

OUR COMMON SALVATION



JUDE
CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

OUR COMMON SALVATION



WHY IT IS
NECESSARY
TO FIGHT FOR
THE FAITH



GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

- Many similarities with 2 Peter
- The book is vigorous and pointed in style.
- Written in a form and style common to “ancient Jewish” literature - Contains 11 triads for emphasis (1,2,4,5-7,8-10, 11, 16,,18,19,21,22, 23,24,25)

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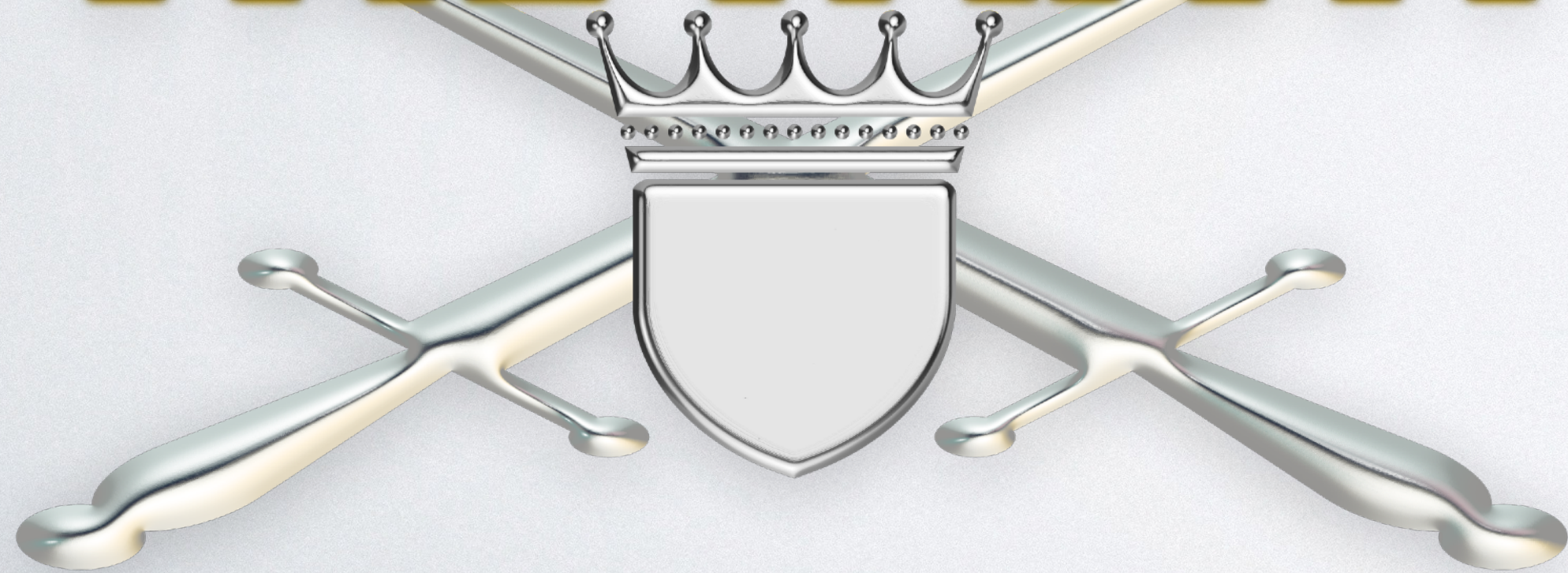
AUTHOR & DATING

- Most believe the author was Jude, the brother of James and half brother of Jesus “Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James,” (vs. 1; Mt. 13:55; Mk 6:3).
- Taking into consideration internal and external factors, and in harmony with most commentators, a date of 70 to 90 seems to be appropriate for the writing of this book.

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HISTORICAL BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

- Apostasy had commenced (2 Thess. 2:1-12).
- Gnosticism and Docetism were at work among the churches as revealed by John's writings (John, 1, 2, and 3 John, & Revelation).
- Moral permissiveness, the nature of flesh and the spirit, and, in particular, the nature of Christ arose as basic issues.
- False teachers taught all manner of error in these respects.

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PURPOSE & THEME

- Some contend Jude began to write about our common salvation but circumstances demanded he write about something else.
- Seems more fitting to understand the letter has to do with our common salvation with a special emphasis on the danger of false teachers. (3-19)
- Their being saved by the Lord involves an obligation to contend “for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”

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OUTLINE OF THE BOOK

- I. Salutation (1–2)
- II. Purpose of the epistle (3–4)
- III. The Peril of Apostasy (5–16)
 - A. Examples of apostates (5–7)
 1. Egypt (5); 2. Angels (v. 6); 3. Sodom & Gomorrah (7)
 - B. Actions of current apostates (8–16)
 1. Rejecting authority (8–10)
 2. Walking in error like Cain, Balaam & Korah (11)
 3. Descriptions of the depth, depravity & vanity of their teaching (12–13)
 4. Bringing upon themselves judgment (14–16)

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OUTLINE OF THE BOOK

- IV. Guidelines to Avoid Apostasy (17–23)
 - A. Remember the teaching of the apostles (17–19)
 - B. Nurturing themselves (20–21)
 - C. Being merciful to others (22–23)
- V. Victory over Apostasy (24–25)
 - A. Commended to the one who is able to keep them from falling and to present them faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy (24).
 - B. Praise to the only wise God (25).

