

WARNING: DANGER AHEAD



We've all seen those signs trying to caution us to see there's something ahead that we need to be paying attention to.

- It's a call to be alert, watch, don't be caught unsuspecting – there's something ahead that needs your utmost attention.

That's certainly the message to the book of Jude which is so applicable for us today.

Jesus, Paul, Peter, John all warned us of the days we are living in right now.

There has never been a generation that has seen Biblical fulfillment before their very eyes as this generation is seeing.

The danger that prompted Jude to write this letter.

Who is Jude?

Jude, like the other half-brothers of Jesus (including James), didn't believe in Jesus as the Messiah until after the resurrection of Jesus: John 7:5 & Acts 1:14

"For even his brothers didn't believe in him."

"They all met together and were constantly united in prayer, along with Mary the mother of Jesus, several other women, and the brothers of Jesus."

1.1 “Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James [also a half-brother to Jesus], To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ:”

“To those who are called”: Jude wrote to Christians. This is not an evangelistic tract, and it deals with things that believers need to hear but often don’t want to.

V.3 The call to defend the faith.

“Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.”

Jude’s initial desire was to write about our **common salvation**.

Jude **found it necessary to write** a different urgent letter. We might say that this was the letter that didn’t *want* to be written.

- The letter of Jude is a sermon with Jude preaching against the dangerous *practices* and *doctrines* that put the gospel of Jesus Christ in danger.

“Concerning our common salvation”:

It is **common** in the sense that we are saved in **common** = in community.

- God doesn’t have one way for the rich and another way for the poor, or one way for the good and another way for the bad.
- We all come to God the same way.
- Acts 4:12 “There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.”
 - To be a Christian means you stand shoulder to shoulder in partnership with millions of Christians who have gone before.
 - We are part of an invisible, mighty army that spans back through the generations.

“Exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith”:

The Greek word translated “**contend**” comes from the athletic world – “from the wrestling mat.” It is a strengthened form of the word meaning “**to agonize**.”

Therefore “**contend**” speaks of **hard and diligent work**.

Prov. 24:10 “If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small.”

“Contend earnestly” is a verb showing the Christian struggle is continuous.

We contend earnestly for the faith because it is valuable!

If you walk into a store and there are no security guards, you would assume there is nothing of value to be protected there.

Valuables are protected; worthless things are not!

“Exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith”:

HOW?

- We contend for the faith in a **positive** sense when we give an unflinching witness, & train disciple makers for Jesus.
- We contend for the faith in a **negative** sense, when we deny support and encouragement to false teachers.
- We contend for the faith in a **practical** sense when we live uncompromising Christian lives giving the Lord the glory.

Contend earnestly for the faith

- **“The faith”** doesn’t mean our own personal belief, or **faith** in the sense of our trust in God.
- The phrase **the faith** means “The essential truths of the Gospel that all **true** Christians hold in common.”
- **The faith** is the body of truth that early in the church’s history took on a definite form of teaching: Acts 2:42; Romans 6:17; Galatians 1:23).

V. 3 – **“Once** means that the **faith** was **delivered** one time and stands as it was and is now presented.

- It was delivered by God to the world through the apostles and prophets **once** - Ephesians 2:20 “Together, we are His house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus Himself.”

Why Do We Need To Contend For The Faith?

V. 4. **“Because there are dangerous people even among Christians.”**

“For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.”

- This is what makes them so dangerous – they are **unnoticed**.
- They didn’t wear a “Danger: False Teacher” name tag.
- **Crept in** means, “To slip in secretly as if by a side/back door.”

2 Cor 11:13-14 “These people are false apostles. They are deceitful workers who disguise themselves as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ But I am not surprised! **Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.**”

They were **unnoticed** by men, but not by God.

The Lord is not wringing His hands in heaven, worrying about those who deceive others through their teaching and through their lifestyles.

The truth will win out; our responsibility is to be on the side with the truth!

Jesus had a word about such folks sent to deceive: Matt 13:30 “Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, “First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.”

- That’s not to say we allow false doctrine or teaching to prevail without correction.
- All of scripture admonishes us to correct those in error, don’t put up with those who are deceptive.
- **Teach, Exhort, Encourage** in all righteousness: 2Tim 3:16 “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,...” ESB
- **But in the end, they will be revealed and judged by God Himself**

V. 4 “Who turn the grace of our God into lewdness”:

These **certain people** had received something of the **grace of God**, but they turned it into an excuse for their **lewdness**.

The word lewdness: “Is sin that is practiced without shame, without any sense of conscience or decency.”

- Used in the sense of sensual sins, such as sexual immorality, but also used in the sense of brazen anti-biblical teaching, when the truth is denied and lies are taught without shame.

“And deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ:” These *certain persons* **deny** the Lord Jesus Christ. They do this by refusing to recognize who Jesus said He was, and therefore they also deny who God the Father is also.

They are of the Anti-Christ spirit – 1John 2:22 “And who is a liar? Anyone who says that Jesus is not the Christ. Anyone who denies the Father and the Son is an anti-Christ.”

Examples that show the certainty of God’s judgment against these people:

V. 5 The people of Israel.

“I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.”

“The Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt: “

Jude reminds us of what happened in Numbers 14.

