

Jude

v1

"a servant of Jesus Christ (the Messiah), and brother of James"

- Before any other connection, his first introduction is that He is a servant. Not a position, not a respected role, not an achievement... But merely a servant. We shouldn't overstate or over complicate this. The beauty and power of this statement is in its simplicity. He simply wishes to be known as one who serves Christ and seeks to honour and glorify Him.
- But Jude does then offer clarification/specification of who he is by mentioning he is the brother of James.
- He could have claimed "brother of Jesus", he could have claimed to have some special anointing or some special connection to the Heavenly Father through Mary... But no! He does not introduce himself as son of Mary. In fact, her name is never mentioned by any of the apostles in any way for reverence, worship or status. In the light of Jesus, she is insignificant!

"to those who are called (chosen), dearly loved by God the Father and separated (set apart) and kept for Jesus Christ"

- This letter is written to a very specific group of people.
- It is not written to those who call/label themselves "Christian". It is not written to church members or church attenders.
- It is written to those who are circumcised in heart; who have removed the flesh life; who reject the world and its ways, wisdom and pleasures... Those who have confessed their utter depravity before God, those who have repented of their sin and put off the old man, died with Christ and live in His newness of life!
- Note that he has not written to "the church of..." Sadly, it would seem that it was already too late for that. His writings were only for those who were the true church of Jesus Christ. It is only these people who would really heed his warning and understand.

,v3

"Beloved, my whole concern was to write to you in regard to our common salvation."

- Jude had intended to write something else. We can understand that his heart was full of love and joy for the believers and that he desired to share joy with them.
- He meant to write a letter of encouragement and celebration of this wonderful message of Salvation. He would have rejoiced in the work of Christ and confirmed to them the precious message of the gospel.

"But I found it necessary and was impelled to write you and urgently appeal to and exhort [you] to contend for the faith"

- Jude found, that rather than a letter of rejoicing he was to write a letter defending the gospel and warning the believers of those who were polluting the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- He had to write to tell them to contend, to fight, to protect the precious gospel that had been given to them. They had received the pure message; they had received the Gospel in truth and clarity but there was a subversion happening. He wrote a warning to be vigilant, wary and focused, to not be distracted by works of the flesh, no matter how eloquent or sultry men may sound.
- Oh how careful we need to be. Oh how relevant this word still is.

v4

"For certain have men crept in"

- These men have crept in. They came with intention for selfish, ungodly gain. They came in with a mind to be stealthy, deceitful and crafty. They have "crept" in. This tells us that they came in this state. They have crept into leadership, they have crept into fellowship, they have crept into places of influence, power and gain.
- They are not to be sympathised with. They are not merely misguided... They are deliberately, intentionally rebellious to the Holy Spirit!

"crept in stealthily/unawares"

- This is the greater concern. These men have crept in and God's people are unaware. They have not noticed, they have not discerned, they have not realised. This is a poor and desperate condition of God's people that they can no longer tell what is of God and what is not. They have become out of tune with The Spirit and fail to differentiate between the flesh and The Spirit/Word.
- Oh Lord may we walk so close to you that we recognise what isn't of you. Lord, as we walk in your ways give us discernment to clearly recognise the flesh and its works. Open our eyes and reveal to us the deceit and sensual focus of these liars and deceivers.
- *Matthew 7:15 Beware of false prophets, who come to you dressed as sheep, but inside they are devouring wolves.*

"ungodly persons who pervert the grace of our God into lawlessness"

- They use Grace to usurp The Law of God not teaching that Grace is the gift of Christ within you to fulfil The Law.
- They twist the scriptures of Grace to allow for the flesh. They use "Grace" to make room for sin.
- They preach the liberty of Grace and never the self sacrifice of Love. They will never preach/teach that love is a willing response to being loved.
- They will love and glory in God's Grace but never talk about what it means to love God.
- They will talk much of what God has done but talk little of what is required.
- They pervert grace! Grace alone will not produce a response in a man! Jesus did not say if you understand grace you will keep my commandments.
- *John 14:15 If you love me, keep my commandments.*
- *John 14:21 He that has my commandments, and keeps them, he it is that loves me: and he that loves me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.*
- *Romans 5:2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*
- *Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*

"deny our sole Master and Lord, Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One)."

