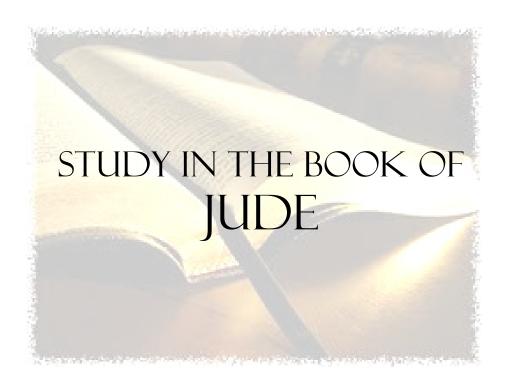


CHRISTIAN RESOURCES



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JUDE STUDY I

THE MARKS OF A TRUE CHRISTIAN

(Chapter 1:1-2)

INTRODUCTION

1. THE TITLE AND THE BACKGROUND

Jude originated as a personal letter from a leader in the apostolic church to one of more congregations scattered through the Roman Empire. The dangers facing the church at this time were not those of persecution but of heretics distorting the Word of God and apostasy, those who professed to follow Christ but then gave it up.

2. THE AUTHOR AND THE DATE

The author identifies himself as Jude and he most likely is the brother of our Lord Jesus Christ. It was written in about the year 65 AD.

3. THE THEME AND THE MESSAGE

Although originally Jude wanted to write about salvation he changed his mind to warn them about apostates. Jude therefore can be called a survival kit for Christians in the last days. The great danger the church faces is that of pretenders, e.g. they pretend to speak for Christ but they deny his Lordship, or they pretend to believe the Bible but they deny its inspiration, or they pretend to serve Christ but they are really serving themselves.

1. THE AUTHOR

In these opening verses Jude describes the security of the real Christian.

A. His name

Jude in the Greek is the name as Judas and in the New Testament there are five other men of that name.

Judas of Damascus (Acts. 9:11)

Judas Barsabbas (Acts. 15:22)

Judas Iscariot

Apostle Judas called Thaddeus

Brother of Jesus (Matt 13:55-56)

B. A servant of Jesus Christ

He sees himself as a slave in contrast to a master (Matt. 8:9) a slave in contrast to a free man (Gal. 3:28). He sees himself bound by love to his master whose will is totally given over to that of his Lord.

C. The brother of James.

James was the leader of the Jerusalem church (Acts 15:13-21, 21:15-18, Gal 2:9). So he writes as a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James.

2. MARKS OF A TRUE CHRISTIAN.

A. Called (**Rev 17:14, 1Cor.1:2**)

A Christian has been divinely called by God, given his summons to come to the Lord and given the grace to obey.

B. Loved by God the Father.

The word love here is in the perfect particle in the Greek, which means that God loved you in the past but with continuing effect today. <u>John McArthur</u> It is an exciting thing to realize that God truly loves us." (Jn 17:22-23, 1 Jn 3:1, Jer 31:3, Rom 8:38-39)

C. Kept by Jesus Christ

The Greek word means to watch, stand guard over, attend with great care. The word stresses a vigil that will never be relaxed. The Lord Jesus never relaxes his vigilance and he will never let you go.

D. Blessed.

A true Christian is a blessed person.

- i) Mercy
 - The word means to pity or to feel compassion for someone (**Heb.4:16.**) This is particularly encouraging when we fall
- ii) Peace. (Jn 14:27, Rom 15:13)
 Especially in the trials and heartache there is the peace of God that is above understanding
 - iii) Love (**Rom 5:5**)

DESCRIPTION OF APOSTLES

(Chapter 1:3-4)

INTRODUCTION

Jude is dealing with the whole question of apostates those who fell away from the faith and he gives a description of these apostates. Originally Jude wanted to write this letter on the important topic of salvation (v.3), but while pursuing that goal something happened and he changed his plan, in other words the Holy Spirit intervened in his plan and put pressure on him so that he now wrote to the Christians urging them to 'contend for the faith'. The days were evil and apostasy was on the increase, also notice that this faith was once for all given to the saints. This is one of the clearest marks of a cult when they add to the plain teaching of the Bible; this means that there can be no new revelation.

1. THE NATURE OF APOSTASY

An apostate is somebody who has received the Word of God, they superficially believe it for a time then they fall away (**Lk 8**). They pretend to love Christ, but they didn't. They pretend to serve God, but they are serving themselves. They pretend to believe the Bible, but they did not obey it.

