

1 Jude – Who, What, Why, When?

◆ **Written by whom?**

- The author identifies himself as Jude, which is another form of the Hebrew name Judah. Judas the brother of the Lord (not Judas Iscariot) is the most likely of those mentioned in the NT. The author does not claim to be an apostle, and even seems to separate himself from the apostles. He describes himself as ‘the brother of James’, who was probably the leader of the Jerusalem church. The letter was questioned and tested over the years but was finally accepted by the church as authentic.

◆ **Written when and where?**

- Possibly as early as AD 65, or as late as AD 80.

◆ **Written to whom?**

- Addressed to believers in general. The location is not indicated.

◆ **What form?**

- A general letter, meant to be circulated.

◆ **What’s it about?**

- The importance of holding fast to the truth. God is righteous and true, and he hates sin and error. It is important to maintain the purity and truth of the Christian faith.

◆ **Written for what purpose?**

- While he was eager to write about salvation, he felt that he must warn them about false teachers who were perverting the message about the grace of God.

2 Jude – Chapter 1– Scripture Questions

1. How does Jude describe himself? (vs. 1)
2. What did Jude feel compelled to write to them about? (vs. 3)
3. What kind of people had slipped in as false teachers? (vs. 4)
4. List the three examples of those that the Lord had destroyed because of unbelief, rebellion, and deliberate sin: (vs. 5-7)
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
6. Against what do the false teachers speak abusively? (vs. 10)
7. How are the false teachers described? (vs. 12-13)
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
 - e. _____
 - f. _____
8. Jude quotes a well-respected but non-scriptural work, Enoch, to emphasize the ungodly ones who are trying to mislead the believers. He says they are grumblers and _____, following their own evil _____, boasting about _____ and flattering others for their own _____. (vs. 16)
9. What did Jude want the believers to remember? (vs. 17-18)
10. How were the believers to safeguard themselves? (vs. 20-21)
11. To whom were they to show mercy? (vs. 22-23)
12. What is God able to do for us? (vs. 24)

3 Jude – Chapter 1- Summary

- While Jude had wanted to talk to them about salvation, it became necessary to warn and encourage them about those in their midst who were teaching lies. These people were saying that God's grace gave them permission to live terrible lives.
- The examples from the Scripture should have taught them better—God doesn't look the other way about sin, and there are always fatal consequences that come to people who deliberately live sinful lives. These teachers gripe and complain, are critical about everything and care only about gratifying all their awful desires.
- Jude told them to remember what they had been taught by the apostles. They knew that people like that would be coming around. He told them to pray, fortifying and building on what they knew to be true, staying in the center of God's love, waiting for Jesus to return.
- They were encouraged to be merciful to people who genuinely doubted, to fight to save the lost, and to be kind but careful to those who had been corrupted by the teachers—just being around them could be dangerous.
- Jude ends with praise for God and Christ, and reminds the readers that the Savior is able to keep them secure in their salvation.

4 Jude – Chapter 1 - Application Questions

1. What is “immoral living”? Can you give some examples? Does it change from age to age?
2. Is it possible for us to police ourselves for false teaching, or do we need others to point out these types of errors?
3. How far should we go in protecting ourselves and other Christians from false teachings?
4. By the time Jude was written, there was a pretty firm idea about what the Faith included and what it didn't include. Do you think this understanding has changed over time?