

A Study of the Book of Jude

Please Note the following:

1. It is not necessary to answer the Bible Study Questions before meeting together for the Bible Study. Some people like to prepare beforehand whereas others like to think through the Bible Passages in a group setting. It is also not compulsory to answer ALL the questions.
2. It is not necessary to look up all the Bible cross references listed in a particular question; your Growth Group Leader will summarize these Bible cross references for you. Note: this study uses the **NIV Bible version**.
3. Just a reminder that sometimes in our Growth Groups, people feel comfortable sharing very personal and sensitive things about their lives. This information ***MUST BE CONFIDENTIAL*** ***and*** ***NEVER LEAVE THE GROUP***

Introduction

The Book of Jude written by Jude the brother of James and Jesus. Likely written in the late first century AD, addressing emerging issues in the early church. The original intended audience consisted of early Christians facing challenges from false teachings! This context affects the interpretation by highlighting the need for vigilance and discernment in maintaining the integrity of the faith amidst external pressures.

Summary

Jude verses 1-4: Introduction and Purpose. Jude opens with a greeting and states the purpose of writing, urging believers to contend for their faith. This sets the stage for the issues addressed in the letter.

Jude verses 5-16: Warnings Against False Teachers. Jude provides examples from scripture and history to illustrate the fate of those who distort God's truth. The section serves as a serious warning to the Church about false influences.

Jude verses 17-25: Exhortation to Remain Faithful. Jude concludes with encouragement for believers to build themselves up in faith; remain in God's love; and reach out to those in danger. This section emphasizes hope and perseverance in faith.

Key Themes

Contending for the faith – This theme reflects the Bible's overarching message of standing firm in truth and righteousness. Believers are called to be vigilant and discerning actively engaged with teachings to ensure they align with the core principles of faith.

Judging of the Ungodly – This theme echoes the Bible's teachings on accountability and the consequences of sin. Jude's message serves as a reminder that actions have eternal repercussions, urging believers to uphold righteousness in their lives.

God's Mercy and Grace – Despite the warnings, Jude underscores the importance of God's mercy in the life of believers. This theme connects to the broader Biblical message of redemption and grace through Christ. Even amidst challenges, Jude encourages believers to rely on God's grace.

Symbolism and Imagery		
Clouds without Water	**Balaam's Error**	**Fire**
This symbolizes false teachers who promise spiritual nourishment but deliver nothing of value. Jude uses this metaphor to illustrate the emptiness of their teachings. These teachers create an illusion of hope but ultimately leave followers spiritually dry and unfulfilled.	Jude references Balaam to depict greed and compromise with evil. This serves as a warning against the dangers of prioritizing material gain over faithfulness to God. Balaam's story emphasizes the peril of allowing worldly desires to corrupt one's spiritual integrity.	Fire symbolizes judgment and purification. Jude mentions eternal fire to represent the ultimate consequence for those who reject God's truth and lead others astray. This imagery serves as a stark reminder of the seriousness of divine justice and the need for repentance.

Practical Application

Encouraging Hospitality – Believers can practice hospitality by welcoming others into their homes and lives, fostering a sense of community. This reminds us that love in action strengthens the body of Christ.

Valuing Truth – Christians are encouraged to seek and uphold the truth in their lives, resisting false teachings and misleading influences. The commitment to truth is essential for spiritual growth and integrity.

Respecting Leadership – The book teaches the importance of respecting godly leaders while being cautious of those who misuse authority. This encourages believers to support spiritual leaders who align with Biblical teachings.

Study – Contending for the Faith **Jude 1-25**

(Sermon on 22nd Nov 2026)

Read Jude 1-2

1. How does Jude describe himself? (v1)

*Jude describes himself as a **servant of Jesus Christ** and a **brother of James**.*

***Jude**: The name is literally "Judas"[Greek=Ἰούδας]. But to avoid connection with Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Jesus, most English translators have used the name "**Jude**."*

2. Who is Jude? (Matthew 13:55, Mark 6:3)

Matthew 13:55 - *"Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother's name Mary, and aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas?*

Mark 6:3 - *Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him.*

*Therefore Jude is the **half-brother of Jesus**. He shares the same mother, Mary. Jude's father is Joseph. Jesus' father is God the Father, and earthly father is Joseph.*
*The fact that Jude calls himself the servant of Jesus rather than his half-brother, tells us something about **the humility of 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 and Acts 1:14)