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THE FAITH



Jude 1–2 (NKJV)

¹ Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James,

To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ:

² Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

SALUTATION (1–2)

■ Those Who Are “Called”

▶ By the SAME gospel (2 Thes 2:13–14; Gal 1:6–9)

▶ The same “holy calling” (2 Tim 1:9), in which we are to walk worthy, (Eph 4:1–6), and to give all diligence to make our calling & election sure (2 Pet 1:5–11)

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SALUTATION (1–2)

■ **“Sanctified” By The Father**

- ▶ Through the truth (Jn 17:17)
- ▶ From sin when we obey the gospel (1 Cor 6:11; Ep 5:26)
- ▶ A continuing process (1 Thes 5:23; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1)
- ▶ ASV has “beloved in God the Father” (Jn 15:9,10; 1 Jn 2:3-5)

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SALUTATION (1–2)

- **“Preserved” In Jesus Christ**
 - ▶ Guarded from loss or injury (cf John 10:27-29; Col. 3:3)
 - ▶ “Kept by the power of God through faith” (1 Pet. 1:5; Heb. 3:12-14; 1 Cor. 10:1-13)
 - ▶ Includes personal responsibility (Jude 1:5-7, 21; 2 Pet 1:5-11; John 15:1-10; Rev 2:10; 2 Pet 2:20-22; Eph. 6:10-16)

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SALUTATION (1–2)

- **“Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.”**
- ▶ His **mercy** provides forgiveness and access through Christ (Heb. 4:16; Titus 3:4,5)
- ▶ His **peace** can provide calmness when evil abounds (Rom. 15:13; Phil. 4:7)
- ▶ His **love** can protect and assure us in the face of peril (Rom. 5:5; 8:35–39).

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THE FAITH



Jude 3 (NKJV)

³ Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

PURPOSE OF THE EPISTLE (3-4)

- **“Contend earnestly ...” (3)**
 - ▶ The NEED for a vigorous, determined struggle to defend THE FAITH, not our opinions (Acts 18:28; Eph 6:10-18; 1 Tim 1:18; 6:12; 2 Tim 4:7, Phili 1:27)
 - ▶ Can't use carnal weapons (2 Cor 10:3-5), but by living and speaking the truth in love (Mat. 5:13-16; Eph 4:15).

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PURPOSE OF THE EPISTLE (3-4)

■ “For the faith ...” (3)

- ▶ “**Once For All**” - The Faith was fully revealed & does not need to be revised or amended (Gal 1:6-9; 1 Cor. 13:10-13)
- ▶ “**Delivered**” – The faith is entirely sufficient to provide the man of God with everything to be complete before God (2 Tim 3:16,17)
- ▶ “**To the saints**” – not the exclusive possession of a special few, but to all Christians (Eph. 1:1; 4:12; Col. 1:2,26; Phil. 1:1)

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Jude 4 (NKJV)

⁴ For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

PURPOSE OF THE EPISTLE (3-4)

- **Threat of false teachers (4)**
 - ▶ Secrecy of False Teachers (4a; Matthew 7:15; 2 Pet 2:1-3; Gal 2:4)
 - ▶ The Condemnation of False Teachers (4b, 5-15; 2 Pet 2:12-17)
 - ▶ What These False Teachers were doing (4c, 5, 7,8, 10-12, 15-16, 18,19; 2 Peter 2:18-19; Tit 1:16)

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Jude 5–7 (NKJV)

⁵ But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. ...

THE PERIL OF APOSTASY (5–16)

■ Examples of apostates (5–7)

- ▶ Disobedient Israelites (5) An entire generation perished in the wilderness because of their unbelief (cf. Heb. 3:16–19).

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Jude 5–7 (NKJV)

⁶ And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; ...

THE PERIL OF APOSTASY (5–16)

■ Examples of apostates (5–7)

- ▶ Disobedient Israelites (5) An entire generation perished in the wilderness because of their unbelief (cf. Heb. 3:16–19).
- ▶ Angels (v. 6) Some rebelled & are now in darkness, bound ... for judgment. (2 Pet 2:4; Eph 6:12; Mat 8:29)

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Jude 5–7 (NKJV)

⁷ as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

THE PERIL OF APOSTASY (5–16)

■ Examples of apostates (5–7)

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- ▶ Angels (v. 6) Some rebelled & are now in darkness, bound ... for judgment. (2 Pet 2:4; Eph 6:12; Mat 8:29)
- ▶ Sodom & Gomorrah (7) (cf. Gen. 19:1–29) foreshadows the fate all who deny God's truth (2 Pet 2:6; Mat 25:46; Rom 1:18–32; etc.)