- They do not deny Jesus exists or His power, but they deny Him the opportunity minister and work as supreme authority and Lord in lives.
- They deny Jesus the opportunity to pour His life into and through His people for a witness unto the world. They deny Jesus the power and glory of His testimony in a person's life.
- These corrupt men deny Jesus the reward of His suffering. These ungodly men do not yield and submit to the Word of God and so deny the power of it.

v5-7

"He subsequently destroyed those [of them] who did not believe [who refused to adhere to, trust in, and rely upon Him]"

"these He has reserved in custody in eternal chains (bonds) under the thick gloom of utter darkness until the judgment"

"Sodom and Gomorrah... are laid out [in plain sight] as an exhibit of perpetual punishment [to warn] of everlasting fire."

- In these verses we have it stated with fearful simplicity that there is serious, eternal consequence to those who turn away from God. To those who do not believe on Him. He "destroyed" them!

- Circumcision is not a guarantee of Salvation. Being "of Israel" was not enough to enter in God's rest. Being an Angel gives no exception to obedience and holiness.

- *John 4:23-24 A time will come, however, indeed it is already here, when the true (genuine) worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth (reality); for the Father is seeking just such people as these as His worshipers. [24] God is a Spirit (a spiritual Being) and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth (reality).*

- God never did and never will excuse or overlook sin. His hatred and wrath towards it are only matched by His holiness, love and purity. We ought to give much thought and consideration to this. Especially in this day and age when we give so much sympathy and excuse to sin... God HATES sin and sin WILL have consequences! Sin will not be spared! The rebellious will not go unpunished! The unbeliever will be destroyed!

- Oh we ought to be so very, very aware and fearful of the consequence of sin; of anything that would break our communion with The Lord; of anything that would take us out of abiding in Him, in His secret place... May we be so in love with Jesus that we hate even the thought of anything that would lessen His presence in our lives.

- *Philippians 2:12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.*

v8-10

"these dreamers also corrupt the body, scorn and reject authority and government, and revile and libel and scoff"

- Dreamers who certainly are dreaming for they are a long way from reality in their thinking, having no true understanding or revelation of God or His word.

- Chasing dreams of power and authority. Men who believe they are above the law, who believe they are right and wise and good. Men who cannot be governed or subjected to leadership.

- They corrupt the body, the temple of The Holy Ghost. They defile The Lord's sanctuary. They are sexually immoral, they are given to greed, they are bound by self-image.

- They corrupt the body of Christ. Infecting believers with their subtle focus on flesh and sensuality. They corrupt God's holy people with false doctrine, with increasing themselves and decreasing Christ.

- They are proud, arrogant and scorners of others. There is a noticeable lack of love, compassion, understanding and desire for others. They are not selfless servants but those who will serve so long as they are seen to serve, so long as their name is praised.

- Such conversation is divisive and offensive. It is not speech that is "gracious (pleasant and winsome), seasoned [as it were] with salt" (Colossians 4:6). It is not conversation that seeks to "as much as is within you, live peaceably with all men" (Romans 12:18). It is not conversation that honours God or is witness to His love/life that flows through every true believer!! Oh may I learn to be so careful with my conversation/conduct. May it be Christ who glorified and His testimony that is defended. May I not be motivated to defend my reputation or my theology but always to protect the testimony and witness of Jesus Christ within and upon me!!

"the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, judicially argued (disputed) about the body of Moses"

- I've seen this verse before but I really need to study this to find out more about it. There was a contention for Moses body??!! What is that about?!

- Some quick reading suggests that "the body of Moses" may refer to The Law (the body of Moses teaching).

