

## **Easy-to-Read Version**

Language: English

Provided by: Bible League International

This print-on-demand edition of Scripture is produced and provided at cost by the Digital Bible Society in partnership with the Bible League of Canada, Open Doors International, and other missions and translation agencies. To order additional copies of this or other Bibles, please visit [www.dbs.org](http://www.dbs.org) (USA), [www.bibleleague.ca](http://www.bibleleague.ca) (Canada), and [www.opendoors.org](http://www.opendoors.org) (Europe).

### **Copyright and Permission to Copy**

Copyright © 1989 Bible League International Scripture text used by permission.

PDF, ePub, and MOBI Bible covers and design are copyrighted 2017 by the Digital Bible Society ([www.dbs.org](http://www.dbs.org)).

---

PDF generated on 2017-07-07 from source files dated 2017-07-07.

9417f999-1fb5-525b-a123-d5d84a7f35e1

ISBN: 978-1-5313-1294-7

## Jude

The short book of Jude is a letter that warns followers of Jesus against false believers. It is very similar to the second chapter of 2 Peter. Jude says that he had planned to write to God's people about "the salvation we all share together". But Jude says he changed his original purpose for writing because he was concerned about false believers in the church. He describes them as people who "use the grace of God in the wrong way—to do sinful things".

Jude saw these people as a danger to the church. Jude's purpose now was to encourage the true believers "to fight hard for the faith that God gave his holy people". The false believers had come secretly into the church. And now they were causing problems. So Jude told the believers that staying faithful to God during this hard time would be like a wrestling match. Jude also says that these things happened just as the apostles had said they would.

Jude compares the false believers to the worst people in the Old Testament and the book of 1 Enoch. They are like Cain, Balaam, Korah and the evil people in the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah! The point of this comparison is "Don't trust these people!" They were using the kindness of God as an excuse to do wrong. And that is why Jude considered them to be very evil.

Jude writes about these false believers in a way that was usual for people of that time to talk about their enemies. Jude says they are guilty of sexual immorality. They say bad things about angelic beings.

They act like animals. They grumble and will say anything to get people to like them. And they make big speeches to draw attention to themselves. Jude says to stay away from people like this.

At the end of the letter, Jude blesses the believers with some words of encouragement.

In this book, Jude writes that believers...

Need to "fight hard for the faith" (1-3)

Should avoid those who use God's kindness as an excuse to sin (4-16)

Should remember that the apostles said these things would happen (17-23)

Should trust in God (24-25)

**1** Greetings from Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James.

To those who have been chosen and are loved by God the Father and have been kept safe by Jesus Christ.

<sup>2</sup>I pray that God will give you more and more of his mercy, peace and love.

### God Will Punish Those Who Do Wrong

<sup>3</sup>Dear friends, I wanted very much to write to you about the salvation we all share together. But I felt the need to write to you about something else: I want to encourage you to fight hard for the faith that God gave his holy people. God gave this faith once, and it is good for all time. <sup>4</sup>Some people have secretly entered your group. These people have already been judged guilty for what they are doing. Long ago the prophets wrote about them. They are against God. They have used the grace of our God in the wrong way—to do sinful things. They refuse to follow Jesus Christ, our only Master and Lord.

<sup>5</sup>I want to help you remember some things you already know: remember that

the Lord\* saved his people by bringing them out of the land of Egypt. But later he destroyed all those who did not believe. <sup>6</sup>And remember the angels who lost their authority to rule. They left their proper home. So they have been in darkness, bound with everlasting chains, to be judged on the great day. <sup>7</sup>Also, remember the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and the other towns around them. Like those evil angels, they were guilty of sexual sin, even wanting to have sex with beings that were not human. And they suffered the punishment of eternal fire, an example for us to see.

<sup>8</sup>It is the same way with these people who have entered your group. They are guided by dreams. They make themselves filthy with sin. They reject the Lord's authority and say bad things against the glorious ones.<sup>†</sup> <sup>9</sup>Not even the archangel Michael did this. Michael argued with the devil about who would have the body of Moses. But Michael did not dare to condemn even the devil for his false accusations. Instead, Michael said, "The Lord punish you!"

<sup>10</sup>But these people criticize things they don't understand. They do understand some things. But they understand these things not by thinking, but by feeling, the way dumb animals understand things. And these are the things that destroy them. <sup>11</sup>It will be bad for them. They have followed the way that Cain<sup>‡</sup> went. To make money, they have given themselves to following the wrong way that Balaam<sup>¶</sup> went. They have fought

against God like Korah<sup>§</sup> did. And like Korah, they will be destroyed.

<sup>12</sup>These people are like dirty spots among you—they bring shame to you in the special meals you share together. They eat with you and have no fear. They take care of only themselves. They are like clouds without rain. The wind blows them around. They are like trees that have no fruit at harvest time and are pulled out of the ground. So they are twice dead. <sup>13</sup>Like the dirty foam on the wild waves in the sea, everyone can see the shameful things they do. They are like stars that wander in the sky. A place in the blackest darkness has been kept for them forever.

<sup>14</sup>Enoch, the seventh descendant from Adam, said this about these people: "Look, the Lord is coming with thousands and thousands of his holy angels <sup>15</sup>to judge everyone. He will punish all those who are against him for all the evil they have done in their lack of respect for him. Yes, the Lord will punish all these sinners who don't honour him. He will punish them for all the evil things they have said against him."

<sup>16</sup>These people always complain and find wrong in others. They always do the evil things they want to do. They boast about themselves. The only reason they say good things about others is to get what they want.

### A Warning and Things to Do

<sup>17</sup>Dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ said would happen. <sup>18</sup>They told you, "In the

\*1:5 *the Lord* Some early Greek copies of Jude have "Jesus" here. Some later ones have "God".

†1:8 *the glorious ones* Literally, "the glories". These seem to be some kind of angelic beings.

‡1:11 *Cain* See Gen. 4:1-16.

¶1:11 *Balaam* See Num. 25:1-4; 31:16.

§1:11 *Korah* See Num. 16:1-40.

last times there will be people who laugh at God and do only what they want to do—things that are against God.”<sup>19</sup> These are the people who divide you. They are not spiritual, because they don’t have the Spirit.

<sup>20</sup> But you, dear friends, use your most holy faith to build yourselves up even stronger. Pray with the help of the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> Keep yourselves safe in God’s love, as you wait for the Lord Jesus Christ in his mercy to give you eternal life.

<sup>22</sup> Help those who have doubts. <sup>23</sup> Rescue those who are living in danger of

hell’s fire. There are others you should treat with mercy, but be very careful that their filthy lives don’t rub off on you.\*\*

### Praise God

<sup>24</sup> God is strong and can keep you from falling. He can bring you before his glory without any wrong in you and give you great joy. <sup>25</sup> He is the only God, the one who saves us. To him be all honour, greatness, power and authority through Jesus Christ our Lord for all time past, now and forever. Amen.

---

\*\*1:23 *that ... on you* Literally, “hating even their undershirt that is defiled from the flesh”.