

# The Letter of Jude

## \*. **Who wrote the letter?**

The writer of the letter is identified in the opening words as “the brother of James.” One can also tell from reading through the letter that the writer is a Jewish man as seen in his familiarity with the stories of the Old Testament. Most believe that this Jewish man named Jude is the brother (half-brother) of Jesus. Church tradition supports this conclusion as well.

## \*. **When was it written?**

The letter appears to be written about 80 a.d. making this letter one of the most recently written in the New Testament. By this time, persecution had begun to grow against the church. It was also a challenging time as various false teachings were beginning to be purported by heretical teachers.

## \*. **To whom was it written?**

The letter itself gives no indication of the exact group to whom this letter was written. Those in the audience are Christians as he is writing to help them deal with a challenge in their walk with Christ. Some believe that the letter is written to those who were acquaintances of the first apostles, implying that perhaps the letter was written to a church in Jerusalem. This would be difficult to have happened in 80 a.d. because the city had been destroyed by Rome in 70 a.d. Perhaps the best conclusion is no conclusion – we simply don’t know to whom the letter was written except that they were Christians.

## \*. **Why was it written?**

The author states in vs. 3 that he intended to write an encouraging letter to the church regarding their salvation. Yet he felt the necessity to refute a heresy being promoted by some from within the church. Apparently the false teachers had infiltrated the church and were teaching a type of libertinism – the belief that believers may do whatever they want morally without reference to God’s commands.

## \*. **What is the main topic?**

Christians should contend for the faith and reject what is ungodly.

## Jude

<sup>1</sup> Jude, a bond-servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To those who are the called, beloved in God the Father, and kept for Jesus Christ: <sup>2</sup> May mercy and peace and love be multiplied to you. <sup>3</sup> Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints. <sup>4</sup> For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. <sup>5</sup> Now I desire to remind you, though you know all things once for all, that the Lord, after saving a people out of the land of Egypt, subsequently destroyed those who did not believe. <sup>6</sup> And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day, <sup>7</sup> just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire. <sup>8</sup> Yet in the same way these men, also by dreaming, defile the flesh, and reject authority, and revile angelic majesties. <sup>9</sup> But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!" <sup>10</sup> But these men revile the things which they do not understand; and the things which they know by instinct, like unreasoning animals, by these things they are destroyed. <sup>11</sup> Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain, and for pay they have rushed headlong into the error of Balaam, and perished in the rebellion of Korah. <sup>12</sup> These are the men who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted; <sup>13</sup> wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam; wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever. <sup>14</sup> *It was* also about these men *that* Enoch, *in* the seventh *generation* from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord came with many thousands of His holy ones, <sup>15</sup> to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him." <sup>16</sup> These are grumblers, finding fault, following after their *own* lusts; they speak arrogantly, flattering people for the sake of *gaining an* advantage. <sup>17</sup> But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>18</sup> that they were saying to you, "In the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts." <sup>19</sup> These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit. <sup>20</sup> But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, <sup>21</sup> keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life. <sup>22</sup> And have mercy on some, who are doubting; <sup>23</sup> save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh. <sup>24</sup> Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, <sup>25</sup> to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, *be* glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.