3. Who is Jude writing to and how are they described? (v1)

*Jude is writing to those who have been **called**, who are **loved** in God the Father and **kept** for Jesus Christ.*

GUZIK

*Jude identified his readers as Christians in **three specific ways**:*

- *They were **called**. A person is a Christian because God has **called** him. The important thing is to answer the call when it comes, just as we answer the telephone when it is ringing.*
- *They were **sanctified by God the Father**. This means that they were set apart — set apart from the world and set apart unto God.*
- *They were **preserved** in Jesus. Jesus Christ is our guardian and our protector.*

4. What is the greeting? What is significant about this greeting compared to the greeting often used by Paul in his letters? (v2)

The greeting is "mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance"
*Note: the heart of Jude, he wants **mercy, peace and love** – **in abundance** – for his listeners!*

GUZIK
This is not the same greeting as found in most of Paul's letters (which usually begin with some variation of "Grace and peace unto you"). Yet it is substantially the same.

Read Jude 3-23

5. What was Jude planning to write about and what was he compelled to write about instead? (v3)

*Jude was planning to write about the salvation [in Jesus] he shares with his listeners. But instead, Jude is compelled to write to urge them to **contend for the faith that was once and for all entrusted to God's holy people!***

*The ancient 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. It can also mean "**struggle for**" or "**earnestly contend for**"*

*The phrase **the faith** means "**The essential truths of the gospel that all true Christians hold in common**".*

GUZIK

i. The letter of Jude is essentially a sermon. In it, Jude preached against the dangerous practices and doctrines that put the gospel of Jesus Christ in peril. These were serious issues and Jude dealt with them seriously.

ii. We should be happy that Jude was sensitive to the Holy Spirit here. What might have only been a letter from a Christian leader to a particular church instead became a precious instrument inspired by the Holy Spirit and valuable as a warning in these last days.

6. What is the problem in verse 4?

*The problem is: **certain individuals** whose condemnation was written about long ago **have secretly slipped in among you**. They are **ungodly people**, who **pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality** and **deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.***

*"**Perverting the grace of God**" -what people can do is use God's grace (undeserved favour) and think now that by the grace of God I am saved, I can go on sinning as before – and it seems these certain individuals are using God's grace as a license to live immorally.*

*"**Deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord**" – because of their immoral behaviour, these certain individuals are demonstrating that Jesus is not Lord of their lives and they are rejecting Jesus' authority. Jude is not saying that Christians never sin or struggle with temptation. Rather, he is condemning those who use Christian teaching to justify continuing in ungodliness. Remember, Jesus said "If you love me, keep my commandments!" (John 14:15)*

To slip in secretly as if by a side door." (Robertson) "Satan knows right well that one devil in the church can do far more than a thousand devils outside her bounds." (Spurgeon)

GUZIK

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. They may be hidden to some believers but as far as God is concerned, their condemnation was marked out long ago. Their judgment is assured. The truth will win out; our responsibility is to be on the side with the truth.

7. What does Jude remind his readers of in verse 5? (cf. Numbers 14; Psalm 95)

Jude reminds his readers that back in the Old Testament, the Lord delivered His people out of slavery in Egypt, but later ***destroyed those who did not believe****.*

In Numbers 14 *– After the twelve spies returned from exploring Canaan, ten of them gave a fearful report. The Israelites refused to trust God's promises and wanted to return to Egypt. Despite having witnessed God's miraculous deliverance from slavery, they rebelled against him and refused to enter the Promised Land.*
God's judgement was that the unbelieving generation would die in the wilderness and would not enter the land (Numbers 14:20–35).

In Psalm 95 *– especially vv7–11 looks back on this same incident as Numbers 14 and warns God's people:*

- *Do not harden your hearts as Israel did at Meribah and Massah.*
- *Israel tested God despite seeing God's works.*
- *God was grieved by their unbelief.*
- *He swore that they would never enter His rest.*

Jude reminds his readers that ***experiencing God's blessings and being part of God's people does not give someone permission to turn away from God in unbelief and rebellion.***
Israel had experienced an extraordinary deliverance, yet many failed to trust and obey God.

Application: *We must not be presumptuous about God's grace [v4=pervert the grace of God] or take our salvation for granted while continuing in unbelief and*

sin/rebellion. We are called to persevere in faith, trusting God's promises and remaining obedient to Him

8. What sin is mentioned in verse 6? (cf. Genesis 6:1-2; Isaiah 14:12-14; 2 Peter 2:4; Rev 12:4)

*Jude's letter is famous for bringing up obscure or controversial points, and this is one of them. Jude speaks of the sin of some **angels** who sinned, who are now imprisoned and awaiting a future day of judgment.*
The sins of the angels described in Genesis 6 leads to God flooding the whole Earth and starting all over again with the human race, with the righteous Noah and his family!

