

JUDE Contend for the Faith

Greeting Blessing to the Called, Sanctified, and Preserved [Jude 1-2]

1 Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James,
To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ:
2 Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

Contend for the Faith

3 Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

4 For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Examples in History

5 But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.

6 And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;

7 as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

8 Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries.

9 Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"

Present Deceivers

10 But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves.

11 Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

12 These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots; **13** raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.

14 Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, **15** to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."

16 These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage.

17 But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: 18 how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts.

19 These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit.

Counsel to the Church

20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

22 And on some have compassion, making a distinction; 23 but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.

Glory to God

24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, 25 To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.

NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Greeting Blessing to the Called, Sanctified, and Preserved [\[Jude 1-2\]](#)

✠ Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James. [\[Jude 1\]](#)

✧ It is believed that James the eldest brother of Jesus wrote the book of James, and Judas the youngest brother of Jesus wrote the book of Jude.

His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas? [\[Matthew 13:55-56, Mark 6:3, John 2:12, 7:3-5\]](#)

✧ It appears that Judas changed his name to Jude because of the taint on the name of Judas by the betrayer of Jesus.

✧ At the writing of this letter, Jude does not claim to be the brother of Jesus, but a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James.

✧ The brothers of Jesus did not believe in Him until Jesus appeared to them after His resurrection. [\[John 7:5, Acts 1:14, 1 Corinthians 1:5\]](#)

✧ The resurrection of Jesus proved that Jesus was not an ordinary human brother, but was indeed the Son of God placing Him far above fleshly brotherhood, so James and Jude did not feel qualified to claim such closeness in relationship.

✠ To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ: [\[Jude 1\]](#)

✧ This is a general letter to Churches.

✠ Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you. [\[Jude 2\]](#)

Contend for the Faith [\[Jude 3-4\]](#)

✠ Jude had it in his heart to write to encourage the Church regarding our common Salvation.

✧ It is always pleasant to share the positive message of love and hope of Eternal life with others of like precious faith, and we find that to emphasize the positive is far more readily accepted to the hearers.

- ✠ However Jude found it necessary to write about the danger the Church faced in His day as it does in our own time.
 - ✧ It is more necessary for the Church to **contend earnestly for the faith** as originally delivered to the Saints.
 - ✧ The necessity is forced upon us by the false doctrine of deceivers who have quietly infiltrated the Church with dangerous messages.
 - ✧ They have turned the grace of God into lewdness encouraging believers to tolerate sexual immorality and idolatry. [\[Revelation 2:14, 20\]](#)
 - ✧ They even deny the Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ. [\[Jude 4\]](#)
 - ✧ It is necessary to take a stand and set our minds to cling firmly to the Gospel message first delivered by the Apostles by diligent study of the Word of God, so that we will be able to discern the deception that is sure to confront us, and then do all in our power to correct the error.

Examples in History [\[Jude 5-7\]](#)

- ✠ But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having **saved the people of Israel** out of the land of Egypt, afterward **destroyed those who did not believe**. [\[Jude 5\]](#)
 - ✧ In the history of Israel, they were all saved when God Most High delivered them from the hard bondage in Egypt, made them a great nation with godly laws, brought them to the promised Land, and commanded them to take possession of it.
 - ✧ However, because of trials and doubt, when the Lord brought them to the promised land they lost their faith and their right to enter in. [\[Numbers 13:1 through 14:38\]](#)
 - ✧ Therefore the generation God first saved, died in the wilderness because of their sin of disbelief.
- ✠ And the **angels who did not keep their proper domain**, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; [\[Jude 6\]](#)
 - ✧ Angels left their proper domain when they took human wives and produced a race of giants called the Nephilim in the days of Noah. [\[Genesis 6:1-4, 2 Peter 2:4, Jude 6\]](#)
 - ✧ Angels are called sons of God in Scriptures. [\[Genesis 6:2, 4, Job 2:1, 38:7\]](#)
- ✠ **Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them** in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. [\[Jude 7\]](#)
 - ✧ God destroyed Sodom, Gomorrah, and the cities of the plain with fire and brimstone, but saved Lot and his two daughters for the sake of Abraham. [\[Genesis 19:1-29\]](#)