"he dared not [presume to] bring an abusive condemnation against him, but [simply] said, The Lord rebuke you!"

- Michael dared not rebuke the devil in his own name or authority. He was careful to give all responsibility and all strength and glory to God!

- Even against an enemy who would seem to be worthy of all hate, abuse and rebuke the archangel was careful with his tongue. He would not take the place of God to judge or condemn. Michael spoke straight, there was no niceties or gentleness... But The Lord is our one authority and it is to Him ALONE that each one will give an account. Michael proclaimed a rebuke... but not his own.

- It is powerful that Michael did not bring any accusation or derogatory comment. This is a conviction. This is a powerful and striking conviction to my heart, to my attitude and to my conversation. How do I talk about those with whom I disagree? How do I talk about false teachers and those who I discern to be "of track". Oh may I be very careful with my conversation, if the archangel Michael would not even bring accusations against the devil then let me be careful to say "The Lord rebuke you" to those false teachers.

- A rebuke was given. A divide was set. There was no fellowship between light and darkness. There was no unity, no common ground, no friendship!! But The Lord's testimony was protected! The Lord's name was glorified. Michael stayed humbly subject to His master's will and did not take any victory or honour to himself. The Lord would do the rebuking and Michael would only contend as far as he was commanded. We can imagine a fight where the devil stooped to vile, offensive means in this contention. Michael may have suffered in this fight, perhaps shame, ridicule and pain... But He would not act outside of God's will and honour. He did not let his self/flesh take control. Consider also how Jude is writing about these "certain men" he is pointed, descriptive and emphatic about their evil influence! Such language has a time and a place. He is speaking biblically, not derogatory.

- May we have such a heart of love for The Lord that we would be completely surrendered and submitted to His testimony that we would not be quick to defend ourselves. In the face of shame, reproach, temptation or anything else... May my first thought and love be to glorify and honour Jesus with my conversation and my conduct - not to act upon my own will or understanding!!

"these men revile (scoff and sneer at) anything they do not happen to be acquainted with and do not understand; and whatever they do understand physically [that which they know by mere instinct], like irrational beasts-by these they corrupt themselves and are destroyed (perish)."

- The foolishness of man. Quick to make light of anything that is too weighty or that may hinder their ease and comfort.

- The way that they do understand is ultimately the flesh and so will only ever produce bad fruit, corruption and death.

v11-13, 15-16, 18-19

These are:

"hidden reefs (elements of danger)" / "clouds without water, swept along by the winds; trees, without fruit"

"Wild waves of the sea, flinging up the foam of their own shame and disgrace; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of eternal darkness has been reserved"

"These are inveterate murmurers (grumbler) who complain [of their lot in life], going after their own desires [controlled by their passions]; their talk is boastful and arrogant, [and they claim to] admire men's persons and pay people flattering compliments to gain advantage."

"scoffers [who seek to gratify their own unholy desires], following after their own ungodly passions."

"agitators setting up distinctions and causing divisions-merely sensual [creatures, carnal, worldly-minded people], devoid of the [Holy] Spirit and destitute of any higher spiritual life."

- These are damning descriptions. We should note here that Jude speaks plain and clear against these men. He is not speaking niceties and pleasantries in order to keep the peace. He is outing these men and speaking vehemently against them. Jude, much like Michael the archangel, is contending for the body of Christ and the truth of His word!

- We are not simply meant to speak nicely to such people and hold the Truth quietly to ourselves. With a heart that is breaking for God's testimony in His people we are to speak out against these "certain men" and reprove them!

v20-21

"But you, beloved, build yourselves up [founded] on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit;"

"Guard and keep yourselves in the love of God; expect and patiently wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah)-[which will bring you unto life eternal."

- "But you" You who can still discern; you who die daily to yourself; you who desire Christ above all else; you who have not been deceived; you who hear/read this word with The Spirit and perception... They are the beloved.