2. APOSTASY THROUGH OUT THE BIBLE

Apostasy appears in many places throughout the Bible (Num. 14:19, Jos 22:16, 2 Thes. 2:3, 1 Jn 2:18-23, 1 Tim 4:1-3, 2 Tim.4:3-4)

3. HOW APOSTATES OPERATE.

Jude gives three significant aspects of how an apostate works:

- A. Penetrating (v.4) 'secretly they slip in among you'
 They creep in unnoticed and eventually they weaken the church because they are the counterfeit of Satan\
- **B.** Predicted 'It was written about long ago' (**Is.8: 19-21**)
- **C.** Portrayed
 - i) Character 'godless'Lack of reverence for God and His Word
 - ii) Conduct 'immorality' Low moral standards.
 - iii) Creed 'they deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord' They deny the deity of Christ and the Lordship of Christ, they refuse to submit to His Lordship and they question his divinity

4. HOW TO CONTEND FOR THE FAITH

- A. Study and obey the Bible
- **B.** We must un-hesitantly witness for Christ
- **C.** Train leaders

DESTRUCTION OF APOSTATES

(Chapter 1:5-7)

1. REMEMBER

A. Israel in the wilderness

God delivered two million people out of Egypt (**Dt.4:34**), but they had hardly moved out of Egypt when the golden calf took place and as a result of their unbelief and their constant grumbling the only two who would go into the Promised Land were Joshua and Caleb, in other words the pretenders were lost.

B. Angels who sinned

There was also a falling away among the angels, in addition there was another serious falling away in **Gen 6:1-4**, with this story the angels did not keep to their own habitation, they came to earth and committed sexual immorality, and **v.6** tells us they were bound in chains and thrown into darkness and held for the day of judgment.

C. Sodom and Gomorrah

Another clear illustration is in **Gen.18-19** they professed to follow God, but again their lifestyle showed they were pretenders. In the same way God will judge the pretender (apostate)

2. WHY DO PEOPLE APOSTATISE?

- A. Persecution (Matt.24:9)
- **B.** False teachers

Do not hear the truth.

- C. Temptation (Lk. 8:13)
- D. Worldliness (Lk. 8:14)
- E. Neglect (Heb.2:3)

Quiet time, Bible reading, going to church.

- **F.** Hardened hearts
 - Like Pharaoh
- **G.** Religion (**Heb.6:1-6**)
- H, Forsaking assembling with Christians (Heb.10:25)

3. APOSTASY TODAY

Sadly all around today we see people who are pretenders, men who fall away, and the key verse is (**Heb. 10:26-31**).

THE CONDUCT AND COMPANY OF APOSTATES

(Chapter 1:8-11)

INTRODUCTION

Jude now gives us a detailed description of the apostates who he has already introduced. They are the devil's own personal agents causing problems in the church. How ever, subtle and cunning they are he tells us of their true character and gives a complete record of their end.

1. THE CONDUCT.

Jude tells us further that the apostates could be called dreamers.

A. They defile the flesh (physically).

Those dreamers hold that the flesh is so important that the instincts of the body must be given total sway. They contaminate the flesh, while our bodies should be the temple of the Holy Spirit, they pollute it with immorality. No moral standards!

B. They show contempt for all authority (Intellectually)

They refuse to submit to the Lordship of Christ, to submit to the authority of the Bible, to submit to any form of leadership in the church. They despise authority.

C. They speak blasphemies (v.9)

He uses the illustration of the archangel Michael where rather than fighting with Satan over the body of Moses he simply said "The Lord rebuke you."

- i) Note they are revilers of the things about which they know nothing (Spiritually). They mock and revile things that they know nothing about (v.10)
- ii) Note the realm of their natural life (**v.10**) 'But what they know naturally.'
- iii) Note the kind of people they are 'unreasonable animals' They are destitute of the knowledge of God, they are without spiritual reasoning, they only have a form of godliness, but they are pretenders.
- iv) Note the nature of their knowledge.While the pretender does have knowledge it is not spiritual, they only understand physical things,
- v) Note the end of these individuals 'these are the very things that destroy them.'

The lesson is a very, very challenging one: That if a person consistently over their lifetime refuses to listen to God they shut their eyes and ears to spiritual values and if they make their instincts the sole standard of their values, they are going to perish.

2. THE COMPANY (v.11)

A. They follow the way of Cain.

Remember both Cain and Abel brought offerings to the Lord, Cain's was rejected. So the modern apostate follows Cain by rejecting God's plan of salvation and going their own way.

B, The error of Balaam.

This speaks of the seductive manner of their lives (Num. 22-25). Remember how Balak, king of Moab was afraid of the Israelites in Israel, he offered Balaam money to bring a curse of Israel. Balaam devised a wicked scheme of seduction whereby he instructed the woman of Moab to come and seduce the men of Israel, which would cause them to worship their gods. The apostates are always ruled by money.

