

*Welcome
To The Introduction To
The Book Of Jude*

Jude 1-7!



The N.T. Book of Jude!

The Text:

Jude 1-8

Title:

Introduction to Jude!

Theme: Jude 3-4!

Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

The Times of Jude!

Very Similar to Our Time Today!

This letter was written at a time of cultural and religious pluralism, a time when members of any given belief system competed for followers.

Pluralism is the acceptance of different competing world views (life-styles / belief system) that affect its members in such a way that no one world view (life-style / belief system) is to be viewed as dominate.

Like today, Jude lived at a time when everyone did what was right in his own eyes. And so various gods and beliefs were selected or created, in order to enhance a person's desired life-style. Of these the greatest opposing philosophy to Christianity in the first century was an early form of gnosticism.

GNOSTICISM!

The word “gnosticism” is derived from the Greek term “gnosis” which means “knowledge” or “to know.”

However, It should be noted that the gnosticism in Jude is not the same kind of gnosticism talked about by Paul in Colossians.

In Colossi: Ascetic Gnosticism!

The belief that true spirituality (salvation or enlightenment) is achieved through abstinence. In this kind of gnosticism the flesh is linked with the imperfections and evils of this world.

Thus enlightenment is the result of removing oneself from the temporal enjoyments in life. Spirituality can only be gained through such things as personal poverty, sexual celibacy, or material abstinence.

Removing oneself from the temporal enhances the spiritual.

GNOSTICISM!

In Jude: Antinomian Gnosticism!

The belief that everything material (including the flesh) is evil and everything spiritual (the mind and soul) is good (two separate categories). Since the flesh is material it is evil and hinders the maturity of the soul which is good. Thus, to allow the spiritual to be enhanced, the desires of the flesh should be met. When this is allowed to happen, all temptations (that hinder the spirit) are removed and the spirit is able to mature.

The problem facing Antinomian Gnosticism is that their sinful behavior stood in opposition to their claim of purity in thought and soul and began to be called into question.

To counter this questioning about the seeming contradiction they claimed to have a superior knowledge and special insight which was limited to only a select few.

- 1. Their claim undercut the foundational message of the Good News. Up until this time the Gospel was openly declared and publicly debated. Now those seeking to debate were ignored because they were considered unworthy, since God had not given them His special gift of insight. (Their claim is that God had chosen them over and above others)*
- 2. Their claim gave their members a license to sin by emphasizing a spirituality that diminished the importance of what was done in the sinful flesh. (Their claim is that God is only interested in the spiritual and not the material)*
- 3. In order to defend their beliefs, especially when confronted with Christ's teaching on the flesh and sin, they described Christ as being more like an angel than man or Deity. (Being angelic [spiritual] Jesus is not truly a man [flesh]. Therefore, He is not tempted like other men. Being angelic there is no need for such things as procreation. Thus He is not tempted by the flesh since the flesh is unimportant.)*

The Author of Jude!

The author is identified with the first word in the book. His real name is “Judas.” But translators have chosen to use the name “Jude” to avoid any association with the man who betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver – Judas Iscariot. This is most tragic since the name actually means “to praise.”

Jude is identified in the Gospels:

Matthew 13:55-56

Is not this (Jesus) the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary and His brothers, James, and Joseph, and Simon, and Judas (Jude)?

And His sisters, are they not all with us?

Where then did this man get all these things?

John 7:5 For not even His brothers were believing in Him.

The Problem Addressed by Jude!

Is Nothing New!

Ever since the first century this third shortest N.T. book has been sounding the alarm about the ever present danger of false ideas, that lead to false doctrine, that lead to a false understanding of the truth, that lead to a false awareness of what true spirituality looks like when truth is applied, which leads to a false understanding of the person and work of Christ. And even though the letter is only 25 verses long, it is as timely today as it was when first written.

The Purpose of the Book:

Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

The Outline for Jude!

I. (vs.1-2) The INTRODUCTION to Jude:

- A. (v.1a) The AUTHOR is Pronounced.
- B. (v.1b) The AUDIENCE is Pointed Out.
- C. (v.2) The ASPIRIATION is Proclaimed.

II. (vs.3-23) The MESSAGE of Jude:

- A. (vs.3-4) The REASON for the Letter.
- B. (vs.5-16) The REMINDER in the Letter.
- C. (vs.17-23) The RESPONSE Expected from the Letter.

III. (vs.24-25) The BENEDICTION of Jude:

- A. (v.24) To Him Who is ABLE.
- B. (v.25) To Him Whom We ADORE.

Next Week: The Warning Found in the Letter from Jude!

**The Message Will Change from WOW to
WARNING!**

