

Life Tabernacle Church 2025 Bible College
Contend for the Faith



JUDE—THE ACTS OF THE APOSTATES

LTC 2025 Bible College
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I. INTRODUCTION—THE EPISTLE OF JUDE

A. General Observations of the Epistle

Writer: Jude—The half-brother of Jesus (Matt. 13:55; Mark 6:3). The Lord had four half-brothers who would be converted only after the resurrection.

Date: A.D. 68-70—This would be around 30 years after the ascension of Jesus Christ and the birth of the church in Acts 2.

Audience: Falls into the category of one of the general epistles but it was most likely written to Hebrew Christians who had been scattered and were under the pressure of the persecutors, the Romans.

Background: During Jude's times, the early apostolic church was facing great political persecution from Rome but perhaps the most challenging attack it was facing was that from within.

Purpose: To encourage believers to “earnestly contend for the faith” which involved recognizing the character of false teachers and responding to their errors with perseverance in the truth and compassionate action to those endangered by their heresies.

B. A Brief Snapshot of the Epistle

To briefly overview the letter of Jude, here are some things that are evident in an apostate church, if you observe carefully, it is clear that the devil will merely put new lies in old garb:

- v. 5—Subtle visitation
- v. 6—Satanic invasion
- v. 7—Sexual perversion
- vv. 8-10—Social upheaval
- v. 11a—Spiritual distortion
- v. 11b—Semitic persecution
- v. 11c—Self-expression
- vv. 12-13—Strong delusion
- vv. 14-15—Secular humanism
- v. 16—Subversive confusion

Just to touch one other matter as an overview, it is important to note something that Jude uses very effectively as he writes under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost. He shows the reader triplets of thought, and the repetition works to show that he is giving a strong emphasis to the concept. These examples through Jude are evident:

- Sanctified—Preserved—Called—v. 1
- Mercy—Peace—Love—v. 2
- Saved people out of Egypt—Angels didn't keep first estate—Sodom/Gomorrah—vv. 5-7
- Defile—Despise—Speak—v. 8

- Cain—Balaam—Korah—v. 11
- Clouds—Trees—Waves—Stars—vv. 12-13
- Ungodly—Ungodly—Ungodly—v. 15
- Separate—Sensual—No Spirit—v. 19
- Have Compassion—Save with Fear—Pull out of the fire—vv. 22-23

II. AN EXPOSITION OF JUDE

A. A Burden to Warn Against Apostasy—Jude 1-3

- 1. Jude's Prayer—vv. 1-2—A Request for Mercy, Peace, and Love**
- 2. Jude's Plan—v. 3—Wanted to write concerning Salvation but now a warning against Apostasy**

The common salvation that they knew and believed had common tenets and those matters are still common to us today as well.

- The Oneness of God
- The Deity of Christ
- The Essentiality of the New Birth
- The Atoning Work of Jesus Christ (Death, Burial, and Resurrection)
- The Need for Separation from the World
- The Preservation and Defense of the Word of God
- The Mission of Local, National & World Evangelism
- The Matter of Church Government and Function
- The Role of the Gifts of the Spirit
- The Doctrine of Heaven and Hell—Eternal Reward/Eternal Punishment

B. The Need to Warn Against Apostasy—Jude 4a

C. The Historical Examples of Apostasy—Six in Number—vv. 5-6, 7b, 11

Jude uses his pattern of triplets of thought about the doom that is coming to the false teachers.

- The Israelites who did not believe after they came out of Egypt.
- The angels who did not keep their first estate.
- The inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah who practiced homosexuality.

Then Jude describes the doom that came to those people:

- Destruction to unbelievers.
- Locked in everlasting chains of darkness until the judgment.
- Suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

- 1. The Nation of Israel—Because of Unbelief—v. 5**
- 2. The Fallen Angels—Because of Rebellion—v. 6**

- 3. The Cities—Sodom & Gomorrah—Because of Sexual Immorality—v. 7b**
- 4. Cain—Because of Religious Perversion—v. 11a**
- 5. Balaam—Because of Financial Greed—v. 11b**
- 6. Korah—Because of Rejection of Divine Authority—v. 11c**

D. The Characteristics of Apostasy—Nine in Number—vv. 4b-4c, 8-10, 16-19

He describes them with word pictures that make strong comparisons to their character and what really rests within their soul:

- Filthy dreamers
- The devil
- Brute beasts

Then he gives us their actions:

- Defile the flesh (Pollute the flesh)
- Reject authority (Despise dominion)
- Blaspheme glories (Speak evil of dignities)

By doing this we can once again make a comparison with the OT examples that he gave in the previous verses:

- The angels and the Sodomites—Defiled the flesh by their sexual perversion
- The desert generation of Israelites, the angels, and the Sodomites—Rejected authority by refusing to follow the Lord's directives
- The Sodomites—Blasphemed glories as they treated the angels that visited Lot with great disrespect

- 1. God's Grace perverted into immorality—v. 4b**
- 2. The Deity of Jesus Christ Denied—v. 4c**
- 3. The Human Body Degraded—v. 8a**
- 4. The Rejection of Authority Structures—v. 8b**
- 5. The Slander of Angels—vv. 8c-9**
- 6. The Degeneration into Brute Beasts without Reason—v. 10**
- 7. The Action of Faultfinding—v. 16a**
- 8. The Action of Flattery for Personal Advantage—v. 16b**
- 9. The Action of Scoffing/Division—vv. 17-19**

E. The Metaphors for Apostasy—Six in Number—vv. 12-13

- 1. Dangerous Reefs that cause Shipwrecks—v. 12a**
- 2. Self-centered Shepherds rending the Flock—v. 12b**
- 3. Waterless Clouds absent of Refreshment—v. 12c**
- 4. Dead Autumn Trees without Fruit—v. 12d**
- 5. Wild Waves of the Sea—v. 13a**
- 6. Wandering Stars that lead Astray—v. 13b**

- F. Divine Judgment Brought on Apostates/Apostasy—Two in Number—vv. 7b, 14-15**
 - 1. Example of Past Judgment—Fire on Sodom & Gomorrah—v. 7a**
 - 2. Prophecy of Future Judgement—vv. 7b, 14-15**
- G. The Strong Safeguards against Personal and Church Apostasy—vv. 20-25**
 - 1. The Saint Builds, Prays & Remains—vv. 20-21**
 - 2. The Saint Dealing with Sinners—vv. 22-23**
 - 3. The Saint and the Savior—vv. 24-25**

III. CONCLUSION—THE HERITAGE OF JUDE’S FAMILY

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