GUZIK
There is some measure of controversy about the identity of these particular angels. We only have two places in the Bible where it speaks of angels sinning. First, there was the original rebellion of some angels against God (Isaiah 14:12-14, Revelation 12:4). Secondly, there was the sin of the sons of God described in Genesis 6:1-2.

***Isaiah 14:12-14** – These passage describes the fall of the devil who was an angel but wanted to have more power than God; so God cast the devil and his evil angels down to Earth!*

12 How you have fallen from heaven,
morning star [KJV = Lucifer], son of the dawn!
You have been cast down to the earth,
you who once laid low the nations!
13 You said in your heart,
*"**I will ascend to the heavens;***
I will raise my throne
***above the stars of God**;*
I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly,
on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon.
14 I will ascend above the tops of the clouds;
I will make myself like the Most High."

Genesis 6:1-2 *– This passage describes how angels rebelled against God and took human wives!*

*[1] When human beings began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, [2] **the sons of God** [angels] saw that the daughters of humans were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose.*

There is a significant debate as to if the sons of God are angelic beings, or just another way of saying "followers of God" among humans. Jude helps us answer this question (Guzik)

*Some Jewish traditions, particularly the ancient Jewish writing of **1 Enoch**, interpreted this passage as describing **angels** who rebelled against God by taking human wives. Many scholars understand Jude 6 as reflecting this Jewish interpretation.*

Even if there is some debate about exactly which angelic rebellion Jude has in mind, the main point is: angels who rebelled against God's authority are awaiting his judgement. All sin and rebellion must be judged!

2 Peter 2:4 makes a similar point: For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them in chains of darkness to be held for judgment…

If God did not spare the angels when they sinned; He is not going spare these ungodly people that Jude is referring to!

Rev 12:3-4 *- [3] Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red **dragon** with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on its heads. [4] Its tail swept a third of the **stars** out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that it might devour her child the moment he was born.*

Dragon represents Satan (see Rev 12:9).

The most common interpretation is that the stars represent angels.

The picture of Satan sweeping a third of the stars from heaven is generally understood as referring to a portion of the angels joining Satan in his rebellion

against God. This is consistent with the wider biblical picture of Satan having other spiritual beings associated with him.

Comparing Jude 6 and Revelation 12:4

Jude 6	**Revelation 12:4**
Angels abandon their proper dwelling	Stars swept from heaven by the dragon
Angels rebel against God's authority	Satan is pictured in opposition to God
Angels kept for judgment	Satan and his angels face God's ultimate Judgment (Rev 12:9-12)

9. What incident is mentioned in verse 7? (cf. Genesis 19) Why does Jude mention this example?

Jude refers to the incident in Genesis 19 where there was homosexual conduct by the men of Sodom. As a result Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed with fire from Heaven. Only Abraham's nephew Lot and his family were spared. The sad thing is Sodom and Gomorrah is that they were blessed and privileged places originally (see Genesis 13:10)

Jude mentions this example because back in verse 4 the ungodly people he referred to had perverted the grace of God into a license for immorality.

*This example gives two lessons. First, it assures us that the certain individuals that Jude refers to, causing trouble will be judged, no matter how much they had been blessed in the past. Just as Sodom and Gomorrah were once wonderfully blessed but eventually suffered **the vengeance of eternal fire**, so will it be with these certain individuals. Secondly, 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. (Guzik)*

10. What is the character of these ungodly men? (v8)

These ungodly people claimed special spiritual insight through dreams, but rather than submitting to God's authority, they used their supposed revelations to justify immoral behaviour, rebellion and arrogance.

Jude describes the character of these ungodly men in three ways:

1. ***They pollute [defile] their own bodies*** *– They indulge in immoral behaviour and give themselves over to sinful desires.*
2. ***They reject authority*** *– They refuse to submit to God's authority and disregard his commands.*
3. ***They heap abuse on celestial beings*** *– They speak arrogantly and disrespectfully about spiritual beings and matters beyond their understanding.*

11. What is the archangel Michael example of in verse 9? Is Michael mentioned anywhere else in the Bible?

Jude proofs his point about respecting spiritual beings and respecting God's authority buy referring to an incident in which Michael disputes with the devil over the body of Moses. Rather than pronouncing a judgement or speaking abusively against the devil, archangel Michael says: "The Lord rebuke you!"
There are several lessons from this.

