



Jude - 1 chapter

Title:

The Epistle of Jude – because it was written by Jude.

Author:

The author of this epistle was Jude. He was most likely the brother of James, the author of the Epistle of James, and a half-brother of Jesus. Jude and James were later sons of Mary and Joseph, who eventually believed in Jesus and served as leadership in the early church. Jude referred to himself as a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James.

Occasion and Purpose:

The occasion of this book was that Christians were facing false teachers. It appears in this book that the recipients had not believed the false teachers, but rather, they were being warned and encouraged to resist the falsehood. So, the purpose of Jude was to warn the church about the false teachers and their teaching. The church was not only to defend against being fooled by the false teachers, but they were encouraged to proclaim and defend the truth. They were to contend for the faith, and Jude helped them by exposing the corruption of their teaching, and the corruption of their lives.

Themes:

1. **Once and For all Faith** – This phrase is a shorthand label that Jude used for the sum total of what God has revealed to us, and what we believe in Christ. And Jude emphasized that it is not negotiable. God has revealed it, and we are to believe it, not rebel against it. It does not need to change with the times and shifts of opinion, because it is absolutely true and eternal. God's standards, God's character, and what He has done in Christ are once and for all given, and there is no other way to be saved. And any deviation from this truth is not only unnecessary, it is foolish and dangerous.
2. **Ethics Follow Theology** – In this book, Jude demonstrated that ethics and theology are closely connected. False teachers inevitably live false lives. And false teaching inevitably leads to false lives. And false lives inevitably lead to false teaching in order to justify their false lives. The false teachers Jude described had bad teaching and bad lifestyle, because they are connected. The obvious solution, given by Jude, is to live godly lives interconnected with true teaching. Don't compromise on either, but pursue both.
3. **Certain Judgment** – Jude highlighted the certainty of judgment. Just as God judged the bad examples in the past, God will judge the false teachers and those who follow them. God is perfectly just, and so, He will judge everyone. And so, we cannot afford to play around with false doctrine or sin, because the price is too high. Jude has warned all his readers, for our own good.

Summary:

Because of the danger of false teachers to his readers, Jude felt compelled to warn them and encourage them to contend for the one true faith. He described the false teachers – both their false doctrine and their wicked lives. And he warned that, just as God punished evil people in the past, He will certainly judge these false teachers and all who follow them. And so, Jude encouraged his readers rather to live godly lives according to the truth of Christ

Organization:

1-4 Intro
3-4 Contend for the Faith
5-19 False Teachers
5-7 God Delivers His People, but Destroys Sinners
8-11 They Arrogantly Reject Authority
12-13 They are Worthless and Harmful
14-16 God Will Judge Them
17-19 Remember the Warning You Already Have
20-23 True Living
24-25 Doxology

Key Verses:

3-4, 5, 7, 20-23, 24-25