

## **Key to JUDE**

### **1. BACKGROUND:**

Writer is Jude, half brother of the Lord (Mark 6:3), brother of James who wrote the Epistle of James, and a leader in the early church.

Date is about A.D. 67. Jude has much in common with II Timothy and II Peter, which both deal with growing apostasy in the church.

Occasion: It seems that Jude had been planning to write a full and complete account of the "**common salvation**" (3) including his personal and intimate knowledge of the early life of the LORD. At this point he was restrained, and impressed to write concerning the growing apostasy.

The letter is a general one to the churches but probably had its first ministry in the churches addressed in Peter's epistles.

### **2. THEME:**

We are to "**contend for the faith.**"

In the last part of the apostolic age there came many false teachers proselytizing in the churches and drawing followers after them. The teaching of these "**certain men crept in unawares**" followed the line of idle speculation and philosophy and allowed their disciples to live in all manner of licentiousness. One of their corrupt doctrines was that GOD was too good to punish men on account of sinful indulgence. To expose such falsehoods Jude wrote this Epistle.

### **3. MAIN DIVISIONS:**

Introduction and occasion (1-4);  
apostasy is possible (5-7);  
such teachers described (8-19);  
comfort and assurance (20-25).

### **4. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS:**

Jude's letter is very similar to II Peter 2. Yet there is a difference as Peter speaks of apostasy coming, while Jude treats of it as actually present.

The first result of the reading of the letter by Jude is the consciousness of the awfulness of sin.

Perhaps this is the most forceful passage in the N.T.

Jude mentions his relationship to James (1) possibly to give authority and weight to his letter. James was the honored leader of the church of Jerusalem, a distinguished and influential person.

Jude's knowledge of the unknown years of JESUS of Nazareth must have been full and wonderfully interesting. Yet, the SPIRIT of GOD must have forbidden such revelation, planning rather that the emphasis concerning CHRIST should be on His ministry, death and resurrection.

## **5. OUTLINE:**

Introduction (1-4)

National Apostasy (5-10)

Illustration,  
Application

Individual Apostasy (11-16)

Illustration,  
Application

Exhortation (17-23)

Conclusion (24, 25)

## **6. OUTSTANDING TEACHINGS:**

The frightful epithets Jude uses are not for vile people of the world, but for false teachers in the church.

The earliest prophecy of the second coming of CHRIST is given here and ascribed to Enoch (14, 15), who lived in 3800 B.C.

Insight into spiritual conflict is given in verse 9 where Michael the archangel is shown to be in conflict with the devil about the matter of the burial of Moses.

## **7. KEY:**

A courageous, fighting letter against false teachers and a challenge to contend for the faith.

~ end of Jude ~

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