- ***Respect for authority:*** *Even Michael, a powerful archangel, does not presume to act independently of God's authority.*
- ***Humility:*** *He does not resort to arrogant or abusive language.*
- ***Dependence on God:*** *He leaves judgement in the hands of the Lord.*

This contrasts sharply with the false teachers in verse 8, who reject authority and speak abusively about celestial beings.

Archangel Michael is mentioned in three other places:

- *Daniel 10:13, 21 – Michael is described as one of the chief princes who comes to help God's angelic messenger*
- *Daniel 12:1 – Micheal is described as the great prince who protects God's people*
- *Revelation 12:7-9 – Michael leads his angels in battle against the Dragon (Satan) and his angels.*

GUZIK on dispute over Moses' body

i. We don't know where Jude received his information about this dispute. He may have received a unique revelation from God. But according to teachers in the early

*church, Jude referred to an apocryphal book known as the **Assumption of Moses**, of which only small portions survive.*
*ii. We don't even exactly know why there was a dispute **about the body of Moses**. Some have said that the devil wanted to use Moses' body as an object of worship to lead Israel astray into idolatry. Others have thought that Satan wanted to desecrate the body of Moses, and claimed a right to it because Moses had murdered an Egyptian.*
iii. It is more likely that the devil anticipated a purpose God had for Moses' body, and the devil tried to defeat that plan. We know that after his death, Moses appeared in bodily form at the Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-3) with Elijah (whose body was caught up to heaven in 2 Kings 2). Perhaps also Moses and Elijah are the two witnesses of Revelation 11, and God needed Moses' body for that future plan.
iv. But for Jude, the main point isn't why Michael was disputed, but how he disputed with the devil.

12. How are the ungodly people Jude mentions described in comparison? (v10)

In contrast to Michael, who would not even speak evil of the devil, these ungodly people spoke evil, slandering whatever they do not understand. And by doing whatever they feel like doing—living by animal instinct only—they participate in their own destruction.

13. In verse 11 – Jude mentions three examples of what these ungodly people are like:

*These three examples are about **rebels who went on to corrupt others**…*

a. What does "***taken the way of Cain***" mean? (cf. Genesis 4:1-16)

Cain murdered his brother and went on to build a city where violence reigned. See Genesis 4:23-24!

b. What does "***they have rushed for profit into Balaam's error***" mean? (cf. Numbers 22-25, 31)

Balaam [a prophet for hire] could not curse the Israelites, so he lured them into idolatry and sexual misbehavior (Num. 31:16).

c. What does "***they have been destroyed in Korah's rebellion***" mean? (cf. Numbers 16 – **<u>especially vv1-5 and 31-35</u>**)
Korah the Levite led a rebellion against Moses that ended in disaster for many others.

14. What vivid description of the depravity of these ungodly people is given in verses 12&13?

Jude gives another examples of what these ungodly people are like:

a. ***Selfish shepherds who feed only themselves*** *(Ezekiel 34:2)*
b. ***Clouds without rain*** *(Proverbs 25:14). This symbolizes false teachers who promise spiritual nourishment but deliver nothing of value. Jude uses this metaphor to illustrate the emptiness of their teachings. These teachers create an illusion of hope but ultimately leave followers spiritually dry and unfulfilled.*
c. ***Autumn trees without fruit and uprooted –*** *their teaching is fruitless*
d. ***Wild waves of the sea*** *(Isaiah 57:20). Their self-absorption betrays their claim to follow Jesus, and like the wild waves, they bring chaos wherever they go.*

15. What judgment is in store for these ungodly people and who prophesied about it? (vv14-15)

The judgment warning comes from 1 Enoch, which claimed to contain the visions of the ancient figure of the same name (Gen. 5:21-24). What's fascinating about this is that Judah quotes from the opening section of Enoch, which is itself quoting half a dozen Old Testament texts about the final Day of the Lord (Deut. 33:2; Zech.14:5; Isa. 66:15-16).