C. The rebellion of Korah.

Korah rejected the authority of Moses.

RECOGNIZINBG FALSE TEACHERS

(Chapter 1:12-16)

INTRODUCTION

In the previous eleven verses Jude has told us four things about apostates"

- 1. Their description
- 2. Their destruction
- 3. Their conduct
- 4. Their company

They are clever is disguising themselves, they are called pretenders. So now Jude shows us how to recognize a false teacher.

1. THEIR TRUE CHARACTER

A. <u>Hidden rocks</u> Their danger

Jude describes an apostate as a hidden rock or iceberg. You see one thing on the surface, but it's another thing below. They are blemishes at your love feasts, they are in the church regularly at the meetings.

B. Clouds without water Their false promises

Clouds are generally viewed as a promise of rain, but they are empty and useless. They give no spiritual help because they are useless.

- **C.** Trees without fruit Their barrenness
- **D.** Waves of the sea Their wasted effort.

The waves portray uninterrupted movement, apostates are like the waves of the sea, restless, always on the move stirring up dirt.

E. Wandering stars Brief and aimless

Here today gone tomorrow.

2. THEIR FINAL CONDEMNATION.

Jude again emphasizes how long ago God condemned apostates.

A. <u>Prophet is named</u>

Enoch, the same man who walked with God, the only prophet before the flood whose words have been preserved.

B. Prophecy is fact.

He clearly taught about the apostates.

C. Pronouncement is plain

Jesus is going to come again: he would judge everyone and convict the ungodly,

D. Purpose of Christ's return

- Execution of Judgment on all unsaved men.
 In other words when Christ returns Christians will be glorified, but all the others will be confronted with the flaming fires of judgment.
- ii) The establishment of conviction upon all ungodly men.

3. <u>JUDE'S FINAL DESCRIPTION</u>

Jude is not yet finished describing those apostates, he gives four extra characteristics:

- A. They are murmurers
- **B.** They are complainers

This is directed primary against the church - faultfinders.

- C. They walk after their own lusts.
- **D**, They speak great things in flattery for the sake of their own advantage

CONCLUSION

Jude's desire for the believers is that they develop discernment in order to be able to recognize a false teacher. With Jude's description of the character and the conduct of the false teachers, there is no excuse for Christians being deceived.

SURVIVAL IN THE LAST DAYS

(Chapter 1:17-25)

INTRODUCTION

As Jude now draws to a close, he moves away from the apostates to show the Christian how to live in the last times and there are four imperatives:

1. $\underline{REMEMBER}$ (v.17-20)

This word in the Greek is the first imperative verb in Jude, that means that it is a command

- A. <u>Cause division</u> (Acts 20:29-30, 1 Tim.4:1, 2 Tim 4:3-4. 2 Peter 3:3) The apostates always cause division because they make false distinction among Christians
- B. They are worldly-minded (v.19) 'They follow mere natural instincts'. They are dominated by the flesh not by the Spirit.
- C. <u>Do not have the Spirit</u> (v.19) "and do not have the Spirit". This is the climax they are mere pretenders and if you do not have the Spirit you are not saved!

2. **REMAIN** (v.21)

In the midst of widespread apostasy it is important that Christians remain close to the Lord and Jude tells us how we can do this:

A. Build yourself up.

The only way to do that is in the study and application of the Bible, the Bible makes us stronger and stronger (Acts 20:32)

B. Praying

"Pray at all times in the Spirit," this means pray out of the heart that is indwelt illuminated and filled by the Holy Spirit

C. Keep yourself in God's love

It is not our love for God, but God's love for us, it is your responsibility to keep that.

D. Expect mercy

Expecting the mercy of the Lord Jesus Christ's return, we are living in the light of Christ's return. Always have an eternal perspective.

3. **REACH OUT** (v.22-23)

The emphasis is now on evangelism, a strong Christian reaching out with the gospel.

A. To sincere doubters

"Be merciful to those who doubt"

B. To endangered disbelievers (v.23)

"Snatch others from the fire and save them," hell is real to us!

C. To confirmed sinners

"To others show mercy, mixed with fear."

4. REST (v.24-25)

When God saves us and there is a real conversion, he will never let us go. (**Php 1:6**)

A. He will keep you from falling

In contrast to the apostates who turns away and gives up, the Christian is kept.

B. Present you

He will present us faultless before his presence - no condemnation.

C. He is the only God our Saviour

To him to glory, majesty, dominion, and power.

CONCLUSION

This book has focused on the dangers of apostasy, pretenders. Jude has clearly shown us how to recognize them and now how do we ourselves stay close to the Lord.