

Jude 1-25 (NKJV)

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.

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. 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.

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. 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; 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.

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!" 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.

¹²These 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; ¹³raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.

¹⁴Now 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.”

¹⁶These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage. ¹⁷But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: ¹⁸how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts. ¹⁹These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit.

²⁰But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

²²And on some have compassion, making a distinction; ²³but others save with fear, pulling *them* out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.

²⁴Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, ²⁵To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, *Be* glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.

Interpretation: Read through the passage, and then review and make notes under the questions below.

1. Restate Jude's purpose for writing (v. 3) in your own words, and explain why such an emphasis might be important.
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2. Describe how false teachers might remain undetected while infiltrating the church (v. 4).
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3. In verses 5–7, Jude presents three separate incidents from history. What is the common theme that ties these accounts together, and what is Jude's point in mentioning them?
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4. Verse 8 mentions that the dreamers "speak evil of dignitaries." Based on the context, what kind of "dignitaries" are likely in view here?
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5. What is the point of the contrast between the actions of Michael the archangel in v. 9 with the actions of the false teachers in v. 10?
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6. Considering the three bad examples cited in v. 11, what can we infer about the actions of the false teachers? [For more details about the examples, consult Gen. 4:3–8 (Cain); Num. 22–24, 31:16 (Balaam); and Num. 16 (Korah).]
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7. Why does Jude describe the false teachers as "spots in your love feasts" (v. 12a)?
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8. What seems to be the point of the metaphors used in vv. 12b–13 to describe the false teachers?
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9. Explain how the prophecy from Enoch (vv. 14–15) relates to the situation Jude describes in this letter.
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10. What makes grumbling and flattery so heinous in God's eyes (v. 16)?
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11. To what action does Jude call his readers in response to the false teaching (v. 17)? Explain why this would be important in that situation.
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12. What is the doctrinal significance of the choice of the “mockers” to “walk according to their own ungodly lusts” (v. 18)?

13. Why is it significant that Jude says the false teachers “cause divisions” (v. 19)?

14. What does it mean when Jude says that the false teachers are “not having the Spirit” (v. 19)?

15. Which verb in vv. 20–21 seems to be the main command to the believers? Why?

16. Based on the context of the book of Jude, what do you think the phrase “making a difference” in verse 22 means?

17. What does it mean to “save with fear” (v. 23)? You may wish to consult multiple translations as you consider the verse.

18. How is God our Saviour wise and glorious (v. 25)?

Application: *Take time to reflect on the implications of the book of Jude for your own life today.*

19. What does this passage mean for your walk with the Lord?

20. How does this passage challenge the way you think about situations in daily life? What should you do about that?
