

The One-Chapter Book of Jude

Contend for the Faith

I. Additional Scriptures/Notes...

Jude 1... and preserved in Jesus Christ—“But someone may object and say, But the Bible says that the Christian is ‘preserved in Christ’ (*Jude 1:1*). One need only read the rest of the book of Jude to see that this preservation is conditional. In *verse 21*, Jude admonishes those ‘preserved in Christ’ to keep themselves in the love of God. Therefore, one is preserved in Christ so long as he continues to abide in Christ. However, if he becomes a Demas and deserts the Lord, and His cause, he will not be preserved, but rather, severed, gathered and burned (2 Tim. 4:10; John 15:6)” [B.J. Clarke, “The Necessity of Abiding in Christ,” in *The Searcher*].

Jude 3... earnestly contend—“The original word for ‘contend earnestly’ occurs nowhere else in the New Testament; and its literal meaning is to fight for, involving ‘a vigorous, intense, determined struggle to defeat the opposition’ [Wuest: cf., Ph 1:27]. The faith of the gospel must be preserved; for no other revelation will be given. This is a strong motive for resisting all the enemies of the Lord’s purpose and plan for his people” [*Teacher’s Annual Lesson Commentary*, 1971, p. 343].

Jude 7... giving themselves over to fornication—“Jude, an inspired New Testament writer, explicitly identified homosexual conduct as a form of ‘fornication.’ Regarding the antique cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, the sacred author notes that the men of Sodom, etc., gave themselves over to ‘fornication’ (*ekporneuo* - intensive sexual activity), pursuing ‘strange [*heteros*] flesh’ (v. 7)” [Wayne Jackson, <http://www.christiancourier.com/penpoints/irelandOnJesus.htm>].

Jude 8, 16... “Among the numerous examples in Scripture, which indicate a lack of respect for God’s authority, one of the most specific descriptions is recorded by the inspired pens of Peter and Jude. After observing that God knows how to reserve the ungodly unto judgment to be punished, Peter describes the ungodly as “them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and **despise government**. Presumptuous are they, self-willed, they are **not afraid to speak evil of dignities**” (2 Pet. 2:10). Jude described them as those who “despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities...murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words” (Jude 8, 16). According to Thayer’s *Greek-English Lexicon*, the word for “despise” in these passages comes from a Greek word which means *to disdain, to think little or nothing of*. These men regarded all authority with contempt, whether civil or divine, and they did not hesitate to speak evil of dignitaries, i.e., men of exalted rank, men in places of authority. In short, they cast off all the restraints of law; they wanted to rule their own lives. Consequently, they deliberately pursued the fulfillment of the lust of their flesh. Unfortunately, a lack of respect for authority, and the sinful actions which result from such an attitude, was not confined to these men. As you will see, our culture is also guilty of a loss of respect toward God” [B.J. Clarke, “Do You Respect God? (2), in *The Searcher*].

Jude 10... “**Yet Michael the archangel**. Michael is brought forward as a contrast with those who speak evil of dignities. He is called by Daniel ‘the Great Prince,’ and here the archangel, or head angel. Yet in addressing the devil, a fallen angel, he did not rail at him, but only said, ‘The Lord rebuke thee.’ The reference is not to a statement of the Bible,

but to a Jewish tradition which held that the burial place of Moses was placed under the charge of Michael” [B.W. Johnson, *The People’s New Testament*].

Jude 14... Did Jude quote from the apocryphal *Book of Enoch*? Wayne Jackson has written an article with this title: <http://www.christiancourier.com/questions/enochQuestion.htm>

Jude 22...And of some have compassion—“There are various classes of humanity, and vastly different attitudes toward religion manifested by those of the same class, thus our approach to them must be influenced by the attitude characteristic of them” [Guy N. Woods, *A Commentary on Jude*, p. 405].

II. **ADVANCED STUDY (extra study posts)—Links to the WWW...**

From the following link you can study, further aided by articles/outlines that relate to the study of Jude.

<http://lemmonsaid.wordpress.com/2009/02/08/jude-2/>

III. **Chronology.**

BIBLE PERIOD: The Period of the Church.

IV. **Summary.**

Jude writes his epistle, identifying himself simply as a servant of Jesus and brother of James. He intended to write about the common salvation, but evidently had some word that there were great threats to the brethren from false teachers and he changed his subject matter to contending earnestly for the faith. This plain statement of verse 3 helps us to KNOW that the faith is not presently being revealed, but has already been revealed in the past. Jude calls to their remembrance events of the past to urge them to be cautious and faithful. He provides vivid descriptions of false teachers as a motivation for the faithful to use great caution. He exhorts the brethren to remember, build themselves up, keep themselves in the love of God, and pray. He concludes with one of the most beautiful doxologies ever written.

V. **Outline.**

1. Address—to the called out (Jude 1-2).
2. Motivation—to urge them to contend for the faith (3).
3. Occasion (4-16).
 - 1) The grace of God is being turned into lasciviousness (4).
 - 2) Men are even denying the Christ (4).
 - 3) Believers may fall, even as in the past (5-7).
 - 4) Creatures without reason are unrestrained; they have no respect for sacred things (8-11).
 - 5) Their lives are empty, fruitless, purposeless (12-13).
 - 6) As Enoch prophesied, God will execute judgment upon such characters (14-15).
 - 7) These complainers walk after their lusts (16).
4. Exhortation (17-23).
 - 1) Remember the warning with regard to mockers (17-19).
 - 2) Keep yourselves in the love of God (20-21).
 - 3) Act judiciously: deal with each case individually (22-23).
5. Doxology—praise to God (24-25).

