

**FOR THE BROTHERS:
A STUDY IN THE EPISTLES OF JAMES, JOHN, JUDE
AMEN BIBLE STUDY 2016-2017**

**Jude: Contending for the Faith
May 11, 2017**

I. The envelope of the letter.

A. Whom it's from

¹ *Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, ...*

B. Whom it's to

To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ: ...

C. What it's for

² *May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.*

D. What it's about

³ *Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.*

II. The body of the letter.

A. Why contend for the faith: the condemnation of the ungodly.

1. The fact

⁴ *For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.*

2. OT examples

⁵ *Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. ⁶ And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day— ⁷ just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.*

3. Reasons

a. Sins

⁸ *Yet in like manner these people also, relying on their dreams, defile the flesh, reject authority, and blaspheme the glorious ones. ⁹ But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you." ¹⁰ But these people blaspheme all that they do not understand, and they are destroyed by all that they, like unreasoning animals, understand instinctively.*

b. Sinners

¹¹ *Woe to them! For they walked in the way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error and perished in Korah's rebellion.*

c. Metaphors

¹² *These are hidden reefs at your love feasts, as they feast with you without fear, shepherds feeding themselves; waterless clouds, swept along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted; ¹³ wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever.*

d. Names

¹⁴It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his holy ones, ¹⁵to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him." ¹⁶These are grumblers, malcontents, following their own sinful desires; they are loud-mouthed boasters, showing favoritism to gain advantage.

B. How to contend for the faith: the continuation of the godly.

1. Vigilance of self

¹⁷But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁸They said to you, "In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions." ¹⁹It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. ²⁰But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.

2. Discipline of others

²²And have mercy on those who doubt; ²³save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.

3. Power of God

²⁴Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, ²⁵to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

AMEN Discussion Questions
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1. What do we learn about Jude (English translation of the Greek, Judas, which is itself a translation of the Hebrew, Judah) from the following passages of Scripture: Matthew 13:55; Mark 3:21; 6:3; John 7:1-7; Galatians 1:19; 1 Corinthians 15:7; Acts 1:14?
2. How would you paraphrase the subject line of this letter found in verse 3?
3. How many times do you find the words “ungodly” and “ungodliness” in this letter? What do you think those terms mean just based on the way Jude uses them?
4. Which of the three Old Testament examples of God’s condemnation or judgment in verses 5-7 most impresses you and why?
5. Jude makes allusions to Jewish stories about the angel Michael (verses 9-10) and about Enoch (verses 14-15; cf. Genesis 5:18-24). Can you think of an analogy for today how a preacher might illustrate the divinely-inspired Scripture by reference to a merely human story?

Going Deeper

1. What impresses you the most in verses 20-21 where Jude is calling for careful vigilance over oneself?
2. What impresses you the most in verses 22-23 where Jude is telling us our responsibilities for others in the body of Christ during spiritually dangerous times?
3. What impresses you the most in verses 24-25 where Jude is telling us about the power of our God?