Present Deceivers [\[Jude 8-19\]](#)

- ✠ Likewise also **these dreamers** defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries. [\[Jude 8\]](#)
 - ✧ The **current deceivers** in the Church at the writing of this epistle, Jude identifies as dreamers described in this verse.
- ✠ Yet Michael the archangel, in **contending with the devil**, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!" [\[Jude 9\]](#)
 - ✧ Jude used the contest between Michael and the devil as an example of his meaning when he called for the Church to **contend for the faith**. It is not to be done by reviling accusation, but in gentle rebuke for the purpose of correcting error.
- ✠ Understanding the false teachers in the Church. [\[Jude 10\]](#)
 - ✧ They speak evil about things they do not know or understand.
 - ✧ They are responding to things they perceive in the natural flesh like brute beasts.
 - ✧ By taking the fleshly approach, they corrupt themselves.

- ✠ **Woe to them!** For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah. [Jude 11]
 - ✧ **Cain** made the same mistake because he did not realize that God had previously expressed what was an acceptable sacrifice, and that was in the blood of a substitute. [Genesis 3:21]
 - ✧ Abel's acceptable offering provided the Blood of Atonement, Cain's offering did not and was rejected. [Genesis 4:1-5]
 - ✧ **Balaam** was focused on material gain for himself even though he said otherwise, he refused to stand on the word God answered first, but kept hoping to change God's mind. [Numbers 22:1-19]
 - ✧ **Korah** perished when he led a rebellion against the authority of Moses. [Numbers 16:1-35]
- ✠ Speaking of the **present false teachers**, Jude said: [Jude 12-13]
 - ✧ These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves.
 - ✧ They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds;
 - ✧ They are late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots;
 - ✧ They are raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame;
 - ✧ They are wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.
- ✠ **Enoch**, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying: [Jude 14-15]

"Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."

 - ✧ Enoch had foretold the coming of the Lord to judge the world.
 - ✧ When the Lord comes to judge the world, the armies of Heaven made up of the Saints and Angels will accompany Him. [Isaiah 13:1-6, Zechariah 14:5, Matthew 25:31, 26:64, Mark 8:38, 14:62, Luke 9:26, 21:7, 1 Thessalonians 3:13, Jude 14-15, Revelation 19:11-16]
 - ✧ Judgment will be against those whose hearts are ungodly, who do ungodly deeds, and for the ungodly words they have said against the Lord.
- ✠ Speaking of the **present false teachers**, Jude said: [Jude 16]
 - ✧ They grumble and complain.
 - ✧ They live in self gratifying sensuality.
 - ✧ They mouth great swelling words to impress the people.
 - ✧ They use flattery to gain advantage for themselves from the people.
 - ✧ These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit. [Jude 19]

Counsel to the Church [Jude 17-18, 20-23]

- ✠ But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts. [Jude 17-18, 2 Peter 3:3-4, 2 Timothy 3:1-5, 4:3-4]
- ✠ But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. [Jude 20-21]
 - ✧ Steps for the Saint to keep himself in the truth when deception is all around comes from the following:
 1. Diligent study to grow in knowledge of truth.
 2. Carefully guard yourself from being led astray by alluring deceptive doctrines.
 3. Praying in the Holy Spirit.
 4. Focus on growing in the love of God.

5. Hold fast to your hope and expectation of Eternal Life by the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.

‡ Dealing with the deceivers Jude has been discussing;

✧ Some are saved through the compassion of the Saints.

✧ Others **save with fear** by warnings of Scripture, pulling them out of the fire of Hell.

✧ Your attitude must express a hating of even the garment defiled by the flesh, because they are deceived by their own fleshly sensuality.

✧ Your desire must be the saving of the soul which is in danger because of the lusts of the flesh.

All Glory goes to God our Savior [\[Jude 24-25\]](#)

‡ Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, To **God our Savior**, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.