

JUDE

Introduction

Author. The author identifies himself as Jude, the brother of James. Although this could refer to Judas the apostle (not Iscariot, Luke 6:16), it is more likely the brother of Jesus. The way he distances himself from the apostles (vv. 1, 17) and calls himself the brother of James, the prominent leader in the early church and brother of Jesus, suggests Jude, the brother of Jesus.

Date. An absolute date is difficult to determine. If, in fact, Peter made use of Jude in his second letter, then a date prior to 65 A. D. would be reasonable.

Occasion. Jude is very direct about the occasion of his letter. Although he desired to teach about salvation the perversion of the truth by certain apostates made his letter necessary. Apparently, by their lifestyles and teaching, these apostates taught that the grace of God would allow any kind of sin to go unpunished. Jude urges a positive advance on the part of his readers to earnestly contend for the body of doctrine handed down by the apostles.

Message Statement. *The true grace of God will keep one unspotted from sin rather than indulging in sin.*

Argument

- 1A INTRODUCTION 1-2
Jude identifies himself in the most humble way as a servant of Jesus and brother of James. Jude, this one who has such harsh words for apostates, adds love to the usual greeting of grace and peace.
- 1B THE OCCASION OF THE EPISTLE 3-4
Jude clearly teaches that he desired to write positively about the salvation which believers share. This theme may have been hinted in his introductory words (1-2). However, because of the presence of apostates he felt the more urgent need was one of warning and exhortation about apostasy.
- 1C WARNING AGAINST THESE EVIL MEN 5-16
Jude begins his warning with graphic examples of God's judgment of sinners in the past. He then moves on to a graphic description of these evil men.
- 1B Historical Examples of God's Judgment on Apostasy 5-7
Jude's examples from history are threefold: unbelieving Israelites, angels and Sodomites. These three examples seem to draw from three different spheres: the religious, the supernatural and the perverted. God draws no distinction and judges every sphere with exacting judgment.
- 2B Present Description of These Apostates 8-16
Jude begins his description of these men by the arrogance of their speech. He then moves on to a highly metaphorical description of their character. Their doom is finally prophesied in the words of Enoch, one who observed the original wickedness of the flood generation.
- 1D EXHORTATION TO THE FAITHFUL MEN 17-23
The exhortation to faithful men involves both positive and negative. They are to positively keep themselves in the love of God by 1) building up their faith, 2) praying in the Spirit, and 3) waiting for the coming of Christ. They are

to concern themselves with others as well, both having mercy on the sinner and hating the sin.

1E CONCLUDING PRAISE

24-25

The conclusion of praise brings glory to God for his ability to preserve and present the believer before Him. With all of this exhortation and warning Jude recognizes the ultimate source of victory.