[From Joseph W. White, *Minister’s Monthly*, Nov/1962, p. 147].

VI. Questions.

True or False

- 01. ____ The word PRESERVED in verse 1 needs to be understood in relationship to the word KEEP in verse 21.
- 02. ____ Jude originally intended to write regarding a different subject matter.
- 03. ____ Enoch prophesied.
- 04. ____ The name BALAAM is found in eight Bible books, but we first read of him in the Book of Joshua.
- 05. ____ The false teachers Jude warns about came in secretly.

Multiple Choice (Select the BEST Answer)

- 06. ____ Of how many instances of God’s judgment against disobedience does Jude put the brethren in remembrance: (a) seven; (b) three; (c) one.
- 07. ____ Which of the following descriptions is NOT mentioned as applying to the ones whom the apostles had warned about: (a) sensual; (b) having not the Spirit; (c) weak; (d) all of these.
- 08. ____ We are urged to save some with fear, the other approach suggested was with: (a) charm; (b) compassion; (c) concern.
- 09. ____ Having saved the children of Israel out of Egypt, the Lord then did what to the unbelievers: (a) punished them; (b) destroyed them; (c) converted them.
- 10. ____ How many things are mentioned as being multiplied: (a) three; (b) six; (c) nine.

Fill in the Blanks

- 11. **And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, _____ of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with _____ of his saints.**
- 12. **Keep yourselves in the _____ of _____...**
- 13. **...remember ye the words which were spoken before of the _____ of our Lord Jesus Christ.**
- 14. **Likewise also these filthy _____ defile the flesh, despise _____, and speak _____ of dignities.**
- 15. Jude was the brother of _____.

Each Question is worth 7 Points

My Score is: _____

Answers will be found on next week’s handout

ANSWERS to 3 John Questions... [(1) False, 3 Jn 12; (2) True, 3 Jn 14; (3) True, 2 Jn 9; (4) True, 2 Jn 12; (5) False, 2 Jn 5; (6) a, 2 Jn 1,2,3,4; 3 Jn 1,3,4,8,12; (7) a, 2 Jn 11; (8) d, 2 Jn 7; (9) c, 3 Jn 4; (10) c, 3 Jn 10; (11) doctrine, Father, Son, 2 Jn 9; (12) deceivers, 2 Jn 7; (13) truth, 3 Jn 1; (14) not, good, seen, 3 Jn 11; (15) Demetrius, truth, 3 Jn 12.]

VII. Lessons & Applications.

- 1. **...earnestly contend for the faith** (Jude 3). Because of the great value and importance of this body of doctrine, we must not allow it to be disregarded, twisted, or abandoned.
- 2. **I will therefore put in remembrance** (Jude 5 and 11). The powerful use of examples; the importance of remembering mistakes of others made in the past; value of Old Testament study.
- 3. **But ye, beloved...** (Jude 17). We must differentiate ourselves from those who would walk after their own ungodly lusts!

4. **And others save with fear...** (Jude 23). It is not wrong to use fear as motivation to do the right thing... **pulling them out of the fire** stresses the importance of teaching

VIII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.

B U T B E L O V E D P L M L O I K J I N
 B H U Y G V C F T R D X Z S E Q W N A Z
 X E S W H A V E C O M P A S S I O N E C
 M D A C V F J R T G B N H Y U I M O P A
 U Y H R U N B U E D C X S Q N A Z W X I
 R C D E N R F V D B G T Y I N A H A Y N
 M Y H N G E B B G E R F M V C B D N Q A
 U Z X S O F S V B T C O T G B L N D M J
 R W J U D Y R T S O D O M F V E C E W S
 E I C G L V F R L E T B R E N H Y V Q A
 R T C N Y V F R S Y T G C R B N H E Y U
 S H V I X S Q I A Z C N X S U R T R G B
 N O V Y F R P E D C A O Z A Q P E D C V
 B U J N M S H Y T R G B N S V F T R E D
 V T B E E B T R B Q A X R T C V B N M H
 M F J D U Y H M B V F E R Q E C D E W C
 X E C D E R E V F R K R T G B N N H Y O
 N A C D E R Q A Z C X A C D E R D B G N
 T R Y H N F R Q O A Z E X S W E D C V E
 K E E P H N M M Q A U F Y H N R E D R L

[The words (or word locaters) listed below are to be found in the text of our lesson. They also are found in the puzzle above. This is just one more way to reinforce what you have studied from the text. Why not read the whole verse where the word is found one more time as you do the puzzle? Thank you for the good effort you are putting forth in Bible study. Let's desire the sincere milk of the word that we may grow (1 Pet 2:2). DRL]

Book of Jude	
Jude, 1	Ungodly, 15
Earnestly contend, 3	Murmurers, 16
Denying, 4	But beloved, 17
Remembrance, 5	Mockers, 18
Sodom, 7	Keep, 21
Despise dominion, 8	Have compassion, 22
Corrupt, 10	Fear, 23
Cain, 11	Able, 24
Without fear, 12	Now and ever, 25
Enoch, 14	