- There is an exhortation/a command/a heart cry from Jude for these precious believers. We are to protect and nurture the life that is in us. We are to be wary of these "certain men". We are to be Spiritual and not fleshly. We are to be discerning and watching in prayer. Waiting for the eternal Salvation of Jesus Christ.

v22-23

"refute [so as to] convict some who dispute with you, and on some have mercy who waver and doubt."

"[Strive to] save others, snatching [them] out of [the] fire; on others take pity [but] with fear, loathing even the garment"

- These verses are beautiful and highlight the long suffering and compassion of God. These "certain men" and those caught up in their deceit are not merely cast aside and given up on in negligence and indifference. There is a longing to see them convicted, restored, saved and snatched out of the fire!

- We are to refute those who argue with us. We are to prove them wrong, expose their darkness and flesh with a heart that longs to see them spiritually convicted, coming to a knowledge of the truth and repentance. And to those who are wavering and not yet fully convinced we are to have mercy and patience. Reason with them and intercede for them... but without compromise!

- Some we are to strive to save! With desperation do all we can to bring them to the light, to truth, to Salvation! Are our hearts so constrained for anyone? Do we have a desperate cry in our hearts for some? Are we interceding and pleading with God for their souls?

- We are to have hearts that long to see the saving of sinners and the restoration of wayward Saints. Do we have such a heart of Christ in us?

- But in desperate, mercy, patience and reasoning... loathe the pollution that they have walked in! Do not be defiled by it. Don't let it so much as touch you! Hate the sin but love the sinner!

v24

"Now to Him Who is able to keep you without stumbling or slipping or falling, and to present [you] unblemished (blameless and faultless) before the presence of His glory in triumphant joy and exultation [with unspeakable, ecstatic delight]"

- There is only one who is able to keep us. There is only one with whom we have to do. There is only one that we can look to for life, peace, hope, strength and Salvation. There is only one!

- How incredible this wonderful gospel is!! Hallelujah!! That Jude can write these words!! It is too easy to read them! Oh Lord, continue to impress upon me the truth in your word as I read it. The awesome truth of your gospel and all that you have done for us! Oh truly you alone are worthy of all our time, all our praise, all our prayers, all our energy, service and worship!! You are the only one worthy to be sought after, revered and to receive all reverence. You alone can keep us, you alone can present us blameless and faultless, you alone are our mediator to The Father and our Saviour, Redeemer and King!! Hallelujah!!

- Revelation 4:8-11 And the four living creatures, individually having six wings, were full of eyes all over and within [underneath their wings]; and day and night they never stop saying, Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty (Omnipotent), Who was and Who is and Who is to come. [9] And whenever the living creatures offer glory and honour and thanksgiving to Him Who sits on the throne, Who lives forever and ever (through the eternities of the eternities), [10] The twenty-four elders (the members of the heavenly Sanhedrin) fall prostrate before Him Who is sitting on the throne, and they worship Him Who lives forever and ever; and they throw down their crowns before the throne, crying out, [11] Worthy are You, our Lord and God, to receive the glory and the honour and dominion, for You created all things; by Your will they were [brought into being] and were created.

- Only Jesus is worthy of such praise and glory in Heaven! There is no other! Not Mary, no "saint", no being... Christ only and always!!!

- Oh Jesus, teach me to love you, praise you and glorify you as I ought. May you truly be Lord of my life and the soul love of my being!

v25

"To the one only God, our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory (splendour), majesty, might and dominion, and power and authority, before all time and now and forever (unto all the ages of eternity). Amen (so be it)."

- Not through anything or anyone else!

- He is truly worthy of it all! Oh, Heavenly Father, please open my eyes and my heart to see more of your glory, to lead me to Godly sorrow for sin, to lead to a closer walk and more complete dependence upon yourself. Truly you are worthy of every part of me, every part of my life, all of my affection, all of my attention, all of my service, love and devotion! You are worthy, worthy, worthy!!