

Through the Bible Course

May 7, 1950

Jude

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Key Verse: Verse 3

Time: AD 65 or 66

Author: Jude, brother of James (Matthew 13:55)

To Whom Written: Some group not known by us who were called, sanctified by God, and kept in Jesus Christ (verse 1).

Occasion: False teachers had come into their midst denying the faith once for all delivered. This denial sprang from unbelief and led to rebellious immorality and lawlessness. Jude wrote to warn the Church against the unbelief and urge faithfulness to the faith.

Introduction – verses 1-2

I. The Purpose and Occasion of the Epistle – Verses 3-4

1. Jude had intended to write about salvation, but Holy Spirit directed him to write concerning the apostasy which was present and would grow worse in order to urge upon those addressed the necessity for contending for the faith.
2. This faith was the revealed truth (verse 3).
3. Certain men would turn the grace of God to lasciviousness and deny the only God and Jesus Christ (verse 4).

II. Examples from the Past – Verses 5-10

1. Israelites who came out of Egypt, but turned to unbelief (verse 5).
 - a. Apostasy begins with unbelief
2. Angels which kept not first estate (Genesis 6; Isaiah 14:12ff; Numbers 14:22-29). Hell prepared for these (Matthew 25:41), verse 6.
 - a. Their unbelief led to rebellion
3. Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19), verses 7-8.
 - a. Their unbelief led to gross immorality
4. Michael, the archangel, contending with the devil. It seems Michael was given commission to conduct funeral of Moses (Deuteronomy 34:5-6), verse 9.
 - a. Anarchy against God was result of unbelief
5. These apostate teachers speak evil of things they know nothing about in great spiritual truths and act as brute beasts, i.e., following natural inclinations.

IV. Punishment to Come – Verses 11-16

1. Gone in way of Cain (Genesis 4:1ff) and Balaam (Genesis 22-35). Perished after Core (Numbers 16), verses 11-13.

- a. Way of Cain was way of unbelief
 - 1. Denied God's way of fellowship with Him and substituted his own
- b. Way of Balaam
 - 1. Balaam refused to obey Lord, looking for rewards
- c. Core's error was that he refused to accept authority appointed by God
 - 1. Are like clouds with no water
 - 2. Like twice dead trees which bear no fruit and are plucked up by roots
 - 3. Like raging waves
 - 4. Like wandering stars – verses 12, 13
- 2. Testimony of Enoch – verses 14-16
 - a. He testified of judgment to come.

V. Exhortations and Conclusion – Verses 17-25

- 1. Remember words spoken by apostles when warned of coming of mockers, verses 17-19.
- 2. Build up yourself in holy faith and keep yourselves in love of God, verses 20-21.
- 3. "Pity these mockers, but fear lest same doom overtake you," verses 22-23.
- 4. This is a beautiful benediction assuring them of God's power to keep and present faultless. This in spite of all opposition, verses 24-25.