

BOOK OF JUDE

1. This is the most neglected book of the New Testament. It is strange and hard for us to comprehend because it speaks about angels fighting with Satan.
2. The author, Jude, quoted a lot from non-biblical sources when writing this epistle to the Jewish believers. He quoted from the Apocrypha, which was written during the 400 years gap between the book of Malachi and the New Testament, when there was prophetic silence from God. During that period of prophetic silence, no one could claim, "Thus says the Lord"; but the books in the Apocrypha were written by the Jewish people who knew the Old Testament. There are truths in the Apocrypha and Jude was led by the Holy Spirit to quote these truths in his epistle.
3. Why is it that in this almost last book of the New Testament, God allowed Jude to quote from the Apocrypha, which we thought were not inspired by God? The Roman Catholics have also placed some of these quotes into their version of the bible. We should note that even today, there are preachers who do quote from famous and great theologians or teachers even though they are not verses from the Bible. During that time of Jude's writing, the Apocrypha was well-known amongst the Jews.

Who is Jude?

1. Jude was the biological half-brother of Jesus, just as James the Just was also the biological half-brother of Jesus. Acts 1:14 says that Jesus' brothers did not believe in Him until they saw Christ after His resurrection. Jesus had about 4 or 5 brothers.
2. In 1 Corinthians 9:5, we saw that Jesus' brothers who trusted the Lord, went about serving Him. Virgin Mary was not a virgin anymore after she married Joseph and bore many children.
3. The real name of Jude was Judas, but to avoid confusion with the Judas who betrayed Christ, he was called Jude.

Purpose of the Book of Jude

1. This epistle of Jude was written after the resurrection of Christ. There were many second-generation Christians in churches by that time and hence, the churches were facing a different set of issues.
2. Today, two things often corrupt the Church.
 - a) Legalism
 - i. People think that the Gospel is too simple to believe. They often questioned, "How can one simply be born again just by faith?" So they think that there is a need to add on works believing that one "must do these and that" before one can be saved. This means that they do not believe that Justification is by Faith alone.
 - ii. Some also believe that even after believing in Christ, one must still do these or that before being allowed into heaven. This means that they do not believe in Sanctification by Faith alone too.
 - b) Licentiousness

They believe that once you are saved, you can live in any way you like. You do not need to confess your sins because you only need to confess once because they said that all the sins are settled by Christ at the Cross.

3. Similar to today, Licentiousness was also a common false teaching faced during Jude's time. Just as in the epistle of 2 Peter, Apostle Peter had to address similar sins of obsession of the "Christians" over sex and money. The second generation "Christians" tend to assume that they are saved.
4. Satan is well aware that Licentiousness is more enticing than Legalism because it is less burdensome to people and thus, they are more easily attracted to it.
5. The epistle was written to Jewish believers which included lots of Old Testament quotes and Apocryphal writings.

Summary of Jude's teachings

1. Jude 1:1. Jude called himself a bond servant of Christ. He did not dare to call himself the brother of Jesus but instead addressed himself just as the brother of James did. James, too, did not call himself the brother of Jesus. They were both well aware of their standing before Christ.
2. Jude 1:3. Jude originally wanted to write about Salvation but he sensed an impending crisis, and so he needed to contend for the faith due to Legalism and Licentiousness. We, too, have to contend for our faith when we see false teachings set in. It is sad that pagans today see Christianity as immoral (e.g. President Donald Trump had claimed that he is a Christian, yet had been divorced multiple times). We have to defend the faith which was, once and for all, delivered to us.
3. Jude 1:4. People in the Church are often unaware of the wolves in sheep's clothing giving false teachings as warned in Matthew 15:7. These false teachers turn the Church into lewdness or Licentiousness. We have a new DNA in Christ, as described in 1 John, so how can we keep on sinning? These false teachers are denying the Master and the Lord when they preach hyper grace! Remember the book of Jude is recorded towards the end of the Bible and things have changed. Satan is using Licentiousness more than Legalism to attack God's people.
4. Jude 1:5. First example given by Jude.
 - a) Two million people came out of Egypt but God destroyed many who did not believe.
 - b) They were just like many Christians today who are just churchgoers, yet had never truly trusted Christ. Thus, it is not that they lost their salvation after believing, but they had never trusted Christ and hence were never saved in the first place. See 1 John 2:19.
5. Jude 1:6. Second example
 - a) Genesis 6:2 mentions the sons of God. In one book (1 Enoch) of the Apocrypha, it was explained that these sons of God were "angels fallen from grace" who had perverted sex with the daughters of man and had produced a strange breed of people.

