

**THE LION OF JUDAH**  
**JUDE 1:1 / 10-13-19 / P.M.**

**I. JUDE'S LIFE.**

- A. Since he is mentioned last, he must have been the youngest of Jesus' brothers.
- B. Like the other brothers, originally he did not believe in Jesus—John 7:5.
- C. Also, it must have been the resurrection that changed his mind—Acts 1:14.
- D. Paul tells us they became missionaries with the probable exception of James, who would have stayed in Jerusalem as the leader of the church—1 Cor. 9:5.
- E. Hegesippus, a second century historian, wrote that Jude's sons or grandsons appeared before the wicked Roman Emperor Domitian and told him Christians were not a threat against Roman rule. The Kingdom of God, they said, was a spiritual Kingdom not an earthly one. Their testimony is said to be the end of Roman persecution of Christians throughout the world.
- F. Jude wrote the N.T. book of Jude.

**II. WHAT DO WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE BOOK OF JUDE?**

- A. It was written by a brother of James—1:1.
  - 1. He is simply called James.
  - 2. This couldn't have referred to James the **Apostle** and brother of John because he was martyred around 44 A.D., many years before Jude wrote his book, meaning he would not have been known by many.
  - 3. Only James the leader of the church at Jerusalem and brother to both Jude and Jesus would have been this well known to have only mentioned his first name.
- B. Jude is the seventh and last "General Epistle" written.
  - 1. Paul wrote to specific churches, whereas Peter, John, James and Jude wrote to several different churches.
  - 2. Jude is the fifth shortest N.T. book and 3 Peter is the shortest.
- C. Much of Jude is reproduced in 2 Peter 2-3. Who used who as a source? Either Peter, Jude or some third party wrote this material first.

D. Jude originally wanted to write his letter about something else but changed his mind when he learned of a more urgent subject—1:3.

E. What was the more pressing issue about which Jude needed to write about?

1. Jude felt false teachers had infiltrated the church—1:4a.

a. They misused the doctrine of grace as a license to sin—1:4b.

**Jude 4b**

**... They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality...**

b. They also rejected the authority of Jesus—1:4c.

**Jude 4c**

**...and (they) deny Jesus Christ our only sovereign and Lord.**

2. Jude also wanted to encourage Christians to stand firm in their faith—1:3b.

**Jude 3b**

**...I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people.**

a. First by building and strengthening their faith—1:20.

b. Second, by showing mercy to others—1:22.

F. Jude makes use of apocryphal literature (Jewish writings not found in the Bible).

1. From the "Assumption of Moses" Jude wrote about the Arch Angel Michael arguing with Satan over Moses body—1:9.

2. From "First Enoch" Jude wrote about the prophecies of Enoch.

3. Jude also included several O.T. stories: The Exodus, Sodom and Gomorrah, Cain, Balaam, Kora, and Enoch.

### **III. JUDE'S LESSONS.**

1. He was humble in not calling himself the brother of Jesus.

2. He was committed to the cause of Christ having become a missionary.

3. He was jealous for Christianity having written a book in the N.T. to defend it.

4. He was bold in calling out people who were not true Christians—**v.4...“They were godless men”**.
5. He defended the doctrine of grace—**v.4...“who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality”**.