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Jude 8–9 (NKJV)

⁸ Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries. ⁹ Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, “The Lord rebuke you!

THE PERIL OF APOSTASY (5–16)

■ **Actions & Nature of Apostates (8–11)**

- ▶ Pollute their own bodies like Sodom and Gomorrah. - to “defile, deprave” - (8; Titus 1:15; Heb 12:15; 1 Cor 5; 6:9-11)
- ▶ Those who are filled with pride and reject authority - intellectual insubordination, & spiritual irreverence. (8: cf. Rom. 1:24, 26–27; Ep 4:19; Heb 13:7, 17; Rom 13:1-7; 1 Pet 2:13-3:6)

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Jude 10–11 (NKJV)

¹⁰ But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves. ¹¹ Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

THE PERIL OF APOSTASY (5–16)

■ Actions & Nature of Apostates (8–11)

- ▶ Proudly spoke evil of others w/out knowledge & in their ignorance (10; cf. 2 Pet 2:12)
- ▶ They polluted “their bodies” (v. 8) like the sin of Sodom - They corrupted themselves self-destructive (10; cf.; Rom 1:21,22)

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THE PERIL OF APOSTASY (5–16)

- **Actions & Nature of Apostates (8–11)**
(Jude uses another triad of examples to illustrate their character & end).
 - ▶ They have taken **the way of Cain**. (cf. Genesis 4:1–15; 1 Jn 3:12).
 - ▶ They have rushed for profit into **Balaam's error** (2 Peter 2:15–16; Num. 22:21–31).
 - ▶ They have emulated **Korah's rebellion**. [Korah led the revolt against Moses and Aaron, (Num. 16)].

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Jude 12–13 (NKJV)

¹² These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving *only* themselves. *They are* clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots; ¹³ raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.

THE PERIL OF APOSTASY (5–16)

■ Fruit of the Apostates (12–13)

- ▶ **Spots** (*Hidden rocks [spilades] causing shipwreck*) in their feasts of charity, feasting without fear (12a)
- ▶ **Rainless clouds** - all show, no substance, yielding only disappointment (12b).
- ▶ **Trees** - Having been redeemed, they turned from truth, unable to fulfill the promises they put forth, incapable of nourishment (12c cf. 2 Pet. 2:18-20; Heb. 6:4-8;).

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THE PERIL OF APOSTASY (5–16)

■ Fruit of the Apostates (12–13)

- ▶ **Unrestrained and undisciplined** in both life and teachings with their disgrace and ignominy foaming, as it were, bringing moral filth into the society of the people with whom they associate. (13a; cf. Isa. 57:20).
- ▶ **Wandering stars**, (comets,) which Jude regards as stars which have left the course prescribed for them by God, and eventually disappear & be burned up (13b).

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THE PERIL OF APOSTASY (5–16)

■ Fruit of the Apostates (12–13)

- ▶ **Blackness & darkness:** light's having disappeared, and, consequently, only darkness (the absence of light) is reserved for these false teacher, where they will be confined forever (13c; cf. 2 Pet. 2:17).
- ▶ No doubt many found these false teachers impressive & persuasive, — Jude exposes the futility of their **actions, character** and **fruit**, as well as their **eternal end**.

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Jude 14–15 (NKJV)

¹⁴ Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, “Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, ¹⁵ to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”

THE PERIL OF APOSTASY (5–16)

■ Bringing upon themselves judgment (14–16)

- ▶ Enoch, the man “who walked with God; and he was not, because God took him” (cf. Gen 5:24), prophesied of the Lord’s Coming...
- ▶ Regardless of the source one might ascribe to Jude’s quote, (apocryphal book of Enoch / oral tradition), its is confirmed by inspiration.
- ▶ God will judge the wicked (Mat. 25:31; 2 Th 1:7-9; 2 Pet 3:1-14)

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Jude 16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling *words*, flattering people to gain advantage.

THE PERIL OF APOSTASY (5–16)

■ Bringing upon themselves judgment (14–16)

- ▶ They were quick to speak evil, contrary to apostolic teaching (vis. 8-10)
- ▶ Jude's description of them as "murmurers, complainers" also shows a lack of respect for apostolic authority (cf. 1 Co 10:10; Ph 2:14)
- ▶ Flattery likewise was condemned by the apostles (cf. Ro 16:17-18)

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- **A common Savior** (John 14:6; 1 Cor 8:6)
- **A common necessity of submitting to him** (John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Luke 6:46),
- **A common body into which the saved are gathered** (John 10:16; 11:52; Eph 4:4; 5:26).
- **A Common Means of Entrance** – [Faith, Repentance, Confession, Baptism] – John 8:24; Rom 10:9,10; Acts 2:38; Gal 3:26,27]
- **A common enemy** (Jude 1:4-19; Acts 20:28-30; 2 Peter 2:1-22; 1 Timothy 6:11)

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1 Timothy 6:11

FIGHT THE GOOD
FIGHT OF FAITH, LAY
HOLD ON ETERNAL
LIFE, TO WHICH
YOU WERE ALSO
CALLED ...

