



Contending for the Faith
JUDE

PASTOR'S
SATURDAY 3PM
BIBLE

CLASS

with **DR. SAMUEL U. BULGIN**

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ATLANTA BELVEDERE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

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| INTRODUCTION | FOCUS TEXT |
|--|---|
| <p>The Epistle of Jude is rugged, bold, energetic, and passionate. It combines some of the peculiar features of Old Testament prophecy with those of the Jewish Apocalyptic literature. It is not addressed to any specific church or individual hence the title general. It is directed, however, to those who are “called, sanctified by the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ (1:1).”</p> | <p>Jude 1:1 <i>“This letter is from Jude, a slave of Jesus Christ and a brother of James. I am writing to all who have been called by God the Father, who loves you and keeps you safe in the care of Jesus Christ.”</i></p> |

AUTHORSHIP

The writer calls himself “Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ” and “brother of James” (v. 1). In the New Testament we have several men by that name. Jude may well be the brother, of James a brother of Jesus. Jude does not accentuate his relationship to Jesus but rather presents himself as a servant of Jesus Christ.

HISTORICAL SETTING

Nothing in the letter gives us any clue concerning the circumstances surrounding the writing. However, we can deduce from its content that some disruptive elements had crept into the church (v. 4, 8) and drew many away from the purity of the gospel. Much of the material in Jude can be found in 2 Peter. (v. 4-18 and 2 Pet. 2:1-3:3). Not only the thought but in many instances the same words are used. It is not clear whether they borrowed from each other or they drew from a common source.

THE THEME

To confirm the believers in their Christian faith and urge them to defend the faith, he provides them with information as to how to unmask deceivers, by showing them how they connect with earlier rebels against divine authority. He exhorts them to avoid the deceivers and to concentrate on preparation to meet their Lord in glory.

THE THEOLOGY OF JUDE

| The Lordship of Christ | |
|---|-------|
| Christ is Lord and absolute Master. | v. 4 |
| Since Christ is the Master, the Christian is His slave. | v. 1 |
| Christ is also Lord. | v. 21 |

| The Salvation of Christ | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| The past aspect of salvation. | v. 1, 4, 5 |
| The present aspect of salvation. | v. 1, 20-21 |
| The future aspect of salvation. | v. 24 |

| The Libertines | |
|---|-----------|
| Their identification. | v. 19 |
| Their characteristics. | v. 12, 16 |
| The Christian's reaction to them. | v. 22, 23 |
| Their judgment is certain. | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enoch prophesied it. | v. 14, 15 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angels who sinned, Sodom & Gomorrha | v. 5-7 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pattern of past judgment ensures destruction by fire. | v. 7 |

OUTLINE

- I. Greetings/Salutation (v. 1, 2)
- II. The Occasion for Writing (v. 3, 4)
 - a. They must contend for the faith.
- III. Historical Warnings Against Backsliding (v. 5-7)
 - a. The Israelites (v. 5)
 - b. The angels (v. 6)
 - c. Sodom and Gomorrha (v. 7)
- IV. The Defiant Attitude of Sinners (v. 8-11)
- V. The Fruitlessness of Sin (v. 12, 13)
- VI. The Certainty of Doom for the Ungodly (v. 14-16)
 - a. Prophesied long before (v. 14, 15)
 - b. Their fitness for destruction (v. 16)

VII. The Crisis Foretold (v. 17-19)

VIII. Maintain Your Life with God (v. 20-25)

a. Exhortation (20-23)

i. Personal application to the believers (v. 20-21)

ii. Responsibility towards others (v. 22, 23)

b. Glory to God (v. 24, 25)

Jude teaches us how to motivate others to act. He creates a sense of urgency and destiny with the examples he chooses. He speaks of Enoch, the man who walked with God until God took him. He reminds us of God's promise to execute justice for all. He inspires and instructs us by listing six action steps that if followed, will please the Lord; then he prays a benediction of victory. We must use pictures to capture the hearts of people.

We must express certainty when possible, but clarity at all times.

We should not demand but instead exhort, appeal, and urge others to act.

We need both negative and positive reinforcement.

Positive Reinforcements

- Enoch's prophecy of Jesus' return.
- The Apostles' writing about Jesus.
- God's judgment will bless the godly.