God delivered the people of Israel out of slavery in Egypt. They went out of Egypt and without unintended delays came to a place called Kadesh Barnea, but at Kadesh Barnea, the people refused to trust God and go into the Promised Land of Canaan. Therefore, none of the adult generation who left Egypt entered the Promised Land.

“Afterward He destroyed those who did not believe:” Those who doubted and rejected God at Kadesh Barnea paid a bigger price than just not entering the Promised Land. They also received the judgment of God. *“For forty years I was grieved with that generation, and said, “It is a people who go astray in their hearts, and they do not know My ways. So I swore in My wrath, they shall not enter My rest” (Psalm 95:10-11).*

The warning through Jude is clear. The people of Israel started out from Egypt well enough. They had many blessings from God along the way. But they did not endure to the end, because they **did not believe** God’s promise of power and protection.

Two lessons.:

1. It assures us that the *certain people* causing trouble will be judged, even though they may have started out well in their walk with God.
2. It warns us that *we also* must follow Jesus to the end and never be among **those who did not believe**. The final test of our Christianity is **endurance**.
 - Some start the race but never finish it.

V. 7 The example of Sodom and Gomorrah.

“As Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.”

- These two cities (**and the cities around them**) stand as examples of God’s judgment. Their sin – which was homosexuality but included other sins as well – brought forth God’s judgment.

“Having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh: “

Jude refers to the account in Genesis 19, where the homosexual conduct of the men of Sodom is described.

Ezekiel 16:49 tells us of other sins of Sodom: “*Look, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: She and her daughter had pride, fullness of food, and abundance of idleness; neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.*”

- Sexual depravity was not their *only* sin, but it was foremost among their sins.

Despite their great blessing from God and material prosperity, they sinned and were judged.

Two lessons:

1. It assures us that the *men* causing trouble will be judged, no matter how much they had been blessed in the past.
2. It warns us that *we also* must continue walking with Jesus. If the blessings of the past didn’t guarantee their future spiritual state, then neither does ours.

More sins of the *certain men*.

V. 8 When Jude pointed out that these *men reject authority*, it meant that *they* wanted to be in authority. Therefore, they rejected the authority of God, and they rejected those God put in authority. Same rebellion as Lucifer in heaven.

Today, our culture encourages us to reject authority and to recognize *SELF* as the only real authority in our lives!

- We can do this with the Bible, by choosing to believe only certain passages.
- We can do it with our beliefs, by choosing at the “salad bar” of religion.
- We can do it with our lifestyle, by making our own rules and not recognizing the authorities God has established.

In the darkest days of Israel, society was characterized by a term: “*EVERY MAN DID WHAT WAS RIGHT IN HIS OWN EYES.*” - Judges 21:25).

- Today, this is the pattern of the world, the Western civilization.

V. 10 “But these speak evil of whatever they do not know;...”

“Of whatever they do not know:” The *certain men* didn’t even know the things or the people they spoke evil about. Slander, cancelling their voices.

These *certain men* did **not know** about true spiritual leadership and authority – so they found it easy to **speak evil** against it.

The apostles had warned that just these things would happen; and even more so as the day approaches: *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for*

themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables “ 2 Timothy 4:3-4

“Mockers... who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts:”

Those who live **according to their own ungodly lusts** love to mock those who want to please God.

Jude tells us to *expect* this kind of mocking, so we won't be surprised by it.

V. 20-21 So, How Are We To Respond? Take a look **inward.**

“But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.”

We know that God loves even the ungodly - Romans 5:6.

Jude means to **keep yourselves in the love of God** = means to keep yourself in harmony with God's ever-present love.

“Building yourselves up on your most holy faith:”

It means to keep growing spiritually, and to keep building up. Jude tells us, **“Build yourselves up on your most holy faith.”** This means that we are responsible for our own spiritual growth. It means that we cannot wait for spiritual growth to just happen or expect others to make us grow.

Jude shows us the frailty of men and how deceivers even infiltrated the church. If you entrust your spiritual growth to someone else, it will not only hurt your spiritual growth, but it may also lead you astray.

“On your most holy faith:”

The **most holy faith** is the same as *the faith once for all delivered to the saints* - Jude 3. Jude was talking about growing **on your most holy faith**. We grow *on the foundation of the truth*.

V. 22-23 “Take a look **outward, to those around you.”**

“And on some have compassion, making a distinction; but others save with fear, pulling *them* out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.”

V. 24-25 Take a look **upward to the God of all glory**

**“Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling,
And to present *you* faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,
To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, *Be* glory and majesty, Dominion and power,
Both now and forever. Amen.”**

By comparing passages of Scripture, we also find out who is responsible for our safe keeping:

- Keeping us spiritually safe *is* God’s work. “Deliver us from evil” Jesus told us to pray.
- God doesn’t call us to simply let the Christian life happen to us and He doesn’t command us to save ourselves. **He calls us to a partnership with Him.**

There is serious deception in the world and often among those called Christians. There are enemies of the gospel who have infiltrated the church. Yet despite the greatness of the threat, God is greater still. He wins, and if we will only stay with Him, we are guaranteed victory also.

**Jude is a book full of warning, but it closes with supreme confidence in God.
Dangerous times should make us trust in a mighty God.**