

The Book of **JUDE** is the next to last letter in the New Testament. It is one chapter, 25 verses, but packed with vital teaching for the church today as it is exceptionally applicable to the days we live in.

(vv1-4) Jude is translated 'Judah' in Hebrew, and 'Judas' in Greek. He set out to write a letter to the church concerning *'the common salvation'* but then was compelled by the Holy Spirit to change his subject *'...it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.'* The reason the Spirit moved Jude this way was because of ungodly men who were beginning to infiltrate the church *'For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.'*

2 THESSALONIANS 2:1-5 *'Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first...'* the Greek word is 'apostasia' - a falling away, defection, apostasy; defection from the truth. **1 TIMOTHY 4:1-6** *'Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils [demons].'* This truth is spoken clearly by the Holy Spirit so we would all take heed. **2 TIMOTHY 4:1-5** *'For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears.'* **2 PETER 2:1-3** *'But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies...'* **2 PETER 3:1-4** *'Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts...'* The Bible warns us of apostasy to come upon us in the last days.

(vv1-4) Jude would have preferred to talk about *'the common salvation'* shared with those who would read his letter, but because false teaching was becoming prevalent, the Holy Spirit moved in Jude to pen something completely different. This letter's subject is *'that ye should earnestly contend for the faith...'* Jude does not mince words, he totally goes after all the false men who have secretly subverted the church, and lays down instructions for us to be vigilant about in the days we live.

(v1) *'Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James...'* the author is Jude, this was a popular name in Israel. Nearly all conservative Bible scholars believe that Jude was a younger half-brother of Jesus and a brother of James, the leader in the Jerusalem church and the one who penned the letter named after him in the New Testament **MATTHEW 13:54-56; GALATIANS 1:18,19.**

(v1) *'Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ...'* The Greek word is 'doulos' - a slave, bondman, man of servile condition; one who gives himself up to another's will; devoted to another to the disregard of one's own interests. Before the Crucifixion and Resurrection, Jude had denied Jesus as Messiah. **MATTHEW 13:53-58** Mary and Joseph had children after the birth of Jesus, four sons and at least two daughters. **MATTHEW 1:18-25** *'Then Joseph...did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.'*

JOHN 7:1-9 Jesus' half-brothers did not believe He was the Messiah *'For even His brothers did not believe in Him.'* Obviously, they believed He was a real person; they grew up in the same household as Jesus did. What they did not believe was that He was the Messiah, the Son of God. This would not happen until after His resurrection.

Instead of introducing himself as Jesus' half-brother, Jude humbly wants to be known as Jesus' bond-servant. **JOHN 12:23-26** Jesus wants us to follow Him, to have His agenda directing our days, to allow the Holy Spirit to lead us.

(v1) *'...to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called...'* as God moves in our lives these truths are something to deeply meditate upon.

'sanctified' - the Greek word is *hagiazō* - to separate from profane things and dedicate to God; to cleanse externally; to purify by expiation. **JOHN 17:1-21** before His death, Jesus intercedes to the Father for His own. We know that Jesus is God, and Jesus tells us that we are sanctified by the Word of Truth, the Bible. **JOHN 8:12-36** *'I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I AM, ye shall die in your sins.'* Jesus claims to be the Voice of the Burning Bush (see **EXODUS 3:13,14**), we must believe that Jesus is God or we cannot be saved. Jesus promises the believer freedom from the world system, believe Him today. **PSALMS 19:7-9; 119:9-11,101-105** *'Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.'*

'preserved' - the Greek word is *tēreō* - to attend to carefully, take care of; to guard; to keep, one in the state in which he is. **JOHN 10:28-30; 2 TIMOTHY 4:18; 1 PETER 1:5** How we need to trust Jesus with our spiritual lives every moment of everyday!

'called' - God alone has called us into His Kingdom. Rejoice in Him today.

2 THESSALONIANS 2:13-17 *'to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.'*; **2 TIMOTHY 1:9** *'Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began.'* Praise God! Trust Jesus to keep you eternally!