

# *From the Garden to Glory*

## **Jude**

**Author:** Jude, the brother of Jesus and James

**Written to:** Those who are sanctified by God

**Timeline:** c. 67 - 70 A.D.

**Theme:** Contend for the Faith

**Purpose of writing:** Jude wrote to warn believers of heretical teachers and to encourage them to contend earnestly for the faith.

### **Introduction:**

Jude's warnings against false teachers and doctrines are much like the ones Peter gave in his second letter. Though Jude's letter is short, he does not mince words! He wanted to write concerning their *common salvation* (verse 3) but instead found it necessary to exhort the believers to *contend earnestly for the faith*. Believers are to know and defend God's truth; they are to keep themselves in right relationship with Him looking for His mercies.

As we begin our study of the book of Jude consider the following questions and write your responses:

1. Jude wrote about the most pressing doctrinal issues of the day. What do you think are the great issues of our day? How should the Church confront these issues?
2. Jude was the brother of James and the half brother of the Lord Jesus Christ (see Mark 6:3). What do you learn about him from John 7:5, Acts 1:14 and 1 Corinthians 9:5?

3. Read verse 3. As you read in the Introduction, although Jude had desired to write about their common salvation, instead he found it necessary to exhort his readers. Think of a time when you wanted to communicate a message of blessing and encouragement but instead had to give correction or warning. Without using names or identifying information, how did you do so? What was the outcome?

## **Walking Without Falling**

Read Jude 1:1-25

1. In verse 4 Jude spoke about *certain men* who had crept into the church unnoticed. Look carefully at this verse and answer the following questions.
  - How did Jude describe these men?
  - What was their message?
  - What warning had Peter given about them in 2 Peter 2:1?
  - How do you think they were able to enter the body of believers *unnoticed*?
  - What can you do to make sure that false teachers or false doctrine is not allowed to enter your home or circle of influence?

**2.** In verses 5-7, Jude listed three Old Testament apostasies. Read these verses and the related references. In each of these situations, God was victorious over those who had turned from the truth, resisting Him and His authority. What do you learn from each illustration? List one way you can apply this knowledge to your own life today.

- verse 5: Israel (Numbers 13-14, 1 Corinthians 10:1-10 and Hebrews 3:16-19)

- verse 6: the fallen angels (2 Peter 2:4)

- verse 7: Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19:1-29)

**3.** In addition to the description in verse 4, Jude listed several other behaviors that characterized an apostate. Define each of these and explain why such a person would be a danger in the body of Christ. Finally, list a Christ-like trait that would be the opposite of each specific form of apostasy.

- dreamers (verse 8)

- defile the flesh (verse 8)

- reject authority (verse 8)

- speak evil of whatever they do not know (verse 10)

- corrupt themselves (verse 10)

- grumblers (verse 16)

- complainers (verse 16)

- walk according to their own lusts (verse 16)
- flattering people to gain advantage (verse 16)
- mockers (verse 18)
- cause divisions (verse 19)
- sensual (verse 19)
- without the Spirit (verse 19)

4. What four things does Jude exhort believers to do in verses 20-21? In what practical ways can you do each of these?

5. Take a few moments to thank the Lord for His promises in verse 24!

## **Summary**

As you conclude your study of the book of Jude consider the following questions and write your answer:

1. What is the most significant thing that you have learned from your study about the Lord, His character, or His attributes? How does this encourage you? Take a few moments to thank and praise the Lord for the things that you learned about Him.

2. What is the most important lesson or new insight that you have learned from your study of this book? How can you apply this lesson in your life this week?