- b) These fallen angels were now locked in “eternal chains under darkness” awaiting judgement.
6. Jude 1:7. Third example
- a) Sodom and Gomorrah were punished and destroyed for their state of homosexuality.
- b) These people were being punished in eternal fire.
7. The above three examples show that all who live this kind of life of unbelief, are rebelling against God and will be judged by God. They are just living by the lifestyle of unbelievers. Though Jude did not expound the theology in this book, we know that God judges by works and not by creed. It is not about raising your hand to say you believe at altar calls nor about signing any confession forms. It is the behaviour and lifestyle that shows if you have the seed of rebirth in you. If you rebel without any conscience, then you should check yourself as suggested in 2 Corinthians 13:5.
8. Jude 1:8-10.
- a) The people were so rebellious that they were not even afraid to blaspheme God. They make their own rules as if they were God.
- b) Verse 9 speaks about the burial of Moses. Michael, the archangel, fought with Satan over who should bury Moses. Deuteronomy 34:5-6 state that nobody knows where Moses died except that he died on a mountain. In the Jewish book, “Testament of Moses”, it says that God sent Michael to bury Moses. Michael, in the fight with Satan, dare not even say, “I rebuke you, Satan” but he said, “The Lord rebukes you, Satan”. Michael was aware of his standing and his need for humility.
- c) We are all under God’s authority and we cannot act as if we are the big guys making all the rules in the church. Even Jesus, Paul, etc. demonstrated great humility while serving the LORD.
- d) It is obvious that the behaviour of a man will tell you who he is, and whether he a true believer or not.
9. Jude 1:11. Fourth, Fifth and Sixth examples
- a) Jude listed Cain’s envy of his brother, Abel, as the 4th example.
- b) The 5th example was about Balaam in Chapter 22 of the book of Numbers. Balaam served God only for money.
- c) The 6th example was about Korah who was a rebel against Moses and wanted limelight for himself. It was about his pride which is the sin that God hates most.

So, we have to be careful of people who are envious, money grabbers and people who fight for fame and power. These people are not behaving like the lowly and humble Servant of Galilee, Jesus, as described in Matthew 11:28-30.

10. Jude 1:12-13.
- a) Hidden reefs (ESV) are what sailors fear most as they will sink their ships. The danger is in still waters. These false teachers feed themselves rather than the sheep.
- b) They are also like clouds without water to give rain, which get swept away by the wind.

- c) They are also described as fruitless trees.
 - d) They are no different from the wild waves of the sea that churns out mud and sand at the bottom of the sea. These people will cause their own shame to surface except that they do not even realise their shame. They live a fancy lifestyle that is opposite of Christ's, and let their shame come out proudly and say, "Look at the foam I caused!"
11. Jude 1:14-15.
- a) The word "ungodly" appeared 4 times and it was all about the people's behaviour. They did ungodly deeds in ungodly ways.
 - b) Jesus is the example of perfect godliness, so we should check our lives against that of Jesus as well as Paul who followed Christ.
 - c) Use your eyes to see your leaders. Even if you don't know enough doctrines, you can see their behaviours. Jesus was a carpenter's son; Paul was only a tent maker. Both had no place to stay permanently. See Matthew 8:20.
12. Jude 1:16. These people are grumblers, are never contented, and are always following their own sinful desires instead of following Christ. They are loud-mouth boasters and show favouritism to the rich and famous to gain advantage. Anyone with eyes to see and ears to hear, can easily figure them out.
13. Jude 1:17-19. Christ predicted that there will be scoffers who follow their own passion instead of the doctrines of Christ. They will cause divisions because they are devoid of the Holy Spirit, but filled with the spirit of the world. See 1 Corinthians 2:12.
14. Jude 1:20-23. We must have mercy on those who doubt, and seek to save them by snatching them out of the fire. But we must be careful that we do not let ourselves get tainted in the process, described as "garment defiled by flesh" in verse 23.
15. Jude 1:24-25 say that we must thank God who can keep us from straying.

So do not neglect the book of Jude in these critical last days. The world (outside the Church) no longer pictures Christ as a servant due to these super rich "Christians" who shame His name. They are unlike the Jesus, who came and lived as a carpenter, and had nowhere to lay his head, who died on the Cross and was buried in a borrowed tomb. The beautiful agape love of Christ has been contaminated by these people. Christianity is now seen in bad light as an immoral western religion! Let us ask God to help us to contend for our simple faith.