

Jude

Summary

Jude writes this general letter to believers who are being misled by certain individuals intent on perverting the gospel of Christ. These false teachers are compared to historical downfalls of Israel as a vivid reminder of past major errors in judgment and of God's sovereignty. The book contains one single chapter of twenty-five verses, short and straightforward. Jude concludes this letter with this benediction:

To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy - to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

Author

Jude identifies himself as the brother of James and many conclude he was, indeed, the brother of Jesus.

Date

This letter was written between A.D. 65 and A.D. 80.

Primary Characters

Jude (Jude 1)

Historical Moments

The Expansion of the Early Christian Church (Jude 1)

Major Theological Themes

There Is Real Punishment for Sins - Jude reminds his readers of times in which the people turned their backs on God and what the results were. Historical references are used as reminders to the recipients, in particular, 1) The Lord freed His people from slavery in Egypt, but later judged those who refused to believe, 2) Sodom and Gomorrah gave into sexual immorality and perversion and were subsequently destroyed as described in Genesis 19, 3) Balaam's error as described in Numbers 22, and 4) Korah's rebellion as noted in Numbers 16.

Lessons Learned from Jude

Expect Deceivers, Many Will Try to Trick You and Draw You from Christ - There will be those who will secretly slip in among you with the intention of deceiving you. Remember what was foretold in verse 18, *in the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires*. Verses 17 through 23 provide a clear message to young Christians being swayed by the world, 1) Build yourselves up in authentic faith and seek the presence of the Holy Spirit, 2) Be patient as you wait, 3) Remain in God's love and look forward to eternal life with Christ, and 4) Show mercy to those who doubt, but stay far from the corrupt.