16. How are the methods of these ungodly people described? (vv16-18)

V16 – They are grumblers and faultfinders. They follow their own evil desires. They boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage!
*V17 – Jude reminds his listeners that even the Apostles [John, Paul and Peter in 1 John 4:1-3; 2 Timothy 3:19; 2 Peter 2:1-3] all prophesied "**In the last times there will be***

scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires*". And they were echoing Jesus' earlier warning of the same thing (Matt. 7:15-19). With all these examples, hopefully Jude's listeners [and us for that matter] wouldn't need any more convincing that these teachers have to be dealt with.*

17. How is the spiritual life of these ungodly people described? (v19)

They are described as: divisive; people who merely follow natural instincts; and do not have the Holy Spirit! ***That is spiritually dead!***

18. What does Jude tell his readers to do about the danger of these ungodly people? List the instructions he gives in vv20-23?

*Judah moves into his closing charge, picking up his opening line about "****contending for the faith****." He unpacks how to do this through a set of metaphors:*

The community of Jesus is God's new temple, so they are to ***build their lives on the foundation of "the most holy faith,"*** *(v20) referring to the core message of the good news about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. That is –* ***remember the Bible, God's Word!***

On that foundation, the Church is to build itself up through dedication to prayer – ***praying in the Holy Spirit*** *(v20) [Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us (Romans 8:26)]-* ***and by devoting itself to the love of God*** *as they wait for Jesus' return (v21)*

The integrity of this building will be maintained by ***staying alert for the return of Jesus – who will bring us to eternal life*** *(v21)*

As well as helping each other stay faithful – ***by being merciful to those who doubt – we can do this by reassuring them in their doubts*** *(V22)*
Save others by snatching others from the fire *[of Hell] (v23) -* ***It reminds us of the seriousness of evangelism and pastoral care. Sometimes we need to speak clearly and firmly to someone who is heading in a spiritually destructive direction****.*

To others show mercy, mixed with fear (v23) – ***in other words be tender with sinners but not soft on sin.***

hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh *(v23) - In the ancient world, clothing could become contaminated through contact with something considered ceremonially unclean. Jude uses this imagery to say:*

- ***We should hate sin and everything associated with its corruption.***
- ***We should not become comfortable with sinful behaviour.***
- ***We must distinguish between loving the sinner and rejecting the sin.***

19. **Ponder**: Which of these instructions do you find the most challenging? Why?

Here are the possible challenges:

Building ourselves up in faith *(v20) – requires discipline and commitment rather than being spiritually complacent*

Pray in the Holy Spirit *(v20) – we might become distracted, too busy or inconsistent!*

Keep ourselves in the love of God *(v21) – we might become discouraged when we face severe trials*

Show mercy to those who doubt *(v22) – we might become impatient with someone who keeps doubting!*

Snatch others from the fire *(v23) – we might be reluctant to speak about sin, judgment and the need for repentance – in case we offend someone!*

Show mercy mixed with fear *(v23) – we become so involved in helping someone – that we overlook the sin*

Read Jude 24-25

20. Having told his readers to persevere, where are his readers and us, to look for help; and why is that important? (vv24-25)

V24 - We are told to look to the Lord – ***who is able to keep us from stumbling****! We cannot do this in our own strength. As Jesus says* "***Apart from me, you can do nothing***" (*John 15:5) and as Paul says "****I can do all things through Him who strengthens me****" (Philippians 4:13)*

V24 – When we look to the Lord Jesus – we receive His righteousness – ***and so He is able to present us before God's glorious presence without fault and with great joy!***

*Therefore, **all we can do is praise God** as in v25 - **to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.***

21. **Ponder**: How can we guard ourselves against being influenced by false teaching, whilst ensuring that we remain faithful to God's Word?

*We can guard ourselves against being influenced by false teaching: **by regularly reading and studying God's Word, growing in our understanding of biblical truth, praying for wisdom and discernment**, and **testing what we hear against Scripture** (Acts 17:11). We must **remain grounded in the gospel**, rather than being swayed by popular opinion or changing cultural values, while showing grace and love towards others.*

Also by praying and Christian fellowship.

What's the ***BIG IDEA*** of **Jude?**

Contend for the faith, Stand firm in the truth of the Gospel and persevere in faithfulness to Jesus.



What light globe moment did you have?

The amount of references to the Old Testament and apocryphal books

What ***questions*** do you have about the passages in this study?

Share the verse that had a special meaning to you in this study?

[3] Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people.

OR

[24] To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy— [25] to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

Finish in prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank you for the warning in your word from Jude about ungodly people. Please help us to be discerning about false teaching. Help us to persevere until the coming of our Lord Jesus to bring eternal life. Please help us to build ourselves up in the most holy faith; praying in the Holy Spirit and keeping ourselves in God's love. In Jesus Name, we pray. Amen.