

NT Survey

II Peter and Jude

Two great external threats always face Christians: persecution and false teachers. One from outside the house comes like a storm, one from inside the house like radon gas or unnoticed rats.

James and Hebrews and I Peter dealt w/ persecution, the outside threat.
II Peter, Jude and 1-3 John deals w/ false teachers, the inside threat.

II Peter and Jude focus on their character and judgment;
1-3 John more on their doctrine.

Their character, so you can detect them:

- a. Advocates of immorality, many followers, sensual, lustful, who deny any kind of coming judgment from God
- b. Sneaky, deceptive sorts, like rodents, “have crept in unnoticed.”
- c. Make boastful claims, grand promises, arrogant and flattering; clouds w/o rain
- d. Greedy, exploiting gullible w/ false claims;
- e. Revile angelic beings, revealing total arrogance; daring, self-willed and hate authority, accountability and any questioning or correcting
- f. Doomed to destruction and black darkness

Definition: someone who comes in the name of Christ but teaches heresy. Proclaim a false Christ, trust in a false gospel that condemns to hell. Knowingly or unknowingly deceive others and lead them astray, blind leaders of the blind and both fall into a pit.

“You will know them by their fruits.”

In General:

- 1) deny either the Deity or Humanity of Christ;
- 2) deny salvation by grace alone and add works;
- 3) deny Lordship, repentance and promote license vs holiness. Twist Paul’s teaching on Christian liberty.
- 4) deny the inerrancy, authority and sufficiency of Scripture;
deny inspiration of OT prophets and authority of NT apostles

History of False teachers up to the present hour? Today is worse than ever!

Possible 1st century background:

Epicureanism – reject idea of future judgment, based on delay of divine vengeance; denied divine providence or sovereignty, believing everything happened by chance; therefore, no possibility of predictive prophecy, for how could even the gods predict what would happen by chance?

Sounds like “open theism”

II Peter

Author: Simon Peter (though challenged more than any other NT book re: authorship; took longest of all for widespread acceptance). With extra attention, conservative scholarship has well established that Peter wrote this.

Date: ~ A.D. 66, not long after I Peter, likely to same Christians of Asia Minor and just before Peter’s death.

Key word: knowledge (16x including cognate words).

Key verse: 3:18

Major Themes:

1. False Teachers and Scoffers – mock the 2nd coming, reject a world-wide flood. False teachers are exposed and condemned.
2. Christian growth in knowledge – Christian life begins w/ the true knowledge of Christ and should be a growth in knowledge. Stop growing in knowledge and become vulnerable to false teaching.

Purpose: To exhort believers to grow in Christ in the face of false teachers.
SEE 1:10-12; 3:1, 2 and 17, 18

Those who aren’t diligent will often suffer from a lack of assurance, may forget about their former purification of sins and may fall prey to false teaching.

Those NOT growing become prime targets!

Most converts to JW’s and Mormons come from Bible-believing, often fundamental churches. They light up to find out you know something about the Scriptures or have an interest in or trust of the Bible.

The Open Bible: “The best antidote for error is a mature understanding of the truth.”

Outline – II Peter

- I. Prologue (1:1,2)
- II. The Exhortation to Growth (1:3-21)
 - a. The Foundation of Growth (1:3-4)
 - b. The Process of Growth (1:5-7)
 - c. The Necessity of Growth (1:8-11)
 - d. The Means of Growth (1:12-21)
- III. The Warning Against False Teachers (2:1-22)
 - a. The Danger of False Teachers (2:1-3)
 - b. The Doom of False Teachers (2:4-10a)
 - c. The Description of False Teachers (2:10b-22)
- IV. The Warning Against Scoffers (3:1-18)
 - a. The Mockery of the Last Days (3:1-7)
 - b. The Explanations of the Lord's Delay (3:8-10)
 - c. The Exhortations in View of His Coming (3:11-18)
 - i. To Holiness and Godliness (3:11-13)
 - ii. To Peace (3:14-16)
 - iii. To Steadfastness and Growth (3:17-18)

Jude

The Open Bible: “Fight! Contend! Do battle! When apostasy arises, when false teachers emerge, when the truth of God is attacked, it is time to fight for the faith. Only believers who are spiritually “in shape” can answer the summons.”

“Jude goes beyond all other NT epistles in its relentless and passionate denunciation of the apostate teachers who have “crept in unnoticed.”

Author: Jude or Judah, the Lord's ½ brother and full brother of James, author of James.

Date: A.D. 66-80

Purpose: To exhort all believers to contend earnestly for the faith against the “proud libertines who were especially dangerous because of their deceptive flattery and infiltration of Christian meetings. They perverted the grace of God and caused divisions in the church.” Open Bible

Literary relationship to II Peter:

With about 11 tight comparisons or similarities, the question of relationship has arisen.

1. Both shared a common source document – not likely.
2. Peter was the source of Jude (Jude may reflect a worsening of the situation or fulfillment of Peter's predictions, plus Jude quotes II Peter 3:3)
3. Jude was the source of Peter – explains why Peter's is longer as he added material.

Outline – Jude

- I. The Prologue (1,2)
- II. The Danger Confronting the Believers: False Teachers (3-16)
- III. The Duty of the Believers in View of the False Teaching (17-23)
 - a. Heed the Instruction of the Word (17-19)
 - b. Stay in the Love of God (20-21)
 - c. Have Mercy on those being impacted (22-23)
- IV. The Epilogue (24-25)

Notice this great doxology in context. Praise for God's help in face of false teaching and in dealing with those influenced by it, knowing that the worst of deceivers can't pull away a true believer.

Interesting facts ...

- Not the letter he wanted to write
- Takes on a perversion of grace and spreading of theological novelty vs holding to sacred tradition
- False teachers:
 - Reject authority over their conduct or teaching
 - Claim inspiration of teaching via dreams
 - They set their new revelation over against apostolic tradition

These men are marked by ...

- Unbridled sexuality
- Greed
- Prideful talk
- animal instincts, not the Holy Spirit
- By acting like your friend, they entice the naïve and gullible to follow them