

JUDE – Contending for the Faith by *Pastor John D. Pilla*
2026 - Calvary Chapel Chelmsford

The FIVE shortest books of the Bible: Third John, Second John, Philemon (*Chris EoM-March 2025*), Obadiah (OT), & **JUDE**. *These shorter letters of the Bible (4 NT & 1 OT) are often neglected. However, the neglect of Jude, for example, says more about us than it does about the Book of Jude.*

Author (Brief): Jude identifies the author of the Book of Jude as **Jude**, a brother of James. This likely refers to Jesus' half-brother Jude, as Jesus also had a half-brother named James (**Matthew 13:55**). Jude likely does not identify himself as a brother of Jesus out of humility and reverence for Christ.

Date of Writing : One of the later letters, the Book of Jude is closely related to the book of **2 Peter**. The Book of Jude was written somewhere between **A.D. 60 and 80**. 70 A.D was the destruction of Jerusalem.

Purpose of Writing: A very short letter, Jude is written with urgency, which probably accounts for its brevity. In **v. 3a** we see that Jude initially planned to write on the **“salvation that we all share”**. However, as we see in **v. 3b**, he switched to defending the faith.

His tone reveals the seriousness of the situation, as seen in verse **4**.

Abuse of grace is a serious issue, whether it leads to licentiousness or legalism. Jude's tone parallels that of Paul in the epistle of Galatians, with both letters leading to a similar conclusion: **grace should never be abused**.

In addition, the Book of Jude is an important book for us today because it is written for the end times, for the end of the church age which began at the Day of Pentecost. And, Jude is the only book given entirely to the great apostasy. How do we know that?

- Jude writes that evil works are the evidence of apostasy.
- He admonishes us to contend for the faith, for, as he says: *“there are tares among the wheat.”*
- False prophets are in the church and the saints are in danger.
- Therefore, Jude is a small but important book worthy of study, written for the Christian of today.

Connections: The Book of Jude is filled with references to the Old Testament, including the Exodus (**v5**); Satan's rebellion (**v6**); Sodom and Gomorrah (**v7**); Moses' death (**v9**); Cain (**v11**); Balaam (**v11**); Korah (**v11**); Enoch (**vv14,15**); and Adam (**v14**).

Jude's use of those well-known historical illustrations remind us of the necessity of true faith and obedience.

Three KEY verses:

#(ONE) **V3**. Why is it key? Read **V4**. Bottom line: We must be prepared to defend our faith! (#TWO) **Vv 17-19**. As we see the reason Jude urgently switched and wrote this letter is because the the apostles' predictions came true. And, finally, (#THREE) **Vv24-25**. Aside from defending our faith, we must rely on our God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit to keep us from falling!

Brief Summary: According to **v3**, Jude was anxious to write about our salvation; however, he changed topics to address contending or defending for the faith. This faith embodies the complete body of Christian doctrine taught by Christ, later passed on to the apostles. After Jude warns of false teachers (**v. 4-16**), he advises us on how we can succeed in spiritual warfare (**v. 20-21**). **WISDOM:** We would do well to accept and adhere to as we go through these days of the end times.

THREE POINTS:

1.) Contending for the Faith: One of Jude's primary exhortations is for believers to "contend for the faith" (**v3**). This entails a robust defense of the Christian doctrine against false teachings and heresies that threaten to dilute or distort the Gospel's truth. In today's age where pluralism and relativism often undermine absolute truth, Jude's call for us to defend our faith is more relevant than ever. Contending for / defending our faith requires: (a) A deep and abiding understanding of Scripture, (b) An unwavering commitment to its principles, (c) And a readiness to confront and correct theological errors.

2.) Warnings Against False Teachers: Jude's epistle also provides stark warnings about the presence of false teachers within the church. (**v. 17-19**) He describes these individuals as divisive, devoid of the Spirit, and driven by ungodly desires. Jude's vivid illustrations from history in **vv 7-14** — such as the rebellion of Korah, the error of Balaam, the way of Cain, Sodom and Gomorrah - all serve as powerful reminders of the destructive consequences of apostasy and disobedience. By recognizing the characteristics of false teachers and their teachings, we, as believers can safeguard our faith and remain steadfast in the truth.

3.) Encouragement for Believers: Despite the sobering warnings, Jude's letter is also filled with encouragement and hope for believers. He reminds us that God is able to keep us from falling and to present us faultless before His glorious presence with great joy. (**vv24-25**). This assurance should be a source of immense comfort and strength for us as we navigate the spiritual battles and challenges of today's end times. Jude's doxology, which concludes the epistle, is a beautiful expression of praise and adoration for our Savior, whose glory, majesty, power, and authority are eternal and unchanging. (**Vv 24-25**). We should not live in fear, but have trust in God!

Conclusion: Ultimately, the Book of Jude is a timeless and profoundly relevant text for Christians today. [ONE] Its teachings on contending for the faith, [TWO] recognizing and resisting false teachings, and [THREE] relying on God's sustaining power are essential for living a victorious and faithful Christian life.

As we study and apply the wisdom found in Jude's letter, we are better equipped to face the challenges of our times and to stand firm in our faith until the end.

Practical Application: We live in a unique time in history and this little book can help equip us for the untold challenges of living in the end times. To re-iterate: We as today's Christian must be on guard for false doctrines which can so easily deceive us if we are not well-versed in the Word. By recognizing the characteristics of false teachers and their teachings, we, as believers can safeguard our faith and remain steadfast in the truth. Therefore, we need to know the Gospel—to protect and defend it—and accept the Lordship of Christ, which is evidenced by a life-change. Because: Contending for / Defending our faith requires: (a) A deep and abiding understanding of Scripture, (b) An unwavering commitment to its principles, & (c) And a readiness to confront and correct theological errors.

All-in-all: Authentic faith always reflects Christ-like behavior and our life in Christ should reflect our very own heart-knowledge that rests on the authority of the Almighty Creator and Father who puts faith into practice.

We need that personal relationship with Him; only then will we know His voice so well that we will follow no other.