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By Dan Maines

Jude

Jude 1

Jude, a bond-servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, to those who are the called, beloved in God the Father, and kept for Jesus Christ.

† Jude identifies himself as the brother of James, linking him to the family of Jesus.

† Believers are described as called, beloved, and kept, showing

God's covenant faithfulness.

Jude 2

May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

† The blessings of the new covenant are centered in mercy, peace, and love.

† Clement of Rome (1 Clement 59) also prayed for multiplied blessings of peace in the church.

Jude 3

Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith that was once for all time handed down to the saints.

† Jude's intent shifts from encouragement to urgent warning.

† The faith was delivered once for all, not to be altered or added to.

† Irenaeus (Against Heresies 1.10.1) affirmed the same: the apostolic faith is complete and unchangeable.

Jude 4

For certain people have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into indecent behavior and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

† False teachers perverted grace into license and denied Christ's authority.

† Josephus (Wars 4.6.3) described lawless men creeping in and corrupting Jerusalem, similar to Jude's warning.

Jude 5

Now I want to remind you, though you know everything once and for all, that the Lord, after saving a people out of the land of

Egypt, subsequently destroyed those who did not believe.

† Jude recalls Israel's history: salvation followed by judgment on unbelief.

† Salvation does not excuse rebellion.

Jude 6

And angels who did not keep their own domain but abandoned their proper dwelling place, these He has kept in eternal restraints under darkness for the judgment of the great day.

† Jude refers to angels who sinned, held under restraint until judgment.

† The Dead Sea Scrolls (1 Enoch traditions preserved at Qumran) also recorded the fall of angels, explaining Jude's reference.

Jude 7

Just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these angels indulged in sexual perversion and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.

† Sodom's destruction is an example of God's eternal judgment.

† Philo (On Abraham 133) described Sodom's sins, aligning with Jude's teaching.

Jude 8

Yet in the same way these people also, dreaming, defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak abusively of angelic majesties.

† False teachers rejected authority and blasphemed spiritual realities.

Jude 9

But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce

against him an abusive judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"

† Jude cites a Jewish tradition showing even Michael respected God's authority in judgment.

† Early Christians preserved this account from the Assumption of Moses, which Jude references.

Jude 10

But these people disparage all the things that they do not understand; and all the things that they know by instinct, like unreasoning animals, by these things they are destroyed.

† False teachers act without reason, driven by instinct rather than truth.

Jude 11

Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain, and for pay they have given themselves up to the error of Balaam, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

† Jude ties false teachers to Cain's hatred, Balaam's greed, and Korah's rebellion.

† Josephus (Antiquities 4.3.2) described Korah's rebellion as the worst of Israel's sins.

Jude 12-13

These are the ones who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, like shepherds caring only for themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted; wild waves of the sea, churning up their own shameful deeds like dirty foam; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of darkness has been reserved forever.

† Jude uses vivid imagery to describe the emptiness and danger of false teachers.

† Their presence in the church threatens to wreck the faithful.

Jude 14-15

It was also about these people that Enoch, in the seventh generation from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord has come with many thousands of His holy ones, to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."

† Jude quotes 1 Enoch, a text well known among Jews, showing the Lord coming in judgment.

† Early Christians did not consider 1 Enoch scripture, but Jude used it to affirm truth.

Jude 16

These are grumblers, finding fault, following after their own lusts; they speak arrogantly, flattering people for the sake of gaining an advantage.

† False teachers flatter for personal gain and live by lust and complaint.

Jude 17-18

But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ, that they were saying to you, "In the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts."

† The apostles foretold the rise of false teachers in the last days of the covenant.

† Peter said the same in 2 Peter 3:3, showing harmony of teaching.

Jude 19

These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded,

devoid of the Spirit.

† Divisiveness, carnality, and lack of the Spirit mark these deceivers.

Jude 20-21

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

† Believers are called to strengthen themselves in faith, prayer, and love.

† Mercy and eternal life are assured in Christ.

Jude 22-23

And have mercy on some, who are doubting; save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh.

† Different responses are needed: gentle mercy for doubters, urgent rescue for the perishing, careful mercy for the defiled.

Jude 24-25

Now to Him who is able to protect you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory, blameless, with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority before all time and now and forever. Amen.

† The doxology closes with confidence in God's ability to preserve His people.

† Glory and dominion belong to Christ eternally.

† Eusebius (Ecclesiastical History 2.23) praised Christ's authority, echoing Jude's conclusion.

How it applies to us today

† Jude calls us to contend earnestly for the faith, guarding against false teachers.

† History shows their presence in John and Jude's generation, marking the last days of the old covenant.

† Today, we stand secure in the fulfilled kingdom, with mercy, truth, and love as our calling.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

Source Index

† Josephus, Wars 4.6.3 - lawless men creeping into Jerusalem

† Josephus, Antiquities 4.3.2 - Korah's rebellion

† Clement of Rome, 1 Clement 59 - prayer for peace

† Philo, On Abraham 133 - sins of Sodom

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies 1.10.1 - apostolic faith
unchangeable

† The Dead Sea Scrolls (1 Enoch, Qumran) - fallen angels and judgment

† Assumption of Moses - Michael's dispute with the devil

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 2.23 - Christ's eternal authority

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