

Introduction to the Book of Jude

Text: Jude 1-4

Introduction:

- Date written: about A.D. 68
- This book deals strongly with apostasy
- “The book of Acts records the Acts of the Apostles, while Jude records the Acts of the Apostates.” The Apostles were empowered by the Holy Spirit, these apostates are empowered by the Devil!
- Study Jude closely alongside II Peter 2- there are so many interesting similarities. We find that apostasy was no longer a future concern but a very present danger. they have already “crept in”- v. 4
- Some might think Jude is too harsh, in his scathing remarks about false teachers (filthy v. 8; brute beasts v. 10) however, we must stop and consider what’s at stake- the souls of men! Eternity! God’s glory!
- What is an apostate?
 - Apostasy starts with a subtle rejection of essentials while maintaining the outward form of belief.
 - “Theological Liberal”

2000 Barna Study Poll: “Jesus was crucified but not physically resurrected.” 33% of church leaders agreed with this statement.

Jeffrey Hadden 1998 poll:

A survey of mostly mainline Protestant clergy by a prominent American sociologist showed that many doubt Jesus' physical resurrection. 8 Percentage of doubters were found to be:

American Lutherans: 13%

Presbyterians: 30%

American Baptist: 33%

Episcopalians: 35%

Methodists: 51%

- An apostate is not a Christian. One who has turned away from revealed truth. An apostate does not act out of ignorance. They see the truth, learn the truth, and turn from the truth.
- An apostate is **not** someone who is saved and loses his salvation because that is an impossibility- John 10:28- “never perish.”
- II Peter 2:21, “For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known [it], to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.”
- Jesus warned of false teachers in Matthew 7:15, “Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.”
- Jude’s epistle: Anatomy of apostasy and the antidote for apostasy; Why we must contend, how we must contend; Description of false teachers, defense against false teachers
- The book of Jude is a true burglar alarm!

I. **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

- a. Jude-The name Jude (or sometimes translated Judas) is the Greek form of Judah. It was a popular Jewish name, of course going back to Jacob’s son.
- b. He is the brother of James (author of the Epistle James) which most bible teachers believe to be the half brother of Jesus- Mark 6:3
 - i. In His earthly family, the Lord Jesus had four brothers and at least two sisters. Sometimes we refer to these brothers and sisters as the Lord's "half-brothers" or "half-sisters" to emphasize that he was born of a virgin. Mary was not a perpetual virgin as the RCC teaches. Jesus was her firstborn son according to Matt 1:25, not her only son.
 - ii. John 7:5 “For neither did his brethren believe in Him.” Interestingly, the Bible reveals that Jesus’ siblings rejected him until after the resurrection- Acts 1:13-14
- c. Jude simply called himself a servant or slave of Christ.

- i. The fact that he wanted himself to be known this way instead of introducing himself as "Jude, the half-brother of Jesus" tells us something of the humility of Jude that his new relationship with Jesus meant more to him. Jude had made Jesus his Lord and Master- how about you?
- ii. We must not concern ourselves so much with who we can master or what we can master, but rather settle whom we will allow to Master us!

II. ABOUT THE RECIPIENTS

- a. Jude is writing to believers who have been sanctified
 - i. Set apart/holy- Christians are often called “saints” in the Bible.
 - ii. We must emphasize set apart from sin **unto God**.
 - iii. Positional (never changes) and Practical/Progressive
- b. Preserved- Amidst this warning against apostasy, true Christians should be encouraged that we are being preserved, and kept by Christ- v. 24
 - i. The Greek word translated “preserved” is found five times in Jude’s epistle. Sometimes it is translated “reserved” or “keep” (cf. vs. 21).
 - ii. A different Greek word is used in verse 24, but it is the same idea – God keeps us from falling. We are safe and secure in Jesus.
 - iii. Romans 8:1- “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus...”
- c. Called- the idea is that an invitation has been sent out, and was answered when you got saved.

III. ABOUT THE PURPOSE- V. 3-4

- a. Earnestly contend for the faith- the faith must be defended and error must be attacked! We will examine this closely next week, Lord willing.
- b. Warning concerning apostasy
 - i. Apostasy, from the Greek word apostasia, means “a defiance of an established system or authority; a rebellion; an abandonment or breach of faith.” This is not like Peter who was simply backslidden when he denied knowing the Lord. Peter clearly was broken and repented.

- ii. We must recognize that there are varying degrees and forms- As to the forms of apostasy, there are two main types: (1) a falling away from key and true doctrines of the Bible into heretical teachings that proclaim to be “the real” Christian doctrine, and (2) a complete renunciation of the Christian faith,
- iii. II Tim 4:3- For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”
- c. Apostates include those who deny the Virgin Birth, bodily resurrection, or the deity of Christ.
- d. Watch out for some of these preachers on the scene today who deny Biblical Creationism, minimize Hell and judgement, and minimize Christ as the **only** way!

Conclusion: During a time in the early centuries of the Church there was a battle over how to define the Trinity. A catholic priest named Arius began teaching that Christ was not the same essence as God but a similar essence. “The Father existed before the Son. There was a time when the Son did not exist. Therefore, the Son was created by the Father. Therefore, although the Son was the highest of all creatures, he was not of the essence of God.” He had a winsome personality and even used songs to help gain a following and spread his theology. Arius may have died centuries ago, but his spiritual children are still with us to this day in the form of cults like the Jehovah’s Witnesses and others who deny Christ’s true essence and person.

II Peter 2:1-2- Let’s make it personal- we can think of people we know that perhaps once embraced the truth, but now appear to have traded it in for a lie. We must pray for them, and contend for the true faith!