



FAITH AMIDST DISTRACTIONS

THE BOOK OF JUDE

Ancient Echos For Today

October 18, 2026

⁵ contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people.

Jude 5 (read verses 5-16)

Jude writes to believers facing a serious threat from people who have entered their Christian community and distorted God's grace into an excuse for immoral living (vv. 3–4). His call to “contend for the faith” urges believers to remain faithful to the Gospel and the transformed life it produces. Grace never makes holiness irrelevant.

Drawing on Israel's history, Jewish traditions, and imagery familiar to his original readers, Jude warns that God's past judgments demonstrate his opposition to persistent rebellion (vv. 5–7). Spiritual privilege does not excuse unfaithfulness.

In verses 8–13, Jude portrays the intruders as arrogant, self-serving, and destructive. Their problem is not simply mistaken teaching; their conduct reveals disregard for God's authority and the well-being of his people. Images of hidden reefs, fruitless trees, and wandering stars emphasize the danger of leaders who promise spiritual nourishment but leave others vulnerable.

Verses 14–16 bring the warning to its climax. Drawing on Jewish apocalyptic tradition (the Book of 1 Enoch), Jude declares that the Lord will ultimately judge ungodliness, including arrogant speech, grumbling, and manipulation for personal gain. His vivid language calls the church to discernment, integrity, and faithfulness.

For believers today, Jude offers a timely reminder: faithful Christian witness requires both healthy teaching and Christlike character. We must resist teachings that excuse sin while remaining humble about our own need for grace. This passage calls us to protect our hearts from destructive influences and evaluate spiritual leadership by faithfulness to Christ, not by their charisma or influence.

Small Group Guide

October 18, 2026

What did you hear in this morning's message that stood out to you? What was interesting, important, or confusing?

How might we misuse God's grace?

Do our actions reflect our faith?

How can we uphold truth with grace?

Some Background

Jude 9 and 14–15 draw on ancient Jewish writings outside the Old Testament. Verse 9 refers to a dispute between the archangel Michael and the devil over Moses' body, a story associated with the Assumption or Ascent of Moses. Although the original work is lost, the reference reflects Jewish traditions about Moses and the spiritual world. In verses 14–15, Jude quotes 1 Enoch 1:9, part of a Jewish collection attributed to Enoch, the figure who “walked with God” (Genesis 5:24). These writings are called pseudepigrapha because they were attributed to ancient biblical figures who likely did not write them. While these works are not authoritative Scripture, they were familiar interpretations Jude used to reinforce his warning about ungodliness and God's coming judgment.

Reflections

This section of Jude reminds us that God's grace is never an excuse to live however we want. God calls us to trust him, follow his ways, and reflect his character. Jude warns against those who twist the gospel to justify their choices or use their influence for personal gain. His words invite us to examine whether our actions reflect what we say we believe. Believers must hold firmly to biblical truth while treating others with humility and grace. In a culture that instinctively winces at any objection to one's beliefs or practices, however gracefully done, the body of Christ is to bear witness to the Lordship of Jesus Christ as the only real means of living in genuine grace. We are not called to be suspicious of everyone, but we are to contend for the faith entrusted to us; a faith that truly liberates our hearts.