platform size, number of followers, charisma, or apparent success...

- Test what spirit it is of... Test the content of the message against the Word.

**Third Triad of the letter:**

- **Marked out for Condemnation**
- **Turning Grace into Lewdness**
- **Deny our Lord Jesus Christ**

V. 4 - Who **long ago** were **marked out for this condemnation**

- **Long ago** (beforehand) - according to the divine decree of God... (destiny involved)
- **Marked Out** (**Prographo**: "written about before hand") (depicted, portrayed)
- **For This Condemnation** (**Krima** - the sentence of a judge/court) (designated for this judgment)
  - Their appearance is **no surprise to God** (though they could appear to be to us...)
  - **Strangely comforting**. Feels like the ground is shaking, **God is not caught off guard!**
  - **Scripture foretold such people**, their judgment is settled (Truth will win in the end)

**Two major errors:**

- **Moral & Doctrinal**

**First error...**

V. 4 - Who turn the **grace of our God into lewdness** (**Moral - Practice**)

- **Who turn** (**Metatithemi**: transfer, change, fall away, desert from, etc) - **changing and altering!**
- **The grace of our God - A beautiful gift!** (forgives, rescues, adopts, transforms...)
- **Into Lewdness** **Lewdness (aselgeia)** - "unbridled lust, excess, licentiousness, lasciviousness, outrageousness, shamelessness, insolence" (**a license for immorality**) - excuse for evil (**fill in**)
- They take **grace** (one of the **most beautiful words**) and twist it into **a permission slip for sin!**
- **Romans 6:1-2** - "What shall we say then? **Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?** Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?" - **tell the affirming church!**
- **Galatians 5:13, NET** - "For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; **only do not use your freedom as an opportunity to indulge your flesh**, but through love serve one another."
  - God's grace is **not a license to serve myself**, but a **freedom to now live for Him!**
- **Titus 2:11-14** - "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, **teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age**, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, **that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people**, zealous for good works."
  - **The grace of God is a call to holiness!** "Come out from among them and be separate"

**Second error... (not only antinomian (without law) but also anti-authority)**

V. 4 - And deny the only Lord God [master] and our Lord Jesus Christ. (**Doctrinal - Authority**)

- Do some only want Jesus as fire insurance? A **smoke alarm**... But **don't interrupt my dinner!**
- **Deny** (**arneomai**: "to reject, to deny, or refuse something offered")

- **Our only Lord God** (some translations say "**Master and Lord**") **Who is Jesus? world? you?**
  - **Jesus Christ is Lord and God**, without a doubt. **Christological!** But, the **syntax appears emphatic** on the phrase: **Master/Lord (despotes/kyrios)** - "Master: absolute sovereign master | Lord: chief ruler to whom belongs power, possession, and reverence"
  - They were **rejecting Jesus as their Divine King** in either **word or practice or both...**
- You **cannot be Christ's Doulos (bondservant) and reject him** as **despotes (master)**
  - **2 Peter 2:1, NET** - "...false prophets arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. These false teachers will infiltrate your midst with destructive heresies **even to the point of denying the Master who bought them**. As a result, they will bring swift destruction on themselves..."
  - **Titus 1:16, NLT** - "Such people claim they know God, but **they deny him by the way they live.**"

### **The two issues are actually one package:**

- **Lewdness (moral collapse)** and **denial of the Master (doctrinal collapse)** travel together.
- **What you truly believe** about the lordship of Christ **shows up in how you live** with your body
- **Turn grace into a license to sin**, and you have **(functionally speaking) denied the Master.**

### **CONCLUSION:**

- Jude's answer is **not less grace (legalism) but true grace**... the **grace that saves and transforms**.
- **There's a difference** between **a ravenous wolf** and **a struggling sheep**. **Jude is (contending with) the wolf**, not **beating the sheep** (but **encouraging the sheep** to **contend earnestly** also).
  - And, **wolves beware**,... strong rebuke is coming... (**a secure house needs locks on the door...**)
  - **A storm of judgment is coming, and it will reveal the foundation of each house...**
  - **Next week** - **three examples** that show **judgment against** these types of **certain ungodly men**

### **Does anyone need to get right today?**

- **Come to the Lord? Called, loved, Kept (G.o.s.p.e.l.)**
  - Before you can **contend**... you must **first** be **preserved in Christ Jesus**
- **Anyone need to repent?** Treating **grace as a license for sin**; not living under **Christ's authority?**

**PRAY** - "May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied; as we begin to contend, together, for the Gospel..."