

**Bible Study Class**  
**Clayton Presbyterian Church**  
**Lesson 1 Jude**

**Jude**

The letter from Jude was written to warn against false teachers who claimed to be believers. In this brief letter the writer encourages his readers "to fight on for the faith which once and for all God has given to His people."

**Jude 1-2 Greeting**

Most English translators have used the name "Jude." We believe that the writer of this Epistle is the half-brother of Jesus. The fact that he wanted himself to be known a bondservant of Jesus Christ instead of introducing himself as "Jude, the half-brother of Jesus" tells us something of the humility of Jude. Jude wants his readers to live as people who are conscious of being forgiven with the full experience of mercy.

**Read Jude 3-4 The purpose of the letter**

Instead of being a letter from a leader to a particular church, it has become a precious instrument inspired by the Holy Spirit. The phrase the faith means "The essential truths of the gospel that all true Christians hold in common." The Tyndale Commentary asks the question: "Why does Jude go to such length to show that the certain men troubling his readers were prophesied long ago? The fulfilled predictions show that they constitute a serious danger to the church.

**Read Jude 5-7 Three warning reminders**

At Kadesh Barnea, the people refused to trust God and go into the Promised Land of Canaan. Therefore, almost none of the adult generation who left Egypt entered into the Promised Land. Jude speaks of the angels who sinned, who are now imprisoned and awaiting a future day of judgment. Sodom and Gomorrah stand as examples sin that brought forth God's judgment even though they were blessed, privileged places.

**Read Ezekiel 16:48-50**

But Sodom and Gomorrah's despite great blessing from God and material prosperity, they sinned and were judged.

**Read Jude 8-10 The analogies of judgment applied**

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Jude connected the certain men with the people of Sodom and Gomorrah in their sensuality defile the flesh and in their rejection of God's authority. In verse 9 Michael the archangel as an example of someone who would not speak evil of dignitaries. The main point for Jude is how Michael disputed with the devil. Michael's reply was "The Lord rebuke you."

**Read Jude 11-13 Three more Old Testament examples**

The certain men have gone in the way of Cain, Balaam and Korah. In a fit of anger Cain murdered Abel, and then he lied about it to God. Balaam is in Numbers. He was the prophet with a talking donkey who God used to tell him to turn back. He went on with his sin though he knew it was a sin because he longed for the promised rich reward. Korah was a Levite, who had his own God-appointed sphere of ministry, yet he was not content with it. He wanted the ministry and the authority of Moses. It is not without significance for Jude's purpose that each of three Old Testament characters taught others to sin, and each met with ruin. When these certain men came, they were serving only themselves at the love feasts. The certain men were like these clouds that didn't bring rain. The fruit of these men was like the ugly shoreline after a storm has washed up all sorts of driftwood, seaweed and debris.

**Read Jude 14-16 The certainty of judgment upon these certain men.**

The ancient book of Enoch was not received as Scripture, but it was highly respected among both the Jews and early Christians. These people were complainers. Whenever a man gets out of touch with God, he is likely to begin complaining.

**Read Jude 17-19 The methods and spiritual status of the certain men.**

Jude tells us to focus on our walk with the Lord, help others affected by the certain men. God will take care of them. They were, indeed, very like the Pharisees, and Jude deals with them much as Jesus had dealt with the Pharisees. The Apostles as well as Jesus warned about the false teachers that would come before the return of Christ.

**Read Jude 20-23 Jude's exhortation to the faithful**

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Keep yourselves in the love of God means to keep yourself in harmony with God's ever-present love. Jude's final three commands are: First, those that are driven into doubt need mercy. Second, those seduced by these false teachers need rescuing. Third, the certain men themselves need "mercy mixed with fear." They must be urged to repent and warned of judgment. To keep ourselves in God's love we must keep the faith and keep ourselves from being seduced by bad teachers.

**Verses 24 and 25 are Jude's Doxology. Take a look upward to the God of all glory. We will use it as our closing prayer.**

Jude's doxology reminds us of God's care and of our destiny. Perhaps his original readers thought that with so much false teaching and immorality around, very few Christians would ever reach heaven. Here he reminds them that the answer lies only in the power of God. There are enemies of the gospel who have infiltrated the church. Yet despite the greatness of the threat, God is greater still. Jude is a book full of warning, but it closes with supreme confidence in God.